Rescuing Texas History at
The Portal to Texas History

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Libraries
Agenda

• An introduction to the Portal to Texas History
• The rescuing begins
• Reassessment
• The current Rescuing Texas History Program
• Partnerships built
• Lessons learned
• The Portal to Texas History today
Start of The Portal to Texas History

- 2002
- Cathy Nelson Hartman, Assistant Dean of Digital and Information Technologies
- $400,000 in equipment
- Funded in part by a competitive Texas Telecommunications Infrastructure grant
The Portal to Texas History

Public Library Partner: Denton Public Library

Partnered in 2014
124 items
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“The Jaws of Decay: Rescuing Texas History through the Digitization of At-risk Photographs and Maps”


• Collaboration with Summerlee Foundation of Dallas

• $7,500

• 13 original partners

• 4,754 items (5,014 files) digitized, processed, and hosted
Rescuing Texas History through the Digitization of At-risk Photographs and Maps

• $15,000
• 24 original partners
• 7,795 items (8,888 files) digitized, processed, and hosted

Courtesy of Portal Partner Museum of the American Railroad
Where the West Begins: Capturing Fort Worth’s Historic Treasures

• Also started in 2007

• Texas Cultures Online grant from the Amon Carter Foundation in Fort Worth

• Adeline & George McQueen Foundation
Where the West Begins: Capturing Fort Worth’s Historic Treasures

• 11 partners
• 4,531 items (13,364 files) digitized, processed, and hosted
Academic Library Partner: Midwestern State

Partnered 2010
25 items
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Completing 2007 projects
Changes to the Process

- Project Size
- No Theme
- Portal Created Metadata
Private Partner: Private Collection of T. B. Willis

Partnered in 2013 and 2014
646 items
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Digital Libraries Division at UNT

- External Relations
- Digital Curation Unit
- Software Development Unit
- User Interface Unit
- Digital Projects Lab
- Digital Newspaper Unit

- UNT Scholarly Works
- UNT Digital Library
- The Portal to Texas History
- Gateway to Oklahoma History
Digital Libraries Newspaper Unit at UNT

- Staffing 4 full time
- 9 part time student workers

Courtesy of UNT Libraries Special Collections
Digital Libraries Digital Projects Unit at UNT

• Staffing 4 full time
• 20 part time student workers
External Relations at UNT

- Staffing 1 full time
- 1 part time student worker
Portal to Texas History

The Portal to Texas History is a gateway to Texas history materials. You may discover anything from an ancestor's picture in a college yearbook to a rare historical map.

Support the Portal

The Portal to Texas History operated by the UNT Libraries provides free online access to Texas historical materials to millions of users a year. Please consider supporting the Portal to Texas History today.

Resources for Educators

We offer teaching materials that connect your students with primary source historical documents to dramatically enrich their learning.

Search within the The Portal to Texas History

Everything | Books | Maps | Photos | Newspapers

Search Help

- Advanced Search
- Search Help

Featured Collections

O. D. and Estelle Bates Collection

The O. D. and Estelle Bates Collection presents images collected by O. D. and Estelle Bates from the citizens of Irving during the U.S. Bicentennial. Instrumental in forming the Irving Heritage Society, the Bates's contributions to the preservation of Irving's history are significant. The collection includes photographs of Irving homes, businesses and citizens in the early 1900s...

1 2 3 4 5

More Collections...

Featured Partner

The Portal to Texas History circa 2016
Application Preparation –

• Set a schedule for the program

• Invite faculty members from the History Department and the Library to serve on the selection committee

• Determine award amounts to be given
Application selection and receipt of materials

- Review of applications
  - Top 20 for each committee member
- Coordinate staggered delivery
  - Divide into roughly thirds
Lab: Into the Workflow

Materials that arrive in the lab are:
• Inventoried
• Documented
• Assigned
• Scanned
Equipment

- 3 Large Epson 10000XL and a 11000XL Flatbed Scanner
- 2 Plustek Optibook 3600 Bookedge Scanners
- 4 Fujitsu 6670 Document Scanners
- 4 negative Epson Perfection V700 Scanners
- 1 oversized Zeutschel Omniscan Planetary Scanner
- 1 Digital Transitions Phase 1 Camera System
- 1 A1 Digibook Quartz Oversized scanner
Lab: Quality Control

http://www.library.unt.edu/digital-projects-unit/standards
Lab: Metadata

http://www.library.unt.edu/digital-projects-unit/metadata
**[Portrait of a Man]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Daguerreotype portrait of a man with thick sideburns wearing a suit and bow tie. The photograph is housed in a decorative leather case with a brass matte.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator(s)</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location(s)</td>
<td>United States - Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation Date</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner(s)</td>
<td>Private Collection of T. B. Willis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection(s):</td>
<td>Rescuing Texas History, 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resources for Educators**

