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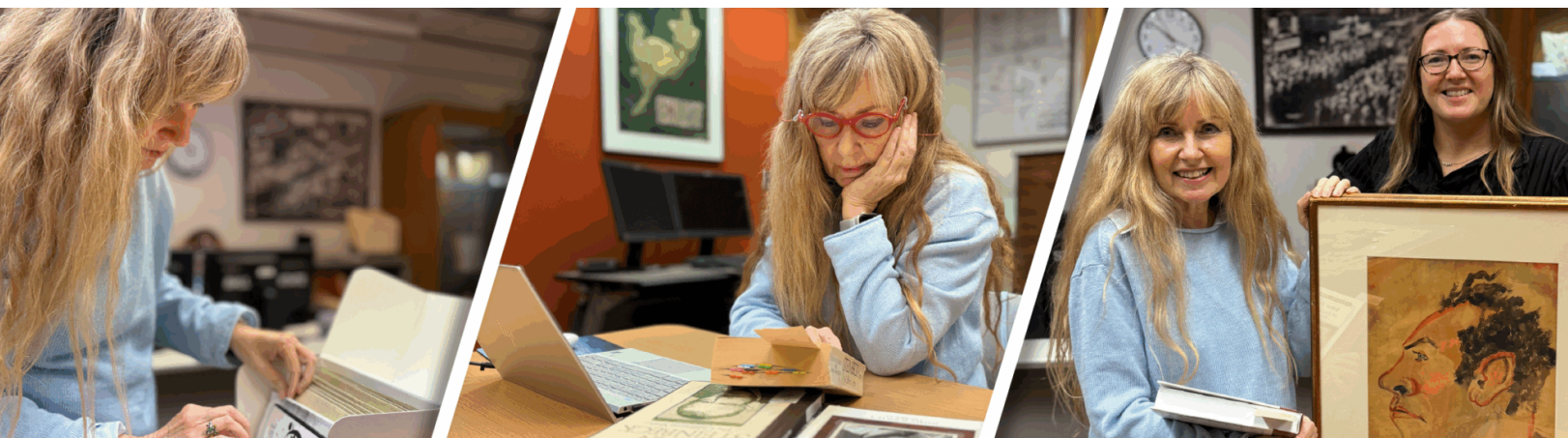
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Researcher María Gracia Torres Díaz Visits Ball State To Research Extensive Collection of Steinbeck Materials

Archives and Special Collections recently hosted Professor María Gracia Torres Díaz, the latest winner of the John Ditsky Memorial John Steinbeck Scholarship, this June. Ms. Díaz visited us from the University of Málaga, Spain, where she is a Professor in the Department of Translation and Interpretation. While she was in residence for five weeks in May-June, María researched our extensive collection of Steinbeck materials, with a focus on his World War II period, assisted by archivist Lindsey Vesperry, and graduate assistant Samantha Politinsky. Her research proposal was titled ***Exploring John Steinbeck's Cross-Cultural Communication Challenges as a Journalist and its Implications for Contemporary Interpreters***.

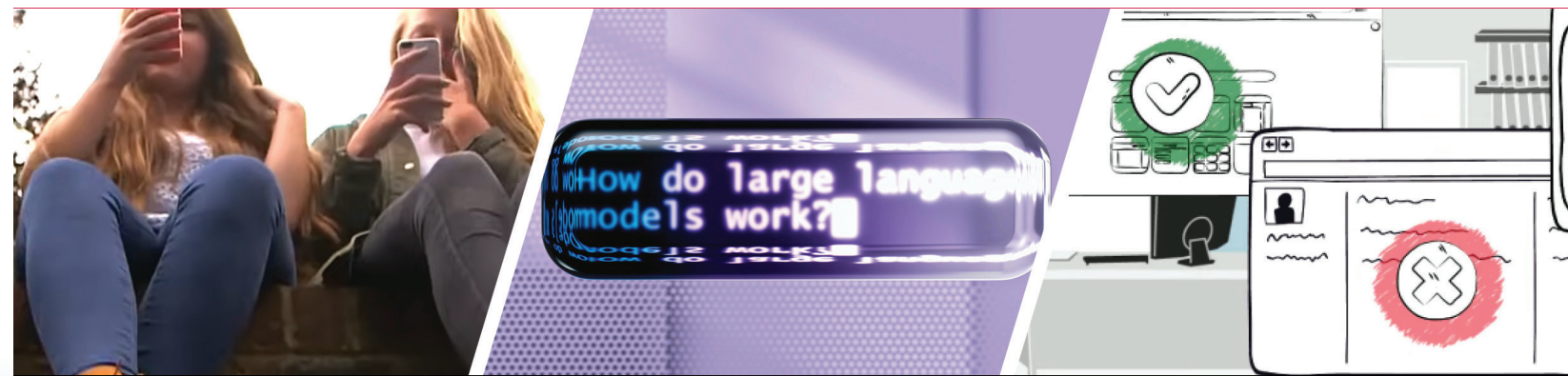
Her research at Ball State focused on material from when John Steinbeck was a correspondent during the Nuremberg Trials. The trials were one of the first times in history that "simultaneous interpretation" was used; communicating between different nationalities in different languages at the same time.

