

**Unit Progress in Strategic Plan:**

The Library's Strategic Plan is several years old and will be revised as part of the University's Strategic Plan process. But two significant changes spoke to specific goals from the existing Strategic Plan:

**1. Update Electronic Resources:**

The October 2021-April 2022 installation of the new Worldshare Management System (WMS) as the Library's integrated library system was led by Digital Resources Librarian Elizabeth Parish. This project involved all of the library's faculty and staff, as well as I.T. staff who helped with numerous challenges along the way, and always with good cheer. The installation and going live with WMS included setting up the parameters for numerous collections and operations, as well as learning entirely new procedures, from cataloguing to compiling reports. The WMS System has made for significant and profound changes to the Library's operations:

- A. Access to our online databases, especially from off campus has been streamlined, alleviating an enormous amount of frustration from the old system, and a corresponding decrease in the number of telephone calls from students (and faculty) who were baffled by the old firewall.
- B. A number of technical processes have been streamlined and made far more accurate. We have noticed a dramatic decrease in the time required to process new titles, and better accuracy in the records.
- C. For record-keeping, our reports are requiring some additional effort as we set them up, but once this is taken care of, our records are far easier to access and to understand.
- D. Our old Sierra system was hosted on two increasingly problematic servers at UAM, and tended by our I.T. personnel. Updates to the system required an elaborate series of steps involving I.T., our staff, the staff of the vendor, and shutting down the system for several days. Now, however, since the WMS is hosted by the vendor, updates are automatic and require no work from us and no loss of access for our patrons
- E. Patrons searching for a book or an article get results that are easier to read, and often include pictures of the book covers. Response from the faculty has been overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic. I expect we will get some negative feedback at some point, but we have had not a single complaint yet!
- F. Once our staff has mastered the system, there are new facets, currently not part of our system, that we can explore to see if they will be efficient.

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### 2. Strengthen the presence of Special Collections:

We have noticed an uptick in the number of gifts made to both Special Collections and the University Archives, including another addition to the papers of President Claude Babin. Our Special Collections Librarian, Blake Denton, has also begun recording interviews with individuals of historical significance to UAM’s history. Thus far, he has talked with Chancellors Lassiter and Hughes.

Having had the Library’s roof repaired has made our physical collection – at last! -- more secure, especially the maps, papers, and books in the Special Collections area.

### Library Statistical Survey

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	% change
Library Collections				
Books (Physical) Titles	110,396	95,776	99,891*	*
Volumes	158,915	156,913	142,515*	*
E-Books	4,790	4,790	4,790	0
Journals (Paper)	115	109	93	-15%
Electronic Journals	2,234	2,265	2,264	0
Library Visitors		37,125	38,953	+ 5%
Library Circulation	2,353	3,901	3,388	-13%
Interlibrary Loan – Items Borrowed	131	83	40	- 52%
- Items Sent	114	168	234	+ 39%
Book Expenditures	\$16,538	\$13,556	\$25,343	+87%
Subscription Expenditures	\$141,225	\$159,432	\$174,886	+10%
Total Collection	\$157,763	\$172,988	\$200,229	+16%
Other Operations	\$56,753	\$56,454	\$96,911	+71%

\*With the new WMS system, we have been able to correct some longstanding inaccuracies in our statistics, so that the differences from the previous year do not reflect actual physical changes as much as more accurate counts.

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We have continued to work hard to make the Library a welcoming place. Professional literature consistently notes the importance to students of the academic library as ‘place,’ specifically as something special on campus. Some writers suggest that the modern library has taken the role formerly held by chapels on most campuses. Mr. Chris Thomason spoke to this kind of reverence during his presentation during the 2022 Professional Development week. So we are gratified to see a 5% increase in the number of visitors to the Library, which will include the many students who come in to use the public computers, study, or simply relax.

The 13% drop in the circulation of print materials (including Reserve items) mirrors the national trend of decreasing usage of printed resources, even as the usage of our digital resources increases. Our spending for books was significantly higher than the previous two years, years when our budget had been reduced, so this was essentially catching up on requests for books that had been placed on hold for two years.

All librarians provide classroom instruction to UAM students at the request of teaching faculty. This year, as we came out of Covid restrictions, librarians spoke to 13 classes, reaching 175 students.

Assessing the UAM Library’s impact on students with a necessarily small N in any assessment measures is nearly impossible. Not only would the sample size of, say, a single class be too small for statistical significance, we would have to be concerned about how such small samples could be problematic for privacy concerns. We can only note, using data from large studies, the following:

- Libraries rank second in facilities important in students’ selection process, higher than technology facilities, student unions, and recreation facilities. (Reynolds & Cain, 2006)
- Students who use the library are more engaged in learning, have higher GPAs, and tend to persist. (Bell, 2008, Haddow & Joseph, 2010)
- In one study, students who used the library at least once during their fall semester were 1.54 times more likely to return for the following semester. (Soria, Fransen, & Nackenrund, 2013)
- Libraries that spend more on materials and have more staff are correlated to greater retention rates. (Mezick, 2007)

Handled by Dr. Clark, our Social Media continue to generate attention and interest. Facebook reports that we had 14,599 “reaches” during the year, and 32 Instagram Profile visits. Again, correlating these numbers to individuals for purposes of measuring success is impossible, but this is another way in which we try to expand the Library’s presence around campus and the community.

