



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY  
CORPUS  
CHRISTI

MARY AND JEFF BELL  
**LIBRARY**



# 2024 Year in Review



# The Islander Library

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# Message from the Dean

Greetings! I am happy to present the Mary and Jeff Bell Library's first ever Year in Review. We wanted to share some of the exciting things going on in the library, many of them behind the scenes.

Every library department is represented in the following pages, demonstrating that the Bell Library is “all in” to support the mission of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. I invite you to read about how the library has been:

- managing and adding collections to better support university curriculum;
- supporting active learning with a new classroom configuration;
- setting up and training faculty to use the new Canvas learning management system;
- providing technical expertise to help the TAMU-CC Division of Research and Innovation launch the VIVO faculty profile platform;
- teaching and supporting lifelong digital information literacy skills;
- encouraging the development of open educational resources and lowering students' costs;



# **“I am energized and motivated by the mission of the university and the library.”**

and other activities to support research, learning, and the creating and sharing of knowledge.

Although I am new in the role of Dean of Libraries, I have been at the Mary and Jeff Bell Library for nine years. I am energized and motivated by the mission of the university and the library. The Bell Library is an exciting place to work. Everyone here shares a love for providing services, collections, and spaces that are welcoming to all and that facilitate collaboration, exploration, and the creation of knowledge.

Although divided into different departments, we share a common mission and are excited by opportunities to collaborate, both within the library and with other partners around campus. I hope this passion will be evident as you read our 2024 Year in Review.



**C. Derrik Hiatt**

Dean of University Libraries



# Leadership Changes

The library has a strong reputation for being a willing and engaged campus partner, collaborating and serving with units across the Island campus. This last year has seen a major shift in leadership as team members have accepted roles outside of the library. Dr. Cate Rudowsky, Dean of University Libraries, also served as the Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts from August 2023 through May 2024.

In June 2024, Dr. Rudowsky stepped away from the library to begin her role as the Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. At the same time, Risha Dulip, the library's Finance, Planning, and Assessment Manager, began serving as the Interim Business Coordinator for Academic Affairs. Since then, Rudowsky was appointed Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in October 2024, and Dulip was appointed Director, Business Operations for the Office of the Provost.

Throughout this period, Assistant Dean Derrik Hiatt stepped in as Interim Dean of University Libraries. We're thrilled to share that, as of June 2025, he has been appointed our new Dean. We're excited for this next chapter and what the future holds for the library!



# Your Library by the Numbers



**362,493**

Library Visits



**2,763**

Reference Questions



**4,598**

Physical Items  
Checked Out at  
Circulation



**1,001,350**

eBooks



**167,540**

eJournals



**49,395**

eBooks and eMedia Used



**347**

Databases



**1,806**

Items Borrowed through  
Interlibrary Loan



**195**

Faculty-Taught Sessions  
in the Bell Library, 33 in  
the New Active Learning  
Classroom



**18**

Art Gallery Reservations  
Representing Student,  
Faculty, Staff, and  
Community Member Work



**220**

Linear Feet of Archival  
Materials Processed



# Shaping Our Shelves: Adapting Our Collection for Today's Readers

Removing outdated materials from any library's collection is a standard and essential practice to keep the collection current and relevant. It improves access to the library's more useful resources and allows the collection to evolve to reflect changes in the needs of the library's users.

In the past, the Bell Library had routinely reviewed materials one subject area at a time. But during 2023-2024, we systematically reviewed the entire circulating collection—the first time to our knowledge that this has been done. Much of the print collection had grown outdated or had become less useful to the TAMU-CC community, and many have been purchased as e-books.

After consulting with faculty, the library withdrew books that were at least 15 years old and had not been checked out in 15 years and were held by at least 3 Interlibrary Loan partner libraries. Through this process, we continue to serve as a dynamic, user-focused hub, ready to support the evolving research and learning needs of our community for years to come.