We're happy to say that she found something hidden here in the Steinbeck Collection which will definitively reimagine his legacy. Her full findings will be published in the near future.



FRIENDS OF THE ALEXANDER M. BRACKEN LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER 2025



UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES BOLSTERS A.I. COMPREHENSION

Artificial intelligence is a powerful tool. A tool that's transforming how we access, create, and share information. But using AI effectively requires critical thinking, curiosity, and a solid understanding of how it works. Do you have what it takes to use AI well?

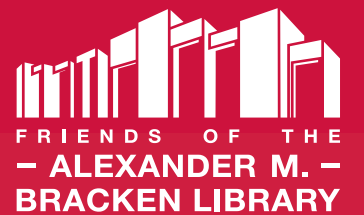
Ball State University Libraries has created a guide on AI to help you build those skills. Through five short, engaging videos, you'll explore how to evaluate the accuracy and credibility of AI-generated content, an essential part of becoming an informed and responsible AI user.

Discover how to identify AI hallucinations, or instances where AI tools generate content that may be incorrect, misleading, or simply nonsensical. You'll also learn about bias in generative AI, especially in image generation, and how societal stereotypes can influence outputs.

You'll also learn about lateral reading, a research technique that encourages looking beyond the original source to evaluate the accuracy and reliability of information.

Whether you're a student, researcher, or simply curious about AI, this guide will help you sharpen your skills and become a more confident AI user.

Find the link to the guide and more on the University Libraries blog at blogs.bsu.edu/libraries



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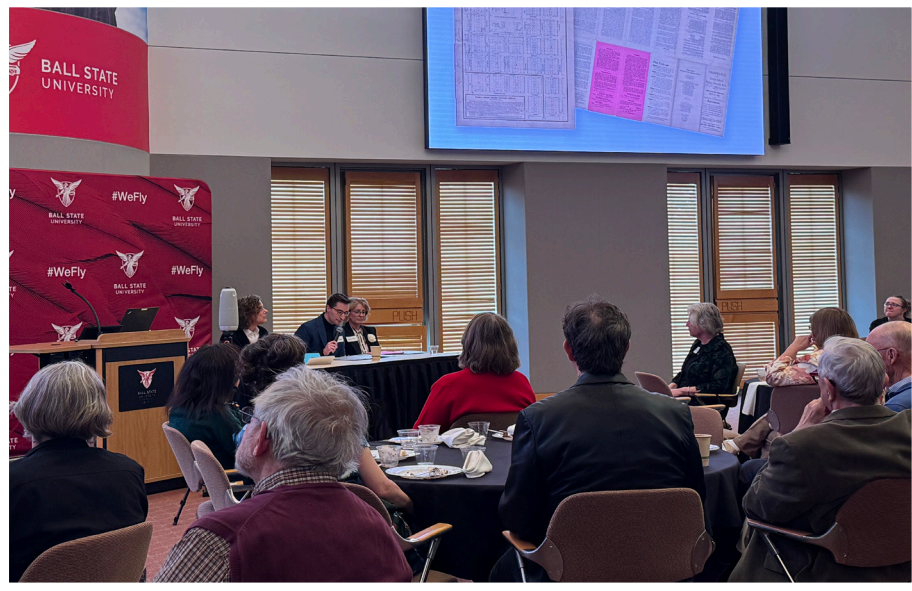
Annual Friends Dinner and Kirkham Lecture

Highlights Women's Hidden Histories at Ball State University

On April 16, 2025, the Friends of the Alexander M. Bracken Library gathered for the Annual Dinner and Kirkham Lecture. The evening began with a lively cocktail hour, where guests explored exhibits showcasing recent initiatives across University Libraries. Highlights included demonstrations of how artificial intelligence is being used to enhance archival video footage, as well as examples of how the Office of Digital Scholarship is empowering students to publish and share their academic work.

