Digital Collections: Scope and Selection Criteria

Mark Phillips
UNT Libraries
Federal Depository Library Conference
May 1, 2014
Selection criteria
Where to begin...
Digital Library Collection Development
The Portal to Texas History
The UNT Digital Library
About the Digital Library
The UNT Digital Library is a centralized repository for the rich collections held by the libraries, colleges, schools, and departments at the University of North Texas.

Search within the UNT Digital Library

Statistics
Currently we have a total of 73,704 unique items, comprising 4.5 million files. Over the last 35 days, we’ve logged 267,543 uses of these items by people like you.

Featured Collections
Music Library Conover Collection
This small selection of program lists, recording schedules, and promos comes from the collection of Willis Conover (1920-1996), a jazz producer and broadcaster on the Voice of America for over forty years. A much larger collection of Conover materials—including some 22,000 recordings—is available in tangible form at the UNT Music Library.

Featured Partner
Elm Fork Natural Heritage Museum
The Elm Fork Natural Heritage Museum furnishes opportunities to discover and share knowledge about plants, animals, and their environment. The museum provides resources to trained scientists as well as to citizen scientists of all ages and backgrounds to explore natural history and especially to inspire in the young a lifelong interest in nature.
The Gateway to Oklahoma History
About the Gateway

The Gateway is an online repository of Oklahoma history. You may browse through hundreds of thousands of newspaper pages dating from the 1840s to the 1920s.

The Gateway provides free access to 70,640 issues and 529,710 pages of historical newspaper content.

Other Resources

The Oklahoma Historical Society has numerous resources for Oklahoma history. Visit the Research Center section to find out more about our books, manuscripts, maps, photographs, audio, video and other newspapers.

Recent Additions

The Gateway is continually adding new digital newspapers. View some of the latest materials here.
In many ways it parallels traditional collection development
Which usually means the hard parts are still hard.
The vague parts are still pretty vague
But...
Digital collections have additional properties
Which create new opportunities
Collection Aggregation
Lorenzo de Zavala Online: Empresario, Statesman and Texas Revolutionary
Lorenzo de Zavala Online: Empresario, Statesman and Texas Revolutionary

What's Inside this Collection.

Lorenzo de Zavala Online: Empresario, Statesman and Texas Revolutionary gathers materials from several diverse institutions, bringing them together in one virtual collection. Lorenzo de Zavala's remarkable accomplishments provide a tantalizing glimpse of this versatile individual—newspaperman, physician, public servant, empresario, diplomat, governor, statesman, and first interim Vice-President of the Republic of Texas. As a representative to the 1836 convention to establish Texas's independence, de Zavala alone among the delegates knew firsthand the experience of writing a constitution for a new republic--Mexico. He had served in positions at both the state and national level with the Mexican government. When Santa Anna assumed dictatorship of Mexico in 1834, de Zavala, ousted from his post as Mexico's Minister to France, returned directly to Texas to assume a leadership role in the Texians' fight to gain independence from Mexico. De Zavala helped pen the Texas Constitution, and later served as Santa Anna's interpreter after the battle of San Jacinto.

De Zavala biographer Margaret Swett Henson notes, &quot;Texans, then and now, have made little effort to understand Zavala. A few cosmopolitan contemporaries admired his mind and political talents, but most suspected his motives. Was he in Texas to further his land speculations? Was he cynically using Texans to further his presidential aspirations in Mexico? Anglo historians have generally ignored Zavala except for brief

Proyecto de reforma del Congreso.
Protesto por el diputado Don Lorenzo de Zavala
Added: 12/15/2005

Manifesto del gobernador del estado de Mexico, ciudadano Lorenzo de Zavala
Added: 12/15/2005

Exposición del secretario del despacho de hacienda D. Lorenzo de Zavala a las Cámaras de la Unión, a su ingreso al despacho del ramo
Added: 12/15/2005

[Manifesto de Loma]
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Create collections from multiple institutions around a theme.
Texas Cultures Online features local history materials from seventeen institutions depicting the diverse cultures of Texas during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries: Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Bumet County Historical Commission, Anna & Mika Stewart Collection, Danish Heritage Preservation Society, Gillespie County Historical Society, Houston Metropolitan Research Center at Houston Public Library, Institute of Texan Cultures, Mexic-Arte Museum, Museum of the Big Bend, Museum of the Gulf Coast, Neebitt Memorial Library, Panola College, Price Johnson Family Collection, San Antonio Public Library, Tarleton State University, University of Texas at San Antonio, and the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. Funding for this collection was provided by the Amon Carter Foundation.
16 partners
Where the West Begins: Capturing Fort Worth's Historic Treasures

What's Inside this Collection.

