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Deneice Davis  
*Oregon Institute of Technology*

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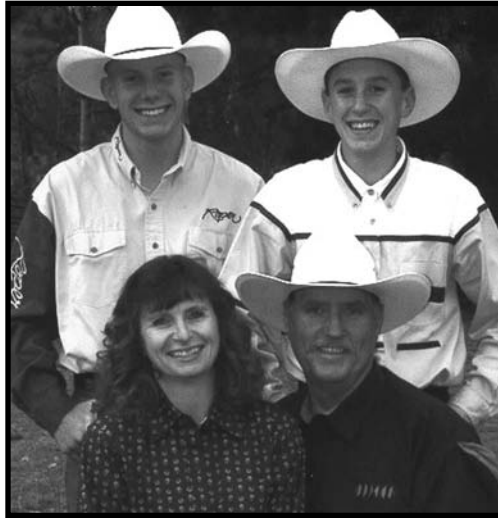
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# A Day in My Life

by *Deniece Davis*  
*Oregon Institute of Technology*



The days in my life are never mundane or the same. My personal life and work life are intertwined and the seasons drastically influence my days. Fall season consists of haying; bringing our cattle home for the winter; the start of fall term at work; and also school and football for our younger boy, Andy. Winter brings on one of my family's busiest seasons because of calving; things always pick up winter term at work; and there is school and basketball for Andy. Spring brings around the beginning of the cycle of seasons with a herd of new baby calves: having to check fences before turning out our herd of cows, calves and bulls; planting crops; branding and vaccinating the herd; and track for Andy. Summer season brings on irrigating the crops; haying our crops; summer break for Andy, which means traveling to take him to a variety of sports camps; and it's also the end and beginning of a fiscal year at work. Most days I think my name should be Jack as in "Jack of all trades," instead of Deniece.

My husband Mike and I own a cattle/hay ranch which his grandfather started homesteading around 1907. The family ranch is 933 acres and is located approximately 27 miles east of Klamath Falls, in the Bonanza area. It is nestled along the

eastern side of the Swan Lake Rim and on the edge of Yonna Valley, which is known for its farming land and good irrigation wells, with lots of water. Our two boys, Billy, who is 21 and Andy, who is 16, are the fourth generation to live and work on this land. The ranch still doesn't have any electricity or telephone access. Our house is located about a mile below the ranch, and we do have these luxuries.

Besides being a mother, wife, and rancher, I am also a Library Technician III at Oregon Institute of Technology Library, with the job title of Acquisitions/Documents Manager. I started working at OIT the summer of 1998. My job title covers a variety of duties and several others which fall under that job description line of "all other duties as assigned." Some of the "other duties" I am responsible for are helping with metadata processing for our Klamath Waters Digital Library (KWDL); lots of copy cataloging for books, federal and state documents, and the special collection of the Shaw Historical Library; taking care of all the Library's mending; working with the Library's High School Outreach program; and any crisis that needs immediate attention in the Technical Service Department.

The KWDL (<http://klamathwaterlib.oit.edu/>) is in its second year of funding from a LSTA grant. I helped write the initial grant and now assist with creating metadata for the documents added to the digital library. I also work on finding fugitive items to add to the collection. While working on obtaining information for the KWDL I have had to maintain a professional level of objectivity which has helped me personally and professionally.

The OIT and Shaw Libraries are partners on this project. Water use in the Klamath Basin is a highly controversial issue. Information on the water issues in the Klamath River Basin is scattered among government agencies, interest groups, libraries, museums, research institutions and



other sources, and many of the publications are very difficult to find. As a result, users often are not aware of all the possible sources available to them and end up with an incomplete view of the issues. If a solution to managing this limited natural resource is to be found, accurate information is critical.

Everyone involved in the digital library truly believes in access to information without taking an advocacy view-point. As a rancher and farmer, these issues are real for me and my family—we live them every day. That is why I feel this project is one of many steps which can contribute to reaching a common goal of understanding and teamwork by everyone who is involved in trying to resolve these complex issues.


I am a member of the Cloverleaf Watershed Working Group, which works to promote, educate and assist in water restoration projects in the Bonanza community. I also represent the Bonanza area on the Klamath Watershed Council (KWC), and am on its executive committee. Klamath Watershed Council is made up of representatives from each of the watershed working groups in Klamath County. The KWC works on watershed issues and does a fantastic job of pulling together members from a wide variety of backgrounds.

The Watershed Council was looking for a way to demonstrate the progress all of the working groups had made with watershed enhancement projects by showing before and after photographs of enhanced areas. I thought this was a great way to connect my work on the KWDL and the members of the KWC. Now the digital library has a special section showing watershed enhancement progress that the KWC has made throughout the Klamath Basin. Being able to combine my personal and work knowledge and experiences is a wonderful opportunity.

Promoting and developing partnerships with the local junior and senior high schools is another area of interest to me,

and again I am lucky to have the opportunity to combine them. Most of the public schools in the Klamath Basin don't have full-time media specialists, but some have part-time media specialists. As a parent, and past public school employee, I see how the lack of media specialists in the school libraries affects students, especially now, since I work at the higher education level. Before working for OIT Library I worked for the Klamath County School District for over seventeen years, and my last four years were spent managing a library for a K–12 school.

Here at the OIT Library, we offer high school students several services to assist them with research, and their education. The days when the local high school senior classes visit us for help are some of my favorite days at work. Partnerships between junior and senior high schools and higher education are a win-win situation for everyone involved.

As you can see, there is never a dull moment or day in my life. I probably have an odd mixture of personal experiences, knowledge, and job duties. I think it is great to be able to combine them all. I wear lots of different hats, and sometimes feel like the “Mad Hatter,” but I wouldn't want to work anywhere else. I feel OIT Library is one of the best places I have ever worked. 

#### **About the Author**

Deniece Davis, sports mom, rancher and cattlegirl, is the Acquisitions Documents Manager at the Oregon Institute of Technology Library. In her busy life Deniece has served as an Educational Assistant (1980–94) and media Specialist Assistant (1994–97) with Bonanza Schools K–12; as the Executive Council Secretary for the Klamath Watershed Council (2005) and on the Klamath County Library Advisory Council (2003–05).

