

UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAIR AWARD PACKET
May 2024

BORIS TESKE

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS LIAISON LIBRARIAN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR (tenured 2009)
PRESCOTT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

It is a privilege for a librarian to be eligible for this award. I am grateful to my colleagues for the honor of their nomination.

THE COLLEGE LIAISON LIBRARIAN AND THE UNIVERSITY'S MISSION

The Library, along with other academic support services, adheres to the University's commitment "to quality in teaching, research, creative activity and scholarship, public service, and workforce/economic development"; and it is dedicated to the University's highest priority: to educate and develop its students. (Louisiana Tech Mission Statement). The college liaison librarian is vital to this purpose. In compliance with *The Principles of Accreditation* of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, "the institution provides adequate and appropriate library and learning/information resources, services, and support for its mission" (Section 11.1). In communication and collaboration with a college's deans, school directors, department heads and other faculty, the liaison librarian selects, or de-selects, physical materials and digital media in response to curricular needs and within budgetary limits. Students and faculty are also assured of access to "regular and timely instruction" by librarians "in the use of the library and other learning/information resources" (Section 11.3). A college liaison librarian likewise upholds the University's strategic priorities to "cultivate faculty research and innovation" and to "inspire student research and creative activity" under Theme 2 of its strategic planning framework Tech 2030.

As an academic librarian, namely the College of Liberal Arts Liaison Librarian, I am a member of the academic community whose office happens to be in the Library and who, though not a course instructor, nonetheless shares the University's commitment to research, teaching, and learning.

I have participated in the curriculum development process to the extent that I have served on the Graduate Council for all but one and a half of the past seventeen years and on the Instructional Policies Committee since 2019 except for the seven months between September 2022 and March 2023.

It is in part due to my efforts that the University uses the Digital Commons platform as its institutional repository for providing open access globally to a wide variety of digital content, including electronic theses and dissertations. I was the University's leading advocate for Digital Commons and the main contact with its publisher Bepress upon the retirement of Dean of Libraries Michael DiCarlo in 2013. I was a member of the Graduate Council subcommittees in 2012 and 2015 charged with considering the Graduate School's transition to ETDs, and consultant to Dean of the Graduate School Dr. Ramachandran who, in March 2018, brought Bepress representatives to campus, rallied faculty interest across the colleges, and secured funding for the subscription and management of the IR by the Office of University Communications. Since last November, Tech's Digital Commons IR has been under the charge of Library staff member Ben Quinnelly, on whose search committee I served. Graduate students are no longer required to produce and submit physical copies of their theses and dissertations to the Library.

A stakeholder in re-accreditation reviews, I have contributed to program reports and met with reviewers over the years, most recently on behalf of Professional Aviation (AABI) in 2018, Music (NASM) in 2018, and Art (NASAD) in 2023.

Engaged in the Library's self-assessment, I have taken part in its strategic planning process and institutional effectiveness audits as a member of their two respective working groups. For the past decade, I have designed and distributed the Library's annual survey, analyzed and reported results, using Qualtrics since 2022.

The Library's acting Webmaster since 2012, I have overseen redesigns and maintenance of the Library's pages within the University's Web site through the migrations to OmniUpdate and to Divi Builder.

TEACHING

A practicing researcher with experience as a graduate teaching assistant and, for more than three decades since then, a provider of library instruction at four universities, I devote myself to serving the students and faculty at Louisiana Tech as a guest lecturer and research consultant.

I have delivered dozens of sessions of library instruction each year (regrettably fewer since the Pandemic), tailored to the research assignment(s) of each course at the request of its instructor and conducted either in-person or via Zoom. Courses have ranged from Freshman Composition to graduate seminars, including ENGL 101, ENGL 102, and ENGL 303, HIST 300 and HIST 490, as well as BISC 214 and meetings with graduate students in Nutrition & Dietetics in the College of Applied & Natural Sciences (which has not had its own liaison librarian for many years). In dozens of sections of FYE 100 each fall, I have oriented hundreds of freshmen to the Library's physical and digital collections and services with tours of the building and Web demonstrations in the Library's electronic classroom. At the invitation of the Graduate School, I have also participated in workshops to assist candidates for advanced degrees with their thesis and dissertation research.

RESEARCH

As a scholar librarian with an M.A. in History as well as an M.S. in Library Science (both from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill), I have balanced my research efforts between original historical scholarship, chiefly based on eighteenth-century French archival manuscripts, and contributions to the professional literature of academic librarianship. Recent work includes:

Article, "Judge Henry Bry, Promoter of Sericulture in Antebellum Louisiana," *North Louisiana History* 54 no. 3-4 (Summer-Fall 2023) 37-60, originally a paper presented at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Historical Association, Hammond LA, March 28, 2014.

Paper, "Orgazine Unrealized: The Red Mulberry, Colonial Louisiana's Silk Hopes and French Sericulture," presented at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Historical Association, Lafayette LA, March 29, 2019.

SERVICE (most recent)

Service to the University

Member, Graduate Council, February 2007-December 2015, September 2017-

Member, Instructional Policies Committee, September 2019-May 2022, April 2023-

Member, University Senate, 2003-2006, 2013-2017, 2019-
Member, Executive Committee, 2013-2017, 2019-

Member, University Library Advisory Committee, 2005- (resumed meeting December 2022-)

Member, QEP Dialogue Team, November 2022

Service to the Library

Member, Search Committee for Administrative Coordinator 4 (Digital Commons manager), October-November 2023

Member, Search Committee for Executive Director of Libraries, July 2021-March 2022

Member, Search Committee for Cataloger / Systems Administrator, August 2018-November 2019

Member, Web Development Committee, July 2003-
Acting Webmaster, August 2012-