



Library E-News



Dean Scott Walter and the faculty and staff of the
San Diego State University Library wish you a

Happy Holiday Season!

Photo from the San Diego State University Archives digital photo collection: Float advertising Gamma Phi Beta's annual Winter Waltz, c. 1950s. The University Archives contains more than 40,000 digital images of life at SDSU from the very beginning of the Normal School to current events. Visit <https://digital.sdsu.edu/sdsu-collections> to explore these images.

From the Dean



Greetings from the University Library, where we are celebrating the successful conclusion of the Fall semester and looking forward both to the holiday season and to the new year. In this month's newsletter, you will read about the launch of projects

begun during (or just before) the pandemic - Comics Corner and the 5th floor renovation - as well as about the launch of another innovation in library service shaped by our pandemic experience, the Peer Research Mentors.

Together, these stories present a microcosm of the University Library experience in 2021: innovation in library service shaped by the pandemic and responsive to changing student needs; focus on collections designed to support both curricular and co-curricular learning and scholarship; and, the renovation and re-thinking of library space at a moment where the future of physical spaces as part of a robust residential campus experience is being reshaped. It has been a challenging year at the SDSU Library, but an exciting one, and this newsletter demonstrates how library faculty and staff continue to design and deliver essential library services to the SDSU community as part of pandemic plans, strategic plans, and more. Thank you for your continuing support of the library and our faculty, staff, and student community. We look forward to continuing to find new ways to contribute to the SDSU community in 2022 and we thank you for all the help you provide to us in that work.



Scott L. Walter, Ph.D.



Library Peer Mentors to the Rescue

For students daunted by a tough research assignment and a University Library of more than 2.5 million books, journals and electronic resources, there may be no better place to turn for help than someone who has faced and conquered the same challenge.

New peer research mentors, hired and trained through a portion of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) provided to San Diego State University, are working both in-person and online as a first point of contact between students and the library.

“We have resources students don’t know exist,” said Yara Maayah, a second-year graduate student studying medical physics. “Helping them find what they need feels great.”

The mentors provide support through [STAR Centers](#), academic resource support units for residential students. Mentors can also be found at the library’s Research and Information Desk, or through the library’s [online chat service](#).

In the continuing era of COVID-19, the mentors were seen as a way to provide support for students who may not have set foot in a library, high school or college, for almost 18 months, as well as experienced students who couldn’t take advantage of the library’s full resources while learning remotely.

“Library research skills, and information literacy more broadly, are areas where we know our students lost valuable learning opportunities during the pandemic year,” said SDSU Library Dean Scott Walter. “Even the most experienced students lost critical opportunities to learn about library services and spaces that were not available to them while we were teaching, learning, and conducting research primarily online.”

Peer research mentors in the STAR Centers will continue next semester. Students can also find the peer mentors at the library’s Research Services Desk (first floor of the dome, next to the circulation desk), as well as online through [Library Chat](#).

For the entire story, please visit the [SDSU NewsCenter](#).

Suspending Collection Gift-in-Kind Donations

The University Library is conducting a major collection review in preparation for the

completion of a multi-million dollar enhancement to its compact shelving facilities. During this review, we will be suspending acceptance of any gifts in kind (books, journals, etc.) meant for the circulating collection. Gifts of rare books, archival materials, or other special collections will continue to be accepted following review. If you have any questions, please contact Acting Head of Collections [Linda Salem](#) with questions about gift-in-kind donations. Additional information about giving to the library can be found on the [library website](#).

Julie Su Announces Her Retirement

Digital Resources/Serials Librarian [Julie Su](#) announced that she will be retiring at the end of December.

Julie joined the library faculty in 2001. In 2010 she was awarded the SDSU Alumni Distinguished Faculty Award (then known as the Monty) for her outstanding service to the library and SDSU.

Although Julie has held many roles and achievements throughout her career, she is proud of taking opportunities to contribute to the things that allowed her to combine her heritage with her profession. She was born in China and raised in Taiwan, coming to the US to receive a Masters of Librarianship from University of California, Berkeley. Years later, she received a post-Master's Specialist Degree of Library and Information Science from Indiana University. In her early career she worked at UC Berkeley's East Asian Library before moving to the Midwest. She combined all of that history to oversee the transition to a new catalog system at SDSU that allowed Asian-language resources to be listed in the proper Chinese, Japanese, and Korean

language characters rather than Romanized-only form. This significantly enhanced catalog user's ability to find, select and obtain materials in the Asian collections.

Julie is also very proud of her involvement in the American Library Association and the many seminars she has taught over the years. Again utilizing her Chinese language skills, she has been a keynote speaker and workshop presenter at conferences in Taiwan and China. She notes that this was a challenge because, while she knew the language, sometimes she needed to brush up on current technical terminology as that can change over time. She has also published in both English and Chinese. She enjoys her involvement with librarians on the national level and is proud of her contributions to improving efficiency between publishers, vendors, data systems and libraries.

Julie is looking forward to continuing her scholarship after her retirement, and hopes to become more proficient in Japanese, biblical studies and piano, as well as

travelling once pandemic restrictions have eased. Above all, she wants to continue to be involved in “things that have meaning”.

Julie plans to return to the library as part of the Faculty Early Retirement Program in Spring 2023 and we look forward to benefiting in the coming years from her expertise in the description and management of Asian language materials.

Julie, congratulations on all of your achievements and best wishes for this new adventure!



Comics Corner Grand Opening

We hosted our first in-person event since the start of the pandemic on November 12 with the Grand Opening of the Comics Corner space. On site were 20 guests from the Sword family, library donors and campus groups, while an additional 50 people joined online.

Popular Culture Librarian [Pam Jackson](#) and History Professor [Elizabeth Pollard](#) gave an informative presentation highlighting some of our comic treasures and explaining how they are used in the classroom. Library Dean Scott Walter presented donors Jack and Laura Sword with a poster of the Comics Corner mural as a thank you and then they cut the ribbon to officially open the area for use.

Recommended Reading from the

SDSU Librarians

We hope you have time to enjoy a good book over the winter break. [Here](#) are some suggestions from the SDSU Librarians and the [NPR 2021 Books We Love](#) list.



Love Library Has New Study Spaces

After an extensive remodel, the fifth floor of Love Library has reopened with exciting new study spaces. The entire floor is designated for quiet study and features several different types of study spaces to facilitate that aim, including traditional carrels, tables and chairs, quiet nooks and sleek pods.



Congratulations to [Anna Culbertson](#) and [Amanda Lanthorne](#)

Anna and Amanda recently published, "[Praxis, Not Practice: The Ethics of Consent and Privacy in 21st Century Archival Stewardship](#)" in the journal [Across the Disciplines](#).

Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for new events for the Spring semester.

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