Increasing the Awareness of the Natchez Trace Collection

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What’s the Natchez Trace Collection?

• Materials include manuscripts, sheet music, maps & printed materials

• Collected from Lower South, particularly around the “Natchez Trace”
Why the Natchez Trace Collection?

• Printed materials include: magazines, pamphlets, newspapers, serials and ephemera

• Print materials are accessible through UT Libraries catalog, manuscript material through TARO

• Large exhibition in the late 1980s after the collection was received

• Capability now to do more with data outreach
Project Goals

• Improve users’ understanding of various types of materials found within the Natchez Trace Collection.

• Increase findability and use of the printed materials by students and researchers.

• Provide a visual summary of the geographic expanse of the collection.

• Construct a tool for users to directly search the collection.

• Showcase a sample of the diverse items found within the Collection.
Tools Used

- Library catalog report
- Drupal CMS
  Modules: Feeds, OpenLayers, Views, Slideshow, Masonry
- Select digitized images

www.tanyabrassie.com/natchez
Process Overview

1. Obtain catalog report of all publications belonging to the Natchez Trace Collection in the UTLibCat.

2. Clean up spreadsheet.

3. Create custom content types

4. Import data from spreadsheet into Drupal using “Feeds” Module

5. Using Drupal “Views,” create search function for content types

6. Use imported content to create a map with Open Layers
Map Visualization

The following map displays the geographic distribution of the publications found within the Natchez Trace Collection. The density of publications produced in a given area is indicated by the size and color of the circle overlay. Zoom in to increase the granularity of data for a specific area. Click on a circle to view publication titles associated with that area.

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Search Function

The Natchez Trace Collection
Printed Materials

Find a Publication

Use the search feature to find newspapers and serials belonging to the Natchez Trace Collection. Search results can be additionally sorted by clicking on the column header. Click on an item’s title to view its record in the University of Texas Library Catalog.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Decade</th>
<th>Item Type</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publication City (City, State)</th>
<th>Publisher Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1780</td>
<td>Newspaper</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Apply  Reset
Exhibition

www.tanyabrassie.com/natchez
Concerns & Difficulties

Planning
Structure and content of the “exhibit” portion. Displaying images vs. creating a narrative around them.

Custom content types in Drupal are very powerful and if designed correctly, can be repurposed for multiple uses eliminating the need to re-enter data.

Implementation
Data cleanup
User testing
Thanks!