

LIBRARY CHRONICLES

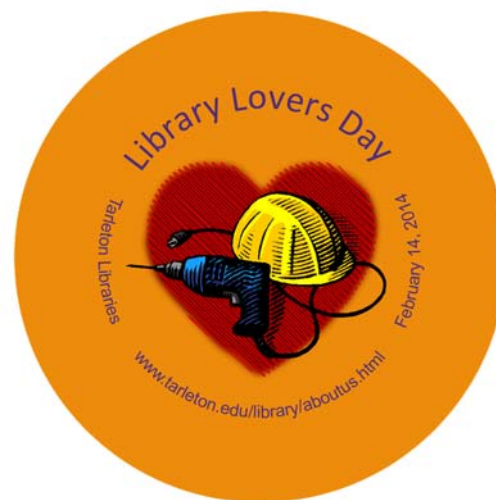
Dick Smith Library | www.tarleton.edu/library

Issue 5, 2014-2015

#WeLoveTarletonLib

How do you celebrate Valentine's Day? Do you take your sweetie to dinner or buy them flowers and chocolates? The Tarleton Libraries give our Valentines chocolates and buttons! Every year, we celebrate Library Lovers Day around or on Valentine's Day. We give out delicious chocolate and limited edition themed buttons. We love our library users and what better way to show our love than with candy and a commemorative item. Last year, we gave out over 100 construction themed buttons to symbolize our Library Learning Commons renovation project. We encourage you to show your love for the library and wear your button, past or present.

This year we have two library pickup line button designs, and we hope you are able to get one. We are also having a #WeLoveTarletonLib Twitter contest. The winner of the contest will be announced Friday, February 14th via Twitter at noon. You can tweet us @tarletonlib what you love about the library with #WeLoveTarletonLib. We look forward to seeing all of those loveable tweets!



@tarletonlib
#WeLoveTarletonLib



Construction themed buttons in 2014

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Library Learning Commons Comes to Dick Smith

In June 2014, the Dick Smith Library premiered the highly anticipated Library Learning Commons. This project, three years in the making, created a new hub for Tarleton State University and its students, faculty and staff.

[The learning commons renovation](#) was the final part of the three phase project proposed by the library in April 2011. Phase one, completed in September 2012, expanded storage for the library in the Tarleton Center basement. The second phase involved renovating part of the main floor to create office space for the Center for Instructional Innovation (CII) and a faculty commons. After phase two finished in March 2013, the learning commons project really took shape.

Construction gained momentum in September 2013 and the library endeavored to keep services as continuous as possible despite the demolition. Reference services moved to the upper level desk and Circulation only had one service desk, but students quickly adapted to the change. The construction wall erected to block off areas from the public was upcycled to include directional signage and a hallway of READ posters. To help offset noise levels, a second quiet zone was created on the upper level.

Excitement for the new areas grew after the construction wall was removed in March 2014. Students could see the new computer stations coming together and furniture being moved into the building. Finally, the Library Learning Commons opened to the public in June 2014.

The learning commons boasts several new areas. In addition to the original table seating at computer stations, six cloud stations were installed. Their unique configurations allow users to sit side by side easily to collaborate with one another while working on a computer.



Construction wall



Demolition



Rebuilding



Tech Spot



Texans 4 Texans Tutoring & Writing Center

Other popular additions are the four collaboration tables. Each table has a large monitor set within booth seating. Each station includes adapters to allow up to four computers to share the monitor at a time. There are two collaboration rooms as well that allow groups to use the same technology in a more secluded area. The new Multi-Purpose Room has furniture on wheels to allow users to reconfigure seating to best suit their needs.

The Learning Commons also created an opportunity to welcome multiple new library partners. The Tech Spot allows Information Technology Services and CII Blackboard to immediately assist users. Student workers can aid patrons on a library computer or on their own personal devices. The Writing Center and Texans 4 Texans Tutoring, who share a space, both strive to develop techniques that facilitate learning and comprehension. In place of the original coffee bar, the Study Grounds Café provides expanded services including drinks, desserts and Sandella's flatbreads. This new space serves as a great meeting space for students and encourages campus community to take a break from time to time.

