

The

Southwestern Archivist



November 2019
Volume 42, Issue 4

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Society of Southwest Archivists

of archivists, records managers, and custodians of private papers; strengthen relations with others in allied disciplines; and cooperate with organizations and institutions having mutual interests in the preservation and use of our recorded knowledge.

Annual Membership dues are \$25.00 for individuals, with a reduced rate of \$15.00 for students and retirees. Institutional newsletter subscriptions are \$25.00.

More information about membership can be found at our website southwestarchivists.org

SUBMISSIONS TO THE SOUTHWESTERN ARCHIVIST

Please send all final submissions to one of the state liaisons listed below. The preferred submission format is a Word document attached via e-mail. The document should include a title; the author's name, institutional affiliation, and contact information; and captions and citations for images. Please send images as separate JPG attachments.

Submissions may be edited to conform to style conventions and available space. Due to space limitations the editors reserve the right to omit submissions or hold them over for a future issue.

The editor gives priority to submissions of news items about repositories in the SSA region and about the professional accomplishments of SSA members. Out-of-region submissions will be published as space permits. Short feature articles on topics and issues relating to current trends in archival enterprise are also welcome, as are longer Spotlight columns. Please e-mail the editor, Nicholas Wojcik, or your area liaison if you have any questions about a proposed article.

Editor

Nicholas Wojcik
nwo@ou.edu

Assistant Editor

Krishna Shenoy
krishnas@jfk.org

Submission Deadlines:

January 10 | April 10
July 10 | October 10

Arizona submissions

Dani Stuchel
danis@email.arizona.edu

Arkansas submissions

Shannon Lausch
smlausch@ualr.edu

Louisiana submissions

Jennifer Mitchell
jmitc84@lsu.edu

New Mexico submissions

Paulita Aguilar
paulita@unm.edu

Oklahoma submissions

Amanda Hudson
amanda.hudson@chickasaw.net

North Texas submissions

Patrizia Nava
patrizia.nava@utdallas.edu

South Texas submissions

Elizabeth Lisa Cruces
lisacruces@gmail.com

Out-of-Region submissions

Shelly Croteau
shelly.croteau@sos.mo.gov

Leadership Log submissions

Krishna Shenoy
krishnas@jfk.org

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Rebecca Hankins

A SPANISH ARCHIVES PORTAL IN NEW ORLEANS

**Heather M. Szafran, Reference Associate,
The Historic New Orleans Collection,
Williams Research Center**

The Historic New Orleans Collection's Williams Research Center is known as a particularly rich and welcoming resource for scholars of diverse interests and backgrounds, where researchers are granted access to myriad rare books, maps, and historically valuable manuscript collections. Additionally, THNOC serves remote users through its reference request services and by providing access to digitized collections, research pathfinders, and extensive online resources including portals through which users may access French and Spanish colonial records.

The Guide to Louisiana Resources in Spanish Archives is one such portal available through <https://www.hnoc.org/sites/default/files/uploads/Guide-to-Louisiana-Sources-in-Spanish-Archives-Guide-English.pdf>. The Guide itself is an expansive document providing users with descriptions of and in many cases access to Spanish colonial materials related to Louisiana, and is available in both Spanish and English editions. These historical materials, held in a number of Spanish libraries, archives, and cultural institutions, illuminate the relationship between Spain and the vast Louisiana territory, over which the former ruled from

1762 to 1803. Through the Guide, THNOC researchers can determine which archives possess the holdings relevant to their interests, whether those resources have been digitized, and what additional materials may complement those they've already discovered. The Guide is an unparalleled resource for those who may not be able to travel to far-flung repositories to seek the information necessary to complete gaps in their research, and it is through the tireless efforts of Guadalupe Fernández Morente and Esther González Pérez that this accumulation of knowledge is available.

Fernández Morente and González Pérez were recommended to Alfred E. Lemmon, director of the Williams Research Center, as the ideal historians to undertake such a project by the director of the Archivo General de Indias, Manuel Ravina Martín, due to their extensive experience in a wide variety of Spanish archives. They worked

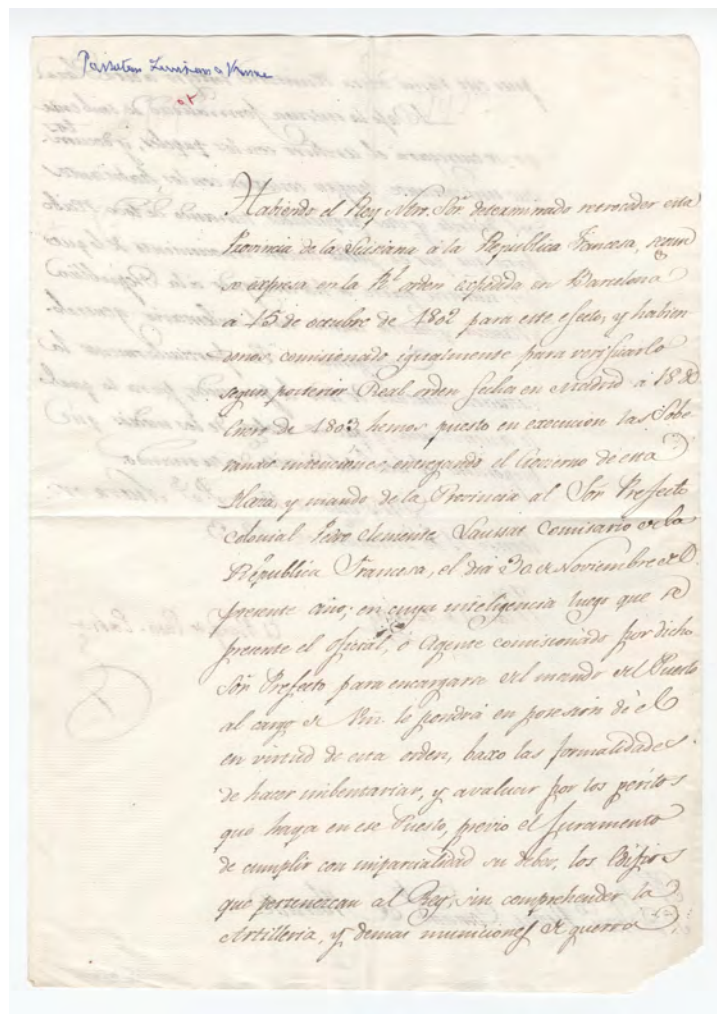


Photo courtesy of The Historic New Orleans Collection,
Williams Research Center.

closely with Lemmon to make the guide a reality. The English translation was prepared by Trágora Traducciones in close collaboration with Victoria Stapells. Through the exceptional efforts of this team, THNOC researchers now have a roadmap to the Louisiana-related holdings in archives under the jurisdiction of Spain's Ministries of Culture, Foreign Affairs, and Defense. Additionally, the Guide delineates major Spanish libraries with holdings related to Louisiana, including the Biblioteca Nacional de España, the Real Academia de la Historia, and the Real Biblioteca del Palacio Real. The Guide also describes digital resources from the Biblioteca Digital Hispánica, the Biblioteca Virtual de Defensa and the Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de

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FROM THE EDITOR

NICHOLAS WOJCİK

This issue marks an end to the paper edition of *The Southwestern Archivist* as we move to an online only publication model. As always, we hope you enjoy reading about all the great work your colleagues are doing and all that is happening in archives across the Southwest. From a new online portal for discovering Spanish archives to opening the records on the first transatlantic nuclear-fueled ship, from understanding the relationship between archives and climate change to advocating for archives in the era of "fake news," we hope you find inspiration from this issue and will consider contributing to future editions.

Ready to get more involved in SSA? Read on for great professional opportunities. We're looking for nominations for new leaders and the Distinguished Service Award, and don't forget that the deadline for submitting a proposal to the 2020 Annual Meeting is quickly approaching.

Finally, don't forget our advertisers. They are vendors who can provide help to ensure your projects are a success. Support them!

ARCHIVES ADVOCACY IN THE ERA OF "FAKE NEWS"

JOSHUA YOUNGBLOOD, SSA PRESIDENT, 2019-2020



In a recent history class I was visiting to talk through research possibilities and methods, I asked whether newspapers and other historical news sources were accurate. One student immediately shook their head no and elaborated, "most people would agree" that the news is not accurate or fair.

Separately, in response to some alarmed social media posting or another I made, a friend who teaches history replied: "the kids are all right." Well, I hope that's true. But like many of us I am keenly, and increasingly aware of the importance of my work preserving and helping people navigate historical records and

providing verifiable sources of information. College campuses and other public spaces are currently in the midst of another wave of "free speech" debates. This current debate includes some advocating for the unrestrained spread of intentionally false information and hate speech, while others are challenging notions of bias and discrimination in every aspect of society, on and off campus. Recent *Chronicle of Higher Education* articles highlight stories such as one southern university experiencing a student-led book burning in response to an author's challenging the role of white privilege on campus; a large Midwestern university is pursuing ways to further restrain disruptive protests by students in order to balance free speech protection with public safety.

One of the great opportunities I have as a research archivist is that I am able to engage with many of the students who take history courses at the University of Arkansas. I manage to meet a few times at least with every history major and graduate student, and I work with many classes directly on research projects. Of course, we go over bias in primary sources and the difference between credible and non-credible primary and secondary sources. But this question about the accuracy of information from what would traditionally be considered trusted sources—or that

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES

January 10

April 10

July 10

October 10

ADVERTISE WITH SSA

Please see our rate sheet at southwestarchivists.org or contact Nicholas Wojcik at nwo@ou.edu.

2019 ADVERTISERS

Academy of Certified Archivists

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

2020 - Denton, TX

2021 - Baton Rouge, LA



FROM THE PRESIDENT

(FROM PAGE 5)

truth is malleable and that students are being lied to be journalists and information professionals—is one that I find increasingly important to grapple with.

Advocacy and communication by archivists about not only what, but why we do what we do is crucial at this particular historical moment, even as we confront other challenges in our profession. Including diverse voices and challenging institutionalized biases in our descriptions and collection development practices are important areas of concern actively being confronted by archivists. How is such transformative work part of the scope of societal impact of the profession and how do we let people know?

Whether while explaining what we do to friends or to aunts and uncles at a family reunion or while explaining why, yes in fact, anyone can come work with our material, we all encounter people that don't really understand the work. Sometimes those are people like administrators and policy makers that really should. After all my years in the profession, I am still surprised that I need to tell some teachers and students that they absolutely can and should use our stuff. It's like those memes you may have seen, "this what I actually do..." After a series of increasingly ridiculous images of what friends and family think you do, and there's always one of Nicholas Cage holding a torch in catacombs somewhere? What we actually do is not guard dusty boxes or protect secret documents and impossibly obscure knowledge...well, maybe sometimes, but we also perform essential educational and civic duties, empowering cultural and social growth and free expression.

Archives are integral to the institutions of knowledge and information upon which the future of society rests. In some places within the SSA region, signs of weakening support for archives are clear, from bureaucratic reshuffling and de-professionalizing of leadership to the shifting of appropriations away from core aspects of archival work and even greater budget restraints. While we are not gate keepers shielding the archives from the rabble (or ferrying the Constitution out of the hands of nefarious conspirators) we do sometimes find ourselves at that gate (open and welcoming as it is) still explaining why the archives are so vitally important.

As the influence of SSA initiatives demonstrates--and the number of important panels at the Society of American Archivists and other conferences by our members attests--our efforts are having an impact on the direction of the profession. SSA's track record of archives bazaars and other engaging advocacy efforts should be celebrated. However, every aspect of our work needs to be

communicated and made relevant to turn back the tide of misinformation.

