

LIBRARY LINKS

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UT
LIBRARY & OPEN
LEARNING SERVICES

THE RELEVANCE OF LIBRARIES TODAY

BY SAVANNA ROMERO

We are undeniably in a digital age. There is a common misconception that libraries are outdated today. However, it is important to acknowledge that libraries are so much more than the physical materials that fill their shelves.

Libraries have the ability to survive this technological era and continue to provide essential resources online and in person.

Libraries create a vital, free space for learning and connection. Their computers are available for public use and they have a great collection of online and physical copies of books that anyone can access.



Furthermore, Samantha Greeson, a librarian here at Utah Tech University, calls attention to the idea that with library programs and services “We have the really unique opportunity to create a community.”

Libraries can unify readers as books provide significant connections, such as through book clubs and trivia nights held at local libraries that connect people over a shared interest.

We have the capabilities and resources to create an amazing community to participate in with our local libraries.

BOOKS AND SUSTAINABILITY: SAFEGUARDING THAT TEXTBOOK OF YOURS BY TAE LA LAUFISO

Have you ever wondered what's the best way to keep that textbook of yours from falling apart? When the books we own are tattered and worn down, it may seem the easiest solution is to discard the old one and purchase a new book.

However, it is possible to simply prolong the lifespans of books that hold sentimental value in our lives and textbooks we use for our classes throughout the school year.



It doesn't take much to keep books in a healthy condition. At the circulation desk, students and librarians repair books with specific stickers, also known as "wings and corners," that bind up and strengthen the edges and spines of books.

They also use certain adhesives, such as polyvinyl acetate glue (pva) or wheat starch paste, and tape that makes it hard to tell that any repair has been done at all.

It can be easy, however, to overdo it and use the wrong materials. Elmer's glue, packaging tape, scotch tape, and rubber bands can overwhelm the body of the book and these substances will age and break down over a short period of time.

As students, we can start to protect our books by being mindful of food around textbooks and laying them flat to preserve the binding.



Photographed by Hailee Crouse.

Other things you can do is focus on safeguarding books from direct sunlight, maintaining clean storage areas, and storing your books upright and on bookshelves.

Books can be influenced by the temperatures and containers that they are held in. Hot temperatures can make these books brittle and dry, while the opposite can cause warping and cracking.

By keeping these points in mind and applying these simple repairs when necessary, textbooks can last and benefit you at the end of the semester when you return them for a buyback value from the school.

So, when it comes to your books, save money and keep them healthy!



Photographed by Hailee Crouse.

THE POWER IN REUSING BOOKS

BY SAVANNA ROMERO

We all have a book or two lying around that we maybe never read, or maybe we read it once and now we just don't have a use for it. Now I have two words for you: donate them!

Donating and reusing books is so important because they have the power to spark curiosity, teach, and unify us.

One place to consider donating to is the circulation desk on the main level of the Holland Building, if the material was published within the last five years and has an academic purpose.

For other books you may wish to donate, the circulation desk can help guide you in finding a local thrift store that accepts used books.

In addition to these donation outlets, there are free libraries here in St. George where you can lend and borrow books.

Donating is so important especially when it comes to reading material. Reading is a powerful tool and donating books gives all individuals, regardless of one's socioeconomic status, the opportunity to learn and become inspired from different voices and perspectives.

If you have any books laying around, consider donating them today!



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