The Library Learning Commons has already seen a large increase in student use in when compared to previous data. Fall 2014 alone saw a 36% increase in students compared to the fall semester in 2013. As time progresses, we look forward to seeing what other new features can be added to provide the best learning environment possible for our users.



Collaboration Table



Cloud Computer Stations

READ@DSL: Libraries, Literacy & Tarleton Core Values

Since 2010, Dick Smith Library has honored individuals and/or campus organizations by featuring them on READ posters. These posters are part of the library's celebration of National Library Week (NLW), which is observed annually in April. Started in 1958 by the National Book Council, NLW acknowledges the importance of libraries and library staff to their users. The American Library Association (ALA) took over sponsorship of NLW in 1974 and began the READ poster campaign in 1980 as a way to celebrate libraries, literacy, and reading.

Dick Smith Library staff celebrated NLW in April 2014 by revealing two new READ posters. In keeping with library staff's desire to spotlight Tarleton history, traditions, and core values, the 2014 posters showcase Tarleton's Collegiate FFA and the Tarleton Aeronautical Team. As in the past, the identity of each poster's subject is kept secret until the official unveiling, which adds a bit of mystery and fun to the event.

To start the celebration, the posters were unveiled by Dr. Dominic Dottavio, Tarleton State University President; Dr. Karen Murray, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost; and Ms. Donna Savage, University Librarian. Each of them spoke briefly about what the posters symbolize and the accomplishments of each group featured on the posters.

Event attendees then enjoyed tasty refreshments and lively conversations, visited with and congratulated representatives of the READ poster honorees, and took lots of photos. Faculty advisors for the READ poster honorees received framed copies of the posters. Also, attendees received postcard-sized versions of the posters as souvenirs.

Collegiate FFA

Tarleton's Collegiate FFA emphasizes leadership, professional development, and service to the university, as well as community service and service to youth involved in agriculture.

Members are active in campus events, state meetings, promotional programs, chapter education, and the Texas and National Collegiate FFA Conventions, which offer leadership opportunities, career/leadership development events (CDE/LDE), workshops, and career fairs.



Also, members are instrumental in the success of the Tarleton-hosted area and state contests that bring almost 20,000 FFA visitors to campus each year. You can learn more about Tarleton's Collegiate FFA and get contact information from the Agricultural and Consumer Sciences Department's web page (<http://www.tarleton.edu/agsservices>).

Future Plans:

Watch for announcements about the library's upcoming READ poster reveal, which will take place on April 15 during the 2015 National Library Week (April 12-18). This year's NLW theme is "Unlimited Possibilities @ Your Library."

Check our [homepage](#) and social media posts for updates.

The library's 2014 READ posters are on permanent display in the Library Learning Commons along with our previous years' posters:

- Dr. Dottavio and the Purple Poo (2010)
- Tarleton Army ROTC cadets and the Tarleton Players (2011)
- Texan Rider and the Plowboys (2012)
- Tarleton Rodeo Team and The Sound & The Fury (2013)



Tarleton Aeronautical Team

Initiated in 2011 by a nucleus of motivated engineering/physics students and enthused math faculty, the Tarleton Aeronautical Team pursues and attains lofty goals:

- The team placed 6th out of 41 teams in NASA's 2011-2012 CanSat competition, with only one U.S. team ranking higher.
- In 2013, the team placed 3rd out of 36 teams in NASA's University Student Launch Initiative (USLI). They were also named Rookie Team of the Year and won the Science Mission Directorate Payload and Best Team Spirit awards.
- In 2014, the team placed 5th out of 58 teams from 13 nations in the CanSat competition. They were the only Texas team participating in the student design competition.

