SJSU | KING LIBRARY

Library News

Fall 2021 Newsletter

San José State University
Dear Friends of the SJSU King Library,

I am thrilled to join the San José State University community as the next dean of the SJSU King Library. I joined the SJSU King Library, following a year and a half of uncertainty and constant change for all of us. During this time, the library faculty and staff met these moments with resilience, creativity, and a commitment to support the SJSU community.

As a result of going fully remote last March, reference and support services quickly transitioned online, an array of digital resources were added, and virtual events, such as the Dean’s Chat, were held online to engage with library friends and donors.

SJSU King Library, along with the rest of the university, began to welcome students, staff, and faculty back to campus in August. During this reopening transition, the library team remained focused on meeting the needs of our scholars.

In addition to all of the virtual services that are still being offered, the team provided access to a range of in-person services such as access to safe study spaces and accessible technology equipment. By all accounts, the library reopened in-person services with flying colors with one faculty member sharing in the library’s chat, “Thank you for all that y’all do and have done to get the library back up and running... I’m so glad to have dedicated librarians and staff in our library.” I echo this sentiment wholeheartedly.

As I start my deanship, I want to especially thank Ann Agee and Christina Mune for their service as Interim Deans and their fantastic leadership of the library over the last year and a half. Their commitment reflects the outstanding team I look forward to working alongside.

As we look ahead, I am excited for the opportunity to work in San José and in Silicon Valley to further the mission of the SJSU King Library, and develop partnerships to enhance and grow their reach in the community and region. Many projects are already underway to lead the library in this direction, and you can read about them in this issue of Library News.

On a personal level, my family and I are excited to relocate to California to start our SJSU adventure. I look forward to meeting many of you and learning from you about what you love about SJSU King Library.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of Library News, and please send me your comments and questions.

Michael Meth
University Library Dean
408-808-2419
michael.meth@sjsu.edu
Upcoming Events and Exhibits

SJSU Annual Author and Artist Awards

Friday, February 18, 2022
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Grand Reading Room, 8th Floor

The library’s annual event returns for an evening of celebration and lively conversation with SJSU faculty, staff, and community members. The event recognizes campus faculty and staff who have recently authored a published first edition book or exhibited a significant work of art. Special remarks will be given by SJSU President Mary Papazian.

Combining both 2020 and 2021 recipients, this is sure to be our biggest celebration yet. Stay tuned for additional details at library.sjsu.edu/faculty-services/sjsu-author-awards.

Digital Humanities Research Institute Bootcamp

Summer 2022
Details coming soon!

SJSU King Library, in partnership with San Diego State University Library’s Digital Humanities Center, will hold a Digital Humanities Research Institute at SJSU in Summer 2022. With fundraising for our Digital Humanities Center NEH Grant well underway, the Institute will offer the SJSU community an intensive educational opportunity to learn about the intersection of technology and humanities.

Fall 2021
University Scholar Series

In partnership with the Office of the Provost, Spartan Bookstore, Division of Research and Innovation, and the SJSU King Library. Register at library.sjsu.edu/uss.

Learning from Stuttering: A Path from Disorder to Diversity
Wednesday, October 20, 2021
12 - 1 p.m.
Prof. Pei-Tzu Tsai, Dept. of Communicative Disorders and Sciences

Is Mobile Money a Digital Gateway to Financial Inclusion?
Wednesday, December 1, 2021
12 - 1 p.m.
Prof. Susanna Khavul, School of Management

“A Whole Lotta Frankie” Exhibit

Original Artwork by Frankie “McFly” Loera
October 4 - November 29, 2021
Jennifer & Philip DiNapoli Gallery, 2nd Floor, SJSU King Library

A special exhibit of drawings, paintings, and other artifacts, old and new, from local San José artist Frankie “McFly” Loera.
Survival Mode: SJSU Responds to Historic Crises

In Spring 2021, Special Collections and Archives launched the digital exhibit, “Survival Mode: SJSU Responds to Historic Crises.”

The exhibit was prompted by community interest in the 1919 San José State La Torre yearbook that addressed impacts of the 1918 influenza pandemic.

“Each time someone asked about the 1918 Flu, I wondered whether there were other historic moments with parallels to COVID-19,” says Carli V. Lowe, University Archivist.

Student Assistant Samira Habibi helped Lowe search the digital collections for evidence of campus responses to crises. They found masks appearing in various contexts: gas masks during World War I, gauze masks to protect against the flu, and masks used in protesting everything from smog to the media’s silence on the deaths of Afghani civilians.