### **Faculty**

**Table 7: Faculty Profile, Teaching Load, and Other Assignments (Data Source: Institutional Research)**

#### **Teaching Load**

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Faculty Name	Status/ Rank	Highest Degree	Area(s) of Responsibility	Other Assignments
Renée C. Clark	Assistant	Ph.D.	Monograph Acquisitions & Processing; Ask-A-Librarian Teaching: Music 4632: Piano Pedagogy UST 1001: Pathway to Success UST 4001: General Studies Capstone	Reference, Bibliographic Instruction, Liaison to Humanities and Business; Social Media Coordinator
Blake Denton	Assistant	M.L.I.S., M.A.	Special Collections Government Documents UAM Archivist	Reference, Bibliographic Instruction, Liaison to Forestry, Social Sciences
Elizabeth Parish	Assistant	M.I.S.	Digital Resources Coordinator	Reference, Bibliographic Instruction, Liaison to CIS and Education
Daniel Boice	Associate	M.A., A.M.L.S	Administration	Reference, Bibliographic Instruction, Liaison to Nursing and Math & Science

### What significant change, if any, has occurred in faculty during the past academic year?

No changes!

### List/briefly describe notable faculty recognition, achievements/awards, service activities and/or scholarly activity during the past academic year.

#### Faculty Scholarly Activity

##### **Renée Chérie Clark**

- Research for a chapter, “The Long Reach of Arkansas Country Music,” for a book under contract with the University of Illinois Press and research for a monograph on Arkansas Country Music.
  - Displays and Facebook pages for Black-Owned Businesses
  - Facebook pages for Black History Month, which generated significant positive feedback

##### **Blake Denton:**

##### **Journal Article:**

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“Academic Libraries and Athletics Programs: The Current State of Select Marketing and Development Partnerships,” *Southeastern Librarian* 69, no. 2 (2021): 5-20, <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol69/iss2/3/> (Peer-Reviewed)

### **Trade Publication Article:**

“Designing and Marketing a LibGuide for Presidential Papers,” *DttP: Documents to the People* 49, no. 3/4 (2021): 9-11, <https://doi.org/10.5860/dttP.v49i3/4.7684> (Peer-Reviewed)

### **Book Reviews:**

*Against the Klan: A Newspaper Publisher in South Louisiana During the 1960s*, by Lou Major, *Southeastern Librarian* 69, no. 4 (2022): 19-20, <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol69/iss4/5/>

*Roadside Americans: The Rise and Fall of Hitchhiking in a Changing Nation*, by Jack Reid, *Southeastern Librarian* 69, no. 2 (2021): 35-36, <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol69/iss2/9/>

### **Public Scholarship:**

“The Mystery of the Mural,” *Weevil Pond* (2022): 26-27.

### **Conferences & Presentations**

Arkansas Library Association’s Annual Conference—Virtual (October 15, 2021)

Presentation: “Academic Libraries and Athletics: The Latest Research on Long-Term Marketing and Development Partnerships”

Southeastern Library Association’s Summer Conference—Virtual (August 5, 2021)

Presentation: “Academic Libraries and Athletics: The Latest Research on Long-Term Marketing and Development Partnerships”

### **Elizabeth Parish:**

#### **Book Reviews:**

- *Standoff*, by Patricia Bradley, *The Christian Librarian*, Volume 64 (1) 2021.
- *Acceptable Risk* by Lynette Eason, *ibid.*
- *Collateral Damage* by Lynette Eason, *ibid.*
- *Dark Ambitions* by Irene Hannon, *ibid.*
- *Point of Danger* by Irene Hannon, *ibid.*

**Daniel Boice:** Fourteen book reviews for *Catholic Library World*.

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### Notable Faculty or Faculty/Service Projects

#### **Renée Chérie Clark:**

**UAM:** General Education Committee member

Committee on Committees

Faculty Equity and Grievance Committee

Gay Straight Alliance: Faculty Advisor

Accompanist for the University Choir

**Profession:** Southeastern Library Association: New Members Committee

**Community:** Monticello Public Library: Friends of the Library: Member

Organized the June 25 Concert in the Park, raising more than \$800 for the Library, as well as two other projects benefitting the Library.

#### **A. Blake Denton:**

**UAM:** Board of Advisors, Arkansas Archeological Survey-UAM Research Station

Faculty Research Committee (2020-22)

Winthrop Rockefeller Distinguished Lecture Series Committee (2019-present)

**Profession:** American Library Association

Government Documents Round Table 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee

Arkansas Library Association

Records Management Committee

Chair (June 2022-present)

Southeastern Library Association: Referee, *Southeastern Librarian*

#### **Elizabeth Parish:**

**UAM:** Athletic Committee

Online Learning Work Team

**Professional:** ARKLink Community Outreach Committee

Arkansas State Library Traveler Advisory Committee

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Southeastern Library Association  
Electronic Resources Roundtable  
Arkansas Library Association  
Records Management Committee

**Community:** Monticello Public Library: Friends of the Library: Secretary

### **Daniel Boice**

**UAM:** HLC Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Strategic Planning Coordinator

Search Committee for Dean of Arts and Sciences, Chair

**Professional:** Arkansas Library Association: Chair, Strategic Planning Committee  
Catholic Library Association: Editorial Committee (includes being a juror for the *Catholic Library World*)

**Community:** Monticello Planning Commission: Chair  
Monticello Economic Development Commission: Strategic Planning Coordinator