# Active Learning in Action: ALC Now Open

The Active Learning Classroom (ALC) is a new instruction space located in Room 126 designed to facilitate collaborative learning experiences and support multiple instructional modalities. This classroom supports hybrid, virtual, and in-person instruction and seats a total of 42 students. It is currently the only classroom of its kind on campus, containing two distinct instructional areas.

The main area is optimized for small-group activities, containing six tables with flexible seating for 6-10 students and also furnished with a monitor and computer. Each table's computer has Solstice Mersive technology installed that enables content sharing from multiple student devices. The instructor podium connects to a larger TV and has the capability to cast instructor screen content to the table monitors. The smaller seminar area contains 12 seats, a podium, and wall-mounted whiteboards for smaller student groups.

Construction and technology installation in the former Super Quiet Study Room began November 1, 2023 and concluded on March 1, 2024. The first instruction session held in the ALC took place on March 6, 2024 for a group of 29 visiting W.B. Ray High School students.



From March 6 to December 2024, the ALC hosted 91 instruction sessions, trainings, meetings, and workshops, reaching a total of 1,197 attendees. Student-focused instruction sessions and workshops represented a little over 40 percent of room traffic, with the remainder being staff and faculty meetings, trainings, and presentations.

Dr. Oliver Cruz-Milán taught the first TAMU-CC class session held in the Active Learning Classroom for his Marketing 3315 class on April 1, 2024. Initially, the ALC was designed as a bring-your-own-device space. Additional grant funding provided a set of lending laptops housed in a portable cart to be used exclusively in the ALC to enable students without devices to participate fully in classes.

We are amazed at the energy and engagement this space has already sparked, and we're just getting started!

# Supporting a Smooth Switch from Blackboard to Canvas

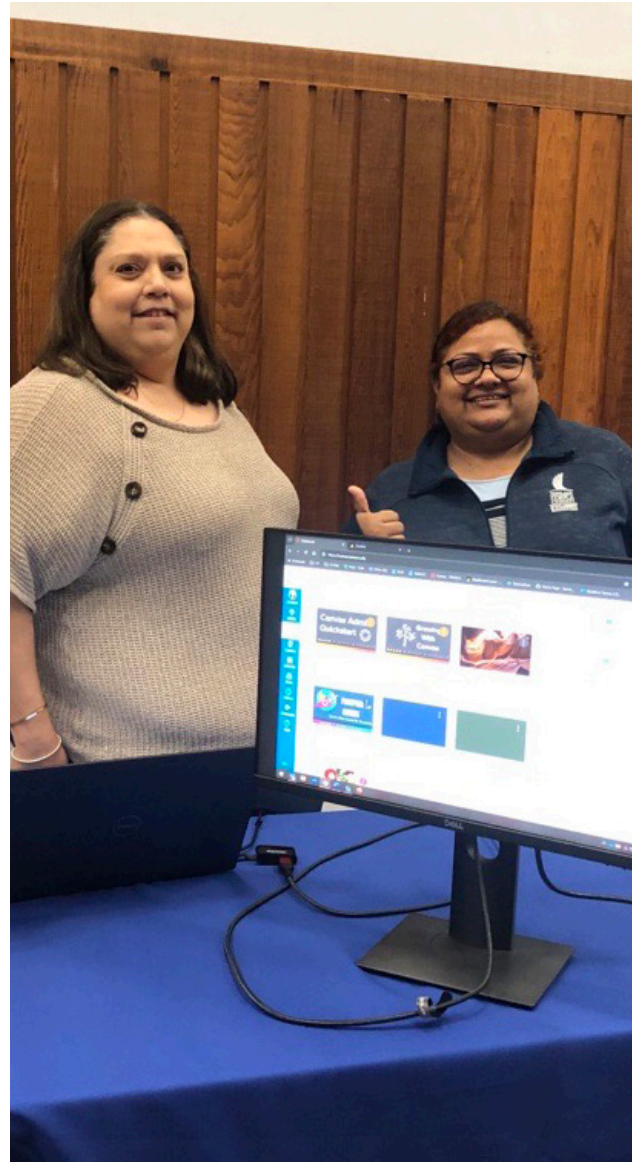
During the 23-24 academic year, the Digital Learning & Academic Innovations (DLAI) office supported the institutional transition from the Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS) to Canvas.