Habibi found personal connections in the materials. “The stories of students voicing their opinions against the Vietnam War as well as the war in Afghanistan in 2001 hit close to me as I believe it is important to voice one’s opinion.”

A sinister theme of scapegoating surfaced against Japanese Americans during World War II, LGBTQ+ communities in response to HIV/AIDS fears, and Muslim communities following the September 11th attacks.

In Our Own Words: A Collection of Community COVID-19 Experiences

SJSU King Library and the College of Humanities and the Arts have launched “In Our Own Words: A Multilingual Public History of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Bay Area,” a digital humanities project designed to document Bay Area residents’ personal experiences of the pandemic.

In May 2020, University Archivist Carli V. Lowe launched “Spartans Speak on COVID-19,” a project to memorialize and document the personal experiences of SJSU students, faculty, staff, and alumni during the pandemic and make them available online through SJSU Digital Collections.

Assistant Professor of World Languages and Literatures Chuhui Peng responded to Lowe’s call for submissions with a proposal to widen the project scope to reflect the diverse communities of the Bay Area. They partnered with several faculty members to translate their call for submissions into seven of the most commonly spoken languages in the Bay Area — English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Russian.

Peng and Lowe hope to capture a 360-degree perspective of the pandemic by including essential workers as well as students and families who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 and employees who were laid off or had their careers otherwise derailed.

“Information can be transformative for individuals and communities,” said Lowe. “I’m trying to think about whose voices are being heard through this collection and whose voices are not being heard. I see a project like this as an opportunity to create access to information and to bring people together.”

Learn more about this multilingual initiative at library.sjsu.edu/own-words. Interested in supporting digital humanities projects like this? Give to the NEH Challenge Grant: Digital Humanities Center at library.sjsu.edu/giving-library.
“21@2021” Virtual Exhibit Elevates an Ancient Chinese Artform to a New Realm

What do the ancient art of Chinese brush painting and virtual reality have in common? Hint: It’s not their age.

Hosted by the Africana, Asian American, Chicano, and Native American (AAACNA) Studies Center, the “21@2021” virtual exhibit showcases the more than 6,000-year-old art of Chinese brush painting in a virtual reality experience.

As one of the oldest styles of painting in the world, Chinese brush painting is considered a living art. The exhibition highlights the artwork of three generations of the Chan Lim family, who have been pioneering new media, styles, and techniques that integrate Western art with the Chinese brush style in the United States and around the world for more than half a century.

The driving force behind “21@2021” is Lucas College and Graduate School of Business faculty member Bobbi Makani-Lim, PhD, who contributed to and curated the exhibit along with her husband Felix Chan Lim, PhD, a faculty member of Stanford University’s Continuing Studies Program.

The Chan Lim family had already begun shipping lanterns from overseas to contribute to what had originally been planned as an in-person SJSU King Library exhibit when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. With the support of the AAACNA Studies Center, they pivoted quickly and came up with a new gameplan: a digital experience that would include a virtual reality component.

“The digital format allows our guests to have a feeling of being in a natural exhibit, and if they have VR goggles, they can go in and actually play with some of the lanterns,” says Makani-Lim.

More than 500 hours of human and computer time went into creating the virtual reality piece, according to Jon Oakes, SJSU King Library’s technology labs coordinator.

“We are bringing a very traditional art into a very modern sort of space,” said Kathryn Blackmer Reyes, librarian and director of the AAACNA Studies Center and curator of its multifaceted collections. To her, it’s an exciting space — a gallery of art and culture — with a lot of room and potential for creativity and technology to come together.

Ultimately, the exhibit has opened up opportunities to reimagine how visitors can experience the art within the virtual reality realm, which has emphasized tangibility and interaction from the comfort of one’s computer.

View the “21@2021” virtual exhibit, including a recording of a recent special talk, exhibition artist demonstrations, and instructions on how to best experience the exhibit at library.sjsu.edu/exhibits/21at2021.

Support digital humanities projects like this one by contributing to the NEH Challenge Grant: Digital Humanities Center Endowment at library.sjsu.edu/giving-library.
Year One Goal of NEH Challenge Grant Met

SJSU King Library and the College of Humanities and Arts (H&A) successfully raised $25,000 through our summer crowdfunding campaign to complete the first year’s goal of the NEH Challenge Grant for SJSU’s Digital Humanities Center (DHC).

Among the many generous donors who helped the library meet its goal were alumni and their families, community members, and current and retired SJSU faculty and staff. For many, the DHC made the humanities “relevant” in today’s technology-centered world, recalling fondly their humanities courses as SJSU students. For others, the DHC represented a coalescence of their interests such as the humanities and libraries or libraries and public partnerships.

