Newspaper Preservation through Collaboration and Communication

The Texas Digital Newspaper Program

By
Ana Krahmer & Mark Phillips
University of North Texas Libraries
14 August 2013
IFLA Satellite: Newspapers to the People
Overview

• History & Background
• External Support
• Communication
• Technology
• Workflow
Local needs, national support

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND
History and Background

Digitization Conversations Amongst Communities:

– Began in the late 1990s, early 2000s, by Cathy Hartman

– Newspapers were a digitization priority for many communities

– Led to rhizomic development of the Texas Digital Newspaper Program.
History and Background

National Digital Newspaper Program:

– Financial support from the National Endowment for the Humanities
– Technological support from Library of Congress
– Supported hiring and training of Portal newspaper staff
– Enabled technological and infrastructural development for newspaper access on the Portal

nationalendowmentforthehumanities

theportaltohistorytexasunt.edu

libraryofcongress
History and Background

With capabilities developed through NDNP, we began TDNP and were able to:

– Collaborate with Texas communities and organizations.
– Receive grant funding through the State and through private foundations.
– Host content from both analog and digital sources.
– Support full-time newspaper staff.
Partnerships on Many Levels

EXTERNAL SUPPORT
External Support

Financial Support:

– **National Endowment for the Humanities (U.S.):**
  Now, 3 state digitization and preservation grants through the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP) for Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma

– **Texas State Library and Archives Commission:**
  TexTreasures grants to digitize early Texas newspapers

– **Tocker Foundation:** Supports rural Texas populations (<12,000) to make their newspapers accessible
External Support

Large Partnerships

– Dolph Briscoe Center for American History: Original partners in NDNP-Texas, later in TexTreasures

– Oklahoma Historical Society: Partners through NDNP-Oklahoma, later through the Gateway to Oklahoma History

– University of New Mexico: Partners through NDNP-New Mexico

– Abilene Library Consortium: Digitally preserve newspapers for five libraries, representing over 300,000 pages from 10 titles.
External Support

Participation from multiple local organizations:

– Historical and genealogy societies
– Friends of the Library groups
– Colleges and universities
– Public & academic libraries
– Publishers
– Individuals
**SUPPLEMENT TO THE “TEXAS ALMANAC” EXTRA.**

*Texas Legislature*

**[Extra Session]**
(Continued from “Extra” of the 14th.)

March 8th, 1863.

**House.**—A message from the Senate was received informing the House that the Senate had adopted and passed the House substitute to the Senate’s bill, entitled an act to amend the 21st section of an act supplementary to an act entitled an act to perfect the organization of the State troops and place the same on a war footing, approved Dec. 25th, 1861, with the amendments thereto.

Also a bill to be entitled “an act authorizing the release of sureties on the bonds of Assessors and Collectors.”

Also a House bill entitled an act supplemental to an act to raise revenue by taxation with an amendment.

Also house bill to be entitled an act to provide for electing Senators and Representatives.

On motion of Mr. Baggett, a House bill entitled an act to amend the 21st section of an act entitled an act to provide for the registration of deeds and other instruments of writing, approved May 12th, 1863, was taken up, read twice, and ordered to be engrossed—constitutional rule suspended; bill read 3d time and passed.

On motion, leave was granted to Mr. Parker to withdraw the memorial of Wm. B. Cooks in relation to divorce and alimony.

A message from the Senate was received informing the House that the Senate had passed the following entitled bill and resolutions: a bill entitled “an act to incorporate the San Antonio Mutual Aid Association.”

A bill to be entitled an act to authorize the Comptroller to suspend the collection of ordinary taxes of necessity.

Also a Senate joint resolution concerning the release of securities on the bonds of Assessors and Collectors.

Also a Senate joint resolution in regard to Geo. Sibley.

Mr. Potter from Judiciary Committee of Senate reported a bill entitled “an act to authorize the Treasurer to pay out Confederate Treasury notes for civil and military purposes.”

A bill to regulate the distribution of cloth manufactured at the State Penitentiary, among the families of soldiers in the Confederate army.

A bill to authorize the Directors of the State Penitentiary to allow the Financial Agent of the same to purchase additional machinery and to employ outside labor for the same.

A bill authorizing the release of securities on the bonds of Assessors and Collectors.

A bill to authorize the Commissioners of the General Land Office to issue to all persons and corporations such land certificates as they may be entitled to receive under any general or special law of the State.

A bill to provide for the registration of person or persons who may obtain goods from the State Penitentiary under false pretenses.

On motion of Mr. Blanchard, a bill entitled an act to authorize the Commissioner of the General Land Office to issue certificates to all persons and corporations as they may be entitled to receive under any general or special law of the State—was taken up, and Senate amendment agreed to.

Also a Senate bill entitled an act to provide for the registration of persons or persons who may obtain goods from the State Penitentiary under false pretenses.

A bill entitled an act to authorize the Treasurer to pay out Confederate Treasury notes for civil and military purposes.