The featured program, Hidden History: Women's Stories and the Built Environment at Ball State University, brought together three engaging speakers: Melissa Gentry, Map Collections Supervisor; Leo Gillis, Director of Archives and Special Collections; and Cody Sprunger, Archivist for Architectural and Design Records. Together, they shed light on the often-overlooked contributions of women whose work and presence have shaped Ball State's campus and community.

We extend sincere thanks to all who joined this memorable evening of scholarship and celebration. Please watch for your invitation to the 2026 Annual Dinner and Kirkham Lecture, to be held in April.



CELEBRATING BRACKEN LIBRARY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

with Community Events and Crowdfunding

This year marks a historic milestone as the Alexander M. Bracken Library celebrates its 50th anniversary. To honor this occasion, University Libraries invites you to a series of special community programs throughout the year.

Join us for events such as "Civil War and the Bracken Family", "A History of Shopping in Muncie", "Notable: Muncie African American Women's History", and more!

You can find the complete list of events by visiting our website at bsu.edu/libraries



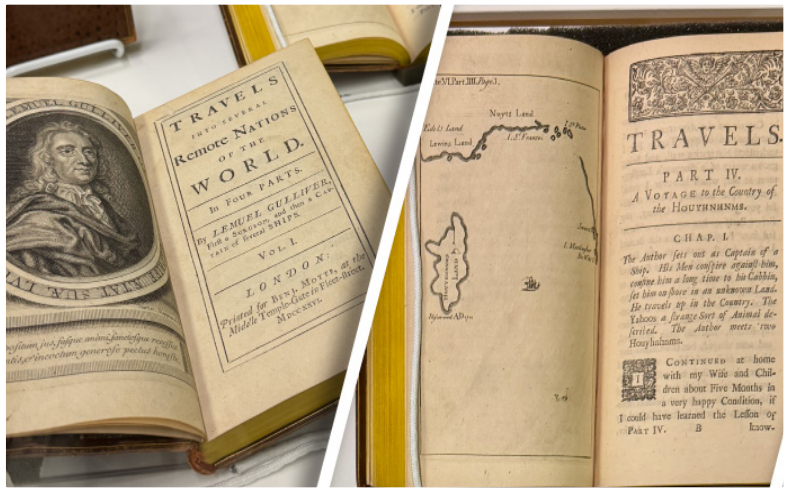
Scan the QR code to visit the 50th anniversary crowdfunding page.

Tiny Case Exhibits in Archives and Special Collections

The Tiny Case Exhibit is a new rotating exhibit available for viewing in the Archives and Special Collections reading room. Every month or two there will be a few new items to see in a small display case at the front desk in the Archives (Bracken Library, room 210). This is an opportunity for the Archives to display items that may not fit into one of our larger exhibits, items that pertain to a certain time of the year, or just items that members of our staff find interesting.

The first item displayed in the Tiny Case is our multi-volume first edition copy of *Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World* by Jonathan Swift, or more commonly known as *Gulliver's Travels*. *Gulliver's Travels* was first published in 1726 under the pseudonym "Lemuel Gulliver," who was also the main character of the novel. In the novel, Gulliver travels to several islands full of fantastical creatures such as horses with human-level intelligence (Houyhnhnms) and people who are 6 inches tall (Lilliputians). The novel satirized the political atmosphere of the time as well as the popular travelogue genre. The first edition, first printing of the novel was released in October of 1726, but sold out within three weeks. A second printing of the first edition was then made in November, which included the volumes now displayed in the Archives.

In the future, the Tiny Case exhibit will display items relating to seasons, holidays, commemorative months, and more. Starting in late August or early September, the Tiny Case Exhibit will switch its theme to display items in honor of Bracken Library's 50th birthday. So, make sure to stop by the Archives next month to see what is displayed!



A New Chapter in Scholarly Publishing: Ball State University Libraries Signs Transformative Agreement with Cambridge University Press

We are proud to announce a new transformative agreement with Cambridge University Press, a global leader in academic publishing. This partnership marks a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to support open access, empower Ball State scholars, and expand the reach and impact of their research.

A transformative agreement is a progressive publishing model that shifts traditional subscription-based access toward open access (OA) publishing. Instead of paying separately for access to journals and for researchers to publish their work openly, these agreements integrate both functions into one comprehensive contract. The result? More open scholarship, less administrative burden, and increased visibility of university research.

Through this new agreement, **Ball State-affiliated authors can now publish their articles open access in over 437 peer-reviewed Cambridge University Press journals—without paying individual Article Processing Charges (APCs).** At the same time, our students, faculty, and staff will retain full access to Cambridge's robust library of scholarly journal content.

Read more about these articles and others on the University Libraries blog at blogs.bsu.edu/libraries