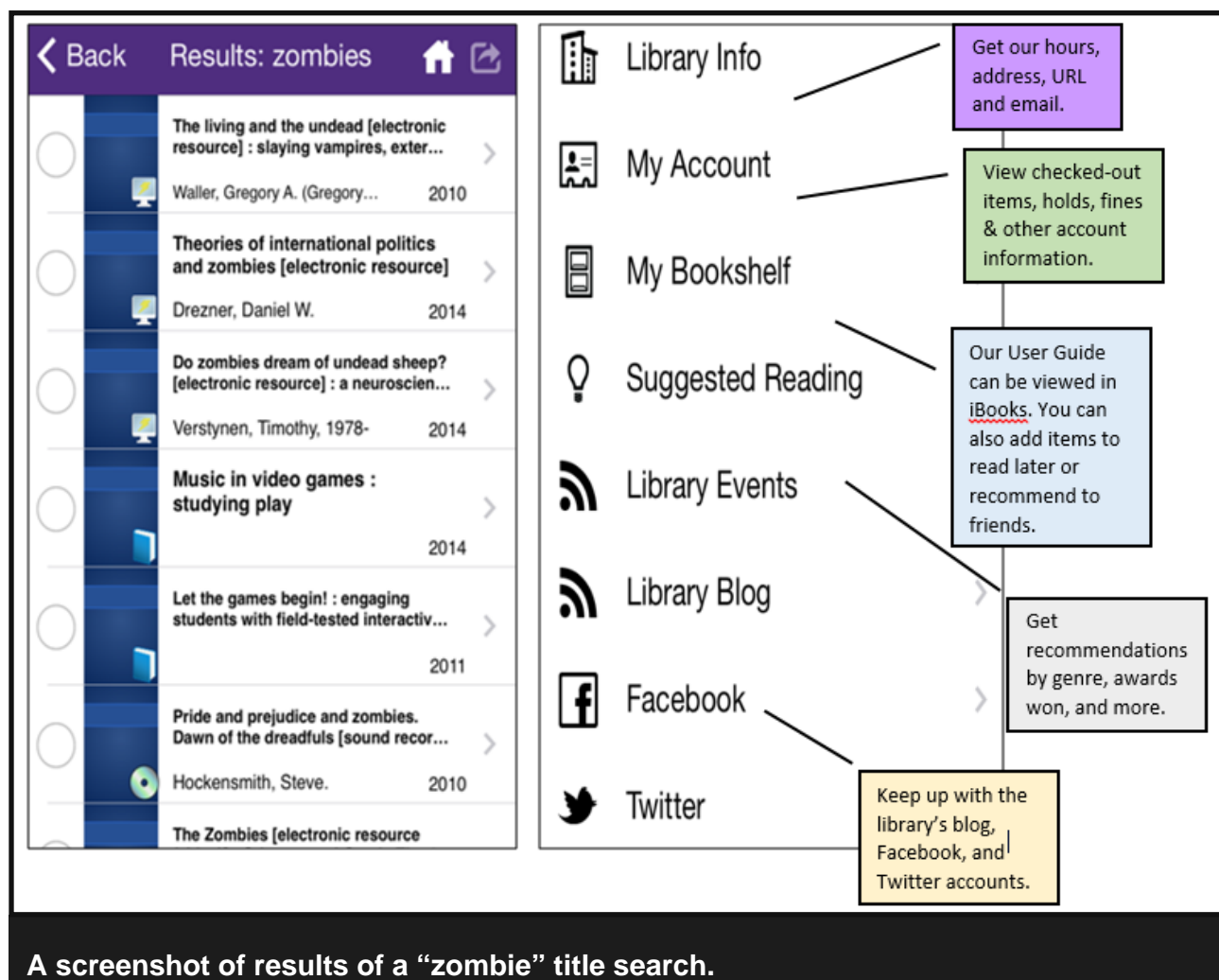
In addition to applying their skills in competitions, members dedicate their expertise and time to educational outreach for middle school science and mathematics students. You can learn more about the team and their activities by checking out their web page (<http://www.tarleton.edu/COSTWEB/usli/index.html>).

Photos, More Info & Past READ Posters

Photos from the Dick Smith Library 2014 READ poster reveal are posted on Flickr (https://www.flickr.com/photos/tarleton_libraries/sets/72157644040233876/). Articles about the library's previous READ posters are in past issues of *Library Chronicles* (<http://www.tarleton.edu/library/chronicles.html>).

Tarleton Libraries: “There’s An App for That.”

Tarleton Libraries has a mobile application that can be used on iOS devices (iPads and iPhones) and is available in the App store.



A screenshot of results of a “zombie” title search.