Researchers, students, and all the people we serve have greater access to information, including expertly processed archives and digitized collections, than at any point in human history. Younger generations also recognize the urgency of social, cultural, and environmental issues. As archivists we have the chance to enrich the activism and social change happening now and ensure that the wealth of information behind our gates is leveraged to move us forward and allow people to trust that truth and credibility still matter.

SSA ELECTION 2020 - CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

ANN HODGES, NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

It's time to submit nominations for SSA's 2020 election! If you would like to serve, or know an ideal candidate, please submit your nomination via our brand new web form on SSA's home page. The deadline for submitted nominations is January 1, 2020.

The SSA Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the following positions in 2020:

- Vice-President/President Elect (three year term-one as VP, one as President, and one as Immediate Past President)
- Executive Board (3 positions, two-year term)
- Nominating Committee (1 position, two-year term)
- Scholarship Committee (1 position, three-year term)
- Secretary (two-year term)

The responsibilities of each position are outlined in the SSA Officer & Committee Procedures Manual at https://societyofsouthwestarchivists.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Manuals-and-Forms/2017_Manual.pdf

Remember, if you are a Certified Archivist, or are planning to become certified, participating in the leadership of a professional organization such as SSA will earn you recertification credit.

Thank you for your interest in supporting SSA!

NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR THE SSA DSA AWARD



MARK LAMBERT, ARCHIVIST, SSA PRESIDENT 2016-2018

The SSA Distinguished Service Award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the Society and to the archival profession. Since 1996, Hollinger Metal Edge Inc. has sponsored this award which is presented to the honoree at the SSA annual meeting during the Saturday morning business meeting.

To submit a nomination, please provide the following:

- Brief description of the nominee and their contribution and impact on SSA and the profession (250-word limit);
- Letter(s) of nomination or support for the nominee;
- Up to three (3) supporting documents (E.g. publications or websites).

Please submit the nomination package electronically by emailing it in a PDF format to mlambert727@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Mark Lambert, Chair

Distinguished Service Award Committee

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

LILLY CARRELL, PDC VICE-CHAIR

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) would like to welcome a new slate of members to the committee.

Devon Proudfoot, Digital Archivist at the University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections, has assumed the role of vice-chair. Also joining PDC is **Samuel Ayers**, Assistant Preservation Librarian, State Library of Louisiana. **Amy Allen**, our fearless immediate past chair will also continue to serve on the committee. Welcome new and returning members!

PDC will be putting out a call for May 2020 Workshop Proposals this winter. If you are interested in leading a half or full day workshop on a topic of your choosing, please apply! You do not need to have previous experience leading a workshop, and we encourage co-led courses. Workshop topics can be on specific technical skills, archival enterprise, management, or diversity and inclusion.

Please send questions, comments, and ideas for how the Professional Development Committee can best serve you to Lilly Carrel, clcarrel@utexas.edu.

2019 JOHN MICHAEL CALDWELL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

RODRIGO LEAL, TEXAS ARCHIVE OF THE MOVING IMAGE

I want to thank SSA for naming me the 2019 recipient of the John Michael Caldwell Student Scholarship. Special thanks go to the SSA Scholarship Committee (Joyce Martin, Latoya Devezin, Jennifer Hecker, Mike Miller, Nicholas Skaggs) for their involvement in this selection.

I find it difficult to sum up how significant receiving the scholarship and attending the SSA 2019 Annual Meeting was to me. It was my first time attending a full professional conference, first time visiting Arizona, and ultimately an ideal way to cap off my graduate school studies and transition into the professional world. The conference felt like my first time peering into what the profession looks like outside of my Central Texas bubble, and a reaffirmation that it's a community of people that I want to continue to work alongside.

I also want to point out that attending the conference would have been at the time financially impossible for me without the scholarship. Graduate school remains an absurdly stressful time for students for a bevy of reasons. Money, or lack thereof, I argue might be the biggest stressor of all. And unless we see increases in graduate student wages or general financial assistance to match ever-increasing tuition and living costs, it doesn't seem like grad school will become any less stressful as time goes on. So until there are such sweeping institutional changes, it will continue to be difficult for students to find the time or money to be able to engage with the greater professional community. If we want to ensure that SSA, and the archival profession in general, continues to see active student participation, new archivists from diverse backgrounds, it's important that scholarships such as this one and others are continued to be funded, and that there is an effort to create more.

I want to thank all SSA members who have contributed to the scholarship fund, for supporting graduate student members, and encourage all to do so again. Further, please take time to encourage others to submit applications for the 2020 scholarships.

2020 SSA ANNUAL MEETING

JAIMI PARKER, LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE PUBLICITY CHAIR



“Visionary Archives” is the theme for the 2020 Annual Meeting, taking place in Denton, Texas May 20-23. Performing their work through new and innovative ways, Visionary Archives work hand in hand with allied professionals and community members to find creative solutions to today’s most challenging archival issues. The theme of “Visionary Archives” feels right at home in the city of Denton, which has a history of fostering visionary art, action, and leadership.

The 2020 conference will be held concurrently with the UNT Open Access Symposium. Open Access information is digital information that

is online, free of charge, and in varying degrees free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. While the notion of Open Access to

scholarly information is not new, widespread access to the web has fostered interest in the possibilities of Open Access and has accelerated the formation of a global advocacy movement. The UNT Open Access Symposium was created as a catalyst to move academic institutions in Texas forward in consideration of institutional Open Access policies. Attendees to either conference will pay the same registration rate, have access to both tracks of programming, and will share a joint reception.

The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Denton Convention Center, located in the Rayzor Ranch Town Center. This brand new hotel is the first LEED Gold rated Embassy Suites in the world, meaning that it was constructed with environmental responsibility in mind, by recycling construction debris, installing low-water usage fixtures, utilizing energy efficient HVAC and lighting systems, and utilizing native plants in its landscaping to conserve water. Additionally, the hotel offers free in-room wifi, a complimentary breakfast every morning and a complimentary happy hour every evening.

Exploring Denton’s quirky thriving downtown is easy, with the hotel offering free shuttle service to the Downtown Square. There are myriad restaurants, bars, interesting treat shops, and shopping opportunities unique to Denton available all on the downtown square, or within easy walking distance. While exploring the Square, be sure to stop by Recycled Books. This community favorite

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Above: Denton Square. Image courtesy of Mike Mezeul II-WEB. Left: Downtown Denton, TX. Courtesy of Tammi Paul Photography..

bookstore features three floors of used books and music, and is hard to miss with its eccentric purple building.

Denton boasts numerous small museums, like the Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum, and the Denton Fire Department Museum. There are also many art galleries around town showing local contemporary art, like the Patterson-Appleton Arts Center and A Creative Art STUDIO. You can also visit University of North Texas' art galleries both on campus and at UNT on the Square. If you're into a less visual art scene, you can check out the local low-power radio station KUZU 92.9 for some auditory artistic expression. There is also never a shortage of live shows to attend in the evenings, be they musical acts, theater, or comedy performances.

Keep updated with the latest information by visiting the meeting website 2020.southwestarchivists.org.

SSA ANNUAL MEETING 2020: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

AMY RUSHING, PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR



Call for Program Proposals - Visionary Archives

2020 Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Meeting

Denton, TX | Embassy Suites by Hilton Denton Convention Center

May 20-23, 2020

Submission Deadline: November 15, 2019

The 2020 Program Committee invites submissions for 60 or 90-minute sessions. Proposals are welcome on any subject or skill relevant to the archives or records management professions. Proposals will be evaluated on the completeness of the description, diversity of the speakers, and the originality of the topic. Because the 2020 SSA conference will be held concurrently with the [2020 Open Access Symposium](#), topics with potential cross-over to a scholarly communications audience are encouraged. The deadline for submissions is November 15, 2019. Please submit session proposals using the [online form](#). Send any questions to amy.Rushing@utsa.edu, Program Committee Chair.

This year's conference theme is "Visionary Archives," and proposals that concern non-traditional partnerships, advocacy, equitable access for underrepresented groups, digital preservation, and/or innovative projects are of particular interest.

Specific areas of member interest include:

- Project management
- Primary Source Instruction
- Open educational resources
- Disaster recovery
- Supervision, mentoring, and personnel management in archives
- Donor relations
- Technical services and metadata
- Non-academic archives/lone arrangers
- Web archiving and born-digital records
- Digital humanities
- Outreach
- Community archives
- Legal issues

The 2020 Program Committee has created a [Google spreadsheet](#) to be used as an informal tool to connect individuals who are seeking ideas and/or collaboration on session proposals for the 2020 Annual Meeting.



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SSA 2020

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Session formats may include, but are not limited to:

Panel Discussion: A traditional session with three to five speakers, each giving 10-15 minute presentations on a single theory or perspective on a given topic, followed by time for questions. Prepared papers are not required, the Moderator/Chair is usually one of the speakers.

Roundtable Discussion: Less formal than a Panel Discussion, a Roundtable session consists of one to three presentations of 10 minutes each that describe a theory, issue, or initiative followed by small group discussions where participants and speakers share ideas. A session Chair is not required.

Lightning Talks: A large panel of eight to ten speakers that deliver 5 minute talks on a common theme or issue, keeping a lively pace and sharing relevant take-away ideas. A session Chair is required to compile presentation materials and maintain the time schedule.

Skills Training: Are you a whiz at making phase boxes? Know how to use Excel like a pro? Have experience building exhibits of paper items? Share your skills with other members in a mini-workshop setting. Focus on one or two skills that can be shared in a 60 or 90-minute session. Skills Training sessions can have one or two speakers, and a moderator to assist with materials. Proposals should include details of the speaker's relevant experience or training.

Your format choice will not affect the Program Committee's decision. The Committee may, however, recommend that the proposed format be changed if it believes that a different format may better serve the session's learning objectives or desired audience.

*New this year and coming soon!

Pop-up sessions and Working Group sessions: Pop-Ups focus on ideas and content that may have "popped up" since the original submission deadline (November 15, 2019). Working Group sessions help facilitate conversations around topics or special interests that require more focused discussion. We will make a separate call for Pop-Up and Working Group sessions in Spring 2020. Do not use the session proposal form for Pop-Ups....just stay tuned!

Thank you from the 2020 Program Committee:

Amy Rushing, Committee Chair, University of Texas at San Antonio Libraries Special Collections

Daniel Alonzo, Texas General Land Office

Bria Corry, Family History Library (Salt Lake City, Utah)

Elizabeth Cruces, University of Houston Special Collections

Julie Judkins, University of North Texas

Shannon Lausch, Center for Arkansas History and Culture, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Trish Nugent, Loyola University (New Orleans, Louisiana)

Portia Vescio, Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections, University of New Mexico

The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and

SSA AT ATALM

GERRI SCHADD, FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE



Gerrianne Schaad, Chair of SSA's Diversity and Outreach Committee and fellow SSA'er David Peters at ATALM 2019.

Museums met in Temecula, California this past October. SSA was represented by **Gerrianne Schaad**, chair of the Diversity and Outreach Committee, along with Marcy Flynn, Rebecca Elder, and David Peters (and some help from former SSA'er Tom Claeson).

The team staffed a booth and welcomed more than 1,000 archivists, librarians, curators, conservators, and language specialists from all 50 states and countries on three continents. For two packed days, they attended sessions and enjoyed opportunities to talk with people in related fields and learn from each other.

2020 SSA SCHOLARSHIPS



LATOYA DEVEZIN, SSA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Society of Southwest Archivists offers four scholarships to further the continuing education and professional development of our members. These scholarships provide financial assistance to defray the costs of attending the annual meeting, student tuition and book fees, attendance at a professional workshop or other continuing education activity.

The deadline for all applications is February 19, 2020. (Mailed applications should be postmarked by Feb. 13; email applications may be submitted up through Feb. 19.) Additional information and applications can be found at southwestarchivists.org/scholarships.

SSA Annual Meeting Scholarship

Presented annually, this scholarship provides financial aid to a working archivist with limited funding to attend the SSA Annual Meeting. The recipient will receive registration and reimbursed travel, lodging, and per diem expenses up to a total of \$600.

An applicant must be a member of the Society of Southwest Archivists and demonstrate a need for assistance.

John Michael Caldwell Student Scholarship

The John Michael Caldwell Student Scholarship was established in 1998 in memory of a former officer and board member of SSA. It is intended to help an SSA member enrolled in a graduate archival education program attend the SSA Annual Meeting. It pays registration and will reimburse up to \$600 for travel, lodging, and per diem expenses.

To be eligible you must be an SSA member enrolled in a library, archives, or public history program within the society's region.

David B. Gracy II Student Scholarship

In honor of archival educator and enthusiast, Dr. David B. Gracy II, this scholarship is intended to provide book fee and tuition assistance up to \$600 to an SSA student member enrolled in a graduate archival education program, including Public History, Applied History, Library Science or Information Studies, at an institution within the SSA Region.

To be eligible you must be an SSA member in good standing, enrolled in a graduate archival education, Public History, or Library and Information Sciences program within the society's region. You must submit a completed application form and an essay explaining how the funds would aid your educational endeavors by the deadline.

A. Otis Hebert, Jr. Continuing Education Scholarship

In honor of SSA's founding president, this scholarship is intended to further the professional training of working archivists in the Southwest. It is especially intended to help archivists whose institutions may not be able to support continuing education. The scholarship was created through a generous bequest by SSA founder and first president A. Otis Hebert, Jr. It is maintained and increased in large part by SSA member donations.

The scholarship may support attendance at a workshop, archival institute, the SSA annual meeting, or other archival continuing education activity. The scholarship is for an amount up to \$1,000. The scholarship must be used during the respective calendar year. For more information, contact: **LaToya Devezin**, Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum, 441 Freedom Parkway | Atlanta, GA | 30307-1408 latoya.devezin@nara.gov latoya.devezin@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

AMY K. MONDT, CA, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

The membership committee is happy to report that we have had 44 new members join so far this year. So welcome to the new members and hopefully you are enjoying all the benefits of your membership.

We are looking for some volunteers. The membership committee currently does not have a member from New Mexico or Oklahoma. We also do not have a Vice Chair. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please email me amy.k.mondt@ttu.edu. It is important that we have balanced representation from members from every state in our region. We also need a Vice Chair so that we have continuity in leadership.



Save the Date for TCDL 2020

The Texas Conference on Digital Libraries dates are May 18 – 21, 2020, at the Commons Conference Center in Austin, Texas. Registration and CFP open soon. Sign up for updates from TDL at <http://eepurl.com/c8n1nz>.

[Event details on tdl.org](http://eepurl.com/c8n1nz)

Date: November 6, 2019

Location: Baylor University, Waco, Texas

Register by October 23: <https://bit.ly/31pcciL>

Web Archiving Texas

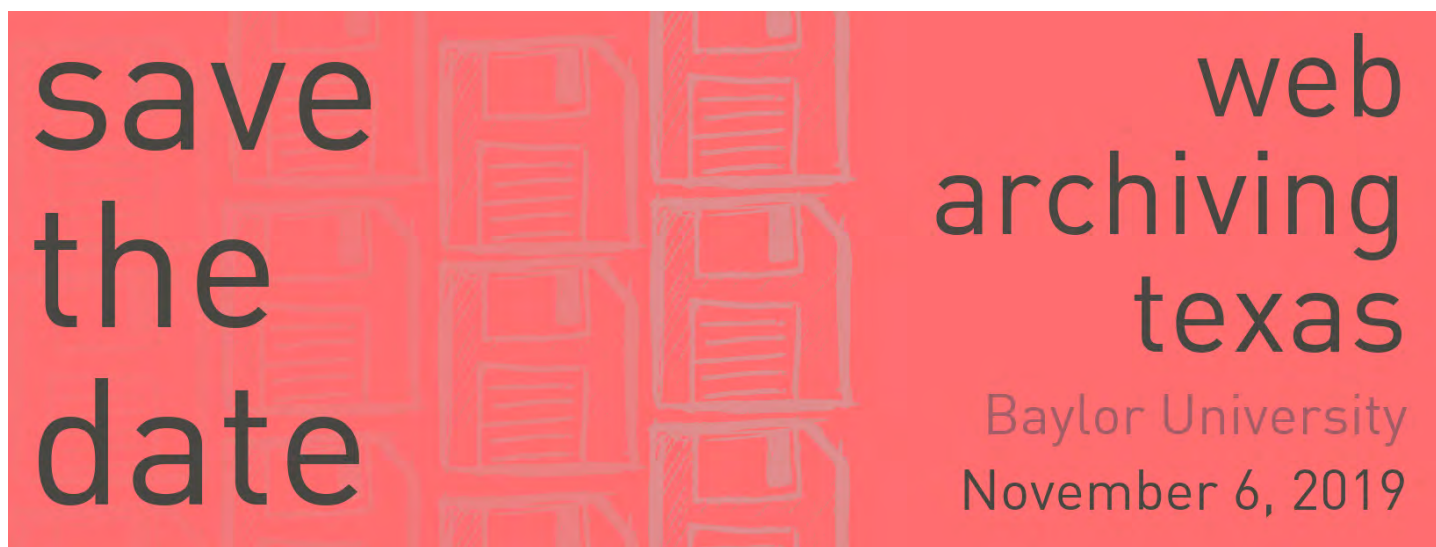
Join your colleagues from across Texas institutions for a day of information sharing, discovery, and strategy-building, co-hosted by [Texas Digital Library](http://www.texasdigitallibrary.org) and Baylor University Libraries. Registration is required and *free*.

Contact:

Lea DeForest

Communications Manager, [Texas Digital Library](http://www.texasdigitallibrary.org)

deforestlea@austin.utexas.edu



SPANISH ARCHIVES PORTAL



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

Cervantes.

Fernández Morente's and González Pérez's efforts echoed those of early New Orleanian Antonio de Sedella, an 18th-century pastor of St. Louis Church (now St. Louis Cathedral). Sedella's efforts to replicate parish documents served Louisiana well after priceless originals were incinerated in the Great New Orleans Fires of 1788 and 1794. The initiatives of Louisiana Secretary of State Charles E. A. Gayarré, who spearheaded a campaign in the mid-19th century to centralize and catalog colonial records, also served as a model for the Guide. Gayarré's early vision was finally realized through the work of scholars in the early 20th century, when several indices regarding Spanish colonial documents and repositories were published.

In the mid-20th century, Loyola University, Louisiana State University, and The Historic New Orleans Collection collaborated to microfilm Louisiana documents in the Archivo General de Indias. Toward the end of the 20th century, as the 500th anniversary of Columbus's initial voyage to the Americas approached, repositories around the globe increased availability to Spanish archival resources. In 1994, the Library of Congress published Estela Guadalupe Jiménez Codinach's 1,000-plus page tome, *The Hispanic World, 1492–1898: A Guide to Photoreproduced Manuscripts from Spain in the Collections of the United States, Guam, and Puerto Rico*, an exhaustive guide to those resources then available in the United States and two of its territories. Additionally, the Archivo General de Indias (AGI) has been a leader in digitizing archival materials. Today access to the AGI, as well as all archives that are dependencies of Spain's Ministry of Culture, is

available through PARES, or the Portal de Archivos Españoles. THNOC's Guide to Louisiana Resources in Spanish Archives includes detailed instructions regarding accessing and navigating PARES (found at <http://pares.mcu.es/>), which contains the largest accumulation of Louisiana-related Spanish documents available online.

The Guide to Louisiana Resources in Spanish Archives, in addition to guiding users through PARES, also includes descriptions and inventories of the holdings of each repository, histories of each institution, and access to electronic resources if an institution has digitized its collections. Researchers may also use aggregate search portals that query large numbers of repositories and databases in a given network, greatly reducing time spent looking for particular maps, publications, and manuscripts. For example, searches conducted through the Red de Bibliotecas Universitarias Españolas (REBIUN, <https://www.rebiun.org/>) and the Red de Bibliotecas y Archivos del Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC, <https://www.csic.es/>) may lead users to resources in a variety of Spanish universities and specialized research institutions.

The Historic New Orleans Collection's Guide to Louisiana

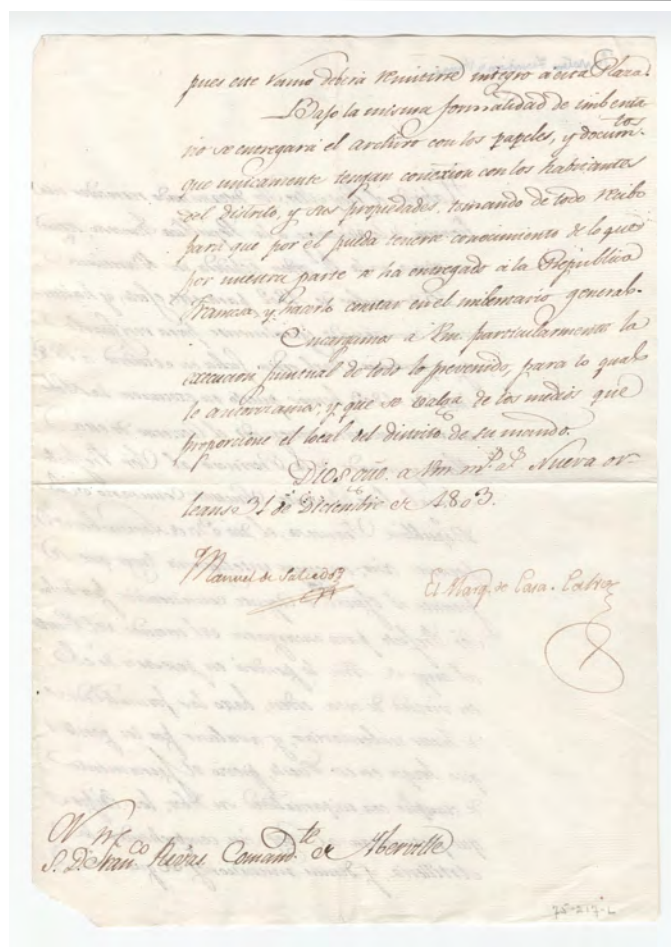
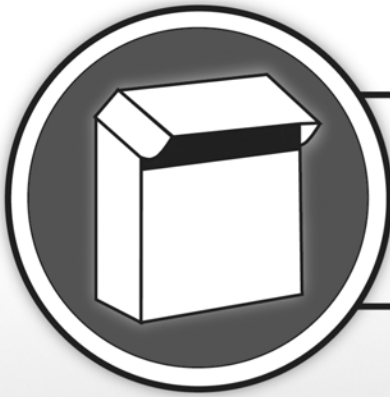


Photo courtesy of The Historic New Orleans Collection, Williams Research Center.

Resources in Spanish Archives is a living document and will be augmented as additional materials relating to the Spanish influence on Louisiana are discovered and digitized. The Guide's noteworthy bilingual structure assures that both Spanish- and English-speaking scholars may access information vital to their research, and that the materials to which they are guided are precisely those necessary for the completion of individual projects. The Historic New Orleans Collection hopes that the Guide will help researchers gain greater knowledge of Spain's impact on the evolution of Louisiana, and that it may serve as such a resource far into the future.



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TALK OF THE REGION

Survey of Small Historical Societies, Libraries and Museums for Hispanic Materials and Their Management

Nicolás Kanellos, Ph.D., University of Houston



A digital map, now on the Arte Público Press website, helps to document collecting institutions within colleges and universities in the Southwest that house Hispanic/Latino materials. Photo courtesy of the author.

Over the course of the twentieth century, commensurate with the growth of the Latino population, many local libraries, historical societies, small museums and collections within colleges and universities in the Southwest have become repositories of Hispanic/Latino materials. However, these valuable collections are not well documented and, in some cases, there is risk of damage to the collections. This is largely due to the lack of adequate resources and training at these institutions, both large and small, such that these materials are often held in below standard conditions and are unknown to the scholarly community potentially interested in them.

In 2017-2018, Recovering the US Hispanic Literary Heritage conducted a survey of small historical societies, libraries and museums in the Southwest that might hold Hispanic archival materials and to assess how they were preserved and made accessible. The survey results were herein published to serve as a guide to Hispanic materials at small institutions.

The final phase of the project involved inviting personnel from these small institutions to a meeting to offer us feedback and other projects that could plan out a larger, second project and to offer basic training to the personnel at these collections, to help

stabilize the collections and make them accessible.

In summary 358 surveys were distributed. Of these, 59 were completed and returned. This effort was followed up with phone and email contacts to 36 institutions. Of the final list of 36 organizations reporting fully, we invited 18 to come to Houston for a full-day conference; of these 8 attended and participated in the conference. A guide was published online that includes the full report of holdings of these institutions, the types of institutions and their needs; in these, there was a considerable amount of Hispanic archival materials identified, so as to justify the need for this project. Using this information, the team at Recovery then

created a digital map of these institutions, including their contact information and types of Latino materials in their collections.

Results from the survey, including the digital map, can be found on the Arte Público Press website (<https://artepublicopress.com/recovery-project/neh-survey/>).

The Survey of Small Historical Societies, Libraries and Museums for Hispanic Materials and Their Management was supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

For more information, contact:

Nicolás Kanellos, Ph.D.

University of Houston

Arte Público Press/Recovering the US Hispanic Literary Heritage

4902 Gulf Fwy., Bldg. 19, Room 100 - Houston, TX 77204-2004

recovery@uh.edu.

TALK OF THE REGION



"Gone 2 Texas" Examines Two Recent Immigration Waves

Hollace Ava Weiner, Fort Worth Jewish Archives

"Gone to Texas" was a frontier phrase scribbled by Americans who abandoned their log cabins in the 1800s and ran off to the Lone Star State. An archival exhibit in Fort Worth, TX, cleverly titled "Gone 2 Texas: 2 Waves of Immigration," implies the same spirit of fleeing the past for a promising future in a new locale.

Forty years ago, scores of Russian and South African Jews left their native lands. In both countries, international protest movements fed civil unrest, outrage over injustice, and the determination to exit. Russians seeking visas were dubbed "refuseniks" because they refused to buckle under to Soviet antisemitism. In South Africa, apartheid - the extreme legal system of racial separation - led to global boycotts, civil unrest, and riots. More than 40% of the country's Jews felt compelled to uproot and migrate out.

The Fort Worth exhibit, on display through May at Congregation Ahavath Sholom, 4050 S. Hulen Street, features the artifacts and keepsakes the immigrants chose to ship across the ocean to Texas. They include gleaming copper pots, a hand-cranked meat grinder, Russian nesting dolls, Shona sculptures, hand-woven baskets, and beaded Zulu walking sticks.

A multicolored timeline shows how the histories of



Copper kettles, from Poland to Africa to Texas. Photo courtesy of Fort Worth Jewish Archives.

both immigrant populations intersected. Ironically, both Soviet and South African Jews trace their roots to the Russian empire of old. In the late 20th century, global pressures spurred the out-migration.

Archival photos document the Russians' arrival at DFW Airport. Old



"Let My People Go" poster. Photo courtesy of Fort Worth Jewish Archives.

news clippings follow their progress as they gain employment and their children excel in school. A booklet accompanying the exhibit is filled with recent interviews that answer the question, "Where Are They Now?"

"Gone 2 Texas" was favorably reviewed in "Southern Jewish History", an academic journal published in Atlanta. The review highlights the "intimacy" of the personal objects refugees brought with them. "What immigrants pack says much about their past and the way they envision their future... They illustrate how much objects furnish not just our homes but fashion also our cultures and identities."

For more information contact Hollace Weiner at hollacew@att.net.

REPOSITORY NEWS



Two Texas Medical Center Collections Online

Sandra E. Yates, MSIS, CA, DAS, Texas Medical Center Library, McGovern Historical Center



Texas Medical Center facing north toward downtown Houston, 2000. [IC 002 Texas Medical Center records, McGovern Historical Center, The TMC Library].

The Texas Medical Center Library, McGovern Historical Center is excited to announce the completion of two important collections: Texas Medical Center records (IC 002) and the Texas Medical Center Photograph Collection (IC 104). Complete finding aids and inventories are now online and available for researchers on the McGovern Historical Center website and Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO). These collections are some of the more significant in the archive documenting the history of the Texas Medical Center, one of the largest medical centers in the world (and the namesake of The TMC Library). In total the collections equal 101 boxes encompassing the years 1905-2019, but most of the materials date from 1946-2019.



St. Luke's and Texas Children's Hospitals Cardiovascular Surgery Team in Operating Room, 1969. [P-2821, IC 104 TMC Photograph Collection, McGovern Historical Center, The TMC Library]

Texas Medical Center records (IC 002), bulk 1946-2019

The Texas Medical Center records contains administrative records, photographs, printed materials, audiovisual materials, architectural documents, promotional materials, research materials, and maps that document the history and development of the TMC. Most of the materials date within the record-keeping activity of the TMC from 1946 to present. Administrative records include TMC charter materials, correspondence, committee minutes, budgetary information, and directories. Photographic and audiovisual materials are promotional in nature and include prints, aerial photos, slides, audio, video, and film. Architectural documents include drawings, blueprints, and maps. The collection consists of 94 boxes, equaling 41 cubic feet. We expect this collection to grow each year.

Texas Medical Center Photograph Collection (IC 104), 1938-1982

The Texas Medical Center (TMC) Photograph Collection contains photographic materials that document the growth and development of the TMC from 1938 to 1982. The collection consists of about 2600 items and includes photographic prints, aerial photographs, negatives, transparencies and printed materials. The materials depict the institutions of the TMC, their staff, facilities, services, and patient care. Images show buildings and their construction as well as some photographic copies of architectural drawings. Aerial photographs from the 1940s through the 1980s show the TMC develop into an urban center. The collection provides images of the leaders and historical figures that shaped the TMC from concept to reality. The collection totals 7 boxes (3.5 cubic feet). The Texas Medical Center originally donated the photographs to the archive in 1980. They were cataloged as part of a general historical photograph collection along with other donated photographs. This collection was created based on the identification numbers and descriptions recorded on available catalog cards. Yes, we used the old card catalog to make these materials available again!

Incorporated in 1946, the Texas Medical Center is a comprehensive medical community located south of downtown Houston. It comprises 54 institutions, including four medical and seven nursing schools, 21 hospitals, three Level-I trauma centers, eight specialty institutions, and academic and research institutions for many other health-related disciplines.

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three regular applicants must select the same city on their application form.

Early Bird Registration Deadline is February 15, 2019 at 11:59 PM EST: \$26.00

After 2/15/19, the Regular Registration Fee is \$52.00 and Registration Deadline is May 31, 2019 at 11:59 PM EST

The 2019 application is available at

<https://certifiedarchivists.wufoo.com/forms/2019-aca-exam-application/>

For the 2019 application and more information about
the Certified Archivist examination, go to the ACA website
certifiedarchivists.org/get-certified or contact the
ACA office at 518-694-8471 or aca@caphill.com.



REPOSITORY NEWS

Shedding a Light on a Gem: Robert E. Cunningham, Photographer and Collector
Patrice-Andre Prud'homme, PhD., Director of Digital Curation and David Peters, Archivist, Oklahoma State University



Five women sitting on porch steps / Robert E. Cunningham Collection. Photo courtesy of Oklahoma State University.

On September 21, 1978, the Stillwater NewsPress Forum "Operation Negative" described the Robert E. Cunningham Collection as "the best and most complete photographic history of Stillwater and [Oklahoma State University] ever amassed in the state."

Robert E. Cunningham (1906—1991) graduated from Oklahoma A&M College in 1932. Besides being a writer, Cunningham was a local photographer of Stillwater and a collector of photographic glass plates. He discovered, purchased and collected thousands of glass plate and acetate negatives made by at least six photographers from the turn of the 20th century.

Oklahoma State University Library acquired a portion of the glass plates and acetate base photographs in the late 1960s-early 1970s. The majority of the photographs depict the early history of Oklahoma State University, local history, and studio portraits of early residents of Stillwater between 1889 and 1920. Other parts of the collection exist in other locations.

With funding from the National Archives--National Historical Publications and Records Commission and sponsored by the Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board, the OSU Library Archives received a 2018 Improving Access to Collections Grant to help promote the online access and use of these historically significant and fragile analog materials.

The project consisted of digitizing and providing

metadata for 396 glass plate negatives and 934 acetate base photographs. Due to the extreme fragility of the original glass plates and acetate negatives exhibiting vinegar syndrome, digitizing and stabilizing the digital surrogates of these historically significant analog items has been the goal to save the past and share this segment of history with the public beyond Stillwater and the state of Oklahoma.

Materials from the Cunningham collection will be accessible via the OSU Library digital collections website and via the Digital Public Library of America. For more information, please contact Oklahoma State University Archives at libscua@okstate.edu.

Tropy Workshop Held at Texas A&M University, November 15, 2019

Sarah Potvin, Texas A&M University Libraries

On Friday, November 15, Texas A&M University will host free hands-on workshops on the Tropy Research Photo Management Tool. Tropy is a free, open source tool designed for researchers who need to manage the photographs they take in archives and special collections. It was developed at the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University.

Tropy project manager Dr. Abby Mullen will lead the workshops. The morning workshop (10-12) is directed towards archivists, librarians, and others who staff special collections, museums, and archives. An afternoon session (2:30-4:30) is designed for researchers and others who intend to use Tropy.

Support for hosting these workshops has been generously provided by the Center of Digital Humanities Research, the Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, and the University Libraries at Texas A&M University.

Registration is limited to 30 participants per session. Please register by visiting the following links:

Morning

- <https://tamu.libcal.com/calendar/1881/tropy-AM>

Afternoon

- <https://tamu.libcal.com/calendar/1881/tropy-PM>

Contact:

Sarah Potvin

Texas A&M University Libraries

979.458.2662



REPOSITORY NEWS



New Website Highlights Voting Rights History in Dallas

Kristi Nedderman, Assistant City Archivist, Marvin Crenshaw, and John H. Slate, City Archivist, Dallas Municipal Archives

The Dallas Municipal Archives is pleased to announce the release of an online exhibit titled *The 14-1 Ruling: Suing for Single-Member Voting Districts*. The 14-1 ruling addressed decades-long voter suppression and underrepresentation in Dallas City Hall. The 8-3 system of Dallas government that had been in place since 1976 was changed in 1990 when federal judge Jerry Buchmeyer ordered the City of Dallas to expand into fourteen single-member voting areas. The fourteen districts could elect their own representative to City Council, and the one at-large seat would be held by the mayor and elected by all the citizens of Dallas.

This 18-month-long project involved researching previous lawsuits, Dallas government systems, and the City Charter; identifying and editing historic Dallas City Council meeting audio transferred from reel-to-reel originals; and conducting and editing oral histories. The oral histories required the bulk of the time. We made a list of people on both sides of the 1988 lawsuit and then reached out to ask if they would participate in the project. We spent time with



Kristi Nedderman, Marvin Crenshaw (Plaintiff in *Williams, Crenshaw vs. City of Dallas*), and John Slate. Photo courtesy of Diane Ragsdale and the Dallas Municipal Archives.

willing participants, documenting their roles and asking their views on the importance of 14-1 on Dallas government. We edited the videos to suit the website's goal, but researchers interested in the full, unedited interviews will be able to come to the Municipal Archives and listen. Next year, the 14-1 ruling reaches its thirtieth anniversary, and we are proud to roll out this website to honor the citizens and activists who took City Hall to court – and won.

Protesters in downtown Dallas, 1990. Photograph courtesy of Diane Ragsdale and the Dallas Municipal Archives.



REPOSITORY NEWS



Baylor University President Abner Vernon McCall Records Are Available for Research **Leanna Barcelona, University Archivist, Baylor University**



Abner McCall with two of the Baylor bear mascots. Photo courtesy of Baylor University.

The University Archives at The Texas Collection, Baylor University is happy to announce the release of BU Records: Office of the President (Abner Vernon McCall). These previously unprocessed records cover Baylor University's 10th president and over 20 years of university history.

Abner Vernon McCall served as president of Baylor University from

1961 to 1981. During his tenure, he was known for expanding Baylor's campus in both size and enrollment. With the increase in students also came a significant increase in the university's endowment and assets. McCall was also known for his more traditional Baptist views on issues such as dancing, alcohol, card playing, and women's dress.

In addition to serving as the president of Baylor University, McCall's career included three years with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Texas Supreme Court Justice, president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Prior to his position as president, McCall also served Baylor University as dean of the Law School and executive vice president. He finished his career at Baylor as chancellor from 1981-1985 and president emeritus thereafter.

The presidential records are arranged in five series: internal, external, people, personal, and artifacts. The internal series includes records pertaining directly to Baylor University while

the external series contains records pertaining to external organizations McCall and/or Baylor had ties to. The people series represents records that were originally organized by the last name of a person rather than a subject, department, or organization. These series contain what one would expect to find in the records of a university president: memos, reports, meeting minutes, and correspondence all relating to the day-to-day operations as well as its long-term goals of the institution. The remaining series, personal and artifacts, are relatively small and include McCall's appointment books, personal correspondence kept with his presidential materials and artifacts from his office.

One of the quirkier findings among these records is a collection of correspondence from the mid-1960s labeled "orchid" and "onion" letters. This group of correspondence was not filed by the last name of a person, but rather the contents of the letter. If it was a complimentary letter, it was labeled "orchid letters" and if it was a critical letter, it was labeled "onion letters." After 1968, this practice was abandoned.

Within these presidential records, researchers will find a wide variety of topics represented, as McCall was president during several pivotal moments in higher education. Discussion on racial integration and Title IX on a local and national level can be found within these records, including three folders of letters from individuals across the country regarding Baylor's decision to integrate in 1964. Several files on Baptist organizations across the country and national higher education organizations can be found within the external series. While these records represent one individual's time in a position of power, many other voices can be heard through the documents he collected and received while president.

Currently, masters and doctoral students in the School of Education at Baylor University are using these records to research the history and foundation of higher education, with Baylor as the case study for the larger national history. We hope this collection will be used by more students and researchers in the future!

For more information contact Leanna Barcelona at Leanna_Barcelona@baylor.edu.

STUDENT POLL of March 15, 1962		
Thought the trustees might be interested in a poll on various questions taken among the students on March 15. This is included for your information--no suggestion for any action.		
	FOR	AGAINST
Non-compulsory Boarding Plan for Students Living in Dorms	1,036	128
Uniform Rules and Hours for Girls Regardless of Classification	307	852
Dances on Campus	706	459
National Fraternities and Sororities	626	535
Admitting Negro Students	819	355
Integrated Athletic Program	898	275
Integrated Dorm System	528	643
Increasing Length of Library Hours	1,046	125
United States Withdrawing from United Nations	155	957
Federal Loans & Scholarships to Church-related Colleges & Universities	557	590

Student poll on various topics relating to campus and later published in the student newspaper, The Lariat. Photo courtesy of Baylor University.

REPOSITORY NEWS

Physicist J. Rud Nielsen Papers and Slides Available for Research
Kristina Grimsley, Special Projects and Processing Archivist, University of Oklahoma Libraries

The University of Oklahoma Libraries has opened a recently-processed collection of papers and glass slides by physicist Jens Rud Nielsen. The processing project was funded by a grant from the Center for History of Physics, American Institute of Physics. Nielsen was a student of Nobel Prize winners Niels Bohr and Robert Millikan, and had a significant impact on the development of 20th century physics. He played a leading role in the establishment of a physics research community at OU. The collection contains his research and teaching files, along with illustration printing blocks and over 1,000 glass lantern slides that depict physics principles and research results. The collection is available to the public at OU's History of Science Collections.

Jens Rud Nielsen was born in Denmark in 1894 and immigrated to the United States in 1922. He earned one of the first PhDs from the California Institute of Technology. He taught at Humboldt State College

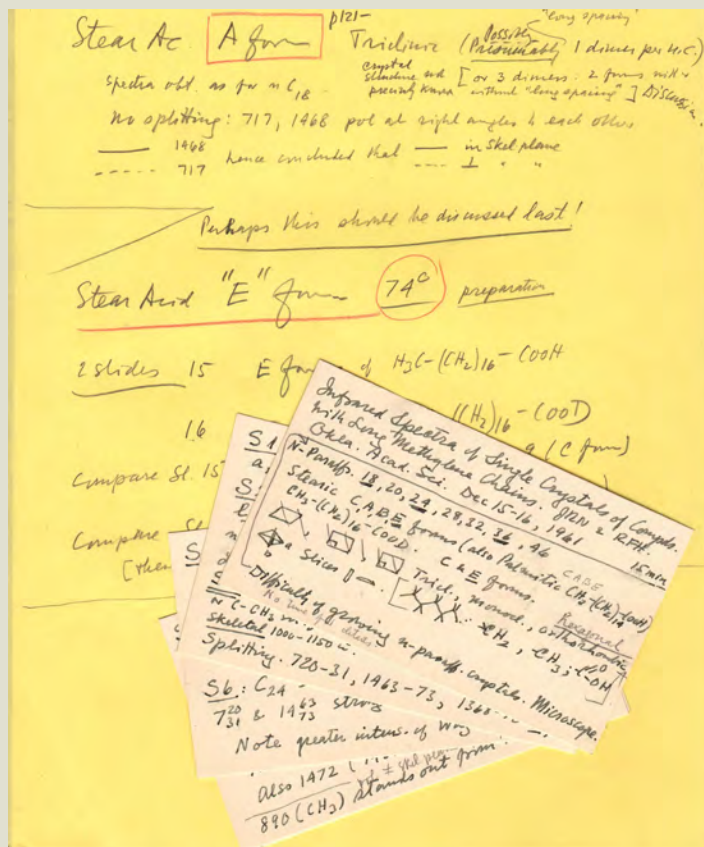


J. Rud Nielsen at an OU research lab in 1965. Box 1, Folder 3, J. Rud Nielsen Papers and Slides. Photo courtesy of OU Libraries.

until he was recruited to OU in 1924 to found a research program in physics. During his 41-year tenure at OU he taught theoretical physics and became an authority on using Raman spectroscopy to study molecular structure. In 1931 he was the first faculty member to win a Guggenheim Fellowship, which he used to further his studies under Niels Bohr. Upon retirement in 1965, OU's physics building was named in his honor.

Nielsen's papers document his extensive research efforts, such as his WWII-era work with the U.S. Office of Naval Research on analyzing compounds used in the petroleum and chemical industries. Letters, photographs, and ephemera record decades of Nielsen's interactions with Niels Bohr and other physicists, and special events such as his induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. Research files and manuscripts produced for his post-retirement project translating and editing Niels Bohr's Collected Works complete the collection.

Researchers using these materials have the support of an academic community of historians and rich collections of supplementary materials. In addition to Nielsen's papers, the History of Science Collections holds over 50 books from Nielsen's personal library, his manuscript notebook, "Memories of Niels Bohr," an audio recording of Bohr's 1957 public lecture at OU, and a related historical instrument collection. OU SLIS graduate student Dewayna York processed the collection. The finding aid will be available on the OU Libraries website. For more information, contact the History of Science Collections at lib-hos@ou.edu,



Physics research notes. Box 9, Folder 17, J. Rud Nielsen Papers and Slides. Photo courtesy of OU Libraries.

Savannah's Voyage from Galveston to Europe, Back to Galveston

**Kevin Kinney, Archivist,
Galveston & Texas History
Center**

Rosenberg Library's Galveston and Texas History Center has the papers of David Barton McMichael, who served as the captain of the N.S. (Nuclear Ship) Savannah during her maiden transatlantic voyage in 1964, as well as the log books kept by the deck officers during that voyage.

The Savannah was the world's first nuclear-fueled merchant ship. The 22,000-ton vessel was proposed in 1955 by U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower and in 1956, Congress authorized her construction as a joint project of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and the Maritime Administration of the

U.S. Department of Commerce. Launched on July 21, 1959 from Camden, New Jersey, Savannah's purpose was to demonstrate the peaceful use of nuclear energy across the planet. She was inspired by the steamship of the same name in 1819, which sailed from Savannah, Georgia to Liverpool,

transatlantic crossing, sailing from New York to ports all over Northern Europe. During the first leg of her journey, called Voyage 1, she had spent about two weeks moored at Pier "E" of Todd Shipyard's Pelican Island station in Galveston, which was used as her service port. Then on May 5, she



N.S. Savannah under way, 1964. David B. McMichael Papers, MS75-0014, Box 1, Folder 5. Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas.

England to demonstrate the use of steam propulsion for transatlantic crossings.

During the spring and summer of 1964, Savannah began her first

had traveled from Galveston to Houston, and days later, began her journey through ports in New Orleans, Baltimore, and Boston before arriving in New York on June 1.

The second leg of Voyage 1 began mid-June with the Savannah launching from New York to Bremerhaven and Hamburg, Germany. She would visit Dublin, Ireland and Southampton, England before finally returning to New York on July 27, 1964. Voyage 2 would commence from there soon thereafter. Captain McMichael served as Savannah's third skipper



Photo of N.S. Savannah arriving at Hamburg, Germany on June 23, 1964. David B. McMichael Papers, MS75-0014, Box 1, Folder 4. Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas.

Continued on page 25



until 1965, having been appointed in 1963 after working at States Marine Lines. In addition to demonstrating peaceful use of the atom on both sides of the ocean, throughout her voyage the Savannah would serve as host for diplomats and businessmen. Later in 1964, Captain McMichael and his crew would even be received by Pope Paul VI during Savannah's fourth transatlantic journey.

The N.S. Savannah was retired from service in 1971. She had made one last call at Galveston in 1970, where her nuclear reactor was shut down. In 1982, she was listed in the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places.

Captain McMichael's papers contain letters, newspaper clippings, photographs, brochures, and even menus relating to Savannah's first transatlantic crossing in 1964. The photographs show the Captain with associates and family, the Savannah while at port and at sea, and the Captain and crew meeting various dignitaries. The log books document crew activities aboard the ship, her condition, weather events, and cargo during Voyage 1.

Sources:

N.S. Savannah Log Books, MSS 75-0013. Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas.

David B. McMichael Papers, MSS 75-0014. Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

"NS Savannah launched 25 years ago; today it's grimy, dirty and idle," by Maury Darst. Galveston Daily News, July 19, 1984.

"Wind And Low Temperature Fail To Halt Port Activity," by Maury Darst. Galveston Daily News, December 8, 1964.

"New Captain Takes Helm of Savannah," Galveston Daily News, August 22, 1963.



Photo of Captain David B. McMichael using a sextant while aboard Savannah, 1964. David B. McMichael Papers, MS75-0014, Box 1, Folder 4. Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas.



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TALK OF THE REGION

3rd Border Archives Bazaar a Success

*Dylan McDonald, CA, Political Papers Archivist,
NMSU Library Archives and Special Collections*



NMSU Archivist Jennifer Olguin speaking with Bazaar attendees. Image provided by the author.

The Border Regional Archives Group (BRAG) hosted its third Border Archives Bazaar on Saturday, September 28th, at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The free event gave the public a chance to see historic treasures from 18 institutions in the Las Cruces, El Paso and surrounding borderlands region. Archivists, curators, and librarians discussed their institutions' archival collections and answered questions about local history resources and how to care for historical records and artifacts. This year's theme, Archives: Mirrors of Ourselves, highlighted how archives reflect individual experiences and shared community history. More than 275 people attended the six-hour event, the largest crowd in the event's three-year history.

The Bazaar also included five lectures and two film screenings in the museum's theater. The Archives Bazaar Planning Committee selected the speakers because of their recent scholarship on the borderlands and the diversity of subject matter. During their presentations, each speaker discussed the importance of archival records to their research and the critical role our region's archivists played in assisting their scholarship. The two films shown came from the holdings of the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and New Mexico State University (NMSU) archives.

The line-up included:

- Dr. C.J. Alvarez, University of Texas at Austin, "Border Land, Border Water: A History of Construction on the US-Mexico Divide"
- Janine Young, El Paso County Historical Commission, "Researching Women Suffragists in the Archives: Challenges and Rewards from the El Paso Experience"
- Dr. Rick Hendricks, New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, "El Paso del Norte's Catholic Clergy in the Durango Cathedral Archives"
- Dr. Julia Smith, NMSU, "The Devil's Mistress and the Birth of the Acid Western in Las Cruces"
- Dr. Jeff Shepherd, UTEP, "Wendell Chino, the Mescalero Nation, and Native American Activism after World War II"
- La Venganza de Pancho Villa, a compilation film created in El Paso, Texas by local filmmakers Félix Padilla and his son Edmundo Padilla during the early 1930s. The Padillas combined dozens of American and Mexican newsreels with fictional footage to create this film about Mexican Revolution general Francisco "Pancho" Villa.
- The Devil's Mistress, a film shot in the Organ Mountains near Las Cruces, New Mexico with a local cast and crew. Released in 1965, the film is a prototype of the "acid western" genre.

Feedback from those in attendance was overwhelmingly positive, particularly noting the great diversity of participating institutions – from universities and local historical societies to museums and national parks – and the excitement this generated. "The exhibit area kept me motivated in staying for the entire event," commented one attendee.

The Society for Southwest Archivists' Community Outreach Fund lent generous support for event. Additional funding came from the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, the NMSU Library Archives and Special Collections, and UTEP's C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department.

For more information about BRAG, follow the group at <https://www.facebook.com/BRarchives>.

TALK OF THE REGION



Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) Summer 2019 Updates

Carla O. Alvarez, Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas at Austin and Rebecca Romanchuk, Archives and Information Services Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Exciting Opportunities to Assist TARO!

If you work at a TARO-member institution, you have an opportunity to help with important and exciting work ahead for TARO! Over the next three years, volunteers will be contributing to supporting the success of TARO's recently awarded NEH grant. The grant will entail substantial changes to TARO, chiefly: a redesign of its web platform to improve functionality and appearance, a review of EAD3 encoding standards, working towards standardizing existing control access terms (subject headings, geographic names), and further training for TARO members in contributing finding aids.

So how can you help? TARO has five subcommittees that will assist with this grant work. **The following subcommittees are looking for new members: Outreach/Education, Standards, and Technology/Website.** Information about each subcommittee and its current chairs and co-chairs is available in the TARO blog (<https://tinyurl.com/yytgkmzf>).

We are looking for people with an interest in any of these areas (no expertise is required!) to become a member of a subcommittee. The amount of time you have available for this work will always be a good fit—there are no specific time commitments involved. Our subcommittees will be providing support to two positions hired through the grant (an applications developer and a metadata librarian) and will have specific tasks assigned to them. Grant activities will be led by an already-staffed Grant subcommittee and the TARO Steering Committee.

Contact the subcommittee chair/co-chairs to express interest in joining one of our subcommittees. Now is the time to gain experience in grant work on a manageable scale for you, and at the same time make a meaningful contribution to the vitality of TARO!

TARO's participation in NAFAN

TARO is participating in a national discussion on the current archival description landscape and future collaboration possibilities. TARO is a core partner of the National Archival Finding Aid Network (NAFAN) initiative, a one-year (October 2018 – September 2019) planning project convened by the California Digital Library (CDL). Following a symposium in June of this year, NAFAN recently released a report, "Finding Aid Aggregation at a Crossroads." The report provides information about the current landscape of archival description – especially finding aid aggregations – and was developed to guide discussions on how best to provide access to archival collections in the long-term. TARO representatives completed a survey and engaged in discussions with the project consultant to create an aggregator profile. You can find TARO specific information in pages 170-179 of the report: <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5sp13112>

"Toward a National Archival Finding Aid Network" (NAFAN) is a project supported by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), administered in California by the State Librarian.

Stay in Touch

TARO working wiki: <http://texastaro.pbworks.com/>

TARO Today: <https://blogs.lib.utexas.edu/taro/>

TARO Best Practices Guidelines: <http://bit.ly/2Alonsy>

Carla O. Alvarez
Benson Latin American Collection
The University of Texas at Austin
SRH 1.109, UT Austin
2300 Red River St
Stop S5410
Austin, Texas 78712-1469
512-495-4580
c.alvarez@austin.utexas.edu

Rebecca Romanchuk
Archives and Information Services
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
PO Box 12927
1201 Brazos St.
Austin, Texas 78711-2927
512-475-1734
rromanchuk@tsl.texas.gov

TALK OF THE REGION



Virtual Footlocker Project Preserves Veterans' Memories Digitally

Allison Satake, LSU Media Relations and Adrian Hirsch, Communications Manager, LSU College of Human Sciences & Education



Edward Benoit III, PhD. Image courtesy of the authors.

LSU School of Library & Information Science Assistant Professor Edward Benoit, III, PhD, recently received a \$391,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, or IMLS, for the Virtual Footlocker Project, or VFP. This project was inspired by both Benoit's personal experience as a veteran and as the son of a retired Air Force officer. Benoit inherited

his father's footlocker filled with letters, pictures, journals and memorabilia. "I began thinking about what items would mark my time in service and of current military personnel," Benoit said.

For generations, airmen, sailors and soldiers documented their wartime experiences in personal diaries, photographs and correspondence. Veterans often kept those collections long after their service and handed them down to family members. Some items eventually make their way to museums. In archives, these treasured personal military service accounts serve a vital role in humanizing wartime sacrifices and experiences. "With the shift towards digital technologies over the past 20 years, the contemporary 21st-century soldier no longer creates the same analog personal archives," Benoit said. "That creates a critical future gap in the record."

Having already completed research to determine how contemporary veterans and active duty personnel document their service, Benoit will use the IMLS funding to further investigate best practices and protocols for archivists assisting veterans and active duty personnel to preserve their personal digital archives. To determine the best way to preserve veterans' experiences for future generations, Benoit will conduct a series of focus groups, map technical requirements on existing standards, identify technical and policy-based challenges and propose a functional framework for protocol design. Using those findings,

he will develop a series of workshops for archivists.

VFP has already received regional and national attention and accolades. The project received support from the United Service Organizations, Wounded Warrior Project, the Louisiana Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Louisiana National Guard Museum, the Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project and the National WWII Museum.

Benoit, the Russell B. Long Professor in the School of Library & Information Science, received a LSU College of Human Sciences & Education Dean's Circle grant in 2015 to conduct a preliminary study that explored how contemporary veterans and active duty personnel documented their time in service, the types of formats used and where they stored these documents, videos and images. Benoit's new award came from the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program, which received 88 preliminary proposals requesting nearly \$25 million. Thirty-seven finalists were invited to submit full proposals with the IMLS ultimately investing \$8 million for the development of 24 projects.

"These grant recipients demonstrate the many ways that libraries are playing a central role in serving the diverse and unique needs of their communities," said IMLS Director Kathryn K. Matthew. "Through programs serving veterans, inspiring lifelong learning and fostering the digital literacy skills necessary to thrive in today's world, these funded grants will help communities all across the country flourish."

About School of Library & Information Science

The School of Library and Information Science, or SLIS, awards the Master in Library and Information Science, or MLIS, degree and Graduate Certificates in Archival Studies, Records and Information Management and School Librarianship. SLIS also offers a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Library Science, undergraduate minors in Digital Studies and Library Science and a Communication-Intensive undergraduate general education course.

Contact

Alison Satake
LSU Media Relations
225-578-3870
asatake@lsu.edu

Adrian Hirsch
LSU College of Human Sciences & Education
225-578-5110
ahirsch1@lsu.edu

TALK OF THE REGION

Erin E. Voisin Receives F. Gerald Ham and Elsie Ham Scholarship from SSA *Edward Benoit III, PhD, Louisiana State University*

Erin E. Voisin of Louisiana State University is the 2019 recipient of the F. Gerald Ham and Elsie Ham Scholarship given by the Society of American Archivists (SAA). The award will be presented at a ceremony during the Joint Annual Meeting of the Council of State Archivists and SAA in Austin, TX, July 31–August 6. The \$10,000 scholarship supports the graduate archival education of a student who is studying at a U.S. university program. Scholarship selection criteria include the applicant's past performance in his or her graduate program in archival studies as well as faculty members' assessment of the student's prospects for contributing to the archives profession.

Ms. Voisin's thoughtful essay, "Breaking Down Barriers: Inclusivity, Outreach, and the Interdisciplinary Imperative," contends that archival thinking requires a multi-faceted, interdisciplinary approach to understand the past and negotiate the challenges of today and the future. She reflects on the evolution of her understanding of archives and the

way in which her archival work is informed by her education in classical antiquity and professional experience in historical archaeology. In addition to her exceptional academic record in conjunction with working full time, Voisin actively contributes to the campus ALA and SAA student chapters, and has presented at state and national archival meetings.



Erin E. Voisin. Image courtesy of the author.

Her faculty nominator noted that he is "impressed with her intellectual curiosity, dedication to the profession, and her willingness to go above and beyond requirements." The scholarship was created in 1998 by SAA Fellow, past president, and longtime member F. Gerald Ham and his wife Elsie.

Contact: Taylor Camara, Society of American Archivists, 312-606-0722 tcamara@archivists.org

Adrian Hirsch, LSU College of Human Sciences & Education 225-578-5110 ahirsch1@lsu.edu

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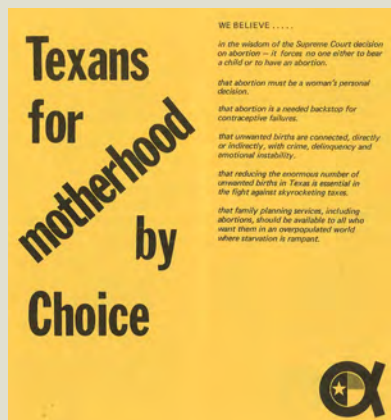
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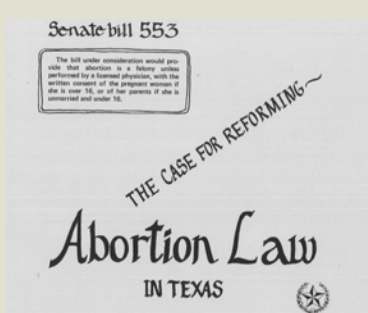
Worth Fighting For...Processing Completed on Papers of Dallas Women's Rights Activist Samantha Dodd, CA, Southern Methodist University



Texans for Motherhood by Choice brochure, undated. Photo courtesy of Southern Methodist University.

activist and champion of women's rights, particularly women's reproductive rights. In 1969, Virginia Whitehill founded the Dallas Committee to Study Abortion and helped to organize the pro-choice movement in Texas. She served as the Texas Citizens for Abortion Education (TCAE) state coordinator in 1974. Whitehill worked closely with Sarah Weddington, preparing for what would become a landmark Supreme Court case: Roe vs. Wade. "There's nothing more important to a woman than controlling her own fertility. The vote and birth control are the cornerstones of the emancipation of women"-Virginia Whitehill, Mount Holyoke Alumnae Quarterly, fall 2005.

A native of New York, Virginia Whitehill graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1950 with a



The Case for Reforming Abortion Law in Texas, undated. Photo courtesy of Southern Methodist University.

The DeGolyer Library, Southern Methodist University, has finished processing the papers of women's and children's rights activist Virginia Whitehill. Finding aids are now available online for researchers through the library's catalog and TARO.

Virginia Bulkley Whitehill (1928-2018) was a Dallas civic

bachelor's degree in history. She moved to Dallas in 1960 with her husband, James, and her two daughters. Her mother, Myrtle Bales Bulkley, was also a women's rights activist. Myrtle's efforts focused on the vote for women. She marched for women's suffrage as a young woman, met with Alice Paul on a number

of occasions, and remained a vocal supporter of women's rights and instilled in her daughter a passion for activism.

While Whitehill's activist work centered heavily on women's reproductive choice, she supported a number of other women's rights and issues and co-founded several women's groups in Dallas including: the Dallas Women's Coalition, Women's Issues Network, Dallas Women's Foundation, the Family Place, Dallas Summit, Dallas Women's Political Caucus, Veteran Feminists of America (Dallas), and the Women's Equity League.

Whitehill donated her papers to the DeGolyer Library over the course of 24 years (1994-2018). Her papers consist of awards, artifacts, audiovisual materials, brochures, clippings, correspondence, photographs, speeches, notes, newspapers, magazines, books, printed materials, pamphlets, statements, reports, directories, legislative agendas and notices, guides, ephemera, flyers, and meeting files with agendas and minutes. These materials provide insight to what continues to be an extremely divisive subject in the United States, and have already proven valuable to researchers. Reader Karen Blumenthal used the Whitehill papers extensively in preparation for her upcoming book *Jane Against the World: Roe Vs. Wade and the Fight for Reproductive Rights*, due out next February.

Established in 1993, the Archives of Women of the Southwest is one of the special collections of DeGolyer Library. Its mission is to document the historical experience of women in the Southwest, with special emphasis on Dallas and North Texas, as well as a regional focus.

For more information contact Samantha Dodd at (214) 768-0829 or smdodd@mail.smu.edu



Virginia Whitehill, January 1975. Photo courtesy of Southern Methodist University.

REPOSITORY NEWS

Rediscovering Historical Resources

Gabrielle Montano, Law Librarian 1, NM Supreme Court Law Library

The librarians at the Supreme Court Law Library have taken on the task of inventorying the library's print collection. This is a huge endeavor for a library that has three levels, plus a basement, and has been in its current location since 1937.

One of the fun aspects of an inventory is going into parts of the library that do not get much traffic and rediscovering historical resources. For example, the library collects New Mexico legislative material during each legislative session so it was no surprise to see bound volumes of the House and Senate Bills shelved in the Archive. What was surprising, and what the inventory revealed, is how far back the library's collection goes.

The initial survey of the New Mexico Bills collection shows the library has legislative material starting with the 34th Legislative Assembly in 1901. This is a historical resource from territorial times. New Mexico officially became a state in 1912. The inventory has also shown the law library has House and Senate Bills from the very first state Legislature.

What is fun about looking at these historical resources is comparing what is available today to what was done over a hundred years ago. For example, we have the convenience of the New Mexico legislative website that allows everyone access to legislative materials and actions and enables us to see updates to specific bills. A hundred years ago, the bill itself was typed on a typewriter, the actions were handwritten, and they were only available in print.

The inventory in the Archive has reminded us in the law library that we have the unique benefit of being able to access legislative materials that are online, as well as to print materials that date back to Territorial New Mexico. The goal is to find out exactly what resources our collection holds so that we can make them accessible by cataloging and preserving them for future generations.

Currently, the New Mexico legislative material is in the library's Archive. An appointment to use Archive material is required. To request an appointment you can e-mail the library at libref@nmcourts.gov.

To view the cataloged portions of the law library's collection, you can visit the OPAC at



House Bill #1 from the Second Legislature of New Mexico in 1915. is part of the Supreme Court Law Library's legislative materials collection stored in the Archive. Over 100 years old, this library resource shows how the state legislature produced legislative materials before computers. Photo by Gabrielle Montano.

<https://n10045.eos-intl.net/N10045/OPAC/index.aspx>.

As they continue the inventory process, the librarians at the Supreme Court Law Library hope to rediscover more hidden gems within the collection and share them with everyone.

AUSTIN ARCHIVISTS PARTICIPATE IN GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE TEACH-IN

**Rodrigo Leal, Texas Archive of the Moving Image
and Kristy Sorensen, Austin Presbyterian
Theological Seminary**

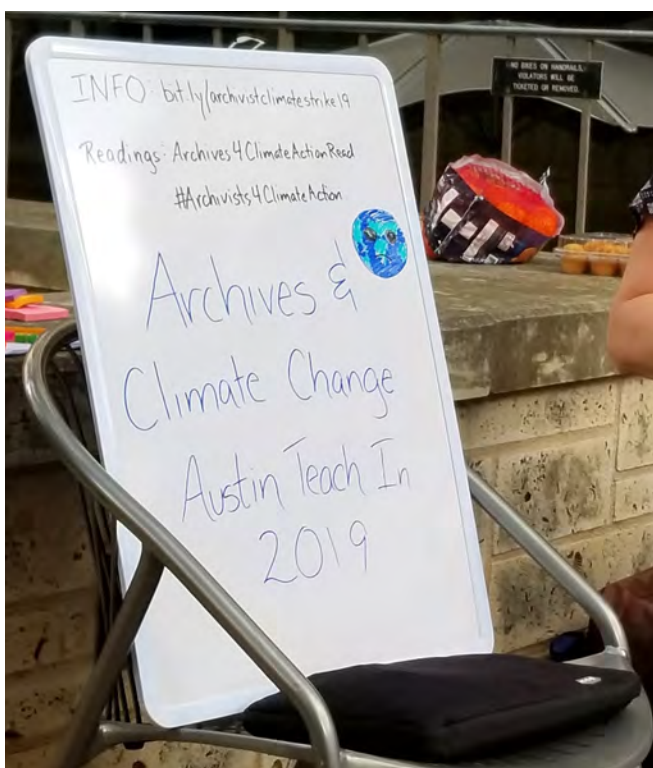
As part of a worldwide network of events and action, a group of Austin archivists and students met on Friday, September 20 for a climate change-centered teach-in, with the aim of better understanding how the archival profession contributes to the climate crisis, and to serve as an inciting point for future collective action.

Organized by Itza Carbajal (Latin American Metadata Librarian at LLILAS Benson) and co-facilitated by Rodrigo Leal (Audiovisual Archivist at the Texas Archive of the Moving Image), the Austin teach-in was one of nine events held throughout the United States, Canada, and Australia, sponsored by Project ARCC and Archivists Against History Repeating Itself, and part of the Global Climate Strike 2019. These events were organized with the hope that by joining international efforts to raise awareness of climate change, archivists can add their voices to the global community to tell leaders

across the world that we demand climate action.

The Austin teach-in module consisted of a series of journaling exercises, reflections, self-guided research activities, and group

discussion exploring issues of waste culture in our personal lives and in our work as archivists. We looked at questions like:



Archivists gather in Austin for the Archives & Climate Change Teach-in on Friday, September 20, 2019. Photo by Kristy Sorensen.

- What does waste culture mean to us?
- What is our personal relationship to waste culture?
- When do we decide to throw something away, or to replace with a newer version?

- Where does our waste go?
- Where do we see waste culture in archives? How can we change it?

The group talked about archives-specific environmental impacts like the energy needed to power strict environmental controls for collection spaces, server farms that power our digital preservation efforts, and disposing of hard-to-recycle media like VHS tapes and CDs.

The teaching module used in the Austin event as well as related teaching modules from other archives teach-ins and a facilitator's guide are freely available from the event page here: <http://bit.ly/archivistclimatestrike19>. We hope that other archivists can reuse our templates in their own contexts, discuss these questions with their colleagues, and continue this conversation.

If you or your colleagues are looking for helpful resources, we recommend exploring the Austin teach-in's shared readings including "Dying Well in the Anthropocene: On the End of Archivists" by Samantha R. Winn, and "Sustainable Digital Scholarship: Shrinking Our Footprint, Broadening Our Impact." by Stacie Williams. We also have a group Zotero bibliography with links to resources available here: <http://bit.ly/Archives4ClimateActionRead>

We hope that all members of SSA begin (or continue) to grapple with our profession's role in contributing to the climate crisis and to determine what measures we should take as impending ecological change threatens our institutions and communities. We hope that this event marks the beginning of regular regional discussion and cooperation and are calling on SSA membership and leadership to engage and act on these issues in our communities.

TALK OF THE REGION

Oklahoma Archivists Association Update 2019 *J.J. Compton, Oklahoma Christian University*

The OAA has been busy this summer, coordinating efforts with the Metropolitan Library System to collect and preserve materials from the Oklahoma City Public Schools, as part of the redistricting which occurred in the spring of 2019. Some schools were closed and some were repurposed in the 2019 Pathway to Greatness reorganization plan. Fourteen schools were identified for collecting and an updated Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Craig Cates, Director of Board Services from the OKC Public Schools and Buddy Johnson, Special Collections Manager at the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library and Jennifer Green, OAA Vice-President to appraise, collect, and preserve any historical material from the closing schools:

Linwood Elementary
Edgemere Elementary
Edwards Elementary
Gatewood Elementary
Green Pastures Elementary
Horace Mann Elementary
Johnson Elementary
North Highland Elementary
Oakridge Elementary
OK Centennial Mid-High School
Pierce Elementary
Putnam Heights Elementary
Sequoyah Elementary
Telstar Elementary
Westwood Elementary

Photos were taken at each building and materials were collected over the summer months and transferred to the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library.



Edwards Elementary School. Photo provided by the author.



Presenters: David Peters, Oklahoma State University; Jennifer Green, The City of Oklahoma City; Kera Newby, National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum and JJ Compton, Oklahoma Christian University. Photo provided by the author.

Volunteers were then sought from the larger organization for work the weekend of July 13-14 at the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library. Volunteer work consisted of rehousing and describing photographs, bound volumes, loose documents and a limited number of artifacts. The series of historical material totaled 40 c.f. and was added to the administrative papers of the Oklahoma City Public Schools, already maintained by the library.

In addition to this summer long project, the OAA voiced their opposition to the impending closure of the American Organ Institute and Archives. To read the letter sent to the interim President of the University of Oklahoma, please visit our website <https://okarchivists.org/2019/06/21/american-organ-institute>

In other news, four OAA members were invited to present at the Oklahoma Museum Associations pre-conference workshop held September 17 on "Archival Description for Museum Professionals", a half day workshop which addressed basic principles of archives including Preparation and Planning, the Basics of Archival Description, Authority Control and Descriptive Elements and Creating Finding Aids. Thirty-two museum professionals signed up to attend the workshop held in Durant, Oklahoma at the Choctaw Casino Resort.

Special thanks to the Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board and Jan Davis at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries for helping the OAA get training materials for each participant.

REPOSITORY NEWS



New Film Additions to University of Houston Libraries

Emily Vinson, Audiovisual Archivist, University of Houston Libraries

University of Houston Libraries Special Collections is delighted to announce the addition of 112 digitized 16mm films from the KUHT Film and Video Collection to the UH Libraries Audio/Video Repository. This project was supported by a Recordings at Risk grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). The grant program is made possible by funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The films, dating between 1953 and the 1970s, represent some of KUHT-TV's earliest productions and include examples of the United States' nascent educational and public television system.

KUHT's first air check took place on May 25, 1953. The station began broadcasting the following month, making it the United States' first educational, non-profit television station to go on air. KUHT was a pioneering influence in the field of "tele-education," creating for-credit college courses. Included in these recently digitized materials are several of Dr. H. Burr Roney's biology courses, which went on the air in the station's first year. By 1958, Roney's freshman biology tele-course "had the greatest enrollment of any standard college course given by television at any school in the nation."¹ Other digitized tele-courses include art and philosophy.

In the 1960s, KUHT moved away from the production of for-credit college courses but continued to produce elementary education programs in partnership with the Houston Independent School District, as well as content for the enrichment of all viewers. In addition to educational programs, KUHT productions documented the activities of the University of Houston and the Gulf Coast region.

Other highlights from the recently digitized materials include:



Dr. H. Burr Roney teaches telecourse in Biology [1953], KUHT Collection, Special Collections, University of Houston Libraries. Photo courtesy of the author.

- Target Delinquency (1963), a series produced to inform viewers about the threat of juvenile delinquency with funding from President Kennedy' Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Offenses Control Act of 1961.
- The Way It Is (1968), a series designed to educate viewers about financial issues facing consumers, such as home buying and risks associated with small loans
- Surprisingly engaging live kinescope recordings of meetings of the Houston Independent School District (1956-1957)
- Campus activities and events such as campus scenes from the 1950s, a university promotional film, the UH football team, and members of the UH dance team.

For more information, contact:

Emily Vinson
Audiovisual Archivist
University of Houston Libraries
evinson@uh.edu
713-743-7696

REPOSITORY NEWS



Madison Alexander Cooper, Jr. Papers Open at Baylor University's Texas Collection **Benna Vaughn, CA, Baylor University**

What would you do if you suddenly found yourself characterized in a best-selling novel? This was the dilemma some Wacoan's thought they were in when Madison Cooper, Jr.'s book, "Sironia, Texas," hit the bookstands in 1952. The novel, the longest book printed in English at that time, came out at 1731 pages and set Waco, Texas to speculating. They are still speculating in some cases, and the newly opened "Madison Alexander Cooper, Jr. Papers" could provide some answers.

Madison Cooper, Jr. was born in Waco, Texas in 1894. He grew up wealthy, living in a mansion on Austin Avenue, and later attended the University of Texas for a degree in English, graduating in 1915. He then returned home to Waco to work in the family grocery business. After serving in the army during WWI, Cooper once again came home to work. During this time, he began writing short stories under the name Matt Cooper, selling a few but finding more rejections than successes.

Cooper was also very philanthropic, aiding people with his own money and preferring to remain anonymous. After Cooper's parents died in the 1930s, Madison remained alone on Austin Avenue, continuing with his work for the Cooper Company and other endeavors.



Dust Jacket Cover for Madison A. Cooper, Jr.'s *Sironia, Texas*, circa 1952. Photo courtesy of Baylor University.

It came as a huge shock to everyone, even those closest to him, when Cooper published his first novel, "Sironia, Texas," in 1952. He spent the previous eleven years in a small

attic room writing the novel, set in the fictional Texas town. The book spent eleven weeks on "The New York Times" best-seller list, and though Cooper denied it, every prominent Wacoan seemed to see himself or herself in the novel. Though Cooper went on to write other books, none of them enjoyed the same success as "Sironia". Cooper continued to write



Madison Cooper sitting at his typewriter in the attic room where he produced *Sironia, Texas*, circa 1952. Madison Alexander Cooper, Jr. Papers, Accession #1342, Box 23, Folder 31, The Texas Collection, Baylor University. Photo courtesy of Baylor University.

reviews and columns for The "Dallas Morning News", never married, and died of a heart attack in 1953 while out for a routine run.

The "Madison Alexander Cooper, Jr. Papers", now arranged in four series: Correspondence, Literary Productions, Cooper Company Records, and Personal Materials, speak to his literary and philanthropic work. The Correspondence is largely from the 1950s, surrounding the release of *Sironia* and after. The Literary Productions include galley proofs of both "Sironia" and "The Haunted Hacienda," along with reviews Cooper did for various publications. Cooper Company records include daily reports, financial statements, and papers from an extended legal battle over ownership of the company. Lastly, the Personal Series consists of photographs, mostly publicity shots, and scrapbooks relating to a European trip, and his time in WWI.

In all, the "Madison Alexander Cooper, Jr. Papers" tell us a story within a story-about the birth of "Sironia" and the life of the man who wrote it. The book itself is a good read, full of interesting characters and surrounded by a little bit of mystery. Those who are interested in American literature, turn of the century life, the Cooper Company or Waco in general, will find the collection interesting and helpful.

For more information contact Benna Vaughn at [Benna_Vaughn@baylor.edu](mailto:Benna_Vaughan@baylor.edu).

TALK OF THE REGION



New Records Laws for Texas and The Divine Right of Legislatures, 2019

Paul R. Scott, Retired Archivist

The Legislature's regular session has come and gone and the time for Governor Greg Abbott to veto bills has passed. Now is the time to review the results.

Our legislators filed over 200 bills with the potential to directly affect archivists, records managers, and other information professionals; 44 survived.

Unlike some previous years when various aspects of technology were just coming into being, most of this session's bills were unremarkable, dealing with limited issues such as spoofing, protecting personal identification of public employees and citizens, outlawing the use of "deep fake" videos to affect elections, cyber security, etc. Indeed, most simply tweaked existing law.

Three bills, however, demonstrated that need for records professionals and others concerned with the security of and access to information to be on the watch to warn of bad provisions—and sometimes, even that is not enough.

A controversial bill from the start was HB 703 which would have increased the period that birth records are closed from 75 to 125 years. The purpose, purportedly, was to protect the elderly from identity theft. This, despite the fact that testimony confirmed that it is certified birth certificates that enable identity theft, not the indexes nor mere photocopies. As had been the response on the two previous attempts to enact this proposal, historians and genealogists turned out in force showing how it would interfere with legitimate research including documenting family medical histories, finding lost heirs, and researching biographies of prominent citizens. The bill made it out of committee slightly altered but never made it to the floor of the house and died a well-deserved death.

More problematical were HB 1962 and HB 4151. HB 1962, was a must pass Sunset bill to authorize continuation of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, the state agency that preserves the State's documentary heritage and provides local governments and state agencies direction on records management matters. This, as well as facilitating information services through local libraries.

As introduced, HB 1962 was uncontroversial. It did include language to facilitate access to the records of the Legislature and its members which have been

confidential since at least 1987. When it came out of Committee, however, the sections addressing legislative records were far different and completely ignored archival and records management theory and practices. It was as though they had been conjured out of thin air and, perhaps, some hallucinogenic substance. The Legislature and its members could transfer "archival" records to the Commission (presumably to the State Archives) but would retain title and would be able to retrieve the records at any time. Provision was made to make such documents public, but the ownership would remain with the Legislature and the language emphasized that the Library and Archives must maintain confidentiality. And, there was no provision for the records to become accessible to the public, ever.

As finally passed (and, overwhelmingly, at that), the most inappropriate provisions were stripped from HB 1962 but the Legislative Reference Library (an independent agency of the Legislature) became the depository of legislative records during each term of office. And, on Page 21 there was this provision:

(e) Not later than September 1, 2020:

(1) the Texas State Library and Archives Commission shall transfer custody and ownership of all legislative records, as defined by Section 441.180(6-a), Government Code, as added by this Act, to the Legislative Reference Library;

Similarly, HB 4181 started off uncontroversial, at least from an archival and records management standpoint. The filed bill simply recognized that adding Section 323.021 to read as follows:

Sec. 323.021. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE RECORDS. A member of the legislature, the lieutenant governor, the office of a member or the lieutenant governor, an officer of the legislature, or a legislative agency that uses a mechanism made available by the council to transmit, store, or maintain records:

(1) possesses, maintains, or controls the records for purposes of litigation; and (2) is the custodian of the records for purposes of Chapter 552.

When the bill came out of committee, however, its provisions for legislative records had been greatly expanded. The most important part being to exempt legislative records from the Public Information Act. This, in perpetuity, except for such documents the custodians may decide to release. Also, the New

TALK OF THE REGION



Rebecca Hankins Wins Scholarship to Attend Key West Literary Seminar

**Rebecca Hankins, Professor, MLIS, C.A.,
Librarian/Curator of Africana/Women's & Gender
Studies, Cushing Memorial Library & Archives**

Rebecca Hankins, a librarian and curator at Texas A&M University Libraries has been awarded a Teacher & Librarian Scholarship to attend the Key West Literary Seminar, "Reading Between the Lines: Sports and Literature." Hankins joins nineteen other teachers and librarians from ten different states who have been chosen to receive financial aid packages totaling more than \$22,000 to attend the 38th annual event January 9-12, 2020.

Hankins joins nineteen other teachers and librarians from ten different states who have been chosen to receive financial aid packages totaling more than \$22,000 to attend the 38th annual event January 9-12, 2020.

During their attendance at the Seminar, scholarship recipients will expand their professional network and be exposed to leading contemporary authors such as Megan Abbot, Buzz Bissinger, Daniel James Brown, Billy Collins, