



Building a Graduate Research Exhibits Program in an Academic Library

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Student Research Exhibit Goals

- Challenge students to visually showcase their scholarship in new and experimental ways
- Provide a multidisciplinary platform for deeper learning
- Foster intellectual discourse

(unofficial goals:)

- Develop programming for our Graduate Research Commons
- Raise the Libraries profile on campus as a place for intellectual discourse



Exhibit Award Details

- Students receive \$500 credited to their student account and help with design and installation
- Exhibits visually showcase student's scholarship (academic or creative)
- Exhibit fills 60ft of wall space
- Duration: 1 semester
- Optional public lecture, program, or demonstration



Award Process

- Students apply online during the Spring semester
- Art in the Library Committee Juries submissions
- Exhibits coordinator works with winning student to prepare and schedule the exhibit.
- Public program collaboratively arranged by student, Exhibits coordinator, and Head of Research Services



Download First!

Faculty/Staff and Graduate Student Exhibit Award Proposal

Form Information on the awards can be found here: <https://exhibits.lib.wvu.edu/awards>

This proposal form must *be downloaded first*, completed, including an abbreviated resume and sample images, saved as a PDF and emailed to Sally Brown, Exhibits Coordinator, sally.brown1@mail.wvu.edu.

Deadlines:

Faculty/Staff exhibit award: Dec. 31, 2023 Graduate student award: June 30, 2024

Name:

Title/Department:

Email:

Phone:

Faculty, Staff or Graduate student*?

**Must be current graduate student while exhibit will go on display.*

Title of proposed exhibit:

Describe the scope, content, and purpose of the exhibit, including materials and format (max 200 words):

Describe your workplan and special needs for design, display, delivery, and installation:

List any ideas for associated programs, events or collaborations and potential dates (program might align with start or end of exhibition, or a special "holiday" related to theme):

Available dates of installation and duration (our goal is for the exhibit to be up fall 2024-spring 2025):

Project Development



- Locate Space
- Measure, configure and order hanging system
- Define goals, parameters, timeline
- Call for work, jury, make selection
- Work with student on design, printing, installation
- Plan exhibition talk
- Promote the exhibition

Best Practices

- Submission format: PDF or Google form?
- Short resume
- Ideate images – doesn't have to be finished work
- Clear jurying guidelines for easy, fair assessment
- Consider copyright with images
- Consult with expert librarians and/or advisor on any content/editing questions

Template for jurying Graduate student exhibit awards

Name	Score 1-5
WVU grad student?	
provide a multidisciplinary platform for deeper learning?	
foster intellectual discourse and discussion? Potential collaborations?	
demonstrate the breadth of WVU's creative and innovative <u>activity?</u>	
Quality of output: does the work tell a story, <u>standout</u> on its own?	
Feasibility?	
Total /30	

Costs

Initial:

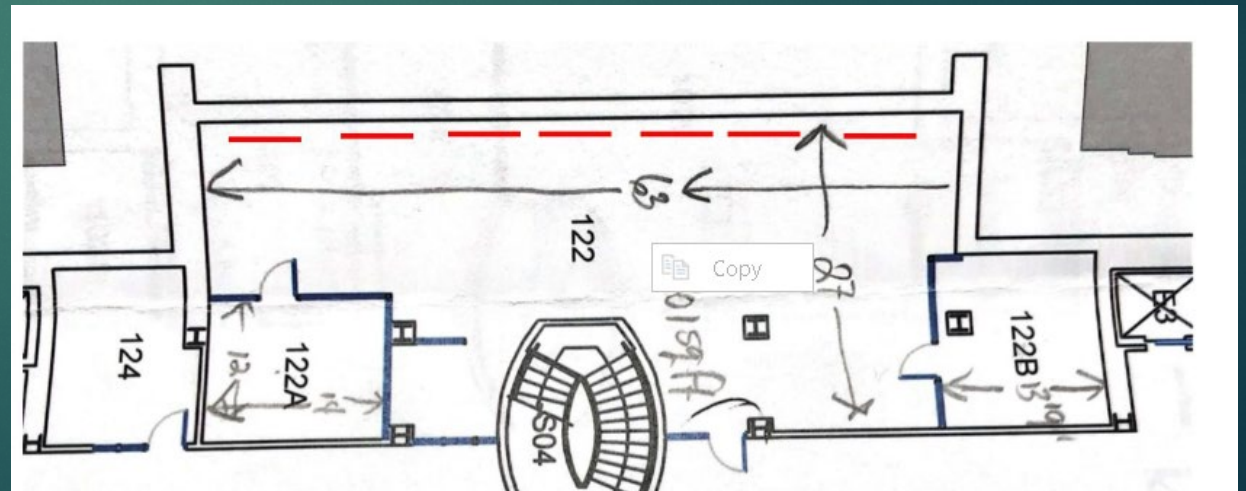
- Hanging system: ~ \$1,000
- Arakawa Hanging Systems (\$650)
- Facilities installation (\$300)

Ongoing:

- Award for student (essential to drive participation): \$500 per year
- Materials and printing: ~ \$200
- Public presentation catering (optional): \$50-\$100

Funding

- Foundation fund earmarked for Library education and programming for graduate students
- Possible sources of funding from campus partners



Possible Partners

- Graduate College, or Office of Graduate Education
- University Office of Research
 - Could be tied to a 3-minute theses competition
- Academic colleges or departments

Promotion

- Partners essential for promotion
- Identify directors of graduate programs, ask them to promote
- Usual channels
 - Paper flyers
 - Social media
 - Newsletters



Share your research!

