

Masters Theses and Doctoral Dissertations, Summer 2023 – Spring 2025

School of Information and Library Science, UNC Chapel Hill

Summer 2023

Berdon, Matthew. "An Analysis Of Seven UNC Chapel Hill Library Documents with an Emphasis on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Antiracism or Accessibility." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, June, 2023. Advisor: Casey Rawson. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/wxsc-c423>

This project examines seven documents published by the UNC Chapel Hill Libraries with two research questions. How does the UNC Chapel Hill Library define the terms equity, diversity, inclusion, and antiracism on an institutional level? Also, what policies are present and in use within the UNC Chapel Hill Library that utilize antiracist principles or other terms as defined previously? The seven documents selected are the library's diversity statement, building use policy, public services values, 2013 strategic plan, 2019 strategic plan, Reckoning Initiative framework, and guide to conscious editing. Information was collected from the text and subtext of these materials, and analyzed using the method of discourse analysis. Readers will gain an increased understanding of the importance of institutional policies and documents when addressing matters around diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism or accessibility.

Bullard, Kelly R. "Veuve, Viuda, Viduam and other Representations of Women's Bibliographic Labor Recovered in Wilson Library's Rare Book Collection." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, May, 2023. Advisor: Elizabeth Ott. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/b2j1-5749>

The purpose of this study is twofold: To recover and add to existing research concerning books printed, published, and sold by widows performed by former Wilson Library catalogers and to uncover potential reasons why this research was eliminated or effaced in the OPAC system. Through enumerative bibliography and comparative analysis this master's paper seeks to document and demonstrate the ways in

which prioritization of information affects scholarship related to Print Culture, Labor History, Women's Studies, and Book History. In addition to advocating for the critical examination of contemporary cataloging practices with regards to women's labor, this bibliography will seek to make plain the kinship of Library History and Book History.

Chan, Yee Wing. "Web-Based Services in Music Libraries: A Content Analysis." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, May, 2023. Advisor: Ronald E. Bergquist. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/f9s0-x532>

The primary purpose of this study was to examine how music libraries offered research assistance and instruction to users through their websites. Based on the membership list provided by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), 74 accredited institutions in the United States offer doctoral degrees in music. Doctorate granting institutions were chosen for this study as their libraries provide a wide range of resources and services. Using the content analysis method, I first identified the types of reference, research, and instructional services included on each website. A list of services was compiled and ranked based on the number of libraries offering each service. Second, I evaluated and rated the services offered by each institution using the guidelines and scoring criteria from previous research studies. Upon analyzing the data, I provided recommendations for improving web-based library services and proposed suggestions for future research.

Dilles, Zoe. "Data Journals: Where Data Sharing Policy Meets Practice." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, May, 2023. Advisor: Todd Vision. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/nqtz-b568>

Data journals incorporate elements of traditional scholarly communications practices—reviewing for quality and rigor through editorial and peer-review—

and the data sharing / open data movement—prioritizing broad dissemination through repositories, sometimes with curation or technical checks. Their goals for dataset review and sharing are recorded in journal-based data policies and operationalized through workflows. In this qualitative, small cohort semi-structured interview study of eight different journals that review and publish research data, we explored (1) journal data policy requirements, (2) data review standards, and (3) implementation of standardized data evaluation workflows. Differences among the journals can be understood by considering editors' approaches to balancing the interests of varied stakeholders. Assessing data quality for reusability is primarily conditional on fitness for use which points to an important distinction between disciplinary and discipline-agnostic data journals.

Lewis, Thu-Mai. "From Policy to Practice: How Journal-based Data Policies Encourage Scientists' Adoption of Reproducible Research Practices." A Dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the School of Information and Library Science. June, 2023. Advisors: Helen R Tibbo, Colin Elman, Bradley M Hemminger, Christopher A Lee, Ayoung Yoon. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/2qv9-nk48>

According to several studies, researchers are not sharing the data underpinning their published scientific results, despite their general consensus that sharing data is critical to the research enterprise. Among other benefits, data sharing allows for verification of claims, which is essential to scientific integrity. Research funders, journal editors, and professional associations have insisted on the importance of data sharing by issuing policies and codes of ethics that mandate the practice. However, these mandates have not always been proven to compel researchers to share their data as evidenced by failed attempts to locate data underlying published results or sharing data that do not meet quality standards to allow for verification or reuse. This dissertation seeks to understand the incongruity between researchers' belief that data sharing is essential to science and their failure to produce and share data underlying their reported findings—even when policy requires them to do so. To address this phenomenon, the dissertation investigates the implementation and outcomes of the rigorous *American Journal of Political Science* (AJPS) verification policy that makes publication in the

journal contingent on submission of data, code, and supporting documentation (i.e., the research compendium). Prior to publication, research compendia undergo a third-party verification process to confirm the computational reproducibility of findings presented in the manuscript. In most cases, authors fail initially to produce a compendium that meets policy requirements for completeness, understandability, and computational reproducibility. Using the theory of planned behavior (TPB) as a framework, the study investigates the specific behavioral factors that affect authors' success or failure in producing reproducible research compendia. Employing a mixed-methods/grounded theory approach, the study analyzes records of verification results and interviews with AJPS authors who were subject to the verification policy to learn about their specific reproducible research practices (or lack thereof) and their outcomes. Based on the results of the study, I identify the most common and impactful issues that appear in submitted research compendia that render them non-reproducible, and suggest reasons that authors encounter these issues. Finally, I propose an extension of TPB that suggests how the policy compels and supports behaviors that promote research reproducibility.

Li, Yuan. "Stopping and Resuming: How and Why Do People Search Across Sessions for Complex Tasks?" A Dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the School of Information and Library Science. August, 2023. Advisors: Robert Capra, Jaime Arguello, David Gotz, Marijel M. Melo, Dan Wu. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/zf72-4557>

Cross-session searches (XSS) occur when people look for information online for multiple sessions to complete complex task goals over time. Previous studies explored aspects of XSS, including the reasons that lead to it, like the Multiple Information Seeking Episode (MISE) model, which highlights eight causes. However, less is known about how these reasons manifest in real-life XSS and their relationship with task characteristics. I conducted a diary study with 25 participants engaging in XSS for real-life tasks. Participants reported on at least three search sessions spanning at least two days, and 15 participants attended an interview after they completed the diary study. We used qualitative methods to explore motivations for expected XSS, goal complexity, session resuming and stopping reasons, types of found

information, cognitive activities, and the non-search task activities that happened during the XSS process. Our results validated and refined the MISE session resuming and stopping reasons and distinguished subcategories and reasons unique to real-life XSS tasks. We discerned task-oriented and cognition-oriented motivations for XSS. We identified seven types of non-search task activities and three popular modes describing how people intertwine search and non-search activities during XSS. We assessed relationships among factors, including session goal complexity, information types, cognitive activities, session resuming, and stopping reasons using quantitative methods. Our results show significant associations between information types, cognitive activities, session goal complexity, and session resuming and stopping reasons. Furthermore, task stages significantly correlate with perceived overall task difficulty and the difficulty to find enough information. We also identified five XSS-specific challenges. Our results have implications for tailoring future search engines to customize search results according to session resuming reasons and designing tools to assist task management and preparation for session stops. Methodologically, our results have insights into designing tasks and subtasks and controlling the reasons that can lead to successive searches for tasks with varying complexity.

Martin III, John D.. "Agree, Disagree, Agree: Spatial Agency Bias in Online Survey Instrument Design." A Dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the School of Information and Library Science. August, 2023. Advisors: Sandra Hughes-Hassell, Charles Kurzman, Casey Rawson, Robert Capra, Emilia Peytcheva. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/rp58-v787>

Self-administered, online survey and questionnaire instruments are ubiquitous in research. They are highly visual and involve spatial information processing in addition to the cognition involved in response formulation. Despite its wide use, the linguistic focus of survey research is still largely oriented to Eurocolonial and English-speaking contexts. There is evidence that the writing direction of a person's language produces an effect on the processing and execution of spatial tasks. This is referred to as spatial agency bias. For readers of right-to-left (RTL) languages, such as Arabic, Persian, and Urdu, this spatial agency bias means that we can expect to see an effect

in directionally-dependent visuo-spatial or visuo-motor tasks. Online questionnaire and survey instruments are developed for and by left-to-right (LTR) language readers. Given an increasingly diverse, diasporatic global population, it is important to consider how research methods developed within one linguistic context affect data quality when used in more diverse populations. This dissertation takes an experimental approach to explore the relationships between unconscious bias and other effects produced by an interaction between writing system direction and response scale direction in self-administered, online questionnaire instruments. Three experiments attempt to identify any interaction between two independent variables: writing system direction for questionnaire response language and response scale category order (direction) on three dependent variables: score on scale items, duration of time spent in instrument, and trust in the questionnaire interface. Participants are Arabic or English speakers responding to an instrument presented in one of these two languages. The analysis found no interaction effect between the independent variables on either trust or time on response, but did find a significant interaction effect on mean scale score for horizontal response scale items. This study has implications for multilingual, international, and cross-cultural survey and questionnaire design. This work contributes to efforts to incorporate more diverse populations in research through better understanding how language context affects data collection.

Melton, Thomas. "Organizing Apples: A Qualitative Content Analysis of Pomological Descriptive Metadata." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, May, 2023. Advisor: Melanie Feinberg. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/jqx7-5132>

The apple (*Malus domestica* Borkh.) has maintained a position of significant historical and cultural importance across several eras in the United States. Because apples only maintain their genetics through human cultivation, their fruit is generally categorized and organized as cultivars which have differentiated themselves from the rest of the species over generations of selective breeding. Experts and amateurs alike have written and systematized descriptions of apple cultivars for various purposes but attempts to standardize organization of the resulting metadata have been infrequent and lack utility across multiple

contexts. This paper will assess the descriptive schemas of six pomological description resources ranging from the late 19th century to the present day through qualitative content analysis and metadata crosswalking. The resulting attribute set will then be compared with an existing descriptive schema for plant breeders, the UPOV Convention, with an eye towards exploring the viability of a more universal system for organizing descriptive metadata for physical descriptions of apples.

Rodriguez, Rolando. "Describing Digital Humanities Projects With Linked Data: A Task-based Evaluation of Linked Data Ontologies." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, May, 2023. Advisor: Melanie Feinberg. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/60fz-bn41>

This study attempts to shed light on the lack of semantic web infrastructure for documenting digital humanities projects by creating a proof-of-concept workflow for manual and semi-automatic semantic web data creation. First, utilizing a set of five ontologies, triple data is created for a set of four projects from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The utility of these data is then determined via task-based assessment alongside a set of metrics for the data retrieved for the tasks. Ultimately, this study aims to detail the benefits of improving linked open data support for describing, and ultimately preserving, digital humanities projects in hopes of paving a path for the creation of a LOD database for digital humanities projects.

Svoboda, Eve. "Reworking the Reading Room: An Analysis of Pandemic Responses in Special Collections Libraries at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, May, 2023. Advisor: Helen Tibbo. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/pk2g-9905>

This qualitative study was conducted to determine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on digital projects led by special collections libraries at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University. Specifically, this research utilized case studies to analyze the shift to digital resources following the closure of universities in the spring of 2020, and compared this data to the current operations of special collections libraries at both a public and private university.

Urgo, Kelsey. "Investigating the Influence of Subgoals on Learning During Search." A Dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the School of Information and Library Science. August, 2023. Advisors: Jaime Arguello, Rob Capra, Jeff Greene, Gary Marchionini, Heather O'Brien. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/2yzf-1s98>

Search-as-learning research has emphasized the need to better support searchers when learning about complex topics online. Prior work in the learning sciences has shown that effective self-regulated learning (SRL), in which goals are a central function, is critical to improving learning outcomes. This dissertation investigates the influence of subgoals on learning during search. Two conditions were investigated: Subgoals and NoSubgoals. In the Subgoals condition, a tool called the Subgoal Manager was used to help searchers to develop specific subgoals associated with an overall learning-oriented search task. The influence of subgoals is explored along four dimensions: (1) learning outcomes; (2) searcher perceptions; (3) search behaviors; and (4) SRL processes. Learning outcomes were measured with two assessments, an established multiple-choice conceptual knowledge test and an open-ended summary of learning. Learning assessments were administered immediately after search and one week after search to capture learning retention. A qualitative analysis was conducted to identify the percentage of true statements on open-ended learning assessments. A think-aloud protocol was used to capture SRL processes. A second qualitative analysis was conducted to categorize SRL processes from think-aloud comments and behaviors during the search session. Findings from the dissertation suggest that subgoals improved learning during search. Additionally, it seems that subgoals helped participants to better retain what was learned one week later. Findings also suggest that SRL processes of participants in the Subgoals condition were more frequent and more diverse. SRL processes that were explicitly supported by the Subgoal Manager seemed to be more frequent in the Subgoals condition as well as SRL processes that were not explicitly supported.