- **Search the Tarleton State University Libraries catalog:** Search for items by title, author, subject, or general keyword and place holds on interesting items that are currently checked out to someone else.
- **Access resources:** View e-books, videos, music clips and other digital content on your mobile device.
- **Search by barcode:** Use your device’s camera (note: autofocus must be supported*) to scan the barcode on a book, CD, DVD, or other item at a friend’s house or bookstore and search for available copies at Tarleton Libraries.

We also have a mobile website (<http://www.tarleton.edu/m/library>) and over two dozen mobile database apps, which can be found on the library’s [mobile apps and resources page](http://www.tarleton.edu/library/mobile.html) (<http://www.tarleton.edu/library/mobile.html>).

Laptops on the Go: Check Out Our New Laptop Vending Machine

On November 4, 2014, the library staff was proud to host the unveiling of the new Laptop Vending Machine by Dr. Dottavio, University President, and Jay Johnson, Student Government Association President. Dottavio and Johnson were the first two people to swipe their Texan Cards and check out laptops using the machine. The event was filmed by Michael Simpson, Manager of Video Services, and is available for viewing on [YouTube](#).

The Laptop Vending Machine, which is housed in the Library Learning Commons, allows users to check out a fully charged laptop for four hours. This machine makes checking out a laptop simple: all you need is your Texan Card and your NTNET password. The machine manages the circulation process: it checks out the laptops, tracks the usage hours, and checks the laptops back in when they are returned. Once a laptop is returned, users will receive a receipt in their Tarleton email inbox to show when the transaction was completed.

Everyone has reacted well to the machine; they no longer have to wait in line at the Circulation Desk to check out a laptop. The Laptop Vending Machine makes trips to the library quick and easy; students have stated that they no longer have to carry their personal laptops to the library. Simply check out a laptop, work on your projects, and return it when you are done.

“The perfect accoutrement to the whole philosophy of the Learning Commons and putting technology in front of the students...”

- Donna Savage



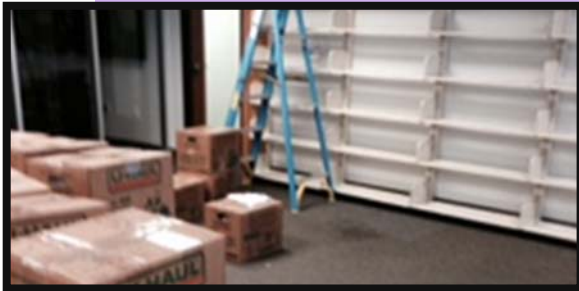
Laptop vending machine reveal

Medical Laboratory Sciences Library has Moved!

In November 2014, the Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS) library in the Schaffer Building in Fort Worth, was packed up, cleaned out, and put into construction mode. All of this was accomplished within a week's time.



The space formerly occupied by the library was renovated to create a new medical science laboratory. Books were stored while we waited on the semester to end and for finals to be completed. During semester break, the shelving and boxed books were delivered to Texan Hall, in the Hickman building.



It takes a little bit of finesse to unpack each box, get the items in Library of Congress call number order, integrate the box of books with all of the others, and finally place the materials on the shelves.



Boxes of books and periodicals were packed up. Lisa Wan and Cathy Wilterding, Tarleton librarians, led the crew through the process. A systematic method of labeling and numbering boxes was used, along with a discard and off-site storage process to clean the materials out of the space and to prepare them for the Hickman Building.



On Dec. 22, the shelving was installed in the Learning Commons at the Hickman building, then 39 boxes of books were unpacked and prepared for shelving.



The addition of this collection has changed the look of the learning commons. Now all Fort Worth collections are centrally located at Texan Hall.



Digitization Initiative

Dick Smith Library's digitization initiative started over 7 years ago when the library partnered with The Portal to Texas History, which is hosted by the University of North Texas (UNT) Libraries' Digital Projects Unit. This initiative's ultimate goal is to provide online access to digital versions of significant Tarleton publications.

