I am pleased to present the 2018 Annual Report of UT Health San Antonio Libraries. This was a productive period that saw numerous enhancements to library space and services. We coordinated with student leaders to improve the library facility by providing a more welcoming, productive space. We added fresh food vending options and exercise equipment. The addition of new furniture increased options for study and collaborative work. Our first Image of Research Photography Competition elicited a host of stunning entries. Liaison librarians within our five schools made significant strides in better serving the needs of students and faculty. It was a busy year.

Over the course of the past months, I gained a deeper appreciation for the needs of the faculty and students who use the library for study and research. I’m proud of the many ways in which our staff responded to community requests for additional resources and helped further our goal of creating a dynamic, user-centered library organization. I look forward to working with our staff and community to build on this achievement by continually enhancing our space, services, and collections.
Briscoe Library is focused on being the space where students can come to learn, study, or relax 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. With almost 70 study rooms, 3D printing and virtual reality, exercise desks, and 4 different floors, the library is here for students to use as their own space.

Many of the library’s resources and features have come to fruition based off students’ suggestions and collaborations. The exercise desks, the new Reflection Room, and the coffee and fresh food vending machines all came to be from working directly with our students.
Based on her experience at the Health Sciences Library at the University of Colorado, Long School of Medicine student Olivia Hart proposed the idea of exercise desks to Briscoe Library. With Olivia’s recommendations, the library identified some highly rated stationary bike and walking treadmill options to consider.

Olivia proposed the options to fellow Class of 2021 students in a poll to see which would prove the most popular. Based on the results of the poll and other feedback from library surveys, one treadmill desk and three stationary bike desks were purchased by the library.

In the Spring of 2018, space was cleared in a light-filled area on the 5th floor of the library that offers great views of the campus and provides a space for students to study in a healthier way.
MORE STUDY SPACE OPENS UP IN THE LIBRARY

Study rooms and other study areas at Briscoe Library are in high demand. Briscoe Library was able to expand the library’s space by providing 24/7 access to the 22 study classrooms on the 2nd floor of the building, including the computer lab.

While the 2nd floor has always been part of the library, the study classrooms had not always been accessible and many students were unaware that there were study space options available on that floor.

Briscoe Library staff worked with other departments on campus to ensure that students were able to access and reserve these rooms. The library also created Find Your Space booklets and banners to provide students with more information as to the study space options that are available to them throughout the four floors of the Briscoe Library.
Briscoe Library's Image of Research Photography Competition was created to bring students from all five schools together in a unique way. This competition allowed students to showcase their research in a creative, visual way that they aren't necessarily always able to do. Students' submissions were judged by a multi-disciplinary panel of judges based off visual impact, originality, and connection between image, research, and text.

The library collaborated with other departments on campus, including AFSA and the Office of the Vice President for Research, to provide prize money for 1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place, and Interprofessional Education Award winners.

The Image of Research Photography Competition received 21 total entries, which were all printed and put on display up on the library’s exhibit wall. Each of the winners was presented with a certificate at the awards reception held in November 2018. The first place winner was Jaclyn Merlo from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, the second place winner was Fabio Vigil from the Long School of Medicine, the third place winner was Camila Pereira from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and the IPE winners were Sarah Khoury and Daryl Gaspar, both from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.
The first place winner of Briscoe Library’s Image of Research Photography Competition was Jaclyn Merlo from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences with her photo titled “Rodent Kidney Extracellular Scaffold.”

The image presented is of a de-cellularized rodent kidney displaying the collagen matrix of the renal vasculature, tubules, and glomeruli. Rapid de-cellularization is accomplished by perfusing a surfactant solution through the renal artery, under exposure to an electric field within a bioreactor. The novel bioreactor, developed at UT Health San Antonio, removes resident cells ten times faster than by traditional de-cellularization technology while preserving elements of the matrix that are critical to directing stem cell differentiation.

High-quality extracellular scaffolds are indispensable for research in regenerative medicine, gene transfer, cancer, and tissue transplantation. The extracellular scaffolds of specific animal tissues can provide templates for the differentiation of human stem cells for the study of diseases in more relevant models, thus facilitating translation to human medicine. Further, the technology is scalable and can prepare large animal and human tissue extracellular scaffolds.
TREASURES OF THE P.I. NIXON LIBRARY

“Tucked away on the fifth floor of the Dolph Briscoe Jr. Library, the collective wisdom of thousands of years of medical exploration lies waiting to be discovered anew.

The treasures of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library reveal the evolution of medicine and the methodical untangling of many a mystery. Included are some of the rarest and most beautiful medical texts ever created.

The Nixon library, a part of the overall Briscoe library, is named for Patrick Ireland Nixon, an early 20th-century San Antonio physician and book collector who in 1919 founded the Bexar County Medical Library Association. Through the years, with Dr. Nixon overseeing the library and purchasing many books himself, the association acquired thousands of priceless works on medicine and health. In 1970, some 6,000 books from the association were donated to UT Health San Antonio, forming the core of the Nixon library.”

- Joe Michael Feist, Mission
FROM THE ARCHIVES: PLANNING FOR 50 YEARS OF NURSING

In a partnership with the School of Nursing (SON), Briscoe Library contributed its unique talents towards the planning of the School of Nursing’s 50th anniversary celebration. By the end of FY18, library staff and nursing school historians began working together to organize, identify, and digitize hundreds of photographs in preparation for the 2019 celebration.

During the reorganization of the nursing school’s historical collection of faculty photos, history books, and class photos, an idea was presented to make the collection more readily accessible through the library’s digital archive. With these initial steps taken, the library will continue to work with the SON to preserve its history and make it more accessible.
Briscoe Library’s liaison program has been in existence since 2016. The program has been successful in providing support to each of UT Health San Antonio’s five schools, with a dedicated librarian for each.

In an effort to reach users “where they live,” the program branched out and began an embedded librarian service at the School of Nursing (SON) in February 2018. Emme Lopez is the SON liaison and now has an office in the SON building. She is integrated within the school and can collaborate and participate in many SON activities. Students can easily find her and ask for assistance with assignments and projects. Faculty have greatly benefitted from Emme’s proximity and by her presence at meetings. “The library isn’t an afterthought, it’s part of the function of the school, including literature searches, grant writing, and publications,” says Emme.

The library would like to sincerely thank Dean Eileen Breslin for providing the office space and for perceiving the benefit of having an embedded librarian for her faculty, students, and staff.
BY THE NUMBERS

There were 325,992 visits to the library.

The library website was viewed 744,710 times.

98% of all students report satisfaction with the library.

Study rooms were reserved 14,806 times.

The most valuable book in the P.I. Nixon collection is worth over $250,000.

The library’s LibGuides were used 20,909 times.

The library owns 46,489 electronic journals.

Briscoe Library is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.