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SEC University Libraries Commit To Enhanced Resource Sharing

To support scholarly research efforts within the Southeastern Conference, library deans from all SEC member universities have committed to sharing in new ways their respective institutional collections with other conference schools, effective immediately.

“Individually, SEC university libraries have strong collections of national distinction with unique strengths and areas of emphasis,” said David Carlson, Dean of University Libraries at Texas A&M University. “As strong as our individual libraries are, however, none of us are as strong as we are together. This SEC library sharing agreement allows the users of the SEC libraries – our faculty, staff and students – to find and use materials as if our libraries



SEC university libraries collectively house 60 million volumes. (pictured: Kentucky's William T. Young Library)

were a single, unified collection.”

During a recent meeting of SEC library deans at the SEC office in Birmingham, Ala., the group discussed ways their universities could collaborate beyond existing practices, such as the Interlibrary Loan Code. As

a result, this agreement gives individuals access to print and digital resources at other conference university libraries upon request, and at no charge. SEC requests will be given priority, and loan periods will match what the lending library allows for its local undergraduate students.

“The library sharing agreement will provide all SEC students and faculty with unprecedented access to the wealth of information available within our 14 research universities,” said SEC Commissioner

Greg Sankey. “It will serve as a bridge between each SEC campus in a unique way, and I commend the deans of our libraries for their commitment to SEC-wide collaboration in this important area.”

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

Fall SEC College Tour To Visit Pittsburgh, Two Stops in Ohio



SEC College Tour attendees take part in the SEC roll call.

The 2016 Fall SEC College Tour will make stops in Pittsburgh, Cleveland and at the National Association for College Admission Counseling’s (NACAC) national conference in Co-

lumbus, Sept. 19-24.

The fall activity provides SEC admissions representatives the opportunity to showcase their respective universities in a region outside of the Conference’s geographic borders to guidance counselors.

The fall tour will start with a guidance counselor breakfast on Sept. 19 in Pittsburgh, followed by a similar event the next day in Cleveland. SEC admissions representatives will spend the rest of the trip promoting their institutions, as well as the SECU academic initiative, during the NACAC National Conference in Columbus. [Click here to read the full story.](#)

Texas A&M, Vanderbilt Faculty Work To Preserve Piece of Middle Eastern Culture

Throughout the course of history, civilizations have sometimes fallen when faced with political or religious opposition, or due to internal divisions. When the population of the people within those civilizations starts to dwindle, so does the culture, traditions and language they have possessed for generations. But faculty from two SEC universities are working to prevent that from happening to one Middle Eastern culture that dates back more than 1,500 years.

Dr. David Michelson from Vanderbilt University and Dr. Daniel Schwartz from Texas A&M University recently participated in the SEC Faculty Travel Program to work on a grant application for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The project, which later received funding from the NEH, called for support of a digital hu-



The south facade of the Church of Saint Simeon Stylites in Syria.

manities collection of Syriac literature.

According to Dr. Michelson, Syriac is one of many minority cultures in the Middle East that has a long and rich history. But due to their status as a minority culture in the region, they aren’t well-known in the Western world. The professors want to harness digital tools to reproduce Syriac documents that are currently available, and ones yet to be discovered, in an innovative way. [Click here to read the full story.](#)