Ward, Austin Reid. "Immersive Search: Comparing Conventional and Spatially Arranged Search Engine Result Pages in Immersive Virtual Environments." A Dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the School of Information and Library Science. June, 2023. Advisors:

Rob Capra, Jaime Arguello, David Gotz, Sayamin-du Dasgupta, Carsten Eickhoff. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/bn2m-vd37>

Advances in immersive technologies (e.g., virtual reality head-mounted displays) have brought a new dimension into user interfaces to increasingly more people in the recent years. However, little prior work has explored how people could use the extra dimension afforded by VR HMDs to aid in the information retrieval process. My dissertation research investigated how different task types and layouts of search engine result pages (displays) in immersive virtual environments impact the information retrieval process. In this dissertation, I present results from a within-subjects user study to investigate users' search behaviors, system interactions, perceptions, and eye-tracking behaviors for four different spatial arrangements of search results ("list" - a 2D list; "curve3" - a 3x3 grid; "curve4" - a 4x4 grid; and "sphere" - a 4x4 sphere) in a VR HMD across two different task types (Find All relevant, Pick 3 best). Thirty-two (32) participants completed 5 search trials in 8 experimental conditions (4 displays x 2 task types). Results show that: (1) participants were accepting of and performed well in the spatial displays (curve3, curve4, and sphere); (2) participants had a positional bias for the top or top left of SERPs; (3) the angle of search results and layouts influenced the navigation patterns used; (4) participants had a preference for physical navigation (e.g., head movement) over virtual navigation (e.g., scrolling) to view and compare search results, and (5) participants were less likely to perceive a rank order in the spatial displays where a clear scan path was not obvious to them.

Fall 2023

Bethany, Jesse. "Can We Handle the (Post) Truth? An Examination of Why Librarians Should Reclaim Critical Thinking in a Skeptical Society." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, November, 2023. Advisor: Francesca Tripodi. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/kcrp-f847>

Post-truth, the phenomenon that opinions are valued over facts, is on the rise in modern society. Librarians are in a unique position to address learners who have been influenced by post-truth sensibilities due largely to still retaining a high degree of trust within society. Unfortunately, the most effective tool

for equipping students to undermine their post-truth sensibilities, critical thinking, has been largely ignored within the discipline of information science in favor of information literacy. An examination of a massive open online course designed to teach students how to navigate the complex, and often inaccurate, information online demonstrates how a posture of dismissiveness towards critical thinking results in a lack of engagement with the foundational skills necessary to effectively use specialized research tools. This analysis also demonstrates how easily critical thinking could be reclaimed, or integrated into, existing instruction.

Harvey, Shannon. "Who Benefits from Lending in Low-income Neighborhoods? An Investigation of Geography as a Proxy for Borrower Income by Type of Financial Institution Using 2022 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act Data." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, November, 2023. Advisor: Yue Wang. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/pzsn-n260>

This study investigates the usefulness of common geographic proxies for low-to-moderate income (LMI) borrowers used by various federal agencies, including Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) examiners and the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund. I also examine the impact of varying definitions of low-to-moderate income on our view of the lower income population. Using 2022 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data, I find that financial institutions, grouped by type—bank, credit union, CDFI, or non-bank—all lend to low-to-moderate income borrowers at similar rates and that loans to LMI census tracts and CDFI investment areas more frequently go to higher income borrowers than lower income across institution types. Further, seventy percent of LMI borrowers live outside of LMI tracts. The low precision and recall of geographic proxies for LMI borrowers raises questions about using these proxy assessments as measures for meeting the financial needs of LMI communities, particularly in the home lending sector.

Rosenberger, Lev. "Sticking a Flag in the Sand: Digitization, Description, and the Retrieval of Queer Materials in Archives." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, November, 2023. Advisor: Elliott Kuecker. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/v0np-4e23>

While digitization is presented as a solution for increasing the retrievability of historically marginalized records, this presumption minimizes the step necessary to digital access: description. LGBTQ topics present unique descriptive challenges given the ever-evolving understanding of queer experiences and identities. This qualitative study asks: how are archivists at non-queer specialized institutions ensuring that their digital repository is reflecting the queer materials at that institution? What descriptive practices and access tools are archivists employing to direct researchers to queer materials? The results show that archivists at non-LGBTQ specialized institutions comprehend queer theory/history and recognize many problems in descriptive practices for LGBTQ materials. However, archivists are largely only addressing Library of Congress Subject Headings rather than addressing the failures of other description areas. This study asks archivists to redirect their efforts and develop policies that embrace the interpretive ambiguity of queer materials while increasing the retrievability and accessibility of historically suppressed materials.

Wyrsh, Martha. "A Content Analysis of Diverse Historical Figures within Picture Book Biographies." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, November, 2023. Advisor: Casey Rawson. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/q6c3-zw43>

Picture book biographies present complex history in a way that attempts to balance historical accuracy with developmentally appropriate materials. They simplify historical language and omit disturbing or graphic material and often downplay the role of violence towards the disenfranchised. David A. Adler and Brad Meltzer are seminal authors within children's biographies, with sixty-one combined titles. There is some overlap within their work, but notably, the two often portray the same historical figures differently. This relational analysis study takes a critical lens to the depictions of intersectional BIPOC communities within picture book biographies by Adler and Meltzer. I use the lens of Richard Delgado's concept of Master Narratives and Counter Narratives to describe the ways in which the language and visual depictions of minorities affect the narrative being portrayed to children. Finally, I suggest ways in which educators can utilize both authors' materials to expand student understanding of history.

Adams, Destry. "Hate Infects Us All: How Alt-Right Ideology Plagues Health and Wellness Communities on TikTok." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Tressie McMillan Cottom. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/zqdw-xb09>

The study seeks to examine how watching health misinformation on TikTok could introduce people to extreme-right-wing ideology through the algorithm and the rhetorical strategies used that could facilitate this process. This study will be a content analysis of many videos on the platform and will monitor such metrics as the TikTok's description, what occurred in the video, and hashtags used to identify and analyze rhetorical strategies used that could be associated with extremist viewpoints.

Alhashem, Ebtehal. "A Content Analysis of Illustrations in Children's Folklore Picture Books: Depicting Middle Eastern Cultures, Characters, And Visual Storytelling Trends Across Time." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Brian Sturm. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/rjvm-p486>

This study aims to explore the depiction of cultures and characters in illustrations within children's folklore picture books about the Middle East. Key aspects such as character depiction, cultural symbols, and the use of artistic media techniques are analyzed. This research analyzed these representations over time, revealing recognizable changes in the depiction of Middle Eastern cultures. A selection of picture books published in two distinct periods 1980-1999 and 2000-2020 were examined. The study also evaluates the impact of illustrators' cultural backgrounds (Middle Eastern or other cultures) on the authenticity and depth of cultural representation. The data were analyzed using qualitative content analysis. The finding of this study shows that some books written from 1980-1999 contain misrepresentations regarding Middle Eastern culture. Middle Eastern illustrators represent Middle Eastern culture with a greater level of accuracy in comparison with non-Middle Eastern illustrators. Stereotypes are seen in the illustrations regarding characters and architectural design. The results of this research will contribute to a better understanding of the cultural representation of the Middle East in children's folklore picture books.

Bannen, Kerry. "Cameron Family Land: An Interactive Timeline Map of Land Owned by the Bennehan and Cameron Family." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Megan Winget. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/g90q-3f47>

This project explores the historical landholdings of the Bennehan and Cameron families in Durham, North Carolina, and their evolution over time. The project focuses on mapping the plantations owned by these families along the Flat, Little, Eno, and Neuse Rivers. Using QGIS, shapefiles and associated metadata were generated to create a detailed digital map of the region. The data was then imported into Mapbox and supplemented with a timeline slider to illustrate the changes in land ownership and boundaries over the 18th and 19th centuries. This tool enables users to navigate the historical transformations of these plantations, offering insights into the lives of the free and enslaved people who lived and worked on the land.

Barron, Luke. "Development and Evaluation of Smart Search Strategies for Pubmed, Embase, and Scopus." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Jaime Arguello. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/99eg-6v19>

Methodological challenges faced by health sciences investigators during the development of evidence-based dynamic treatment regimens are often addressed using sequential multiple assignment randomized trial (SMART) designs. Despite the proliferation of SMART literature, systematic reviews of their methods, reporting practices, and findings remain sparse. This study details the development of two candidate search strategies — one according to common practice and the other strictly using term frequency analysis data — and testing of their performance in three key health sciences databases. Both novel search strategies achieved higher recall relative to a set of known relevant studies than searches reported by extant systematic reviews. In addition to providing a reusable and extensible filter for future evidence synthesis projects, they demonstrate the potential of new methods in term frequency-based search construction to accelerate similar work in the future.

Basnight, Belle. "The Press and the Path to Pride: The Interplay of Print Media and Legisla-

tion in the LGBTQ+ Human Rights Movement." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Francesca Tripodi. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/5642-yh85>

This paper examines the portrayal of LGBTQ+ human rights in US print journalism in the context of three North Carolina legislative bills: the Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act, known as the "Bathroom Bill," the Parents' Bill of Rights, known as "Don't Say Gay," and the Fairness in Women's Sports Act known as "Protect Women's Sports." The study uses a qualitative analysis of 198 newspaper articles to assess media framing and its implications. Preliminary findings indicate a pattern of neutral framing or hedging. The analysis reveals a severe lack of historical contextualization in coverage, which hinders the understanding of systemic LGBTQ+ legislative discrimination. The research also uncovers a trend toward syndicated neutrality, suggesting a widespread neutral narrative. The paper argues that journalists are responsible for ensuring that the pursuit of objectivity does not overshadow the pursuit of equity, affirming that LGBTQ+ rights are fundamental human rights issues.

Byrd, Elizabeth. "Tools and Techniques for Recovery: Exploring Resources Used in Early Alcohol Use Disorder Recovery." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2024. Advisor: William Payne. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/kebg-xg77>

Alcohol use disorder (AUD) is a debilitating illness that has affected over 29 million people in the United States alone. Not only does AUD have numerous health consequences, such as liver cirrhosis, cognitive impairment, heart disease, and cancer, it impacts individuals' social lives and costs the United States roughly \$249 billion per year. Given the immense impact that AUD has on our society, my masters paper identifies methods to help those with AUD to live healthier lives. I interviewed twelve adults with AUD to understand their experiences seeking information and using technology as part of their recovery process. I describe the treatment options they use, alongside a variety of resources and social support groups like Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) that play an integral role in maintaining sobriety. I also address numerous technological advancements that have recently increased in scale and usage largely due to the consequences of COVID-19. My paper concludes

with recommendations for future work, particularly researching early recovery and intersectionality of multiple substance use disorders, and I propose design requirements for web and mobile applications to best support individuals and communities.

Clinton, Miranda. "Archival Theory and Black Feminist Thought: The Role of Black Women Archivists." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Tressie Cottom. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/xmf5-k028>

While Black feminist thought is not a new concept, its applications to archival theory have not been fully explored. It is with this position that this paper aims to consider how the defining characteristics of Black feminist thought can be applied to transform traditional archival theory and disrupt its systematic power as a white prioritizing space. Through this analysis, the overall question of this paper is asking what is the role of Black women in the archives? More than a researcher, what does it mean for a Black woman to be taking part in the archival process, appraising, accessioning, collection processing, and making available records for the public. It is with this framework that this paper will historicize the material presence and working actions of Black women in the archives and what that may possibly look like for the future of LIS.