The participants in Where the West Begins: Capturing Fort Worth's Historic Treasures include the UNT Libraries, Fort Worth Public Library, Texas Christian University, the Amon Carter Museum, the University of Texas at Arlington, Bath-El Congregation Archives, Tarrant County College NE, Log Cabin Village, Cattle Raisers Museum, Lockheed Martin Archives, Archives of the Central Texas Conference United Methodist Church, Dallas Public Library, University of Houston, and the Cowtown Coliseum. This project was generously funded by the Amon Carter Foundation and the Adelene and George McQueen Foundation.

Browse the holdings of this collection
11 partners
Are We There Yet? Transportation in Central Texas

What's Inside this Collection.

The Taylor Public Library, the Williamson Museum and the TxDOT Travel Information Division Photo Library partnered to create a collaborative project consisting of historic photographs and two-dimensional items representing the history and development of transportation and the travel industry. Included in the collection, but not limited to are: railroads, vehicles, roads and road construction in the Central Texas area.

Browse the holdings of this collection

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[Image of a historical scene]

[Image of a road and a truck]

[Image of a road under construction]

[Image of a road and a truck]

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[Added: 07/27/2012] [U.S. Highway 79 Self-stabilized gravel application]

[Added: 07/27/2012] [U.S. Highway 79 Rip rap to prevent ditch erosion]

[Added: 07/27/2012] [U.S. Highway 79 Drop outer culvert]

[Added: 07/27/2012] [U.S. Highway 79 Stabilized Gravel]
3 partners
From Plowshares to Diplomas: Digitizing Early Denton History

What's Inside this Collection.

From Plowshares to Diplomas: Digitizing Early Denton History draws on materials from the University of North Texas Libraries, the Denton Public Library, the Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum, and Texas Woman's University. Materials will include historic photographs, books, maps, city directories, and records from numerous Denton women's clubs. Work on this project began in March of 2006, and will continue through 2007. Funding for this project is provided by the Forrest C. Lattner Foundation.
4 partners
O. Henry Collection

What's Inside this Collection.

The O. Henry Collection consists primarily of the short stories of William Sydney Porter (1862-1910), written under his pseudonym O. Henry. Each story is available as it first appeared in the popular magazines of the day, and these and other stories published posthumously can also be found in first edition compilation books, and later as part of his collected works. In addition to published materials, the collection also contains handwritten letters, photographs, legal documents, newspaper articles, artifacts, and maps drawn and signed by Porter.

O. Henry wrote over 300 short stories, including his most famous, "The Gift of the Magi." He became popular for his short, witty stories written about "regular" folks, often with his signature plot twist at the end. In answer to socialite Ward Allister's announcement that there were only four hundred people in New York City worth noticing, O. Henry published a collection of stories titled The Four Million, paying tribute to the people he valued and wrote about.

O. Henry was born in Greensboro, North Carolina and found fame, if not fortune, as a writer in New York City. However, O. Henry, then known by his given name William Sydney Porter or simply Will Porter, spent thirteen formative years in Texas, from age 19-33, during the period 1882-1895. Porter married and began a family in Austin, and began writing and self-publishing in a weekly paper he started entitled "The Rolling Stone." Porter
3 partners
Rescuing Texas History, 2006

What's Inside this Collection.

Rescuing Texas History through the Digitization of At-risk Photographs and Maps, 2006, presents local history materials from eleven partners: the Clay County Historical Society, Genevieve Millar Public Library, the Palastina Public Library, the Laredo Public Library, the Archives of the Big Band at Sul Ross State University, the Moore Memorial Public Library, UT Pan-American, the Clark Hotel Museum, the Austin Public Library, and Concordia University at Austin. Funding is provided by the Summerlee Foundation of Dallas.
13 partners
Rescuing Texas History, 2007

What's Inside this Collection.

