

FALL 2024, ISSUE 1



# MERIAM MEGAPHONE

a newsletter from the Meriam Library at California State University, Chico

## ELECTION 2024

Do you need info on the upcoming election? Need to register to vote? Want to check your voter status?

Drop in to **Civic Engagement!**

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**  
**10 AM - 1 PM**  
**MLIB 121**

*grab a cool*

*voting sticker @*

*circulation*

## WILDCAT FAMILY-FRIENDLY

# Study Space

**NOW OPEN ON THE 4TH FLOOR NEAR OUR JUVENILE COLLECTION!**

**THIS IS US**

➔ **LIBRARY INFO!**



## AN INDEPENDENT MIND

“Like it or not, we live in interesting times.” Robert Kennedy said these words at the University of Cape Town, South Africa back in 1966. Certainly interesting times then and interesting times now.

Today, technology has made instant access to news and popular opinion as easy as flipping a light switch; but the barrage of instant information from across the globe can both illuminate and obscure. In an era where misinformation and sensationalism are rampant, the need to assess credibility, check facts, and avoid emotional manipulation are tantamount in making sense of the world. By questioning assumptions and seeking out multiple perspectives, individuals can form well-rounded, informed opinions based on accurate information.

One way to do this is to read a variety of news sources available through Meriam Library.

Reading a diverse range of newspapers can be transformative. News articles illustrate the theories and concepts learned in class, bridging the gap between textbook learning and real-world events. Exposure to various viewpoints allows for critical evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of different arguments, creating balanced and informed opinions. Critical thinking isn't just about gathering information; it's about questioning it, understanding its context, and assessing its veracity.

Meriam Library offers access to a multitude of both local and international newspapers. Critiquing events and positions through a global perspective deepens the understanding of world issues, presenting information from diverse perspectives—a process that is crucial in today's interconnected world.

Here's how you can get started:

### Explore the Library's Resources:



Visit the Meriam Library's website or talk to a librarian to discover the range of newspapers they offer, both physically and online. Daily

newspapers are on the 2nd floor near the Copy Center and you can find online newspapers by scanning this QR code.

### Make It a Habit:



Incorporate reading different newspapers into your daily routine. Even browsing headlines and selecting a few articles to read in-depth can be beneficial. See current hot topics from news sources on the Meriam Library Newspaper Page.

**Discuss What You Read:** Engage with peers or professors about articles that strike you. Discussion can open new viewpoints and insights that you might not have considered on your own.

### Critically Evaluate Sources:



Always consider the source of the information. Who is the publisher? What might be their bias? How do other sources report the same event or issue?

By regularly reading various newspapers available at the library, you can significantly sharpen your critical thinking skills. This practice will not only aid you in your academic endeavors but also prepare you for the complex and contradictory world beyond Chico State.

**NAT'L VOTER REGISTRATION DAY IS 9/17/24 | STOP BY CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ON THE 1ST FLOOR!**



# LIBRARY HOURS

August 26 - November 22

**Sunday**

Noon - 9:45 pm;

Grove Study Space 9:45-11:45 pm

**Monday - Thursday**

7:30am - 9:45 pm;

Grove Study Space 9:45-11:45 pm

**Friday** 7:30am - 5:45 pm

**Saturday** Noon - 4:45 pm

# the pod!

**ALL NEW!**

**PODCASTING STUDIO  
MLIB 227**

EQUIPPED WITH AN ARRAY OF AUDIO RECORDING EQUIPMENT AND NOISE-REDUCING PANELS, MERIAM LIBRARY'S NEW PODCAST STUDIO OFFERS A PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL YOUR PODCASTING NEEDS. WHETHER YOU'RE AN ASPIRING PODCASTER OR A SEASONED PRO, OUR NEW SPACE IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOUR CREATIVE PROJECTS. RESERVE YOUR TIME SLOT TODAY AND TAKE YOUR PODCAST TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

## MAKERSPACE

- 3D PRINTING
- 3D SCANNERS
- VINYL CUTTER
- BUTTON MAKER
- CREATIVE PEN DISPLAY
- HIGH-POWERED COMPUTING
- SOLIDWORKS
- PROTOOLS
- LOGICPRO
- AUTO CAD