Collier, Joel. "Generative AI Instruction in Academic Libraries: An Analysis of LibGuides and Information Literacy Principles." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Casey Rawson. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/62ms-ef07>

This study investigates the evolving role of academic librarians in guiding the use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI) in academia. It explores the approaches adopted by academic librarians in asynchronous instruction on GAI and evaluate the effectiveness of incorporating information literacy principles from the Association of College and Research Libraries' (ACRL) Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education. Employing a qualitative content analysis methodology, this study analyzed LibGuides on GAI from colleges and universities across the United States to discern prevalent trends in asynchronous instruction. It also identifies synergies with ACRL's threshold concepts already used in librarians'

instructional practices and evaluates their potential application to GAI instruction. The findings provide librarians with insights into peer approaches for asynchronous GAI instruction and offer guidance on the viability of employing information literacy principles as a pedagogical framework for crafting LibGuides on GAI.

Conley, Madeline. "It Doesn't Have to Be the Way It Is: Using Speculative Archival Theory to Combat the Archival Narrative." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Elliott Kuecker. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/g4kt-x166>

This research works to construct a theory of speculative archiving that combats the dominant narrative of the archives. Speculative archiving theory—built upon the work of author Ursula K. Le Guin and the principles of care, non-linearity, the everyday, human-focus, participation, and accessibility—is a tool that asks archival practitioners to consider that things don't have to be the way they are. Using a canon built from speculative literature to reconsider traditional archival principles, speculative archiving theory shows us the possibility of incorporating techniques from speculative fiction, like the life story and the carrier bag, into archival practice. Through these methods, the archival narrative that has been perpetuated through all layers of society can begin to be dismantled. In breaking down this dominant narrative, archives has the potential to become a repository for all stories, not just those deemed worthy by embedded structures of power and memory.

Coupe, Abigail. "The View from 'Over Here': American Information Professionals, Foreign Information Accessibility, and Historiography of the First World War." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Emily Roscoe. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/1s2f-ex72>

The First World War significantly impacted the United States and the world, and its legacies reverberate throughout society over a century later. American historiography on the war, however, largely lacks a global perspective, with many American-produced histories focusing primarily on the war's impact on the United States, or on the United States' role in negotiating the Treaty of Versailles. Within American higher education, the First World War is

seldom explored, and—on the rare occasion when it is—is often overshadowed by the Great Depression and the Second World War. When searching for non-American resources on the war, many historians face linguistic, accessibility, and/or cognizance barriers in finding non-American or non-British information. Information professionals have a vital role to play in expanding historians' knowledge of foreign and international information systems, in training them in information literacy and research, and, ultimately, in expanding the diversity and completeness of American historiography.

Cross, Megan. "Linked Open Data & Ontology Trends in the Cultural Heritage Sector: Current Projects, Future Directions, and the Case for Provenance." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, May, 2024. Advisor: Ryan Shaw. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/7maj-3220>

This study contributes to the discussion of open access to arts and humanities data. Specifically, I explore the semantic knowledge graph technology that powers linked open data projects for cultural heritage institutions by analyzing the affordances of these systems, while looking ahead to an increasingly networked future. One area identified for the future expansion of linked open data is provenance research, not only to uplift underrepresented histories, but also aid museums in their social responsibility and ethical goals. To illustrate this, the case of the Benin Bronzes is discussed, with the provenance events connected to one object modeled with the Linked Art Profile of the CIDOC CRM ontology.

Dean, Carrie. "Dancers/Archivists: Community Archiving Practices Among Country Dancers." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Elliot Kuecker. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/dtxa-ax62>

Country dancing is a niche form of folk dance which, nevertheless, continues to flourish today. Country dance practitioners have unique information needs which are not met by traditional institutions, as well as a strong desire to preserve their dance form for future generations. As such, they have developed a variety of methods to preserve country dance ephemera and make it accessible to the broader dance community. This study describes some of these methods and how they have evolved in

the digital age based on semi-structured interviews with country dance practitioners who have contributed to these efforts through the lens of community archiving.

Drummond, Collin. "The Linguistic Landscape of Scholarly Publishing: Quantifying Language Bias Through Multiple Systems Estimation." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Bradley Hemminger. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/ggvw-bk80>

It is commonly claimed that English is the language of science, but it is impossible to fully evaluate the comprehensiveness of these tools without knowing what they exclude, and although there has been much discussion of what bibliographic databases do cover, there has been no significant attempt to quantify what they do not cover. To address this gap in the research, I use Multiple Systems Estimation (MSE) to infer the unknown "population" of scholarly documents based on incomplete but overlapping population "samples," that is, lists of documents indexed by each of three major bibliographic databases. I find that English comprises less than 33% of the global literature, while most European languages are overrepresented and most Asian and African languages are underrepresented. This estimate makes it possible to evaluate bibliographic databases not just on their internal linguistic distribution, but in terms of their comprehensiveness of each language's global scholarly literature.

Dwyer, Sarah Costello. "Complicating the Narrative of Title IX: A Content Analysis of Young Adult Sports Literature and Media." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Sandra Hughes-HasSELL. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/jr84-k353>

This study aims to analyze how literature contributes to youth understandings of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its impact on sports. Prior research notes that sports literature for youth and young adults contributes to simplistic understandings of access and athlete identity. This study elaborates by prioritizing nuance through the highlighting of newly released titles, and positions them in conversation with current counter-narratives, both socially and legally, around Title IX. Using a coding rubric, a content analysis was conducted on 11 pieces

of young adult literature and media. Findings note trends in titles to discuss complexities of access to sport within the context of gender, race, and safety in sport. This research can contribute to supporting publishers, authors, and librarians in pursuit of nuanced representations of sport, access, Title IX, and national narrative.

Economus, Alaina. "Classifying Empire: Bibliotechno-Bibliograficheskaya Klassifikatsiya (BBK) and the Soviet Imperialist Project." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Melanie Feinberg. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/k8rt-3h14>

This master's paper seeks to analyze the Soviet bibliographic classification system, Bibliotechno-Bibliograficheskaya Klassifikatsiya (BBK) through the lens of Soviet imperialist policy and practice. How did the design and ideological foundations of BBK support the ideologies and narratives that supported the Soviet imperialist project? How did BBK reflect the importance of categorization and classification of "nations," an essential foundation of Soviet imperialist policy? The author will analyze one of the main classes of BBK, "History and Historical Sciences," to answer these questions and highlight the power of classification systems to perpetuate violent geopolitical structures. This study will highlight a previously unexamined intersection of Soviet history and the study of classification and knowledge representation.

Ferrell, Madison. "Digging Deeper: Bridging Gaps in Archaeological and Archival Discourse." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Elliott Kuecker. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/d0se-x742>

This paper aims to define the nature of archaeological archiving through both a theoretical and pragmatic lens and discern the approach to archival instruction, specifically within archaeological curricula and fieldwork. It is a qualitative investigation surveying archaeological record-keeping and collecting behaviors in addition to the field's current and historical uses of archival spaces, techniques, and objects. This investigation was executed from data collected via participant interviews and content analysis of the Work Digital / Think Archive guidebook created jointly by DigVentures and the Archaeological Archives Forum. The research topic pursued in this thesis comes with the anticipation that it creates awareness around

resources and efforts in practice that aim to establish the best procedures and standards to help archaeologists manage their digital data from site to study and, subsequently, the available information for creating and managing a project archive. Doing so is imperative to the future of archaeological research and access.

Fitch, Flannery. "Archiving a Community in Crisis: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill University Archives' Carolina COVID-19 Collection." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Megan Winget. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/5p86-1357>

This is an examination of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's University Archives and Records Services Carolina COVID-19 Collection, 2020—2022 assessing the inclusion of the community voice in the official university archive. In addition to being the records repository, UNC-CH's UARMS strives to include the experience of the larger university community. When the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, UARMS began collecting materials documenting the events as they affected the students, staff, faculty, and members of the larger Chapel Hill community in order to preserve a diverse array of voices as a balance against the institutional university record. This assessment of the collection looked at what voices were included and how effective it was in reflecting the community experience. Overall, the collection accomplishes the goal of including those voices and preserving a community viewpoint of the first two years of the pandemic.

Galt, Caroline. "A Content Analysis of Depictions of Archive Users in Film and Television." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Casey Rawson. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/6p69-6z69>

Several researchers have examined the portrayal of archivists in fiction, observing stereotypes (or lack thereof) of the archival profession. However, these studies usually focus on the portrayal of archivists rather than archive users or researchers. This study sought to examine the portrayal of archive users in film and television. The study takes the form of a content analysis of 10 films and television shows, investigating the question "how have archive users been portrayed in film and television from the past twenty

years?” In doing so, the study aims to provide insights about any stereotypes or popularly held beliefs about who can or does use archives. These insights may prove useful for archivists working to conduct outreach and make archival materials more accessible to the public.

Holmes, Hannah L. “Promoting Libraries and Archives Through Social Media.” A Master’s Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Rebecca Vargha. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/12jw-2580>

Over half of the world’s population uses social media. Libraries and archives can utilize this user base to connect with and share information with the public. This study aims to analyze social media content currently online being used to promote libraries and archives by searching for and choosing a sample of popular content from four different platforms. This content analysis will aim to answer the following questions: how are social media used to promote archives and libraries; how do the mission and characteristics of an institution influence their social media strategy, including their choice of platform, content, and identification of their target audience; and what practices have been successful for promoting institutions on social media? Content gathered and analyzed during this process will be used to devise a guide for institutions creating and posting on social media.

Hoy, Harry. “North Carolina Archival Repository Flood Risk Assessment.” A Master’s Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, May, 2024. Advisor: Alexandra Chassanoff. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/7jqc-zr92>

Nearly 99% of American archives will be impacted by at least one climate risk. It is well established that North Carolina is at high risk for all varieties of flooding: pluvial, fluvial, and coastal. Disaster flooding related to climate change poses grave danger to all infrastructure, including archival repositories. However, little research to date has adequately addressed this unique risk. Based on a survey that contacted North Carolina’s most flood-vulnerable repositories, this paper endeavors to assess the state’s repositories’ preparedness for flooding.

Hudnut-Beumler, Adam. “Relationship Matters: An Exploration of Participatory Linked Data as

Decolonial Archival Praxis.” A Master’s Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Ryan Shaw. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/g689-tc20>

Linked Open Data (LOD) and decolonization present two trends for archives. While the former is often considered technical and the latter ethical, both movements are practical and epistemic challenges to traditional archival authority. Archives scholars have seen an affinity between the extensible, non-hierarchical model of LOD and calls of decolonial archivists to remediate the archival record through new descriptive methodologies. Little research, however, has endeavored to find if this affinity bears fruit in practice. Exploring this gap, the current participant action research comprises testing amongst a group of decolonial scholars of Wikibase as a tool for archival linked data creation. The study utilizes thematic analysis of the participant-generated triples and research session transcripts to determine the descriptive strategies the group employed. Testing the efficacy of participatory description using archival linked data as a decolonial methodology, this project encourages further experimentation at the nexus of decolonial archival praxis and technological innovation.

Hutchens, Sophia. “Fat Positivity in Public Libraries: An Assessment of Inclusive Reference Services.” A Master’s Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Elliott Kuecker.

Fat people’s experiences are understudied within the field of library and information science. In response to this, the objective of this master’s paper is to center fat patrons and promote thoughtful consideration of their information needs. Utilizing an unobtrusive methodology, eight self-identified fat participants visited a total of 20 public libraries and asked for assistance finding resources about fat positivity. Library staff were initially uninformed about the study to enable more authentic reference encounters. Through an evaluation of resource suggestions and a content analysis of participant reflections, this paper examines fat people’s sense of belonging and the quality of service and resources they are provided in public libraries. The findings aim to inform and improve library services.

Israel, Gabriel. “Generative AI in the College Classroom: Understanding Student Search

Strategies After ChatGPT.” A Master’s Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Rebecca Vargha. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/ycr3-ag67>

For over a decade, the tension between Google Scholar and university library federated search tools has dominated conversations in academic libraries. The launch of OpenAI’s ChatGPT in November 2022 is now shifting these conversations, prompting questions about whether and how students are integrating ChatGPT into their research processes. This study examines how students use and perceive the university library federated search tool, Google Scholar, and ChatGPT from students’ perspectives. Through observational studies, surveys, and interviews, the students’ feedback and information retrieval habits will be analyzed for common and disparate themes and search behaviors across these three tools. The findings from this study will be used to create broad recommendations for academic library professionals on how to enhance library resources, services, and instruction for students in the era of generative AI.

