STATEMENT OF RESEARCH METHODS

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The following essay, "The Horror of Natural History and Spenser's Bestiary of Extremophiles," is an original, in-depth investigation of Edmund Spenser's use of natural history texts as an inspiration for his epic poem *The Faerie Queene*. The exhaustive, interdisciplinary research I conducted for this project could not be completed without the assistance of the Fondren librarians, the Alexandria catalog system, Interlibrary Loan, and the numerous databases to which Fondren Library subscribes. All books cited in this project were borrowed from the extensive stacks in Fondren, through the Library Services Center, or via ILL. The wide range of materials available to graduate students allowed for a truly interdisciplinary project; my essay touches upon interventions in several fields, including literature, the history of science, contemporary philosophy, art history, and the latest research in modern life sciences.

My strategies for this project included mining the bibliographies of sources available through the Fondren stacks, the LSC, or the various reputable journals through the library databases. Influential to my argument was access to Charlton T. Lewis and Charles Short's *Latin Dictionary*, quickly made available through the library's convenient LSC requesting system. Lewis and Short's dictionary remains the preeminent source for Latin morphology and lexicography; its thorough citations of classical texts led to my insight that Spenser very likely read Pliny, a discovery which proved invaluable not only to my argument, but also to studies in Spenser at large.

Equally important to this project is Fondren's subscription to *Spenser Studies*, a poetry annual that specializes in Spenserian scholarship. Because the journal does not immediately make available its issues through databases, access to hard copies in the Fondren allowed for expedient answers to my research questions regarding recent studies in the field. When I did not consult hard copies of periodicals, I accessed a wide array of databases: Academic Search Premier, JSTOR, OED Online, Project Muse, Oxford Reference and Handbooks, and EEBO. Additionally, I used a critically valuable tool from Fondren's reference section, *The Spenser Encyclopedia*, a lofty tome that offers a variety of short essays on topics varying from Spenser's education to ship imagery in his works.

In cases where I was unable to locate specific texts via Alexandria or ILL, Information Literacy Librarian Joe Goetz was indispensable. In particular, his acquisitions of Katherine Eggert's *Disknowledge* (2015) and Charles T. Wolfe's *Monsters and Philosophy* (2005) were incredibly useful to my argument and understanding of the field of early modern studies and natural philosophy, respectively. I acquired all illustrations from Edward Topsell's *History of Four-Footed Beasts* (1607), an English duplication of Conrad Gesner's *Historia Animalium*. I was able to access Topsell's text through EEBO, which allowed me to download PDFs of the woodcuts pertaining to my topic. The library's subscription to the EEBO database was crucial, as access to digitized copies of Gesner's text is much more difficult to acquire. Lastly, the most critical resource I used for this project was the resource-management software, Zotero. Without it, a project of this size would have been unwieldy and nearly impossible.