THE LIST GOES ON



**MAKE COOL THINGS!**

# TECH LENDING

- Laptops •
  - GoPro Cameras •
  - DSLR Cameras •
  - Art Tablets •
  - Webcams •
  - Graphing Calculators •
  - Chargers & Adapters •
  - C Pen Readers •
  - AV Adapters & Cables •
- and more!*



## STAFF PICK BRAND NEW

## -P-O-R-T-A-B-L-E- MONITORS

**Workspace on the go!**  
These sleek and lightweight monitors are easy to use and connect via a single USB-C cable to your computer. Available in 15" touch screen or 16" standard monitor.

**INNOVATION LAB**

**2ND FLOOR**

GET HELP AND "ASK A LIBRARIAN" ON THE 2ND FLOOR



# THE DEBATE OVER BOOK BANS

The American Library Association (ALA) has reported that 4,240 unique book titles were targeted for censorship in school and public libraries in 2023, a 65 percent increase over the prior year. For public libraries alone, the percentage increase over 2022 was an incredible 92 percent. Proponents of book bans argue some books are just not appropriate for all ages while opponents fear an escalating erosion of educational diversity.

The attempt to ban books in America is nothing new. Ovid's *Ulysses*, Shakespeare's *Richard II*, and Martin Luther's German translation of the Bible have all come under literal fire. The first nationwide ban of a book in the United States was Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a book barred by the Confederacy for its pro-abolitionist agenda and innate ability to spark heated debates about slavery.

According to a "heat map" published by the ALA, the country's book-banning hot spots are Florida and Texas. Florida made 33 attempts to ban 2,672 unique book titles; Texas tried 49 times to censor 1,470 titles. Conservative groups in California filed 52 attempts to ban 98 titles until Gov. Newsom signed AB 1078 in September of 2023 that "bans" book bans in schools and prohibits censorship of instructional materials. Vermont was the

only state that had zero attempts at book censorship.

The focus of these bans predominantly involves books representing LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC voices, comprising 47 percent of the challenged materials. Organizations like PEN America have also reported a significant increase in book bans, particularly in the school year of 2023-2024, documenting more than 4,000 instances in just the first half of the school year. The focus of these bans has increasingly been on books discussing sensitive topics such as race, sexual violence, and LGBTQ+ identities, reflecting broader societal conflicts over these issues.

On the other side, proponents of book bans argue that some books contain content not suitable

for all ages, particularly in school settings, says NPR affiliate WUSF. They advocate for parental and community involvement in the educational materials accessible to children, emphasizing the protection of students from explicit or inappropriate content. This viewpoint stresses the importance of community standards in shaping school libraries and curricula.

In states like Florida, legislation has been introduced to allow greater parental oversight regarding the educational resources used in schools. Advocates of these measures argue that they are safeguarding educational environments by ensuring content is appropriate for school-aged children.

Ultimately, book bans and their impact on the meaning of free speech reflect deeper societal divisions over cultural and educational values. Proponents of book bans argue for protective measures in educational content, while opponents see these actions as threats to intellectual freedom and educational diversity.

As this issue evolves, it remains a significant flashpoint in discussions about the role of education in shaping societal values and individual rights in the United States.



**NATIONAL  
BOOK BAN WEEK  
SEPTEMBER 22-28**

Want to learn more? Source information for this article can be found at <https://libguides.csuchico.edu/banned-books>.

**MERIAM MUSING.** The term "woke" originated in African American Vernacular English (AAVE) and initially meant being alert to racial prejudice and social injustice. Its earliest recorded use was by blues singer Lead Belly in his 1938 song, "The Scottsboro Boys," where he urged listeners to "stay woke" in the face of racial discrimination. Over time, "woke" evolved to encompass broader awareness of social inequalities, but it has been co-opted and politicized in recent years. Initially adopted by white liberals and then used pejoratively by conservatives, the term has sparked debates, especially within political contexts. Despite its politicization, "woke" remains a significant cultural term with deep historical roots in African American experiences.