The DHC is a fitting example of SJSU King Library’s growing connection with partners across campus and in the community. The DHC will be dedicated to inspiring and support interdisciplinary learning, research, and teaching at the intersection of technology and scholarship.

SJSU King Library and H&A would not have met the first year’s goal of the NEH Challenge Grant without the support of its many donors contributing and sharing the campaign. Stay tuned for more information about year two goals of the five-year Digital Humanities Center NEH Challenge Grant.
Music Endowments
Enrich Community Research

As the SJSU King Library begins to resume full services, it looks to its music endowments as vehicles for facilitating community research.

Irene Dalis Collection and Archives Endowment

Established in 2019, the Irene Dalis Collection and Archives Endowment honors internationally acclaimed Mezzo-Soprano singer and San José State University alumna Irene Dalis. Dalis began her singing career in Europe in the early 1950s before debuting at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City in 1957 where she sang for 20 seasons. Some of her notable performances included Amneris in Verdi’s “Aïda,” a part she sang 69 times at the Met, and Princess di Bouillon for Plácido Domingo’s Met debut in “Adriana Lecouvreur.”

The Irene Dalis Collection and Archives Endowment supports Dalis’ rich body of works including vocal and music scores, notes, photographs, opera publications, and audiovisual materials among others. Students, scholars, and artists are able to access these materials for their study, teaching, and research in SJSU King Library’s Special Collections and Archives.

Mark Trent Goldberg Endowment

Mark Trent Goldberg, the late son of SJSU King Library’s dear friends Gene and Mary Goldberg, served as the Executive Director of the Ira and Leonore Gershwin Trust for 25 years. Goldberg was an invaluable source of knowledge on all aspects of the Gershwins’ musical recordings and productions and left a treasure trove of books, records, and CDs upon his untimely passing in 2005. His parents donated the materials to SJSU King Library and established the Mark Trent Goldberg Endowment in their son’s loving memory.

The Mark Trent Goldberg Endowment supports SJSU King Library’s musical theater collection. A large part of the collection contains works of the Gershwins from Mark’s personal collection as well as more recent acquisitions. Visitors from SJSU and the public can read, listen, and see the collection on the fourth floor of SJSU King Library in a special space dedicated to Mark.

Gifts to these endowments will help in their growth, physical preservation of current collections, and future efforts for improved digitization, accessibility, and visibility.
In 1984, San José State Emeritus Professor of Anthropology Thomas Layton was excavating a Mitom Pomo Indian village along the Mendocino coast in northern California when he made a startling discovery: buried among the sand and rocks were a number of Chinese porcelain objects and shards of green glass.

Solving the mystery of these artifacts—which he discovered involved the Frolic, a shipwrecked boat carrying goods from Boston to San Francisco near the height of the California Gold Rush in 1850—was a four decades-long journey. Layton pieced together the history of the coast using national archives, historical societies, and collections.

For Layton, history is an essential part of the human experience. That’s why, in addition to his career as a professor and academic, he has dedicated more than 34 years to managing and curating the Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History at San José State.

He invests time and money into purchasing images for the collection, making history tangible for future generations, while giving generously to SJSU activities and programming that he cares about like the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. He also named the Sourisseau Academy as the remainder beneficiary of his retirement account. This allows him to witness the impact of his contributions while setting aside any residual in his IRA to support his desired purpose.

“One of the best ways to see the direct effect of your donation is to give to specific projects that you care about,” he said. “I wanted to feel the satisfaction of seeing that something I’ve done has made a difference.”

You can join Layton by leaving a legacy at San José State to support the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library that will benefit current and future Spartans. Learn how you can make a legacy gift at legacy.sjsu.edu.
Virtual Services Support SJSU Scholars

As we return to campus this fall, many resources integral for virtual learning will continue to thrive as faculty and students experience hybrid learning.

Virtual Chat Reference

On the library website, users are prompted with a pop-up window to chat with a librarian. With a click of a button, the user is immediately connected to a SJSU librarian who provides real-time, interactive assistance with developing research topics, searching databases, and accessing resources. Librarians can share links, screenshots, and even launch into a Zoom session for more in-depth help.

During the 2020-21 library closure, over 12,000 students and faculty were helped via LibChat, the library’s virtual reference support.

“During this crisis our patrons have seen the quality of research support they can get from the comfort and safety of their home. We are certainly going to keep this service up and running alongside the more traditional, physical reference desk. But I have no doubt reference chat is the future of library reference services,” says Bernd Becker, Director of Reference and User Services.