Jacobs, Samone. “(Re)Crafting: Social Constructivist Pedagogy in Special Collections.” A Master’s Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Casey Rawson. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/9a32-pb90>

This study explores opportunities to harness the dynamic nature of craft within library instruction and engagement centering special collections materials. This was accomplished by the development and execution of a crafting session, (Re)Crafting Protest Art, in Wilson Special Collections Library. This session employed social constructivist theory and allowed students to practice experiential learning in special collections. Using student post-engagement surveys and interviews with UNC faculty and archivists this research seeks to establish craft as an instructional practice suitable for special collection engagement and an empowering tool for students to interpret primary sources while developing artifactual literacy.

Jeong, Sana. “Collaboration Between Academic Librarians and Library and Information Science Faculty.” A Master’s Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Brian Sturm. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/q9zn-ra86>

The purpose of this study is to examine collaboration between LIS faculty and academic librarians. Through conducting and analyzing in-depth and semi-structured interviews with LIS faculty members and academic librarians, I seek to carry out a phenomenological study that reflects the experiences and perceptions of collaboration between different LIS experts at higher education institutions with ALA-accredited LIS programs in the Southeastern United States. Codes were created as patterns emerged from interview recordings and transcripts. Interview data analysis found that collaboration between these two groups of information professionals is best established and supported when the need to collaborate is clearly identified, collaborators share common levels of investment, a high level of subject expertise is involved, and collaborators have access to a sufficient amount of resources. This study aims to portray the current landscape of collaboration between LIS faculty and academic librarians in the southeastern United States and seeks to gain a better understanding of the contributing factors. The conclusions and potential impact of this study may offer ways to increase collaboration between the observed populations.

Kelly, Shriya. “Keter-Class Containment Procedure: Internet Folklore’s growth and Archival, and what it means for Archivists.” A Master’s Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Brian Sturm. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/et5e-7d12>

The internet environment has its own undeniable culture. Creative projects on the internet have grown in leaps and bounds since the early 2000s. Internet folklore is one such type that is particularly prevalent in horror environments. Over time, archives have formed in internet communities to catalog and preserve internet folklore, especially horror. The SCP (Secure, Contain, Protect) Universe and its impact is a case of folklore in a particular media format and subculture. This study analyzed the cycle of internet folklore through an examination of particular internet folklore phenomena and comparison of data storage of the developed internet folklore entity SCP Foundation with the goal of unearthing specific trends and needs in indexing folklore native to the digital age, with a focus on the development of the archival standards practiced by the SCP wiki’s consistency with archival practices.

Mantey, Denise. "Successful Outreach Methods for Oral History Archives." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Elliott Kuecker. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/cccd-ey69>

Archivists have long utilized oral history collections to address archival gaps that the paper records could not fill. New generations of memory workers have prioritized preserving the oral traditions of historically marginalized communities. This has resulted in outreach efforts that aim to establish trust with the communities represented in the archives. This study analyzes the Oral History Lab at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, the Community Oral History Project at the New York Public Library, and Wolf Tales at North Carolina State University as three case studies of oral history archives that have implemented successful outreach methods. This analysis addresses the history of archivist presence in oral history, how to build trust with communities, and ways I may implement these successful outreach methods in my work as an archivist and graduate assistant of the UNC Story Archive in Wilson Special Collections Library, a recently established oral history collection.

Martin, Alex. "Nonhierarchical Crowdsourced Database Users: iNaturalist Participant Trust & Motivation through an Anarchist Lens." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Ryan Shaw. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/q6mv-0n69>

This paper utilizes case studies to explore active users of iNaturalist, a crowdsourced database for ecological observations. This study seeks to better understand why, and to what extent, participants of a nonhierarchical citizen science project trust the quality of data they find and contribute there. The study samples a group of six local iNaturalist users who completed a weeklong diary study on their daily usage of the site and/or an interview to discuss their overarching thoughts about the site. Utilizing an anarchist lens focuses the research on the unique benefits and drawbacks of collaborative knowledge building, while the case study format of the project gives a deeper look into a subset of user experiences.

McKinnell, James. "Technological Shifts in Academic Libraries: A Qualitative Inquiry into Librarians' Perspectives." A Master's Paper for

the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Marijel Melo. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/zmkk-ps50>

Academic libraries have always needed to be responsive to changes in emerging technology over time. As library resources have continued to become ever more digitized, there is a growing need for librarians to gain new technological skills. This qualitative study used semi-structured interviews with instructional librarians in academic libraries to explore what current technological shifts academic librarians are experiencing, how they are adapting to those changes, and what technological skills are most needed in academic libraries today. This study contributes insight into current technological changes in academic libraries like the continued impacts of COVID-19 and AI, factors unaccounted for in the existing literature. The results show that while there is a desire from academic librarians to learn more about AI and skills related to programing and data visualization, the most needed technological skills remain soft skills like curiosity, empathy, and a willingness to learn.

Mead, Megan. "Connecting Campuses: Transfer Student Perspectives on Academic Library Services at UNC-Chapel Hill." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Sandra Hughes-Hassell. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/crvy-qj88>

This qualitative study explores the information-seeking behaviors, perceptions, and preferences of undergraduate transfer students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH), focusing on their interactions with the university libraries. Through comprehensive interview, the research aims to uncover insights into transfer students' library usage, needs, and challenges, with the goal of enhancing library services and resources to support academic success and integration into the UNC-CH community. The research questions investigate how UNC-CH transfer students perceive the accessibility, relevance, and usefulness of library resources compared to their previous institutions. Additionally, the study explores the extent of utilization of digital and physical resources in the library and identifies challenges in navigating and utilizing UNC-CH library resources. The findings will inform evidence-based improvements to optimize the overall experience for transfer students at UNC-CH.

Mitchum, Emma. "A Content Analysis of Sexual Consent and Sexual Health/Wellness References in Adult Literary Fiction." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Casey Rawson. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/g4ba-7m13>

The study in this paper analyzes the content of adult fiction novels that fall into the sub-genre of romantasy. I examined the top 10 adult romantasy books according to Goodreads. During this study I looked at how sexual consent and sexual health and wellness are portrayed in these novels. I coded each novel for scenes containing sexual content having to do with consent and sexual health and wellness. Most of the books in my population displayed proper messages of sexual consent. Communication and asking permission for sexual consent are becoming more normalized in popular media. Along with the normalization of consent, birth control is also on the rise in its visibility within popular media. Many books mentioned sexual health and wellness in regards to birth control, whether it be direct between character or in passing. However, zero books in my population mentioned sexually transmitted diseases or sexually transmitted infections, which are a vital part of sexual health and wellness. As a society we need to work towards the de-stigmatization of sexually transmitted diseases and sexually transmitted infections.

Neff, Victoria. "First—and Lasting—Impressions: Examining Iterations and Adaptations of *Pride and Prejudice* and its Implications for and Influences by Audiences." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Brian Sturm. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/jn5n-3094>

My research interests lie at the intersection of storytelling; literary, dramatic, and film adaptations; and social justice. Joining research examining the significance of storytelling in elementary classrooms and school libraries and the effectiveness of using the performing arts to promote social justice, my study addresses a current gap by investigating the creative process of adapting from page to stage to other inventive evolutions. Specifically, my content analysis of the additions, alterations, and omissions of traditional and innovative compositions, retellings, and remakes of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* reveals the reciprocal relationship between authorial perspectives and societal input, especially with Lydia's story.

Now recognizing her role in her potential downfall, she seeks and receives her family's love, acceptance, and guidance, allowing for genuine, resilient healing. This sea change for storytellers and audiences, though nigh unthinkable initially, finally ends victim blaming and insists upon accountability for those truly culpable.

Norwood, Alona. "Black Girl Magic: A Content Analysis of Black Women Represented in the Black in Appalachia Community History Digital Archive." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Joseph Winberry. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/pybd-f133>

The purpose of this study is to examine the gap in the historical narrative of Appalachia by focusing on Black women from the region and to offer practical solutions for filling the gap grounded in LIS literature and theory. The study will also determine if Dr. Laverne Gray's Black Feminist Information Community model is applicable to a rural region. This study is a qualitative content analysis, meaning the research process was iterative and ongoing from start to finish. The results of this research showed that the Black in Appalachia Community History Digital Archive contains a variety of representations of Black women from the region. The results of this research proved that when you apply the Black Appalachian woman representation to the Black Information Community Information model, there are overlaps in the codes.

Pasin, Joy. "Accounting for High Schools Students' Interests and Identities in ELA Required Reading Curricula: A Qualitative Case Study." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Sandra Hughes-Hassell. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/5167-pz05>

This case study of English Language Arts (ELA) teachers' experiences was conducted to explore whether ELA teachers are able to take students' interests and identities into account when building their required reading curricula. Non-probability sampling was used to select eight high school English teachers from across North Carolina. Teachers then participated in semi-structured interviews, in which they were questioned on a variety of elements regarding their curriculum development process, their required

reading material selection process, their methods for accounting for student interest and identities, their collaboration with school librarians, and more. This study will build understanding on the influences that affect high school ELA teachers' ability to account for students' interests and identities in their curricula, and how they do so.

Pearson, Marissa. "How a Person's Knowledge of AI Affects Their Perception of AI Technology: A Comparison Study of Recent College Graduates and Mid-career Employees." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, May, 2024. Advisor: Megan Winget. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/pp26-pj05>

This study sought to determine if a person's knowledge, or lack thereof, correlates with their perception of AI. This study also compared and contrasted the data of two different sample groups, recent college graduates and working professionals between the ages of 20-50, to determine if the results are similar or different. This study was conducted to answer the following questions: How does AI awareness contribute to an individual's level of fear of AI? How does AI awareness and fear influence career choices and decisions? How does AI awareness and fear affect peoples' views around job stability? The participants of this study participated in an interview. This study will be used as a starting point by future researchers for studying the relationship between AI and humans.

Pfeifer, Justin. "Algorithmic Opacity Meeting Organizational Opacity: Challenges of AI Deployment in Organizations." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, January, 2024. Advisor: Mohammad Jarrahi. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/5qaj-ew81>

This article aims to address the current inadequacies of AI systems in organizational settings. Specifically, this article addresses the intertwined concepts of algorithmic opacity and organizational opacity as the key challenges to be examined. We contextualize these challenges by focusing on the concepts of organizational visibility and organizational transparency, and by developing a sociotechnical framework that explicate potential links between algorithmic opacity and organizational opacity and therefore facilitates the effective development of AI systems in these contexts.

Priesman Marquez, Rachel. "Page By Page: An Exploration of Book Disposal Practices in U.S. Public Libraries." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Casey Rawson. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/sckf-4w03>

Weeding is an imperative process to ensure that there is room on the shelves for new materials. When materials are deselected, some books end up in Friends of the Library sales, or are given to third party sources such as Better World Books, but many of these books end up in the trash. The purpose of this study is multifaceted. First, this study aims to discover the amount of book waste created from material deselection for public libraries in the United States. Second, this study seeks to understand librarians' attitudes about the programs they currently use and any barriers to use that they might experience implementing alternative book disposal programs. The findings indicate that libraries utilize various disposal methods including landfill trash, third-party organizations, and book sales. Libraries also face enormous barriers including staff time and buy-in, space for storing materials, and the cost associated with alternative disposal programs.

Romero, Chelsea. "Silenced and Erased." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, March, 2024. Advisor: Sandra Hughes-Hassell. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/2c7a-0w23>

This study is a content analysis to address the silencing and erasure of American history in education. The goal of this paper is to find where history is being changed or erased in high school curriculum textbooks and discuss how public libraries can provide curriculum support to schools. A quantitative and qualitative content analysis of three U.S history textbooks used in high school curricula to find three historical events (Tulsa Race Massacre, Indigenous Boarding Schools, and Japanese Internment Camps). All three events were found in the textbooks; however, the Tulsa Race Massacre and the Indigenous Boarding Schools were not described to the full extent of the historical event. In considering the extent of the silencing and erasure of U.S. History in school curricula, teachers and library staff can strive to find resources to bridge the gap in students' education.

Simon, Erin. "Who is Researching Women's Health? A Bibliometric Approach to Addressing

the Disparities in Citations and Publications of High Impact Medical Research.” A Master’s Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Bradley Hemminger. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/0hsd-hb87>

This study aims to analyze authorship and gender disparities in high impact medical journals, as well as several research questions relating to gender disparities in first authorship and demographics of first authors performing research in subjects related to women’s health. A sample consisting of randomized controlled trials between the years 2010 to 2020 from five high impact journals were analyzed for author demographics and citation metrics. This study aims to interrogate author demographics in high impact journals, the underrepresentation of female authorship and women’s health as an important topic of study, as well as the citational disparities between male and female researchers who study women’s health.