**7,378** courses migrated to Canvas

**899** individual Instructional Designer consultations were provided to faculty to support Canvas course development

**88** training hours for Canvas features were delivered by Instructional Designers and 510 attendees participated in the training

**1,703** technical support tickets were resolved by Instructional designers to support faculty adoption of Canvas



# Special Collections and Archives is Headed Downtown

Progress continues with the construction and move of the Special Collections and Archives into its new building located on Chaparral Street. Last year, work began to demolish the walls to open the space while the success of the fundraising efforts led to formalizing the layout of the high-density storage for our collections. As of 2025, over \$800,000 has been raised thanks to the support of private donors and foundations. The target date for completion of the

high-density storage—the heart of the archives—is Spring 2026.

As fundraising continues, we're excited about the other spaces of the new archives. With spaces like the Patty and Hank Nuss Multipurpose Room for community events and the John Roger Bateman Reading Room, as well as the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Exhibit and the Jim and Candace Moloney Exhibit, the archives will become a more welcoming, accessible

hub for the community. We hope these spaces will connect the community with the past.

Adding to our services, the new location will also include a digitization lab for creating digital copies of the collections and for digital preservation. Within the next three years, Special Collections and Archives hopes to open its doors in its new location!



## New Resource Added! Chapman Ranch Papers

In collaboration with the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History, Special Collections and Archives has recently received the papers relating to the Chapman Ranch. The Chapman Family purchased the land from the King Ranch in 1919. The records cover nearly a century of business and farming records providing a unique resource and research opportunity in agriculture, economics, and history.

# Collaborative Problem-Solving Results in VIVO Login Success

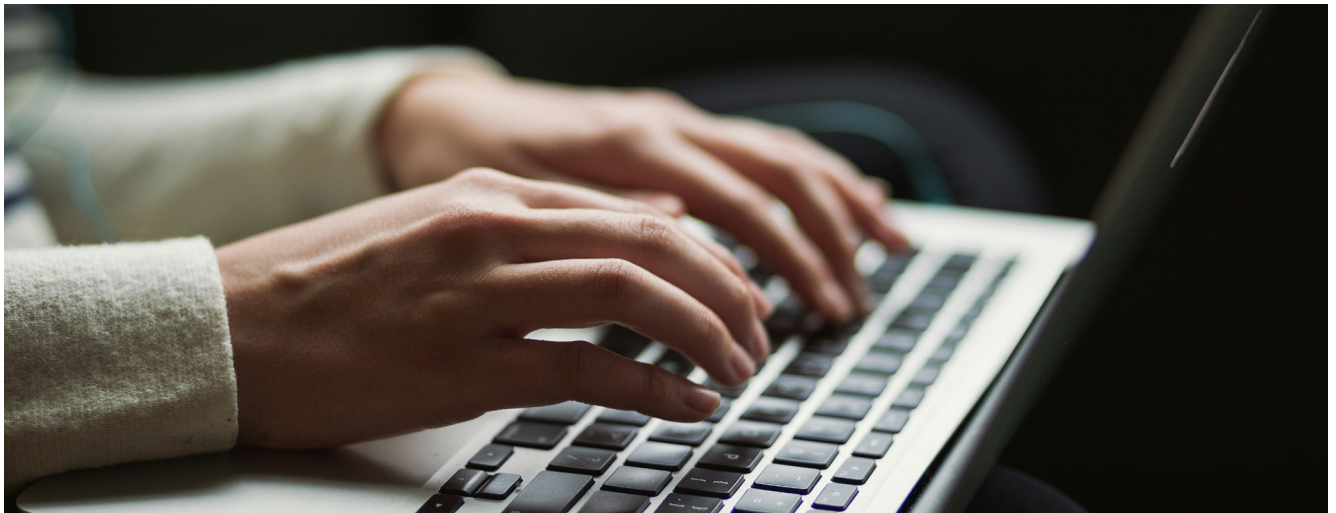
In April 2024, VIVO — a key platform for showcasing faculty profiles — faced a major hurdle: a login authentication failure. Rather than backing away from the challenge, our Library Technology Services (LTS) team stepped up with determination.