Submit ideas for an exhibit to showcase your scholarship.

The 2024 Graduate Student Exhibits Award application is now open!
Deadline November 30.

\$500 (and support) to transform your research into a 60ft (18m) display in the Graduate Research Commons space! Plus optional program or lecture.



Scan for more information or visit exhibits.lib.wvu.edu/awards/graduate-student-awards

Graduate Research Commons

 West Virginia University
LIBRARIES

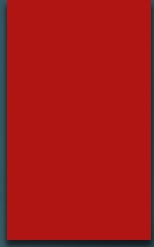
Presentation and reception

- Helps draw administrator and faculty attention to the program
- Student led
- Minimal effort for library staff
- Include in promotion plan
- Small catering order, or snacks and coffee
- Prepare 2 to 3 questions to keep conversation going



Archive plan

- Decide who owns materials, make an up-front agreement with the students
- Document exhibit & presentation
- Decide if the exhibit will be digitized and how
- Decide if the digitized exhibit be included in the Library repository and/or website



Assessment

Goals based

- Qualitative
 - feedback from students, faculty, and visitors
- Quantitative
 - Number of applicants
 - Number of attendees
- Cost /benefit ratio
 - Relatively low cost in time and expense
 - Does the program benefit enough students?
 - Does it promote the Libraries?

"Where Does Your Christ Come From?"

- ▶ Exploring the Prevalence and Significance of the White Jesus Phenomenon Among Black Christian Women and Men
- ▶ Exhibit by Stephanie House-Niamke, WVU Sociology PhD Student (runner-up for first year)



Unboxing the Black Box: The Evolution of Microbial Ecology

► by Chansotheory Dang, 2022 WVU Art in the Libraries' Graduate Student Exhibit Awardee

•WVU PhD Candidate in Environmental Microbiology

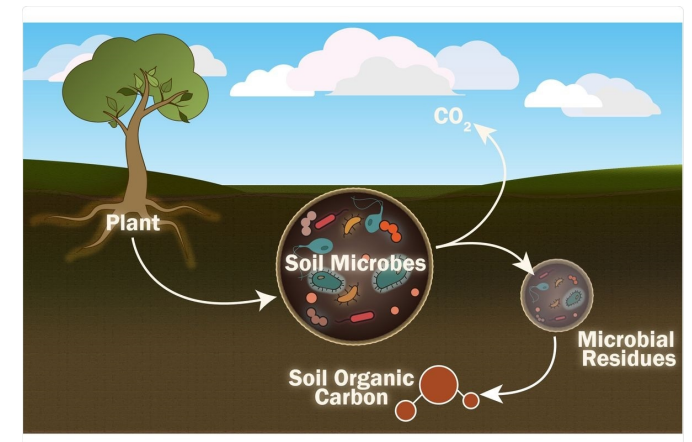


Unboxing the Black Box: The Evolution of Microbial Ecology

An exhibit by Chansotheory Dang
2022-23 WVU Art in the Libraries' Graduate Student Exhibit Awardee
WVU Downtown Library Graduate Commons - Ground Level Feb-Aug, 2022

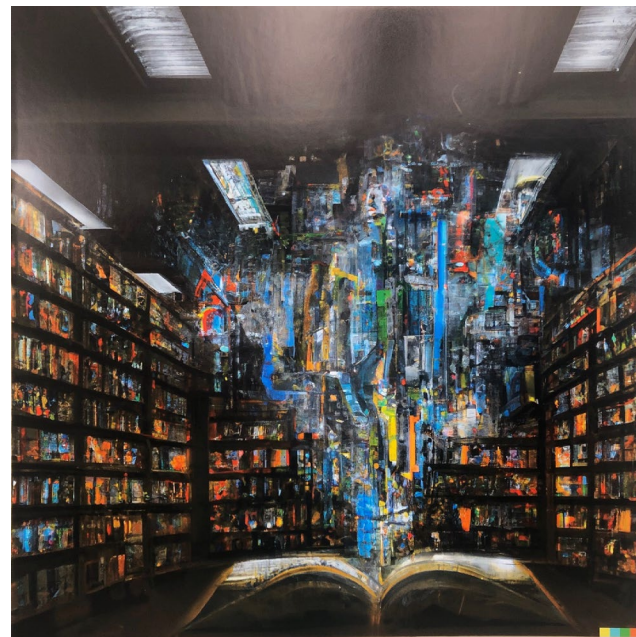
Introduction:

Microbes are all around us. They're in the air we breathe, on our skin, and right underneath our feet. They often have a bad reputation and that is because they are just misunderstood. So, what are microbes? Microbes are microscopic organisms that cannot be seen with the naked eye and can span across all three domains of life from bacteria to archaea, and to eukaryotes. In the late 17th century, both Robert Hooke and Antoni van Leeuwenhoek were credited with the discovery of 'very little animalcules'. While microbes are often associated with human pathogens, a large proportion of microorganisms are quite beneficial to humans and the environment. This exhibit showcases the evolution of microbial ecology, from culture-based methods to utilizing DNA sequences to inform us about *who's there* and *what are they doing*.