A bill to regulate the distribution of cloth manufactured at the State Penitentiary, among the families of soldiers in the Confederate army.

A bill to authorize the Directors of the State Penitentiary to allow the Financial Agent of the same to purchase additional machinery and to employ outside labor for the same.

A bill authorizing the release of securities on the bonds of Assessors and Collectors.

Also a Senate joint resolution concerning the release of ordinary taxes of necessity.

Also a Senate joint resolution concerning the release of securities on the bonds of Assessors and Collectors.

Also a Senate joint resolution in regard to Geo. Sibley.
Communication

Building identity within the community

– Has established the mission of the Portal as a center of primary source preservation in Texas
– Communicates Portal goals to prospective partners
– Supports high technological and ethical standards for digital preservation
Communication

Workshops and Support to:

– Educate librarians, genealogists, teachers, and local groups
– Learn more about how our researchers use TDNP and the Portal
– Locate primary source Texas content
– Generate funding for future projects
Ora Is a Native Texan.

BELTON, TEX., July 13, 1891.

Scholarship Editor Fort Worth Gazette.

Pleased to see Miss Ora Osterhout of Belton in the contest for THE GAZETTE’s scholarship. I herein hand you thirty-five votes for her. Miss Ora is a native Texan. She graduated in a class of sixteen representative young ladies from different parts of Texas at the June, 1891, commencement of Baylor college, and easily carried off first honors of her class. Her valedictory address on that occasion was said to be one of the finest productions that ever came from a student of Baylor college, and won for her great distinction. Of all the fair contestants for THE GAZETTE’s generous offer none can excel her in intellectual vigor, studious habits and high social qualities. I sincerely hope her friends will see that she wins the honor she so richly merits. A. M. Home.

At the Ellis: W L Wright, Texas; E J Smith and wife, San Antonio, Tex; Paul Makel, New York; John Todd, San Antonio; J B Atkerson, Texas; T H Payne, Owensboro, Ky; J E Engel, New York; A Jmith, Crystal Springs, Miss; J St Koslowsky, St Louis, Arkansas and Texas railway; B H White and wife, Texas; J A Carroll, Denton; W J Logan, Dallas; John J Giddings, J W Wells, Texas; S F Oatis, New Orleans, La; J A Webb, J B Roach, T A Harding, Des Moines, Iowa; Miss Luther, Belton, Tex; Dock Capps, Texas; G Frager, Cincinnati; B H Hurt, Louisville; Thomas Witten, Texas; Dr L E Griffith, Miss M T Griffith, Master Griffith Baxter, Terrell, Tex; Frank B Rae, L F Day, Texas; A M Bamsay, Baltimore; S B Waddy, Weatherford.

At the Pickwick: J W Johnson, New Orleans, La; George D Donnerberg, St Louis, Mo; Mrs L Carr, St Louis; C K Cobb, Memphis, Tenn; William P Ellison, Dallas; J C Armstrong, Evansville, Ind; William H Young and wife, San Antonio; E W Thomas, New York; H M McKnight, Kansas City; E S Edwards, St Louis, Mo; W H Bragg, Kennedale; M A Westcott, Houston; Frank Andrews, Belton; A G Holland, Pueblo, Col; Thomas J Booker, Columbus, Ark; John E Williams, Washington, Ark; W H Cooke, Clarendon; A L Williams, Granbury; M Thornton, Denison; D C Johnson, St
Evolution and Redesign

TECHNOLOGY
Technology

Content Acquisition using:

- Mekel Scanner: Microfilm
- I2s Quartz A0 Scanner: Physical newspapers
- PDF Print Masters
Technology

• OCR Software
  – 10 nodes
  – 48 OCR cores
  – License of 3 million pages

To date, newspapers from 7 languages have been OCR’ed and are fully text-searchable on the Portal.
Technology

• TIFF & JPEG2000
  – TIFFs serve as master files
  – Open source Python tool converts images for access to derivative files
  – Zoomify: Provides capability to display tiled newspaper structure
  – A single WARC file is created, which contains the 2000+ images for displaying each newspaper page.
Technology

Full-text search results for “Smith” from one page.
Technology

• Regular usability research
• IOGENE Grant from IMLS: A two-year study to identify user-interface needs of genealogists, one of our top 3 target audiences
• User Interface Team: Dedicated to design and UX testing of the Portal
Content in, project out

WORKFLOW
Workflow

The Digital Newspaper Team consists of 5 people:

– Two full-time staff members who coordinate Oklahoma and New Mexico newspaper projects

– One full-time staff member who scans from microfilm for 100% of her time

– One full-time staff member who manages internal and external communication and oversees the team

– One who is the Assistant Dean of Digital Libraries, overseeing the technological and budgetary needs
Workflow

1. Identification
2. Collection
3. Digitization (Microfilm or Physical Pages)
4. Preservation
5. Access
What’s next?

FUTURE DIRECTIONS