Rescuing Texas History 2007, presents materials from fifteen partners: Anderson County Historical Commission; Austin History Center, Austin Public Library; Bosque County Historical Commission; Childress County Heritage Museum; Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History; Dallas Heritage Village; First Christian Church, Fort Worth; Heritage House Museum, Orange; Historic Rose Marine Theater; Kemah Historical Society; Museum of the American Railroad; Palestine Public Library; Sanger Public Library; Sulphur Springs Public Library; and Val Verde Historical Commission.

Browse the holdings of this collection
24 partners
Rescuing Texas History, 2009

What's Inside this Collection.

Rescuing Texas History 2009, presents local history materials from sixteen partners: Arlington Public Library & Fielder House, Austin History Center, Bee County Historical Commission, Dallas Municipal Archives, El Paso Public Library, French Legation Museum, Matthews Land & Cattle Company, LBJ Museum of San Marcos, Northeast Lakeview College, Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, Library & Hall of Fame, Port Arthur Public Library, River Valley Pioneer Museum, Stephen F. Austin Association, University of Texas at San Antonio, and University of Houston-Victoria Library. Funding was provided by the Summerville Foundation of Dallas.

Browse the holdings of this collection
15 partners
Rescuing Texas History, 2010

Rescuing Texas History 2010, presents local history materials from twelve partners: Bell/Whittington Public Library, Cedar Hill Museum of History, Cleveland Historic Society, Cooke County Library, Dallas Firefighters Museum, Dallas Municipal Archives, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, Fort Worth Jewish Archives, Frenich Simpson Memorial Library, Harris County Archives, Longview Public Library, McAllen Memorial Public Library, Mesquite Public Library, Midwestern State University, Richardson Public Library, St. Philips College, Texas Woman’s University, and the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio.
21 partners
Rescuing Texas History, 2011

What's Inside this Collection.

Rescuing Texas History, 2011 features collections from 13 partners: Carrollton Public Library, Cleveland Historic Society, Collingsworth County Museum, Dallas Municipal Archives, Mike Cochran Collection, Sam Rayburn House Museum, St. David's Episcopal Church, National Museum of the Pacific War, Tarkington/Clement Family Archives, Sam Rayburn House Museum, Travis County District Clerk's Office, Witte Museum, and Wolf Creek Heritage Museum.
12 partners
Format based collections
Texas Digital Newspaper Program

What's Inside this Collection.

The Texas Digital Newspaper Program coordinates with multiple partners, including public libraries, publishers, historical and genealogical societies, and universities, to represent and preserve Texas history through digitized newspapers. This collection begins with pages from 1629 and continues through the present.

A large portion of the newspaper content in this collection comes from the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities’ National Digital Newspaper Program, and the rest of the content is digitized through the active support of individual groups interested in preserving and providing access to community newspapers from across Texas. Because a newspaper depicts its community's identity over time, the Texas Digital Newspaper Program adheres to strict standards to preserve and make available all of these newspapers in perpetuity.

Learn more about the Texas Digital Newspaper Program.

Browse the holdings of this collection
40 partners
City Directories

What's Inside this Collection.

This collection includes city directories, business directories, legal directories, and phone directories from the late nineteenth and the twentieth centuries. Each directory has an index and many advertisements from local businesses. The city directories generally include names, addresses, and telephone numbers for residents and businesses. Many of the directories include advertisements.

Browse the holdings of this collection
16 partners
Connecting collections
The Osterhout Papers

What's Inside this Collection.

As a collaborative project, Austin College and Rice University contributed each of their collections of the Osterhout family papers to the Portal. The two institutions pooled their respective collections to provide access to almost 500 items comprising an extensive collection of official documents, postcards, and letters.

John Patterson Osterhout (1826-1903), emigrated to Texas in 1851 and settled at Bellville in Austin County where he taught school, practiced law, and published a secessionist newspaper, the Bellville Countryman, from 1860 until 1869. In 1870 he requested and received an appointment from Governor E. J. Davis as state district judge of the 34th judicial district of Texas. As a result, the family moved to Belton where Osterhout also served as postmaster. He became a leader of the state Republican Party in which he was active until his death. He was also a leader in the Baptist church and local temperance movement.

Browse the holdings of this collection
Two institutions
(Austin College and Rice University)
Two physical collection
One combined digital collection
So how does this tie back to selection criteria
Collaborative digital projects tend to succeed when there is a common goal to rally behind
Focusing a project and limiting the scope
Can open up the conversations
Especially important in projects that can quickly spiral to gargantuan size, scale and complexity
Questions?