After Hours Chatbot

Kingbot, the library’s after hours chatbot, was officially piloted on our website in September of 2020 in response to the increased need for online reference support due to the COVID-19 crisis. Users anonymously ask questions to the chatbot which uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to respond with helpful links to LibGuides, databases, research tutorials, and more.

As of Spring 2021, Kingbot logged approximately 40 monthly interactions, with 280 total interactions between October 2020 and May 2021.

“Users often ask the chatbot how to find peer-reviewed articles, databases, and research guides. In addition, when the chatbot doesn’t answer successfully, there’s always a link for users to reach a librarian via email,” says Sharesly Rodriguez, User Experience Librarian.

Website Homepage

Students have relied on the library website to remotely access resources and services. As a result, SJSU King Library decided to modernize the homepage and improve its usability. On August 7, 2021, a new version of the library homepage went live.

The Website Redesign Team started prepping for the redesign back in April of 2021. The team utilized website analytics and Designing the Library User Experience (DLUX), a collaborative group of library staff and faculty created to improve library user experience with design thinking and user-centered approaches, to make effective redesign decisions. Check out our new homepage at library.sjsu.edu.

Support the ongoing growth and development of virtual resources like LibChat, KingBot, and website improvements that have a direct impact on student learning by giving to the Dean’s Fund at library.sjsu.edu/giving-library.
Exciting Changes to Library Research Scholars Program

With two cohorts since its inception in Spring 2019, the Library Research Scholars Program (LRSP) is hitting the refresh button. After receiving feedback from participating students and librarians, the LRSP will extend the two-semester length program to three semesters including an optional summer session.

This paid undergraduate research opportunity has proven to be a valuable experience for both the students and librarian mentors, giving them tangible experience conducting a research project.

“Extending the length of the program will facilitate greater opportunities to engage in deeper research questions and actively collect supporting data for original projects,” said Emily Chan, Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship.

Our next cohort of students will begin in Spring 2022, learning research techniques and developing their research projects. Depending on the project, students may choose to continue during the summer, which can be a valuable data collection and analysis period.

One of the program goals is to prepare the scholars for entry into the SJSU RSCA Student Competition, a qualifying event for the California State University-wide research competition. In previous years, the program’s timeline made it difficult to align the completion of their research projects in time for the competition. Now, students will have their research project ready for the Spring 2023 competition.

Stay tuned for the special conclusion presentation by the LRSP students with esteemed library donors during the Spring 2023 semester.

Support this program by giving to the Library Research Scholars fund at library.sjsu.edu/giving-library.

Internship at Library Inspires Generous Donation

Eric Pan, ’20 BS, Digital Data and Information Technology Management, inspired by his student volunteer work at the SJSU King Library is on his way to joining SJSU’s iSchool graduate program this fall.

Pan joined the library in 2018 where he worked with the Innovations Department to create data visualizations with Tableau and develop a research guide for students to learn the software. His work experience in the library ultimately helped him to decide that a library career was right for him.

“I deeply appreciate my internship experiences at SJSU King Library. I look forward to applying what I have learned to real-world projects.” said Pan.

The Pan Family acknowledged their son’s beneficial experience at the library with a generous gift to our Student Assistants Program.

“Our son is one of the students who benefited from using the library resources for his studies and also for shaping his career goal through his internship experiences there. It is our great pleasure to support the library.”

Their gift will support future aspiring LIS graduate students and provide them with an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in a professional environment. With a match from Apple, Inc. the Pan Family’s gift more than doubled, ensuring its lasting impact on students for the future.

SJSU King Library plays a significant role in the academic and career development of undergraduate students. Make a gift to the Student Assistants Program to support students as they explore their passions and gain valuable work experience at library.sjsu.edu/giving-library.
My name is **Enrique Solis**, a first generation college student originally from Manila, Philippines, a SJSU business analytics major, and a recent graduate. I am so proud of my many accomplishments while a student at SJSU; however, I am especially grateful for my experience working for the SJSU King Library as a student assistant.

Before I was hired in March 2021 as a student photographer and videographer for the library marketing team, I felt insecure and lacked confidence in myself after a rough year losing my previous job and quarantining at home due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Fortunately, the library gave me a chance to work remotely, saw my potential, and allowed me to discover and improve my skills to prepare me for my career.

I learned so many transferable skills like effective interpersonal communication, cross-functional teamwork, and taking initiative to anticipate client needs. These soft skills were developed during many library projects, like contributing to the library’s social media, organizing metadata in the photo archives, and producing videos for the Digital Humanities Center crowdfunding campaign.