Thornquist, Wylie. “History, Memory, and the Archival Record; Afterlives of the Greensboro Massacre.” A Master’s Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Alexandra Chassanoff. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/g5d3-ev59>

This paper presents a thematic analysis of data from interview transcripts with researchers who have worked with archival collections in Wilson Library related to the 1979 Greensboro Massacre. Five researchers from a variety of disciplines and academic backgrounds were interviewed to gather information about how and why they decided to do research on this historical event using archival sources. In these interviews, participants shared reflections about the ethical considerations and affective and emotional responses that arose in their engagement of archival documentation of this historical event. Interviews were guided by a series of questions: 1) How are researchers impacted by their interactions with archival records related to the Greensboro Massacre? 2) Why and how do researchers seek out archival sources to generate new scholarship on this event? 3) What insights do archival collections related to this history offer that are not found in other places? Considering archives as a site of ongoing contestation of historical narratives and memory, this study presents information about how archival users have disseminated information from archival collections to develop new

knowledge about the Greensboro Massacre through their research.

Titus, Samantha. “Civic Literacy: Why Academic Libraries Must Combat the Illiteracy Plaguing Students.” A Master’s Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Joseph Winberry. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/x1md-rs50>

This study originally aimed to explore the possible relationship between the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s undergraduate history students’ political affiliation and their library usage. Due to unforeseen constraints this paper has shifted to focus on how academic libraries can improve civic literacy on campuses. This paper is now exploring the question: how can academic libraries improve civic literacy in a time of rising distrust, misinformation, and social media? The extent of this paper will use the grounded theory to analyze previous research and studies to compile recommendations for increasing civic literacy in undergraduates. Although this country has seen an increase in political engagement, there is a lack of literacy and understanding of civics and present-day politics. This paper aims to further contextualize how academic libraries, such as UNC, can proceed to celebrate political engagement while emphasizing and educating for civic literacy.

Wang, Huilong. “Deciphering Tourists’ Preferences in Trail Reviews through Natural Language Processing.” A Master’s Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Huilong Wang. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/p049-4m96>

This study explores the use of natural language processing (NLP) techniques to analyze AllTrails user-generated reviews, focusing on hiker’s preferences in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We fine-tuned a DistilBERT model on a newly created dataset with token-level labels tailored for extracting trail features. We extracted and ranked common trail features such as “River,” “Waterfall,” and “Child-Friendly,” and less common features such as “Forest” and “Wildlife” mentioned in the reviews of the ten highest-rated trails in the park. Our model achieved an overall F1-score of 0.83, demonstrating high accuracy in the trail feature extraction task. Despite strong feature ranking correlations, no clear link was found between these rankings and user satisfaction,

suggesting the influence of additional factors. These insights highlight the value of our tailored approach in enhancing trail management and recommendation systems. Future work will expand the dataset and integrate real-time user data, aiming to refine the effectiveness of our NLP framework.

Watkins, Teagan. "Green Programming In North Carolina Public Libraries." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Brian Sturm. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/stdj-e587>

This study looks at North Carolina's public libraries and analyzes the green programming they are offering. The goal of this study is to see what libraries are doing in North Carolina to be green outside of their physical space and use of resources. Study subjects include a variety of public libraries across the entire state of North Carolina. Data is collected by looking through the selected library's events calendar website from January 2023 to January 2024. The discussion of this research expands on green programming, trends in green programming in these libraries, why these libraries may or may not have it, and suggestions on how to grow green programming in all libraries. This study adds to the already large discussion of green libraries and encourages others to look at green programming in North Carolina and other states across the United States.

Whitaker, Hannah. "A Heating Climate in the Sunshine State: How Public Libraries are Impacted by and Responding to Censorship Attempts in Florida." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Casey Rawson. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/3q4q-j963>

This master's paper has been designed specifically to better understand the impact, or lack thereof, that censorship has had on access that public librarians in the state of Florida are able to provide. Florida has seen a rapid increase in the amount of censorship attempts, specifically in regard to books written by and about LGBTQ+, Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), and Jewish individuals. While there is much literature and reporting on the impact of book challenges on school libraries in the state of Florida, there is a dearth of information on how these challenges have curtailed the freedom to read in public libraries, although I suspected that there had

been a chilling effect, albeit underreported. Through the case study of three public libraries in Florida, it was my goal to better understand how, if at all, state-sanctioned and organization-led book challenges have affected the work of public librarians, as well as how librarians are responding to the potential impacts. This non-generalizable study allows readers to understand how specific librarians are grappling with the threat of censorship within the ever-changing legal landscape of Florida.

Williams, E. Simonton. "How do People Respond to Fat-positivity on Tumblr?" A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Melanie Feinberg. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/ny77-e397>

Fat people are increasingly striving for social acceptance, through various social movements and through the medical Health at Every Size movement. This study investigates the ways people on Tumblr, a social media site, respond to posts endorsing fat-positivity or Health at Every Size. Real-world examples of these interactions were collected and quantitatively coded for agreement and rejection of traditional expertise. This area of coding is intended to allow comparison of the fat-positive community on tumblr to misinformation-driven groups like anti-vaccination groups and QAnon. This study expands the conversation surrounding contested medical theories and how people navigate contested information.

Wilson, Saija. "Difficult Description: Rhetoric, Neutrality and the Intellectual Tradition of Archival Processing." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, May, 2024. Advisor: Elliott Kuecker, Matthew Turi. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/pwbz-q559>

This paper seeks to closely examine the work of archival processing, also called archival arrangement and description, or simply archival description. The reason description is difficult is due to factors within the traditions of archival theory and practice. In the past, archives and archivists have claimed neutrality and objectivity as a means to dignify the authority with which they worked. Only recently have archivists begun to fully acknowledge the power held in the archives, specifically the rhetorical power. This paper is primarily concerned with the rhetorical power held and nurtured in the archives by archival processing and to do so conducts a content analysis of the find-

ing aids belonging to the Hayes Collection, 1694-1928, the Cameron Family Papers, 1757-1978, and the Philip Henry Pitts Papers, 1814-1884 all held within the Southern Historical Collection (SHC) at the Wilson Special Collections Library.

Winemiller, Sam. "Where Do We Go From Here? A Content Analysis of ALA Presidential Columns in *American Libraries*." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Brian Sturm. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/xb5q-wt60>

The purpose of this research was to understand the messaging of recent American Library Association presidents, and by doing so, explore how they have imagined what libraries should be, and what librarians should do. Within the U.S. context, these figures' messages serve as important historical markers of issues that libraries and librarians have wrestled with at a given time, and to some degree, the formal positions and directions of the library profession's primary governing body. Understanding how these individuals have imagined libraries is a worthwhile endeavor given their relative importance to the field and indicates prevailing schools of thought within the profession as to what U.S. librarianship should be about over the next several decades. I conducted a content analysis of columns written by the past 25 ALA presidents appearing in the ALA publication *American Libraries* and, by identifying both consistent patterns across the sample and changes over time, argued that several key issues define the present and future of the field. These included libraries' move down a metaphorical hierarchy of needs from self-actualization to safety, libraries' commitment to intellectual freedom vs. their traditional state building purpose, the increasingly explicit social justice orientation of the field, vocational awe and job creep, libraries and structural economic change, and libraries' commitment to the public good vs. neoliberalism. I close by suggesting a path of critical technical practice that may help the field find its way forward amid a time of transition.

Woolever, Kellie. "A Comparative Study on Male and Female Athletes in Sports Media After the Implementation of Title IX." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Sandra Hughes-Hassell. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/bsax-xg96>

This study examines the portrayal of male and female athletes in sports media following the implementation of Title IX legislation in North Carolina. By analyzing media coverage after 1972, the year Title IX was enacted, the research investigates whether the increased participation of women in athletics has resulted in more equitable representation in sports media. The analysis explores potential changes in the volume and focus of media coverage dedicated to female athletes, aiming to assess the lasting impact of Title IX and the way women's sports are presented to the public through the past few decades. The research was conducted using over 1,200 articles from 240 newspapers from the Digital N.C. repository that holds over 14,000 issues of the *Daily Tar Heel*, the student newspaper of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Yating Ke. "Visualization and Analysis of Continuous Glucose Monitoring Data Based on Self-monitoring." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2024. Advisor: David Gotz. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/fft2-0b92>

Diabetes as a chronic disease affecting multiple age groups has been increasing in prevalence in recent years. This trend highlights the growing need for effective blood glucose monitoring in the wider population. Based on the continuous development of continuous glucose monitoring devices and the fact that daily glucose monitoring remains an important component in controlling the progression of the disease, the aim of this study was to develop an intuitive glucose visualization tool that utilizes continuous glucose test data to facilitate patient self-monitoring, self-management and support clinical decision-making at a potential level. By combining a user-friendly interface with advanced data analytics, the tool aims to empower patients in their daily diabetes management while providing valuable insights for medical review.

Zimmermann, Emily. "A Scoping Review of Medical Research Evaluating the Accuracy and Reliability of ChatGPT as a Consumer Health Information Resource." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2024. Advisor: Marijel Melo. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/nccx-5s59>

This scoping review delves into the multifaceted landscape of AI in medicine. Anticipating the wide

scale use of ChatGPT by patients to answer their health related questions, this paper blends insights from bioethics and information science. The included literature spans varied medical disciplines which examine the usefulness, efficacy, and ethical implications of patients using ChatGPT to inform their healthcare decisions. Benefits include the improvement of communication and education for patients while concerns include misinformation and the illusion of expertise. By synthesizing diverse perspectives, this scoping review sheds light on the complexities surrounding the integration of AI in medicine while offering valuable insights to librarians, medical professionals, and individual patients.

Zorich, River. "Representation and Rhetoric of Disability and Disabled People: A Content Analysis of Digital Archives on Disability." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, May, 2024. Advisor: Elliott Kuecker. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17615/qwmz-n176>

This study analyzed the representation and rhetoric of disability and disabled people within three digital archives on disability: the Disability History Museum; the University of California, Berkeley's Disability Rights and Independent Living Movement Project; and the National Federation of the Blind's Jacobus tenBroek Library. Using qualitative content analysis, I examined how disability is represented in those archives, how Brilmyer's (2020) critical disability archival methodology shows up in those archives, and how that methodology might be further applied to archives. The data collected came from a close reading of the websites and digital repositories of the three case studies. The study aimed to further the scholarly and practical intersections of disability and archives by influencing future research regarding critical disability archival methodology.

Fall 2024

Hartsock, Jeremiah. "Discover Weakly?: Perceptions of Spotify's Algorithmically Generated Music Recommendations." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, December, 2024. Advisor: William Payne.

Spotify, a large music streaming service used across the world, features AI-generated playlists, or collections of songs that dynamically adjust to user listening behaviors. Academics and journalists have raised

concerns that Artificial Intelligence (AI) and AI-generated playlists reduce listening diversity and monopolize the means with which people discover new music. While past research uses quantitative means to examine user behavior, fewer studies address user perceptions of the role of AI in music discovery. To address this gap, I conducted an interview study with 13 participants and analyzed the results to elucidate 1) how they utilize three AI-generated playlist features: Discover Weekly, Daylist, and DJ; 2) what factors impact which feature they choose to use and when; and 3) whether their musical avidity (or engagement with music) impacts their perceptions of the expanding role of AI in music listening. Key findings include: 1) Participants regard the Discover Weekly playlist as the most influential to their new music discovery; 2) participants enjoy the blending of new and familiar music into themes from the Daylist, and 3) participants desired the most customization with the DJ feature.

Jines, Shiloh Rebecca. "Feminist, Queer, and Trans Artists' Books and Zines in the Sloane Art Library Collection." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, December, 2024. Advisor: Elliott Kuecker.

Contemporary artists' books and zines are interdisciplinary artforms that engage in intimate, handmade, and often subversive methods to explore identity, community, and social change. In this paper, I introduce artists' books and zines as agents of social change, and explore the role they play in feminist, queer, and trans identity, community, and culture formation. I conclude each section of my literature review with a list of questions intended to urge researchers, professors, and librarians to reimagine the role of artists' books and zines as tools of feminist praxis, both in their collection in the classroom. A guide to feminist, queer, and trans artists' books and zines in Sloane Art Library collection is included in the final section. The guide can be navigated by title, and includes subject headings relevant to gender and sexuality, details of the printing and binding method, and a brief critical synopsis blended with description of the work from the artist.