WHEN YOU'RE OVER NOISE, VISIT OUR QUIET STUDY SPACE ON THE 3RD FLOOR

# MERIAM MORSELS

What's happening at the library!

## IN OUR COLLECTIONS: FRANCES BROWN BOTANICALS

The Frances Brown Botanical Exhibit celebrates the remarkable life and work of Mrs. Frances Brown, a beloved local artist and botanical enthusiast. This exhibit showcases a selection of her watercolor paintings, capturing the beauty of Butte County wildflowers in meticulous detail.

The collection features 31 hand-bound books, each dedicated to a different plant species, with covers bearing the Latin names of the plant families. Inside are detailed descriptions and summaries of each group, reflecting the extensive

research Mrs. Brown conducted over her lifetime. Many illustrations include her handwritten notes, detailing the growth habitats and seasonal patterns of the plants. Some of the books also contain additional insights and findings she recorded throughout her years of study.

Born in April 1874 in Oroville, Mrs. Brown was an active and cherished member of the Butte County community. Her passion for botanical art led her to create a collection of around 500 watercolor paintings.

The Frances Brown Botanical Exhibit will be on display from August 26 through October 31 in the Special Collections Department on the 3rd floor of Meriam Library, where the collection is permanently housed.

Be sure to pick up the cool zine made by student Devan Garofalo when you visit Special Collections!

## COPYRIGHT OF WAY

The Copyright of Way Series is an engaging opportunity to ask questions at drop-in Copyright Cafés or to attend structured sessions on how to use copyrighted materials in your teaching, learning, and daily lives.

### DOCUMENT YOUR FAIR USE ARGUMENT

Wednesday, Oct. 2, 11 am - 1 pm, MLIB 225

After an overview of the copyright law and educational exemptions, attendees can talk through their copyright issues to document their fair-use argument.

### USING IMAGES AND MOVIES

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 11 am - 1 pm, MLIB 225

Do you use movies and other images in your research and work? We bet you do (we're using one right now!) Come review the laws and best practices for using the plethora of popular cultural and academic materials legally and ethically!



### COPYRIGHT CAFÉ

Drop in for conversation and questions about your favorite copyright fair use dilemmas from classes, your creative endeavors, and life generally outside of Chico State. Stay tuned for fun and interactive forays into fair use and how to leverage popular culture icons!

Wednesdays Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, and Dec. 4  
10 am to Noon, Innovation Lab on the 2nd floor

## all in EL CENTRO MLIB 161

### Introduction to Zotero

Tuesday, September 24, 2-3 pm

Learn the basics of Zotero, a free, easy-to-use tool to collect, organize, annotate, cite, and share research. Zotero connects with your web browser to download sources.

Bring your own computer so you can download the tool!

### Advanced Zotero

Tuesday, October 1, 2-3 pm

Now that you've downloaded Zotero and know the basics, let's get you annotating and making notes. Fun!

### Explore AI

Thursday, October 3, 2 pm

Learn to leverage AI to ethically launch your scholarly research to the next level.

### APA Citation Formatting

Tuesday, October 8, 2 pm

What information do I include in a citation? Does the period go before or after the quotation mark? In this workshop attendees will learn to break down APA citations to make it easier to finish that last step before turning in a paper, and have an opportunity to practice writing a citation.

### Introduction to OneSearch

Tuesday, October 22, 3-4 pm

Learn how to use the library catalog to find scholarly articles and journals to improve your papers.

### Advanced Database Searching

Tuesday, October 29, 3-4 pm

Okay! You already know OneSearch. In this librarian-led workshop you will learn some cool tips and tricks for doing research in the subject specific databases.

### Grad Studies Orientation

Thursday, September 12, 4-5 pm

Zoom

Learn what Meriam Library can do for grad students in this online meeting.

Meeting ID: 826 6046 8551

Passcode: Grad

### Formatting and the Digital Life of Your Master's Thesis/Project

Wednesday, October 23, 5:30-6:30 pm  
SSC 466

### Grad Café

Friday, October 18, 9-11 am

Friday, December 13, 9-11 am

Research Commons  
Meriam Library 1st Floor

UNO ... DOS ... TRES ... CUATRO! FAMILY FUN ON THE 4TH FLOOR!