Because VIVO is an open-source product with minimal documentation, our LTS team had limited guidance. Through persistent effort and a trial-and-error method, LTS successfully created a test web page that enabled login authentication and developed a method to pass login parameters to VIVO, mimicking the behavior of programming variables.

This five-month journey of investigation and innovation was made possible thanks to the support and flexibility within the LTS unit. Another systems staff member stepped in to carry additional workload, ensuring the team could remain focused on resolving the issue.

Thanks to this incredible team effort, we now have a functional VIVO application server today designed, built, and managed by Library Technology Services.

This success story demonstrates our team's technical expertise and collaborative spirit and also paves the way for deeper partnership with the university's Division of Research and Innovation.





# OER Faculty Stipends Lead to Student Savings

To improve the affordability of education at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and to support the work of faculty authors creating learning materials for their students, the Mary and Jeff Bell Library sponsored a second year of Open Educational Resources (OER) Faculty Stipends in academic year 2023-2024. The library allocated a total of \$23,300 to support faculty OER-related professional development as well as to fund faculty to eliminate the commercial textbook in a class in favor of adopting, adapting, or creating open educational resources.

When the program wrapped up in July 2024, the library had funded 19 faculty, and the commercially published textbooks in eight courses had been eliminated, resulting in estimated student savings of over \$160,000 per academic year (\$6.90 for every \$1 invested).

When added to the savings achieved the previous year through the inaugural OER Stipends program, the library has helped students save over \$250,000 per year in textbook costs. We are looking forward to the third year of the program!



# I-Know Program Helps Students Strengthen Digital Information Literacy



The I-Know program is transforming how students engage with digital information literacy (DIL) throughout their college experience. By integrating DIL skills — including finding, evaluating, creating, and communicating information — into courses across multiple academic levels, the program ensures that students develop essential competencies to navigate and adapt to an evolving digital landscape. Over the past year, I-Know strengthened its three-

tiered approach by refining Level 1 (Find) in first-year seminar courses, embedding Level 2 (Evaluate) in major prerequisite courses with participation from 33 faculty members across 32 programs, and expanding Level 3 (Create/Communicate) with 18 faculty members guiding students in effectively sharing information.

To support faculty in integrating DIL into their teaching, I-Know hosted seven faculty workshops and a teaching symposium, engaging 78 faculty members

from diverse disciplines. Additionally, the program conducted multiple student and faculty surveys and analyzed nearly 300 student assignments to assess progress. In total, 3,446 students participated in courses incorporating I-Know's learning objectives. These efforts continue to build a campuswide understanding of DIL, equipping both students and faculty with the tools needed to thrive in an information-driven world.

# Outreach and Events

2024 was a wonderful year filled with events, panels, displays, and activities! Here are some highlights.



Banned Books Week



What is an Ofrenda?



Islander Family Weekend



Islander Lights



Islander Homecoming Decorating



Invent for the Planet



Solar Eclipse Event



Family Literacy Night



Star Wars Day

Credits:

Jennifer Anderson '92, '12

Virginia Bister

Emma Drumright

Derrik Hiatt

Alina Shorter '26



6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5702,  
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

361.825.2340

[tamucc.edu/library](http://tamucc.edu/library)

Facebook, Instagram @TAMUCCLibrary,  
@TAMUCCSpeColl, @i.create.lab



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