Merritt, Nadia. "Illustrating Health Narratives: An Exploration of Graphic Medicine as Consumer Health Education Materials." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information

Science, December, 2024. Advisor: Tressie Mc-Millan Cottom.

Health literacy and patient education aims to meet consumers where they are while also increasing knowledge, application of information, and ability to advocate. Graphic medicine is a subgenre made up of mostly books and are narratives about health experiences. This study aims to examine the usability of Graphic Medicine as it relates to women's health for consumer patient education materials. Digital and print mediums in both longform and shortform were selected for review. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Patient Education Materials Assessment Tool (PEMAT) was used as the instrument to determine if the readings perform well or not as consumer health information. All items have been defined as graphic medicine by GraphicMedicine.org which is operated by a nonprofit organization, Graphic Medicine International Collective.

Spring 2025

Allison, Lindsey. "The Bereaved College Experience: Threads of Grief in the Recordkeeping Practices of College Students." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Alexandra Chassanoff.

In examining in-depth interviews with college students, this paper sought to identify and explore the recordkeeping practices of individuals who have experienced the death of a loved one. The recordkeeping practices were generally defined as actions taken to collect and maintain objects, photographs, and other memorabilia, both physical and digital, in remembrance of the deceased. By interviewing college students within this population, the role that personal archives play in the bereavement process might be better understood, further analyzing what types of records are collected and how those records impact grief. As the loss of a loved one or close friend is an individualized experience, this study sought to position the lived experiences of each individual at the forefront of the analysis, centering their stories and words while assessing their archival tendencies. This non-generalizable study served to create avenues of awareness within the library science community regarding bereaved college students, identifying potential methods of support that can be provided from the field and future areas of collaboration with other specialties.

Barrett-Catton, Emma. "What Are You Referencing? The Impact of Reference Manager Workshop Titles on the Likelihood That Undergraduate Students Attend." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Casey Rawson.

The purpose of this research project is to investigate the impact that library reference manager workshop names have on the likelihood that undergraduate students will sign up to attend said workshops. It addresses (1) whether undergraduates are interested in learning more about reference managers, (2) how they would like to learn about reference managers, and (3) whether the names of workshops impact the likelihood they will attend. Undergraduate students were recruited to participate in a survey using emails and flyers. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and coding. Overall, this study found that undergraduate students are interested in learning more about reference managers, primarily through asynchronous means. For those interested in reference manager workshops, more descriptive workshop names were more appealing. This study gives academic instructional librarians guidance on how they should name their workshops so that people who would be interested may be more likely to attend.

Bernice Shylet Meja. "Cultivating Inclusive Learning: Assessing Self-Guided Resources in Library Makerspaces For Diverse Student Populations." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2025. Advisor: William Payne.

Academic Makerspaces often provide high-tech equipment that can sometimes intimidate students. While these spaces offer valuable tools for creative work, little research explores how well self-guided learning resources support diverse learners. This study investigates the cultural responsiveness of such resources at UNC-Chapel Hill's Library Makerspace, focusing on first-generation and international undergraduates. Using artifact analysis, a focus group, and a gamified orientation intervention, I examine how students engage with existing materials and identify barriers. Findings show students value self-directed and collaborative learning but find current resources inaccessible, overly technical, and lacking inclusive cues. Emotional barriers, limited awareness, and mismatches between learning preferences and design further hinder use. Insights informed a gamified orien-

tation tool to make Makerspace access more intuitive and culturally affirming. This research emphasizes the need for inclusive design in academic Makerspaces to empower all students.

Charlton, Marlee. "Violence, Visibility, and the Other: Diverging Social Media Representations of Incarceration on Bluesky and X." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Francesca Tripodi.

This research investigates how incarceration is represented on the social media platforms Bluesky and X to understand how these portrayals may influence public perception of incarceration. Through a thematic analysis of public posts on Bluesky and X, this research identifies patterns across the dataset. Findings indicate both social media platforms describe the criminal justice system as flawed but have differing conceptualizations of the shortcomings. Bluesky suggests that the violence faced by those who are incarcerated is the foundational flaw within the criminal justice system; whereas X presents the violence that occurs within society as necessitating at least the current rate of incarceration.

Cimarusti, Lucia J. "Archives on Two Wheels: Archival Practices of Bike Co-operatives." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Joseph Winberry.

Bike co-operatives are important organizations in their communities, offering bicycle educational and repair services for little to no cost. Yet they often occupy precarious positions, and their histories and work are not well preserved within existing archival institutions. This study seeks to uncover the ways in which bike co-ops are already archiving their own materials and how archivists can assist them in this work. The study is based around interviews with members of bike co-ops about the perceptions of their co-ops' archival practices. It seeks to answer these questions: 1) How are volunteer-run bike co-ops already archiving the work that they do? 2) What form, if any, do these archives take, and are they guided by any pre-existing organizational principles? 3) What can archivists offer to these co-ops to better assist them in preserving these histories? And 4) After this knowledge is gathered, how can an interested archival professional, or even a member of a bike co-op without archival knowledge, go about starting a formalized archive for these organizations?

Clemmons, Will. "A Review of Deaccessioning Policies in American University and College Archives/Special Collections." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Alexandra Chassanoff.

During the spring semester of 2025 the author conducted a review of 23 deaccession policies from United States based university and college archives/special collections. In the first study of its kind, the author examined the policies that existed along with their similarities and differences. Utilized the Society of American Archivists (SAA) *Guidelines for Reappraisal and Deaccessioning*, the policies collected were examined for inclusion of authority/approval processes, methods of disposal, allowable uses of funds from sale if applicable, and how to manage found-in-collection objects. Any other similarities or differences of significance were noted. The author found that while most policies examined included some of the SAA's recommendations, few followed similar structures or emphasized the same deaccessioning guidelines. With a literature that backs deaccessioning as sound collections management practice, the policies examined show that ethical deaccessioning is possible, and the resources exist to help archives that are in the process of creating their own deaccession policy.

Cohen, Anna. "Estamos Aqui: Latine Student Experiences in LIS Education." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Diane Kelly.

According to the Department of Professional Employees, Latino/a/e librarians constitute about 11% of the total librarian population, despite representing over 19% of the U.S. population (Department for Professional Employees, n.d.; Pew Research Center, 2024). This disparity in representation is concerning when considering that a common critique of librarianship is that it lacks diversity. Furthermore, population predictions are expecting the Latine community to increase to 28% of the total United States population by 2060, showing a clear need to develop a workforce that represents the growing diversity of library users (Census Bureau, 2018). This study seeks to address this issue by examining how Latine student experiences during LIS education affect student success while seeking LIS degrees. Through a series of interviews with recent Latine graduates, this research project identifies areas where participants felt sup-

ported or underserved. The findings offer insights for LIS program administrators, highlighting key considerations for designing programs that foster Latine student success. The findings discuss ways library schools can support working students, improve sense of belonging, and provide relevant campus resources.

Crowe, Codi. "Evidence of Colonialism in the Metadata of Indigenous American Archival Materials." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Brian Sturm.

This paper discusses evidence of colonialism in metadata and cataloging practices in Indigenous American archival material. The research in this paper was conducted with a random dataset of 160 Indigenous American archival materials from the Library of Congress. Throughout history, archives have stood strong as institutions people can trust to tell them the stories of those from the past. These voices shape and change culture, history, and worldviews of others and ourselves. However, history sometimes is altered and misconstrued. Colonialism is a form of imperialism that has existed for a millennium and affects several parts of history, and therefore archives.

Daniel, Kenneth. "An Investigation into Middle Eastern Studies Librarians' Perceptions of the Library of Congress Subject Headings in the Digital Age." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Joseph Winberry.

Among librarians who use the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH), there is a growing agreement that the system encodes a Eurocentric bias in its language and organization. Efforts to not only acknowledge but remedy bias in Western classifications systems have coalesced under the framework of "critical cataloging," a subset of wider critical theory. There is extensive literature on the effects of this bias, namely how it flattens and ostracizes non-mainstream Western subjects into generalized "other" categories. However, much of the literature today focuses on the theoretical implications of these biases, how it is intellectually degrading to the communities that have been othered. It has long been the argument of critical catalogers that reforms should center on adding headings (Olson 1998) and the removal or renaming of existing ones (Berman 1971). Conversely, this debate tends to focus less on its practical

implications, such as material retrieval—functions that in the pre-digital age were heavily reliant on the catalog's structure. However, with the advent of on-line tools like item tags, filters, and especially searches by keyword, the catalog is no longer the be-all-end-all for finding materials. Furthermore, the digital age has given rise to tools that can assist researchers in finding materials without directly using the catalog at all, such as LibGuides (Robinson 2016). With this context, the purpose of this study was to examine the perceptions research librarians of a non-Western subject—Middle Eastern Studies (MES)—hold regarding the LCSH. This study consisted of semi-structured, hour-long interviews with five MES librarians employed by universities that offer a full degree in Middle Eastern Studies. Through these interviews, I sought to find not only their opinions of the LCSH, but whether its Eurocentric bias is seen as a major roadblock to material retrieval in the digital age. The data collected in these semi-structured interviews was analyzed utilizing thematic analysis to uncover both evident and subtextual patterns in the responses. The goal of this study was not to critique efforts to reform the LCSH, but to investigate if its Eurocentrism poses the same obstacle that it did in the pre-digital age.

Daniels, Alexander. "Development of a Machine-Learning Ensemble Approach to Automate Classification of Peer-Reviewed Literature for Systematic Review." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, May, 2025. Advisor: Jaime Arguello.

This study addresses the significant challenges inherent in classifying scientific literature within specialized technical domains, such as Earth Science modeling, particularly concerning database fragmentation and terminological ambiguity. Developed and evaluated herein is a hybrid methodological framework designed to accurately associate scientific publications with specific JPL Earth Science models and to analyze their resultant bibliometric impact. The methodology integrates multiple complementary signals, including direct keyword matching, semantic embedding similarity, contextual validation via TF-IDF profiles, and statistical reinforcement. This hybrid approach achieved robust performance, significantly outperforming single-method strategies, with an overall F1 score of 0.84 and demonstrating effective generalization (test F1 = 0.81). A crucial

element was the implementation of model-specific threshold optimization, which accommodated significant variations in publication volume and terminological distinctiveness across models (e.g., ECCO F1=0.90 at threshold 0.10, MOMO-Chem F1=0.79 at threshold 0.95). Empirical analysis revealed substantial disparities in database coverage, with Dimensions contributing 83% of the corpus compared to 0.1% from Web of Science, underscoring the necessity of a multi-database approach in specialized fields. Temporal analysis of publication patterns indicated growing scientific engagement with JPL models since 2010, exhibiting distinct lifecycle patterns aligned with model development. The developed framework offers a valuable tool for researchers and institutions to track model impact and provides a methodological template applicable to bibliometric analysis in other specialized technical domains facing similar classification challenges.

Drew, De'Ivyion. "Evaluation of Visual Art Researcher Information Needs: Visualizing Patron-Library Interaction in the Art Repository." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, May, 2025. Advisor: Alice Whiteside.

This study focused on how art researchers understand, interpret, and interact with visual art resources and how these interactions influenced their research initiatives. In an effort to contribute new evidence to the established discourse on research behaviors for the visual art field, oral interviews were conducted at the Sloane Art Library at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill with undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty art scholars to determine differences and similarities in behaviors and perceptions. These interviews were followed by a survey questionnaire about their experience as a researcher utilizing art library collections and additional information about their research discipline. This study explores how art researchers find and use library sources and identifies information seeking behaviors unique to art professionals. The data collected outlines new recommendations that increase patron engagement and collection circulation for art libraries.

Elder, Caetlyn. "Non Sum Qualis Eram": The Archival Frame in Horror Media and Gothic Literature." A Master's Paper for the Master of

Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Michael Fox.

This paper discusses how creators of horror media and Gothic literature frame archives within fictional works situated in the found footage or manuscript subgenre. The narratives discussed are not only characteristically framed as archival materials through their formats but address archival issues through the conventions of the horror genre. The primary issues discussed are preservation, materiality, and authenticity. Dialogue, text, and scenes are analyzed within the context of the archival material format they are presented in to reveal how general audiences engage with the archival through these fictional narratives.