Rectifying New Digital Record

- ▶ Qazi Arka Rahman,
Doctoral Candidate, WVU
English
- ▶ AI created digital art that
showcases how real-world
inequalities transpire in the
world of web



Rectifying Digital Record

2023 Art in the Libraries Graduate Student Exhibit Awardee, Qazi Arka Rahman,
Doctoral Candidate, WVU English

WVU Downtown Library Graduate Commons, Fall 2023 - spring 2024

Dissertation in a nutshell:

Bangladeshi literature, in both English and Bangla, has seldom been included in literary discussions of nation, nationality, and identity politics in South Asia. My dissertation explores Bangladeshi literature's specificity and contributions in the context of South Asia. It investigates how Bangladeshi literature constructs and represents Bangladeshi national identity in relation to South Asian identity and in consideration of language politics. This investigation also considers the factors contributing to the circulation of literature to see how Bangladeshi literature circulates in the global economy. Furthermore, this project considers how the field of Digital Humanities (DH) can help to address international circulation of literature and explores new approaches for bringing non-anglophone texts in conversation with anglophone works.

Exhibition description:

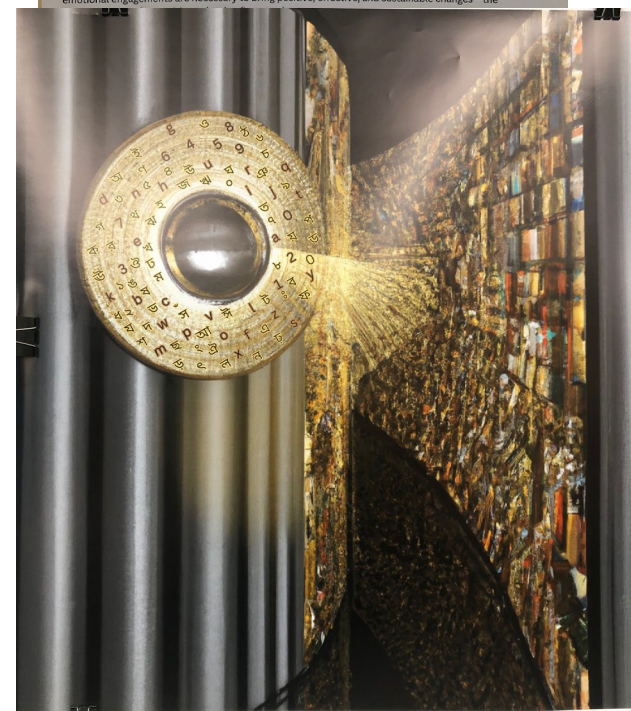
The purpose of this exhibition is twofold. The primary goal is to exhibit the transference of record from print to digital. The purpose is to bring attention to the extent of influence, of language and print texts, in the digital domain – one of the major inquiries of my dissertation. The secondary goal is to demonstrate an example, of both possibilities of limits, of using generative AI systems.

The visualizations are created to show the need for human intervention while using AI tools – at their current stage of development. The images are created using DALL-E 2 and with two kinds of prompts. Some prompts are my own and some are developed using ChatGPT. I instructed ChatGPT to create prompts based on certain specifics. Then I asked ChatGPT to rephrase the prompts to not exceed 400 characters. The revised prompts were then relayed into DALL-E 2.

Artworks in this exhibition are samples from images generated by DALL-E 2 based on specific prompts. The first six images have not been edited. Feel free to guess the prompter while going through the displayed images!

The final image is an edited one. Bangla and English alphabets, along with numerals, are introduced onto the DALL-E 2 image. It is far from ideal but not entirely outside the ballpark of the imagined image inside my head – an artistic rendition of what Matthew Kirschenbaum labels “textual condition” – remediating Jerome McGann’s notion of “textual condition.”

The visualizations are intended to be like artworks. The intention is to evoke emotional responses, or something akin to it, among the audience. This decision operates with the logic that emotional engagements are necessary to bring positive, effective, and sustainable changes – the



Questions & Comments

- ▶ Graduate Student exhibit webpage:
 - <https://exhibits.lib.wvu.edu/awards/graduate-student-awards>
- ▶ Art in the Libraries website:
 - <https://exhibits.lib.wvu.edu/home>