

NEUMANN NEWS

Highlighting Scholarly Information Services & Resources for the UHCL Community

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome, Chloris!



I am delighted to announce that Chloris Yue has accepted the position of Associate Director, Library Public Services, as of April 16, 2015. She follows in the footsteps of Martha Steele who recently retired after almost 14 years with Neumann Library.

Chloris previously was Coordinator of Library Research Services. In her new position she will oversee Research Services, Library Instructional Services, Circulation Services, Collection Development, the Interlibrary Loan department, and the Pearland Campus Library. We know that her commitment to outstanding customer service will shine on all aspects of Neumann Library and prove a great asset to the university community we serve. Please help us welcome Chloris in her new role!

Karen Wielhorski

Alfred R. Neumann Library
University of Houston-Clear Lake

www.uhcl.edu/library

Altmetrics: New ways to assess scholarship

by Clarke Iakovakis
Research & Instruction Librarian

As the Web has revolutionized information dissemination and the ways in which researchers access and share scholarly information, it has become possible to measure the use and reuse of scholarship in dynamic new ways. Altmetrics are “tools [for] measuring scholarly impact in an online environment” ([Piwowar & Priem](#)).

For example, Impactstory is a nonprofit altmetrics platform where researchers can upload links to their scholarly output and see metrics such as views extracted from publisher websites, scholarly citations, non-scholarly citations (news outlets, blog postings, Wikipedia citations), and discussions (Mendeley readers, CiteULike bookmarks, social media sharing)—see a [sample profile](#). You also can download the [Altmetric bookmarklet](#) and then click on it while on the publisher webpage of any article with a DOI to see similar metrics. *PLoS ONE* from Public Library of Science integrates altmetrics with every published article ([see example](#)). Such metrics can provide dynamic new ways of understanding article usage ([Priem, Piwowar, & Hemminger](#)). As anecdotal evidence ([Terras](#)) and research ([Liang et al.](#)) suggest, blogging, tweeting, and publicly communicating about scholarly work has the potential to increase downloads and impact metrics, so social media usage is not necessarily a hollow statistic. Find more research papers in Mendeley’s [Altmetrics group](#).

Altmetrics can provide information about use of scholarship that is independent from the peer-reviewed journal article. In addition to digital content like websites, maps, or interactive databases, researchers are using platforms such as [figshare](#), [Dryad](#), [RunMyCode](#), [arXiv](#), and

institutional repositories to provide access to their datasets, code, grey literature, and other research outputs. These may be valuable contributions to the discipline but do not yet have a formal system for providing credit to the authors.

Altmetrics also may include assessment of research impact beyond quantification of the usage and citations of research output. Such impacts may include the development of new processes or models in the profession, news reports that influence the public’s understanding

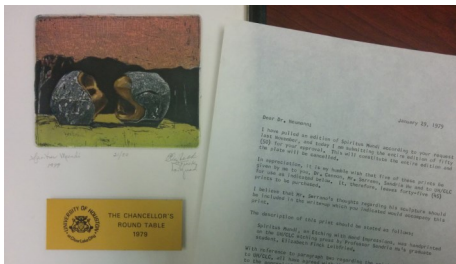
(Continued on page 2)

Martha Steele retires



Associate Director for Library Public Services Martha Steele has retired after more than 13 years of service to the university. Prior to joining UHCL, Martha directed Access Services units for the Anderson Library at University of Houston and served in administrative public services positions for public libraries in Connecticut and Tennessee. We’re so glad that she found her way to Texas and to UH System libraries! She was a superb librarian, and we wish her a happy and rewarding retirement.

A LOOK BACK IN TIME



The UHCL Artifact Collection contains many treasures, including a signed plate of a rendering of Pablo Serrano's *Spiritus Mundi* and an accompanying 1979 letter from artist Elizabeth Finck Strickland. Strickland was a graduate student who studied under Professor Sandra Hu.

Photo: [University Archives](#) collections

ALTMETRICS References

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For more information, see our [Altmetrics](#) research guide.

CSE style online

The library now provides online coverage for the 8th edition of [Scientific Style and Format: The CSE \(Council of Scientific Editors\) Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers](#). The manual includes online tools for manuscript preparation, manuscript and proof markup, sample correspondence, a citation quick guide, and more. It can be found in [Databases A-Z](#) and under the [CSE tab](#) of the library's Citing and Writing Help guide.

Rosana Salinas joins UHCL



Rosana Salinas has joined the Neumann Library professional staff as Electronic Resources Librarian. Rosana came to us with over five years of experience at the University of Texas—Pan American where she worked in reference and instructional services prior to managing serials operations.

Rosana earned a B. A. in Spanish at Texas State University and her M. L. S. from Texas Woman's University. Her subject liaison assignment is [Sociology](#), and she can be reached at extension 3928 or salinasr@uhcl.edu.

Altmetrics, cont.

of a phenomenon, and contributions to the development of public policy, medical treatments, collaborations between the university and the community, and much more. The [Becker model](#) provides an example of a vision for tracking biomedical research outputs and activities beyond publication analysis.

In determining the usage of the products of scholarly research, we are no longer solely dependent upon measurements derived from print distribution and use models. The Thomson Reuters journal impact factor (JIF) can give "an inaccurate view of journal quality" ([Arnold & Fowler](#)) and doesn't measure individual article-level use, nor does Thomson Reuters make available for further analysis the data they collect and use to calculate JIFs. Citation counts can be slow to accumulate, also, and do not necessarily indicate high quality (refuted research still collects citations).

The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) [Alternative Assessment Metrics Initiative](#) is developing definitions, standards, and criteria for alternative assessment of research. We all wish to further scholarship and acknowledge scholars' contributions. Altmetrics rethinks that process, complementing traditional measures and providing more information about the many benefits researchers bring to our community.



FROM THE EDITOR...

Congratulations and best wishes to MS and CY in their new endeavors!

Neumann News, Spring 2015

Editorial Staff:

Susan Steele, Editor
Lauren Meyers
Chloris Yue

Library hours during regular academic session:

Monday—Thursday	8 am—12 midnight
Friday	8 am—5 pm
Saturday	10 am—6 pm
Sunday	1 pm—9 pm

This newsletter is available at www.uhcl.edu/library/NEWS.

Can we be of assistance?

Call the Research Consultation Desk at 281-283-3910, or see additional [Ask a Librarian](#) options.

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