Francis, Luzita. "Dying to Be Counted: The Social Determinants of Data: A Critical Analysis of the Quality of the 2020 North Carolina Latino COVID-19 Mortality Data." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Melanie Feinberg.

Mortality data informs public health practice and initiatives, policy formulation, and resource allocation. The COVID-19 Latino mortality data in 2020 elicited a specific response from public health officials, but there was no questioning around the quality or the accuracy of the data. Using a critical lens, this study examines the data collection process, identifies gaps, and analyzes the implications of inaccuracy and limitations. This study found that missing ethnicity data in North Carolina's COVID-19 mortality records was not random but rather a systemic issue rooted in bureaucratic inefficiencies, inconsistent reporting practices, and institutional neglect. These findings underscore the urgent need for policy interventions to mandate complete and accurate ethnicity reporting, ensuring equitable public health responses and resource allocation.

Freed, Erica. "The Digital Romance Economy: Exploring the Role of Parasocial Relationships and Microtransactions in the Otome Game Player's Information Landscape." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Bradley Hemminger.

Otome romance game players have a variety of motivations for playing the games they do, whether it be the storylines, specific characters, artwork, or another factor. This study focuses on the information needs of otome players and what motivates them to tran-

sition from free-to-play (F2P) to paid players. The research examines discussions in two otome game subreddits to understand the factors that drive this shift, including appealing character traits and other elements that attract players. I provide an overview of these games, player behaviors, and information needs by sampling online forums through a variety of keyword searches and analyzing the content of returned posts for significant themes, commonalities, and divergences. In so doing, I have synthesized information into two categories: emotional investment and spending motivations, including discussion of game design strategies, and user information needs, in order to gather a clearer understanding of how players are motivated to spend, as well as seek, evaluate, and share information related to in-game purchases.

Garcia Lara, Luz. "Selling the Smart Border: A Comparative NLP Analysis Of U.S. Immigration Technology Narratives Under Trump and Biden." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Francesca Tripodi.

Republicans and Democrats often claim to have extremely polarizing policies and values, especially regarding immigration and the U.S.-Mexico border. This study examines whether their immigration narratives and use of technology are truly as different as they seem. This paper looks at how immigrant narratives and techno-optimism (the belief that technology can solve major social problems) shaped immigration policies under the Trump (1st term) and Biden administrations. Using natural language processing (NLP) methods, including topic modeling and sentiment analysis, this study analyzes presidential documents to understand how each administration talks about immigrants and uses technology in immigration enforcement. The results show that while there are some differences, there are also important similarities, particularly in how both administrations use technology in ways that may still exclude or harm immigrants. By comparing the two administrations, this study questions the idea that partisan divides always lead to completely different immigration policies.

Giles, Emma. "A Survey of Academic Library Services for Neurodivergent Students." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Diane Kelly.

The purpose of this study is to survey the current services available to neurodivergent students in academic libraries. Informational interviews with librarians from academic libraries across the United States provide the data for this narrative and phenomenological study that aims to convey the steps that libraries have taken to accommodate neurodivergent students thus far. Understanding the current state of these services is essential to defining next steps for improving and innovating new services for this population. This study will provide a better understanding of the role of academic libraries in neurodivergent students' success and inspire further research and necessary change.

Godar, Kathleen. "The Attention Economy, Social Media Addiction, & the Loneliness Epidemic: A Content Analysis of YouTube Video Essays." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Melanie Feinberg.

This study provides a content analysis of YouTube video essays on the attention economy, social media addiction, and the loneliness epidemic. The study analyzes the rhetoric and language of these essays to explore how the attention economy is being framed, how social media's effects are discussed, and how essayists utilize social media to discuss social media. The sample is a selection of YouTube video essays purposively gathered by searching YouTube to identify video essays that fit the criteria. The data is then analyzed using inductive coding to explore common themes. The study provides an exploratory overview of YouTube video essay discourse on the topics and provides inspiration for further research into the topics as well as video essays as a form.

Gu, Yijun. "Reconstructing Disaster Scenarios from Multimodal Social Media with LLMs: A Case Study on Hurricane Harvey." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Yue Wang.

This research investigates the ability of large language models to reconstruct disaster scenarios using multimodal data from Hurricane Harvey. By analyzing well-annotated tweet-image pairs that describe disaster impacts, the research evaluates five state-of-the-art models across two key tasks: spatiotemporal storm tracking and humanitarian impact summarization. Results show that models like GPT-4o and

DeepSeek-R1 demonstrate strong reasoning capabilities, effectively aligning textual and visual evidence to infer daily disaster conditions. However, challenges remain in interpreting implicit humanitarian cues, such as emotional support or donation needs. The research proposes a rubric-based evaluation framework to assess transparency, groundedness, and narrative coherence. Findings underscore the promise and limits of large language models in crisis analysis and suggest future directions for integrating real-time social media with AI-assisted emergency response tools.

Hahn, William. "Cyberattack Sense-making Methods: Comparing the Capital One (2019) and Internet Archive (2024) Data Breach Reddit Discussions." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Ryan Shaw.

This paper covers the Capital One (2019) and Internet Archive (2024) cyberattacks, both severe breaches of user data that caused notable reactions online. The user perspective remains overlooked by large internet services. In this paper, user concerns are leveraged to gain insights into the sense-making processes relevant to each case. This is achieved through text analysis of the Reddit discussions for each event, emphasizing their topics, named entities, and overarching trends. It was found that Capital One (2019) featured much more technical discussion than Internet Archive (2024), and users perceived Internet Archive much more favorably than Capital One as a service. While both events have distinct qualities that set them apart, this study demonstrates the value of trust, transparency, and rapid disclosure for internet services. This paper's methods can be applied across institutional contexts to provide a service with a better grasp of the needs of its user base.

Huffstetler, Benjamin. "DVDs in the Public Library: A Case Study." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Joseph Winberry.

The purpose of this case study is to examine DVD circulation and staff views at a case public library in an attempt to gauge the current state of the case library's physical collection in the age of streaming. Through a mix of circulation and acquisition data analysis, in-depth interviews, and a content analysis of the collection, an exploratory study was conducted that attempted to describe the usefulness of a DVD

collection at one main branch public library. The findings were analyzed from a mixed methods approach that utilized triangulation of data to examine this topic from different perspectives. While the findings highlight declining DVD usage, there is a clear use in having this collection for the time being. The goal of this study was not to determine the best practices to follow moving forward regarding DVD collection policy, but rather to provide a specific public library case of professional opinions and circulation data within one environment.

Kasumarthi, Sriya. "Robotics Augmented Web Conferencing." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2025. Advisor: William Payne.

Facing the growing demand for more engaging and socially interactive remote communication, robotic gestures have emerged as a solution to enhance virtual meetings. While robots have been used in communication before, their role in conveying social presence through gestures like handshakes, waves, fist bumps, and high fives remains underexplored. This study investigates how these gestures, when paired with vocal and visual greetings, influence participant perceptions of comfort, friendliness, and connection in augmented web conferencing. I conducted a pilot study with four participants that explores how participants respond to different robotic gestures. The system was designed ergonomically and safely to support intuitive and natural interactions. Results suggest that gestures that closely mimic natural human movements help build trust and improve the interaction experience. This work contributes to the understanding of robotic social gestures and their practical potential in professional, educational, and remote assistance contexts, offering guidance for future human-robot interaction design.

Kinder, Eliscia. "Making and Unmaking the Record(s): Witness Evidence and Boundary Making Processes in Ireland's Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation." A Dissertation for the Doctor of Philosophy, May, 2025. Advisors: Ryan Shaw, Melanie Feinberg, Anne J. Gilliland, and Cal Lee.

Witness accounts of human rights abuses or so-called "historic" harms given in evidence are important components of many truth commissions' investigatory processes. The purpose of this dissertation research

was to systematically identify occurrences of such witness evidence within the Final Report of Ireland's Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation (2015-2021), map its placement throughout the Report, and analyze how the Commission synthesized it together with other forms of information. Since the Commission's inner workings were opaque to the public, the overall goal of the dissertation research was to prompt discussions of how such information is evaluated and deployed by this and similar bodies. In addition to locating textual evidence attributed to witnesses and making more apparent how it functions as a source of information, this study uncovered multiple relationships between information functions and the structure of the Report itself. My research further questioned the ethical implications of obfuscated investigatory methods as they related to this Commission's information processing and the presentation of witness evidence. Taking a mixed methods approach, I used citation analysis to identify, extract, and map witness evidence across the Report. I then used discourse synthesis to further analyze how witness evidence functions rhetorically and how it interacts with other information sources. A key finding from this research reveals that the majority of witness evidence appears in isolation, largely performing little synthesis with other witness evidence occurrences or information sources. Findings were then analyzed using Karen Barad's agential realism to offer a dynamic interrogation of the multiple and lively processes that made this Commission and its Report. Processes of boundary-making confined and constrained witness evidence, marking points of difference that call into question the relevancy, veracity, and utility of witness evidence as an information source for this Commission. This work established an analytical perspective into ongoing understandings of the Report as a document and witness evidence as information. For disciplines that analyze truth commissions, historical inquiries, and similar truth-finding entities, this project demonstrates an exploratory research design that responded to the boundaries or "agential cuts" this specific commission made. Rather than generating a broadly reproducible research methodology, agential realism's conceptual framing and this study's findings instead provide a set of approaches that subsequent researchers might consider adopting as entry points into textual analyses of final reportage and explicating methodological gaps in commission investigations. Additionally, by incorpo-

rating information studies perspectives, I bring techniques from different information fields into analyses of the Commission as an investigative entity and the construction of the Report. This is particularly relevant for ongoing discussions about inquiries' and truth commissions' information processes that continue to take place on a global scale. This work also demonstrates the various literacies required to extract meanings from investigative reporting, especially when documents do not transparently explicate patterns for readers. There is a pressing need to critically reexamine investigative commissions, their entangled phenomena, and practical and theoretical assumptions about their information processing to better envision future investigative research and reporting that bolsters accountability and justice.

Koon, Karel. "Access Denied? Takedown Policies in Community Archives." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Megan Winget.

Community archives and their digital collections have allowed marginalized communities to access and share their history and materials on their own terms. Yet, as archival collections continue to be digitized and increase in online accessibility, it is important to consider the stakeholders and ethical implications surrounding sensitive materials. Takedown policies are one way in which issues with the digitization of certain materials can be expressed. When present, these policies enable conversations with community members if concerns are raised about digital content. Since community archives place more emphasis on community needs and desires, these mechanisms of conversation build relationships and trust, especially if there is a history of misrepresentation and exploitation by public institutions. As takedown policies do not have a standard structure, this study poses the research question: To what extent do community archives' takedown policies contend with the values articulated in their mission statements?

Langston, Percy. "A Mixed-Methods Investigation of Homeschoolers' Information Literacy Instruction and Practices." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Casey Rawson.

This study sought to develop a broad understanding of the ways in which information literacy skills

are taught in the homeschool context. Specifically, it surveyed the parents of homeschooled high schoolers to investigate what types of materials students are instructed to use for research, how students are taught to search for sources, and what messages students are given about how to evaluate these sources' credibility. Additionally, it collected basic demographic data to investigate whether substantive differences exist in information literacy instruction among different homeschool "cohorts," differentiated by parents' political affiliation, parents' highest education level, primary instructional method, and reason for homeschooling. The study's anticipated impact was to contribute to literature around the information seeking behaviors of homeschoolers and better equip librarians to understand the range of information literacy proficiencies of students in higher education.

Levin, Olivia. "Reading Between the Guidelines: A Qualitative Assessment of the ACRL/SAA Guidelines for Primary Source Literacy." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Megan Winget.

This paper uses a qualitative coding scheme to analyze the degree to which a series of undergraduate lesson plans involving primary sources align with the objectives outlined in the 2018 ACRL/SAA *Guidelines for Primary Source Literacy*, expanding on patterns and outliers among the surveyed data. Significant outliers are used to inform the author's recommendations for expanding the *Guidelines* to better capture the scope of teaching possibilities using primary sources in a higher education library context.

Lu, Nuoer. "Understanding Usability Challenges and User Behaviors of Older Adults Interacting with ChatGPT." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2025. Advisor: William Payne.