The SJSU King Library Student Assistant Program helped me find my confidence to take on any challenge. Thank you SJSU King Library for giving me this opportunity and thank you to our generous library donors who made this opportunity possible.

Support more students just like Enrique by giving to our Student Assistant Program at library.sjsu.edu/giving-library.
New Recruits
Towards A Sustainable Future

As the university transforms to meet changing needs, so does the library. To support the SJSU community in their research, scholarship, and creative activities, the SJSU King Library recently hired several tenure-track, temporary staff, and permanent staff who will be integral to the university’s growing needs.

Krista Anandakuttan is one of two temporary STEM librarians. Anandakuttan was most recently an intern at UC Davis’ Bodega Marine Lab Library and The Sitting Room and has over ten years experience in science communications making complex scientific concepts accessible.

Andrew Chae joins as the new tenure-track iSchool Liaison Librarian. Chae was most recently a library clerk with the Fremont Main Library, where he assisted with information services, accounts, and materials. With his MLIS degree from SJSU’s School of Information, Chae has first-hand knowledge to meet Spartan’s needs.

Melissa Chu joins as the new Assistant to the Library Associate Deans. Chu was a former student assistant for the library and built experience in customer service and project management skills to be a great addition to the dean’s office.

Traci Engel is the second new temporary STEM librarian. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Earth Science with a concentration in Planetary Science with a minor in Astrophysics. With her education in the sciences and rich internship experience with University of Southern California’s Science and Engineering Librarians, Engel has excellent working knowledge of reference, collection development, and instruction activities in the sciences.

Anne Marie Engelsen is the new tenure-track STEM Librarian. Engelsen was most recently the Science Reference Librarian for Fogler Library at the University of Maine, where she liaised with multiple natural, physical, and allied health science programs.

Jung Ah Lee is the new Integrated Library System Applications and Data Coordinator. Lee has prior experience as an Instructional Librarian at Sacred Heart Preparatory and as a Student Information Systems Database Specialist at the Alameda County Office of Education. Her coding skills and database technologies knowledge make her an excellent addition.

Jill Strykowski is the new Cataloging and Metadata Analyst. Strykowski served as the E Resource Management Librarian at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory where she migrated their catalog and digital assets. Strykowski’s archival expertise and strong technical skills will be terrific assets to our cataloging and metadata operations.

Nick Szydlowski is the new tenure-track Scholarly Communications & Digital Scholarship Librarian. Szydlowski was most recently the Digital Initiatives & Scholarly Communication Librarian at Boston College Law Library in Newton, Massachusetts. Szydlowski’s experience in legal scholarship, public policy, and institutional repositories will serve as a great resource for the SJSU community.

A robust team of librarians and staff are vital to keep the university thriving for a sustainable future. Support professional development opportunities in our changing landscape by giving to the San José State University Library Endowment at library.sjsu.edu/giving-library.
Renovations and Improvements Foster Community and Innovative Technology

SJSU King Library contributes to a flourishing, modern campus with its spaces and technology that support learning, research, and community. Necessary and timely upgrades during the building’s closure foster community and expand upon SJSU King Library’s capabilities.

To welcome our SJSU community, the library has created a new entryway decal with the goals of invoking Spartan pride, collaboration, and inspiration while also representing San José State’s diverse population.

In the lower level, the prototyping lab has expanded to include an industrial vinyl cutter, large format poster printer, sewing machine, and so much more.

Workshops will be provided to learn how to use these new tools. Checkout kits will be available so SJSU users can continue their work outside of lab hours.

“Our students come from a variety of backgrounds and have a strong drive to learn, interact, and form long term relationships. Self directed learning and open collaboration are encouraged in the prototype environment,” said Sharon Thompson, Student Technology Training Center Coordinator.

The previous prototyping lab location and size limited equipment quantity and options. With the new prototyping space, SJSU King Library will be able to accommodate more diverse prototyping requests with greater speed and efficiency.

Thompson adds, “Through design, engineering, fabrication, and education, these tools enable students to work on multidisciplinary projects with the support and inspiration of their classmates on campus.”

The upgraded prototyping lab is projected to open to all SJSU faculty, staff, and students in Spring 2022. Another timely renovation is aligned with our sustainable environment goals. While the library’s facade on 4th Street used to have some greenery, frequent water leakage from maintaining the grass impacted our lower level stacks. In response, the library replaced the grass with hardscape and collaborative seating which will provide a convenient location for community members to study and hang out with friends.

Support the ongoing growth and development of new spaces like the prototyping lab that will have a direct impact on student learning and innovation by giving to the Dean’s Fund at library.sjsu.edu/giving-library.