In Dr. Susan Johnston’s J.K Rowling (English 304) class last Winter term, one aspect that she made blatantly clear was that the class will require a lot of reading, theorizing, and reflective thought. It was not going to be easy just because the class is about Rowling’s *Harry Potter* series, and boy was she right. Approaching our final projects, I thought to myself, “I have to do something cool, something creative, something to really impress,” and I realized that my thoughts always came back to thinking about wands, the function of them and how fate played a role in what wand chose which wizard. Thus, I decided to do a research project about wand lore, which included different types of wood, sacred trees, and sacred animals.

At first, I panicked because I had no idea where to start, but after talking to a librarian about the project, I had a new direction: look at what makes a wand, rather than books solely on wands. Feeling more excited and encouraged about the project, I used the library’s several databases, like JTSOR and PROQUEST, to find very useful sources that gave my project that extra depth and credibility that it needed. The online articles provided information about the history of magic, witches, and sacred traditions from which added depth to the characters that I created and the wands they wielded. In addition, the well stocked bookshelves in the library provided a plethora of helpful books, and I found myself spending hours in those aisles, browsing books about sacred woods, trees, animals, and even fairy-tales. These books gave my wands their woods, animal cores and flexibility based on sacred trees, animals and personality traits. To supplement the great titles found in Archer Library, I took advantage of the Interlibrary Loan system and requested books from across the country to find information that helped me figure out what Harry and Voldemort’s wand connection meant and what this connection said about fate.
The amazing help, and resources provided by the Archer Library gave me both the material and the courage I needed to complete one of the best works I have produced in my University career. The final product included three handmade wands and a twenty-two page document full of lore, lively characters and an analysis of Harry and Voldemort’s connection. I could not have done it without the library or its resources, and I feel right at home whenever I venture back into those aisles full of great books.