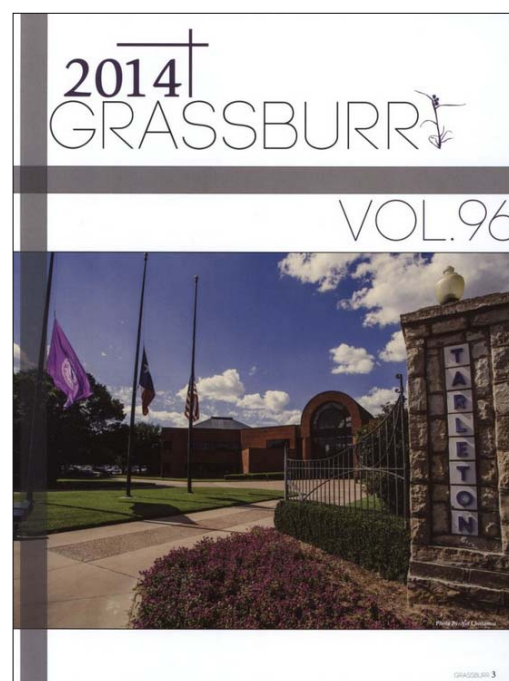
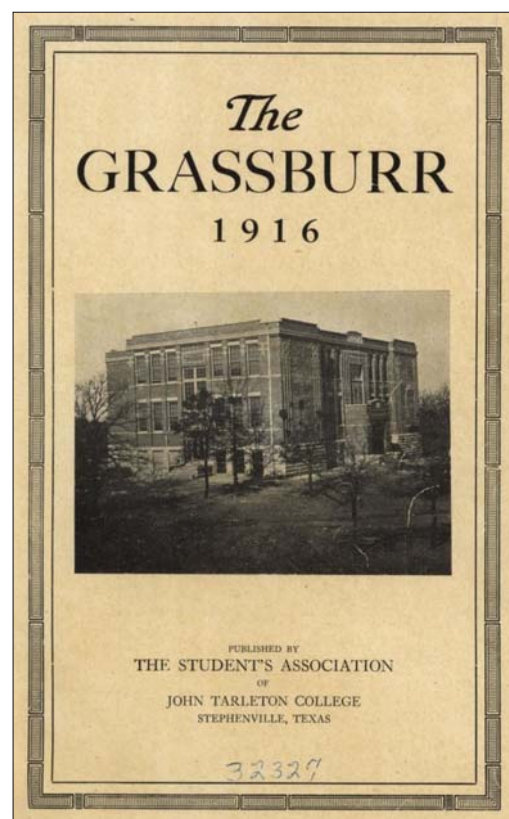
Currently, the Dick Smith Library is nearing completion of digitizing one of its most important historical documents. Issues of *The J-TAC* from 1919 to 2011 have been uploaded and are available to view on The Portal to Texas History (the Portal). The most recent issues of *The J-TAC*, 23 issues spanning from 2012 to 2014, are nearly ready to be sent to the Portal.

Two years ago, library staff also began the process of digitizing *Grassburr* yearbooks. This project was completed in two phases: One phase involved yearbooks that could be disassembled prior to being digitized. The other phase involved yearbooks that needed to remain whole because multiple copies are not available. These were digitized and returned to the library. All 98 volumes of the *Grassburr* are now available to view on the Portal.

Two other digitization projects have been recently completed. Founded in 1988, the Jim Boyd Effective Schools Project (ESP) is a professional development partnership between Tarleton State University and area schools. The *Journal of Effective Schools Project* debuted in 1994. Library staff began the process of digitizing issues of this journal a few years ago. Today, 20 issues are available to view on the Portal.

More recently, the library began the process of digitizing all issues of *Anthology: A Student Forum for Prose, Poetry, and the Visual Arts*. The first issue of *Anthology* was published in 1995. Founding Editors were two Tarleton students, Cris Edward and Jimmy Hood. Publication Directors were and still are Benedda Konvicka and Marilyn Robitaille, Tarleton Department of English & Languages faculty. A new volume is released each April and celebrated with Creative Arts Day festivities. All 20 issues of *Anthology* are available to view on the Portal.

Digital collections for each of the above publications will be kept up-to-date as new issues/volumes are published and annually added to the Portal.



Staff comings...

In April 2014, Lacey Cook joined the DSL team as the new Electronic Resources Specialist.



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information and research assistance.

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Visit us on the web at

<http://www.tarleton.edu/library>



...and goings

We said goodbye to Peggy Smith, our Evening Circulation Supervisor, in May 2014.

