

ARLIS/NA + VRA 3rd Joint Conference 2016 | Seattle
Poster Session

Outreach Through Collections: A Collaborative Design Project — *Alex McAllister*, Humanities Librarian, Appalachian State University and *Greta Browning*, Reference Archivist/Librarian and Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts in Special Collections, Appalachian State University

Appalachian State University librarians have developed an outreach project with an art faculty member that employs a model of exploring historical materials to inspire students' creation of new artworks—in this case, holiday cards for library donors. Students in ART2125 Printmaking: Screenprinting class create original holiday card designs that incorporate concepts from rare books and graphic materials that they studied in Belk Library's Special Collections and from the Library's art book collection. This project ends with the judging and selection of winning cards that are mailed to donors. Students gain experience using special collections materials as inspirational, visual objects; the library creates a successful outreach opportunity; and the project allows the winning students' cards to circulate to a wide audience. This opportunity provides student artists with recognition and real-world experience. Attendees will be inspired by this outreach project that sparked a new collaboration between art faculty, art students, and the library.