Why Do We Need Libraries?

“The library profession has a lot of work to do in terms of diversifying. There’s a lot of work to do to make libraries more welcoming and inclusive. That’s a piece of my work I try and strive for, is trying to bring the library to the students rather than force the students into the way I think they should be using the libraries.”
-USM Library Staff

“Libraries are so broad as an institution. They have a duty to represent the diversity of the area and of the world. That is the point of knowledge and learning, to learn things you’re unfamiliar with. Even within these specialty collections, they still represent diversity within those collections, because the human experience is diverse. Like the Sampson Diversity Collection at Special Collections, it has a Judaica Collection, an African American Collection, and an LGBT+ Collection. And within those collections there are materials about Jewish LGBT people, LGBT people of color, black Jewish people, black Muslims. Even at the Osher Map Library, they don’t just have modern, more easy to read maps. There’s historical maps, they have rare maps, they want to represent as many kinds of places as they can.”
-USM Student

INCLUSIVITY