We offer teaching materials that connect your students with primary source historical documents to dramatically enrich their learning. [See all resources](#).
Government Office Partner: Dallas Municipal Archives

Partnered 2011
179 items
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Types of RTH Partners

- Historical / Genealogical Societies, Groups, and Commissions
- Libraries
- Museums
- Archives
- Universities
- Newspaper Publishers
- Private Collections
- Government Agencies
- Corporations
Resources Acquired through RTH

- Photographs
- Maps
- Newspapers
- Family letters
- Yearbooks
- Serials
- Genealogy publications
- Course curriculum
Museum Partner: Jacob Fontaine Religious Museum

Partnered in 2006
181 items
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Lessons Learned

• Project size matters
• Project scope
Lessons Learned

- Simplify application process
- Communication
Lessons Learned

- Inventories required in the application
Organization Partner: Matthews Family and Lambshead Ranch

Partnered in 2009
914 items

Statistics: Rescuing Texas History, 2009

Overview

11,196 Total Items
16,362 Total Files
2,013,301 Total Items
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## Rescuing Texas History Statistics

**Figure: The Number of Partners, Objects, and Uses per RTH Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Partners</th>
<th>Objects</th>
<th>Uses to Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4,754</td>
<td>971,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7,795</td>
<td>1,116,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11,196</td>
<td>1,827,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3,278</td>
<td>267,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2,172</td>
<td>242,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>5,050</td>
<td>61,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>7,013</td>
<td>24,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>In progress</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Portal Results

- 2002
- 320+ partners
- ~776K visible objects
- 7.95 million files
- 10K added each month
- 120K added last year
- 550K+ uses per month
The Portal Contents…So Far

- 162,822 photographs
- 356,231 newspaper issues
- 3,549 books
- 83,077 maps
- and much more
Rescuing Texas History has 5,080,299 of the 29,575,997 Total Portal uses - or 17.2%.
Historical / Genealogical Group Partner:
Val Verde County Historical Commission

Partnered 2007
121 items
Due to these numbers the Portal to Texas History has officially determined that the Rescuing Texas History Program will be annual occurrence.
Look for the next call for Rescuing Texas History 2016 submissions on the UNT Libraries website Friday May 27th, 2016
Questions?

THE PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY

Visit: http://texashistory.unt.edu

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Image Citations


History Interview with Cathy Hartman, December 7, 2015
Courtesy of UNT Oral History Program Oral

First School Building Courtesy of Portal Partner Clark Hotel Museum

[E-4 Streamliners in Chicago] Courtesy of Portal Partner Museum of the American Railroad

[Amon Carter and Ben E. Keith Shaking Hands] Courtesy of Portal Partner Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company

[The Adolphus Hotel, Dallas] Courtesy of Portal Partner Joe E. Haynes

Sunset South of Paris, Texas Courtesy of Portal Private Partner Jim Bell

[Chas Matthews and Wife Change Tire] Courtesy of Where the West Begins partner Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company

[Students Reading Newspapers Together] Courtesy of UNT Libraries Special Collections

[The Digital Projects Lab Racks, 2015] Courtesy of your presenters
Image Citations

[Photograph of Two Players on Football Field] Hardin-Simmons University Library

[The Portal to Texas History circa 2016] Courtesy of your presenters

Albert Lawrence Bates Fingerprint Card, 1933 (Oklahoma City Police Department) Courtesy of Portal Partner Dallas Municipal Archives

[1st Fire Alarm Dispatch Office] Courtesy of Portal Partner Dallas Firefighters Museum

[Computer Hardware in Digital Projects Unit] Courtesy of UNT Libraries Digital Projects Unit

Parker County July 15, 1856 Courtesy of Portal Partner General Land Office

[Parker County] 1856/1856~ Courtesy of Portal Partner General Land Office

[DPU Racks] Courtesy of UNT Libraries Digital Projects Lab

[Medical Association Application: Ruth Ann Bellinger, MD] Courtesy of Portal Partner Historical Society

[Partner Initial Inventory] Courtesy of UNT Libraries Digital Projects Lab

[Portrait of Carpe Cubana Dancers] Courtesy of Portal Partner Witte Museum

[Revolutionaries on the Lookout] Courtesy of Portal Partner El Paso Public Library