We're here for you.

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Briscoe Library
We’re here for you.

UT Health
San Antonio
The Libraries
The theme for our 2019 Annual Report is *We’re Here For You*, and I am very pleased with all that was accomplished this past year in serving the UT Health San Antonio community. It was a productive period. We were delighted to partner with the Office of International Studies on several exciting programs to promote a more inclusive campus. We collaborated with student leaders on several renovations to create a more welcoming and productive library space. One student group advocated for a quiet space in the library for reflection, which resulted in the creation of the Reflection Room to provide students a dedicated space for prayer and meditation. We added new furniture, including standing desks, to enhance options for study and collaborative work. Liaison librarians within our five schools made significant strides in better serving the research, publication and grant-writing needs of students and faculty.

Over the course of the past months, I gained a deeper appreciation of the dedication of library staff. I’m proud of the many ways in which our staff partnered with groups across campus to help fulfill our institutional vision. Engaging with our community plays an important role in the life of UT Health San Antonio Libraries. We are inspired by all the ways our students and faculty connect with the library – *We’re here for you*.

- Owen Ellard, Senior Director of Libraries
Each year Briscoe Library picks a theme that guides what we do and how we do it. Our aim is to communicate the message to all those we serve in the UT Health community through the resources that we provide, the building space that we manage, and the events that we plan. We hope everyone we serve will know that they are included when we say, We’re Here For You. We strive to provide service for all in support of the educational and research mission of this institution.

Please join us in this celebration of some of the achievements we have made during 2019. We were especially honored to partner with the Office of International Services (OIS) which brought new richness to our events and fostered rewarding campus relationships. Thanks to OIS, we added international art demonstrations to our annual Student Appreciation Week and hosted an exhibit displaying all of the many submissions for the first International Photo Contest.
We want our students to feel welcome and comfortable while they are in the library during long hours of study. They tell us that the library is their home away from home. Feedback from students has led to some of our best ideas on how we can make things better for them. Sometimes it's something as simple as a few mobile standing desks that students can move to their favorite spot in the library, often by a window with natural light and a view. A larger project involving many partners across campus culminated in the opening of a Reflection Room, where students have a dedicated space for prayer and meditation.

We create an enriched environment for students through features like our art exhibits and our annual Image of Research Photography Competition, which allow them to have a creative outlet for expression and communication. We are endlessly humbled by the thanks that are expressed by students when we hold events like Student Appreciation Week and Student Fiesta. All of our library staff, along with our Outreach and Community Engagement team, is involved to make sure students get to relax and have fun and, most importantly, get something to eat.
Briscoe Library’s liaison team supports the research, publication, and grant-writing endeavors of the UT Health San Antonio faculty. In 2019, the liaisons partnered with the UT Health community and delivered a variety of faculty development sessions. Jeff Lacy piloted writing support services for the School of Nursing. Emme Lopez produced 16 oral-history videos to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the School of Nursing. Chris Gaspard and Emme presented at the 2019 Shine Academy, submitted an article to Medical Reference Services Quarterly, and delivered a webinar—all on the topic of predatory publishing. Rebecca Ajtai, Chris, and Jeff created several reports on student and faculty publications.

With Dr. Joseph Zorek and the LINC Faculty Council, the liaisons began four scoping reviews to discover effective strategies for interprofessional education to advance the campus’ latest Quality Enhancement Plan.

Kelley Minars, the Creative Technologies librarian, joined the liaison team in 2019. By providing 3D printing instruction, his technical experience and skills complement and will help grow the work of the liaison unit.
Archiving efforts were set in motion this year for two projects involving the School of Nursing (SON). An oral histories project, spearheaded by SON Library Liaison Emme Lopez, captured interviews with founding faculty for the school’s 50th anniversary. Digital copies of the oral histories were submitted to the library archives for preservation where they were cataloged and added to the University History Collection in the library’s digital archive.

A second project brought together librarians and School of Nursing faculty and staff to develop a streamlined archives submission process for Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) projects. In an effort to ensure that the library captures and archives these scholarly works, an electronic submission form was developed by library staff and integrated into the DNP fulfillment process. This combined effort resulted in a system that integrates curriculum directives with archival requirements and ensures that both the library and the SON capture and document the completion of DNP projects.
The 49th Annual P.I. Nixon Historical Dinner celebrated the history of organ transplantation with a talk by Lee Gutkind, the founder and editor of the first literary magazine to publish narrative nonfiction exclusively. Gutkind delivered a moving account of the history behind organ transplantation, complete with anecdotes about early patients and the brave surgeons and scientists who dared to give them a second chance at life.

This year’s Nixon Dinner Celebration was made possible through the generous support of Dr. William L. Henrich and the President’s Office, and the UT Health San Antonio Transplant Center. The dinner was attended by an impressive mix of faculty, staff, students, and community members, from UT Health San Antonio, UTSA, and the Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy.
Winter's Tale
Kristina Andrijauskaite
1st Place
2019 Image of Research Photography Competition
Hear a Murmur, Save a Life

Elliott Moss & Alexander Hutchinson
2nd Place
2019 Image of Research Photography Competition
Glow Fish Glow
Kunal Baxi, Nicole Hensch, Amanda Lipsitt
IPE Award
2019 Image of Research
Photography Competition
A student group led by Omar Akram came to Briscoe Library with a proposal to set aside a room for a quiet space where students would be able to reflect or meditate in privacy and comfort. The library recognizes the importance of the wellbeing of our students and campus community, including the need for personal reflection. Thanks to many campus collaborators on the project, a room was identified and transformed into a new space that was dedicated at a ribbon-cutting and reception during Briscoe Library’s Fiesta Celebration on April 11th, 2019.

The Briscoe Library Reflection Room is designed for wellness breaks, quiet meditation, and brief retreats from studying. The UT Health community is encouraged to use this space to relax and reflect in a calm environment.

This project would not have been possible without the informed guidance provided by the Title IX Office and the generous funding provided by the Office for Undergraduate Medical Education (OUME) Office of Student Affairs.
Studies have shown the amazing calming, stress relieving effects that therapy animals can have on students. While therapy dogs are not a new feature to campus events, Briscoe Library established our very own team of certified therapy dogs, dubbed the Briscoe Buddies. Librarians Andrea N. Schorr and Dana Whitmire went through training with their pups – Angel the Golden Retriever and June the Bassett Hound. Angel and June are now a staple at every library event and during finals week. The Briscoe Buddies have become so popular that other departments on campus have started requesting them for their own events.
ART AND THE LIBRARY

Over the past year, Briscoe Library has established and curated an array of art exhibits from artists on campus and in the surrounding community. We see the library as the perfect place to display thought-provoking art as a means to inspire conversation and enhance the learning environment. The exhibits have consisted of a variety of media, including photography, painting, sculpture, and mixed media.

IEW Photo Contest by UT Health OIS
Alphabet of Death by Laura Schultz
YOU T Health by Brandie Jenkins
Carla’s Creatures by Carla Yeatts
Expenditures for library resources were $2.4 million.

98% of all students report satisfaction with the library.

Study rooms were reserved 13,023 times.

The library's LibGuides were used 43,600 times.

The library owns 41,018 electronic journals.

Expenditures for library resources were $2.4 million.

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