

## The *Oakwood* Digitization Project

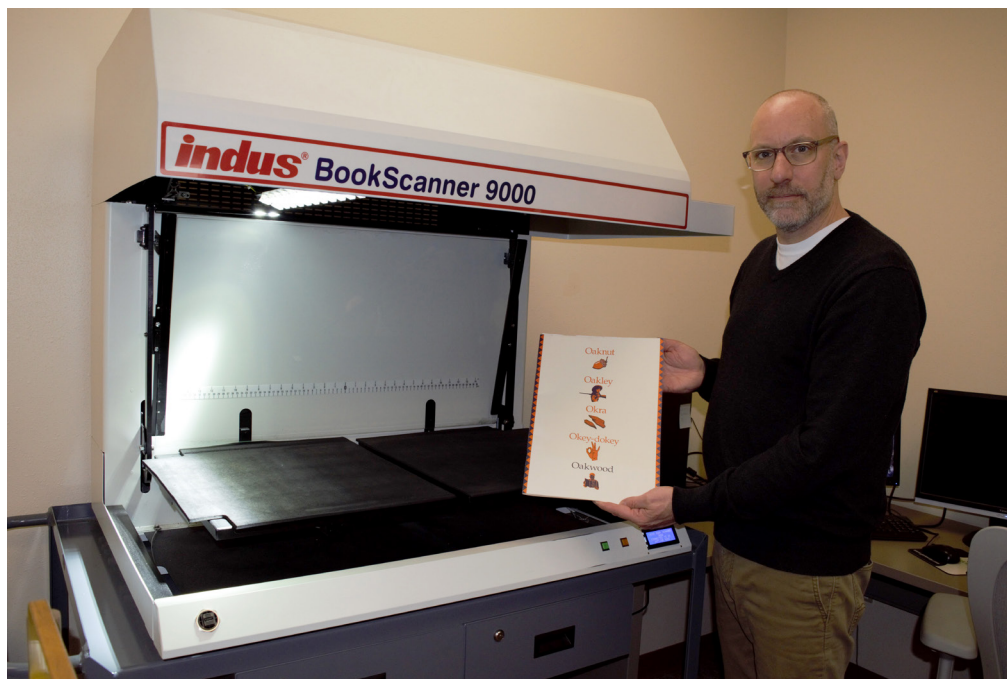
In 2018 *Oakwood* and SDSU's Briggs Library started an ambitious project: digitizing each issue of the journal on the library's Open PRAIRIE (Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange). This not only makes every issue of *Oakwood*—all the way back to our inaugural 1975—available to the public worldwide, but indexes the entire history of the journal at a high professional standard.

The project was coordinated by Michael Biondo, who was hired as SDSU's Institutional Repository Coordinator in 2015 to launch the repository that would become Open PRAIRIE. In February the repository passed 900,000 downloads, and it is scheduled to hit the one million mark in mid-May 2020.

"The goal with the *Oakwood* digitization project was to provide a digital platform and to increase the visibility of this piece of campus history,"

says Biondo, now the Electronic Resources and Scholarly Communications Librarian at Briggs Library. "Digitization of the back catalog of *Oakwood* gives it a visibility it otherwise would not have. In the last ninety days issues of *Oakwood* have been downloaded 493 times. Open PRAIRIE has allowed us to increase the dissemination of all the scholarly and creative work being done here at SDSU and to further the land-grant mission. I also hope that digitizing *Oakwood* serves as a recruitment tool for future students with an interest in creative writing."

We invite you both to see this project for yourself at <https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/oakwood/> and take a look at our long history. With the help of Briggs Library, *Oakwood* is now able to take its proper place in the creative history of the Northern Great Plains region. *Oakwood* represents not only the voice of a university but also of a whole region, and its digitization opens it up to scholars around the world who want to hear what it has to say.



Michael Biondo of Briggs Library, with scanner and a vintage *Oakwood*.  
Photo by Ruby Wilson