The Portal to Texas History:
Harnessing Technology to Enable Collaboration with Small Museums and Libraries

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• Portal – Definition for this project
  An entry point, or gateway, on the Web that directs researchers to important materials from many institutions on the topic of Texas History.
• Background Overview
• Standards Development to Support Collaboration
• Project Workflows to Support Quality Control
• Tools to Support Workflows
1. Vision for Portal:
   – Offer students and historians interested in Texas history a portal to the rich collections held in Texas libraries, archives, and historical museums.
   – Provide access to a significant collection of digital copies of major artifacts, manuscripts, photographs, maps, letters, and other primary source materials about Texas history in collaboration with many institutions.
2. Objectives for Phase 1 of the Project:
   – Form partnerships with libraries, museums, and other organizations to provide access to Texas history materials.
   – Create technical specifications, systems, and standards for the project.
   – Provide funding for technology development and for creation of the support services.
   – Develop training modules and portable scanning units for use by project participants.
3. Project timeline:
   – February 2002 – development of vision
   – March – August 2002 – discussions with potential collaborators and development of project objectives (Phase 1)
   – July 2002 – application for grant funding
   – August 2002 – notification of receipt of funding
3. Project timeline (cont.)
     • Develop technical structure to support the Portal services (new functionality development continues)
   – Sept. 2003 - present
     • Develop new collaborations
     • Develop applications and workflows to support collaborative work
4. Collaboration building:
   – Visit museums, libraries, and historical sites.
   – Contacts with association/organization directors and members.
   – Contacts with K-12 teachers/librarians and college faculty.
The PORTAL to TEXAS HISTORY
Hosted by the University of North Texas Libraries

- Young Scholars’ Page
- Researchers’ Portal
- Portal Services for Teachers and Researchers
- About the Portal to Texas History
- Contact Information

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Young Scholars' Page
Where Texas Students Find Texas History

Architecture  Agriculture  Arts and Crafts  Business, Economics and Finance
Education  Government and Law  Immigration  Literature
Military and War  People  Places  Religion
Science and Technology  Social Life and Customs  Sports and Recreation  Texas Landscape and Nature

Primary Source Adventures

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5. Range of Portal Services Offered to collaborating institutions

– Full services:

• Collaborative grant writing.
• Digitization of collections (lab or traveling unit).
• Full storage and provision of access to digital files.
• Metadata collection – discovery and preservation.
• Implementation of strategies for long-term preservation of digital masters.
- Minimal Services:
  - Collection of discovery metadata for access to files on other servers.
Standards Development to Support Collaboration:

– Metadata standards for discovery and preservation of digital collections.
– Digitization guidelines for all types of materials
Developed Metadata Element Set to Support Digital Resource Management

- Descriptive
- Preservation/Administrative
- Standards based (Qualified Dublin Core, PREMIS)
- Controlled vocabularies

http://www.library.unt.edu/digitalprojects/documentation/metadata.htm
• Project Guidelines for Digitization:
  – Scanning (text, photos, maps, posters, letters, etc.)
  – Images – sizes, file types.

http://www.library.unt.edu/digitalprojects/documentation/standard.htm
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