As generative AI tools like ChatGPT become increasingly integrated into daily life, understanding how older adults interact with them is essential for inclusive design. This study explores the usability of ChatGPT among older adults, aiming to identify challenges and opportunities for improving accessibility and engagement. The research included pre-surveys, moderated usability testing, and a two-week diary study with four participants aged 65 and older. Findings revealed key usability barriers, including

difficulty with onboarding, prompt formulation, and interface navigation. However, participants also expressed curiosity and enthusiasm, especially when engaging with familiar topics or when ChatGPT offered proactive, collaborative prompts. The study underscores the importance of guided onboarding, prompt scaffolding, and transparent data practices in designing AI systems for older users. These findings contribute to growing efforts in inclusive AI design and highlight the role of conversational AI in supporting older adults' autonomy and creativity.

Olson, Madison. "Leaving a Mark: Archival Best Practices in Dystopian Literature." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Cal Lee.

This study is a content analysis to understand how archival best practices appear in dystopian literature. The goal of this paper is to use examples of archival practices in dystopian literature to better understand how people have interacted with archives in the past and may interact with them in the future. This work was done by analyzing the text of four dystopian novels and comparing how they describe archival practices. Those novels were George Orwell's *1984*, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel, and *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. Looking at how they describe archival activities and showcase their interactions compared to best practices outlined in traditional archival publications. I identified five common themes. They related to collections, teaching, preservation, the right to be forgotten, and the tension of involvement. This study builds on and provides a groundwork for studying archival practices in non-traditional settings.

Pearce, Christian. "Indigenous Representations and Perceptions in Cookbooks: A Case Study of Wilson Library's North Carolina Collection." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Megan Winget.

This thesis is an examination of the representation and perceptions of Indigenous peoples in cookbooks, using Wilson Library's North Carolina Collection as a case study, tracing how these portrayals have evolved over time. Using a mixed-methods content analysis approach, this study identifies recurring themes in Indigenous food and folk medicine representation,

exploring how historical misinformation, cultural appropriation, and shifts in culinary narratives have influenced public perceptions of Indigenous cuisine and culture. By focusing on cookbooks as cultural artifacts, this research highlights how these texts document and transmit Indigenous culinary and cultural knowledge, while also reflecting broader socio-political trends in North Carolina's historical and contemporary context. This analysis aims to provide insights into the preservation of Indigenous culinary heritage, especially in local contexts, the challenges posed by cultural appropriation, and the significance of food sovereignty in Indigenous communities.

Perleberg, Ellen. "Making the Model Body: Disability, War, and the Technopolitics of Repair." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, May, 2025. Advisor: Marijel Melo.

This paper presents a comparative discourse analysis of prosthetic technology between humanitarian organizations operating in contemporary Middle Eastern conflict zones and the American tech industry. It analyzes who is presented as deserving as well as successful recipients of prosthetics and the broader narratives of disability and technology constructed through these bodies. For humanitarian organizations, prosthetics exist as one piece of a continuum of rehabilitative care interrupted by destruction of healthcare systems. American technojournalism often focuses on human enhancement through aesthetic prosthetics and prosthetics that could improve athletic or combat performance. The imagined prosthetic futures of the tech industry contrast with the present realities and ongoing embodied trauma of those living with prosthetics in conflict zones.

Radtke, Ashley. "An Assessment of North Carolina Public Libraries' ILL Borrowing From The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's University Libraries." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Renee Bosman.

Through existing data collection and a survey distributed to North Carolina public libraries (NCPLs), this study aims to uncover the barriers for North Carolina public libraries' Interlibrary Loan with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Existing data collection will reveal how much material, what format, and what type NCPLs are requesting, and how much is being delivered to them. The

survey questions, informed by the articles mentioned in the literature review, inquire as to the status of ILL within the respondent's NCPL, how they currently support patrons pursuing self-guided education, and how they foresee the future of ILL at their location. This information culminates to give the University Libraries a fuller picture of the barriers in NCPL ILL and ideas/methods on how to assist NCPLs.

Richard, Colton K.. "Linked Literary Data: Evaluating Narrative Ontologies for Distant Reading." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Ryan Shaw.

The intersection of distant reading and linked data has emerged as a promising area of digital humanities, offering novel ways to describe, model, and analyze literary texts. For distant reading through linked data to be more widely adopted, however, there is a need for better understanding of the suitability of existing semantic frameworks (ontologies) for creating linked data for distant reading. Using a case study of modeling character relationships in *Hamlet*, this study presents a task-based evaluation of the Wikidata and Drammar ontologies for the purposes of analyzing literary narratives through character networks.

Roberts, Madeleine. "News Academic Libraries Can Use: A Content Analysis of Student Newspapers' Coverage of University Libraries." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Melanie Feinberg.

The purpose of this master's paper is to gain an understanding of how students newspapers cover the academic libraries on their campuses. Specifically, this study analyzes three student newspapers' coverage of their institution's academic libraries from the previous full academic year (August 2023 through July 2024) for sentiment: positive, negative, neutral, or mixed (both positive and negative). The content analysis investigates how many articles of different sentiments appear for each university, what common words, phrases, or themes (if any) appear among articles of the same sentiment, whether there are similarities between articles of the same sentiment at the student newspapers for different institutions, and more. The analysis found that there are not many similarities among articles of the same sentiment, but some common themes still emerged, including the importance of openness and accessibility in libraries

and library programming being regarded positively. Note that only articles which substantively mention the academic libraries at the three institutions are included in the analysis. This content analysis begins to fill a gap in the literature about how (with what tone) academic libraries are covered by their respective student newspapers, and how that might impact university libraries' promotion of their services to students and students' perceptions of university libraries.

Samuel Carter Franklin. "Something's Wrong in Some of Those Neat, Little Houses': How Narrative and Stylistic Elements Communicate Theme in Alan J. Pakula's Paranoia Trilogy." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Brian Sturm.

Alan J. Pakula's *Paranoia Trilogy* consists of three films released in the 1970s: *Klute* (1971), *The Parallax View* (1974), and *All the President's Men* (1976). The films have traditionally been considered as a trilogy despite not depicting a continual story with the same characters over three films. Instead, the films are grouped together because they are the product of the same director and share similar themes of societal fears including fear of the unknown, fear of corporations and government, and fear of surveillance encroaching on previously private spaces. The purpose of this study is to analyze the narrative method over the three films to see how the films communicate these fears and anxieties to audience members through narrative and stylistic techniques. The findings show that the films use narrative gaps, making familiar spaces strange, and various stylistic techniques including cinematography, editing and sound design to create a mood of fear and anxiety.

Sansom, Jaycee. "Using AI Literacy and Visual Literacy to Identify Synthetic Media." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2025. Advisor: William Payne.

With the rise of synthetic media online, it is becoming increasingly important to understand how educators should teach AI identification. This study aims to identify how AI and visual literacy can influence AI identification and see if these literacies should be included as frameworks for teaching AI identification. Through interviewing six university students with either AI literacy or AI and visual literacies, we assessed how accurate they were, what strategies

they used, and how confident they were in decision-making when judging real and AI-generated images of human faces. I found that these students had a high average accuracy compared to other studies and utilized strategies that relied on their previous experience to aid their decision-making process. As for confidence, students with only AI literacy were much less confident than those with both literacies, but this could be attributed to a lesser experience with visual media.

Smith, Hattie. "The Lonely Librarian: Depictions of Librarians in Modern Romance Novels, 2020-2024." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Casey Rawson.

This study is a content analysis of depictions of librarians in romance novels published from the year 2020 to 2024. The study examines stereotypes in the portrayals of librarians in these novels as identified in previous literature. The last identifiable study of a similar nature was published in 1996 and examined portrayals of librarians in romance novels from 1980 to 1995. The goal of this thesis is to fill a gap in the literature pertaining to modern romance within the last five years. Additionally, the paper compares earlier stereotypes, how portrayals of librarians have evolved over time, and the attempts to identify any differences between depictions of male and female librarians within the sampled literature.

Thomas, Courtney. "Counter-Tours at U.S. Universities: Strategies, Techniques, and the Collective Remembrance Landscape." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Ryan Shaw.

This study investigates the questions: How do counter-tours of US universities function as documents of collective remembrance? And, What features, strategies, techniques, and technological affordances do digitized counter-tours employ, and how do these elements support the tours' constructions of history and communication of truth claims? Challenging accepted narratives and activating in the ritual of campus tours, counter-tours of US universities intersect universities' research mission and institutional power, offering a potentially radical form for collective remembrance. Through qualitative analysis of three case studies, of counter tours at UT Austin, Penn, and Rutgers, each of which uses a different

digital interface, the study reveals how counter tours are shaped by different modes of mediation. The counter tours examined employ a broad range of rhetorical and public history techniques, including critical fabulation, attempts at place-based pedagogy, oral history, AR interventions, physical signage, and more.

Veeneman, Madison. "Learning from Student Perspectives on AI: Considerations for AI Literacy Instruction." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Casey Rawson.

As generative AI tools have rapidly developed and been made publicly available over the past two years, a growing body of literature is exploring how to define and teach AI literacy, as well as how students view and use generative AI. This study builds on this work and explores students' use, perception, and evaluation of generative AI tools via focus groups with undergraduates from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The data was coded and analyzed thematically, and the findings extend our understanding of student perspectives on generative AI. The results are assessed against a definition of AI literacy, and suggestions for future directions in library instruction on critical AI literacy are offered.

Webb, Davia. "Artificial Intelligence in the Archive: A Case Study on Transkribus in The Hayes Collection Enslavement Era Records." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Rob Capra.

Accessibility of enslavement era records is an ongoing effort that has many challenges. With the majority of records being entirely handwritten, the searchability of enslavement era records require time consuming and laborious work. Uncovering the lives and narratives of enslaved people that were historically hidden in the archival record is a necessary step in improving access for researchers, genealogists, and other collection users. This study aims to explore the use of Transkribus, a handwritten text recognition software, in identifying records of enslavement, using documents from the Hayes Collection at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Willson Special Collections Library.

Werner, David Isaacson. "Authentic Autistic Authorship: The Role of Autistic-Authored Young

Adult Fiction in Autistic Identity Formation." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Sandra Hughes-Hassell.

The teenage years of an individual's life are a vital time for the formation and acceptance of identity. While teens today have many resources to consult when developing their own sense of identity—not the least including the internet—books remain a valuable resource. In this study, I examine eight different young adult fiction novels, written by autistic authors and featuring autistic protagonists, for the purpose of examining what messages an autistic reader might see and absorb about their own still-forming sense of identity.

Zehmer, Madison. "Planning and Pivoting on the Appalachian Trail: Real-Time Information Gathering, Assessment, and Sharing Strategies of Appalachian Trail Thru-Hikers." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Library Science, May, 2025. Advisor: Joseph Winberry.

Thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail is a significant endeavor that requires notable preparation and planning by the hiker before they begin the trail. Additionally, given the variety of environmental, social, physical, and mental circumstances that thru-hikers encounter, they must be able to acquire and apply real-time information to adjust their plans to account for emerging, changing, and potentially difficult situations. Through thematic analysis of data collected from semi-structured interviews with seven adults who have successfully completed a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail, this study demonstrates that real-time information gathering, assessment, and sharing practices on the Appalachian Trail are inherently dynamic and social practices. Additionally, it illustrates that planning and preparation continue as active practices while on trail. This research influences the understanding of information behavior of hikers of long-distance trails such as the Appalachian Trail and may assist aspiring thru-hikers of long-distance trails prepare for thru-hikes.

Zhang, Shufeng. "Exploring and Analyzing Multimodal Emotion Analysis Tasks Under Different Modal Fusion Methods." A Master's Paper for the Master of Science in Information Science, April, 2025. Advisor: Yue Wang.

The objective of this paper is to investigate the effectiveness of different modality fusion methods

on multimodal sentiment analysis. Specifically, the task is based on image-text sentiment analysis using the Multi-View Sentiment Analysis (MVSA) Twitter dataset. In this paper, pre-trained BERT and ResNet-50 are used as feature extractors for text and images, respectively. The author constructed different feature fusion models based on different feature fusion methods. The different models were compared and analyzed for accuracy, F1-score, and confusion

matrix of the sentiment analysis task. At the same time, ablation experiments were conducted to prove the effectiveness of modality fusion, and some typical errors that occurred during the experiment and their causes were analyzed. Finally, the effect of training data size was studied. This paper contributed ideas and references for researchers in the field of multimodal feature fusion.



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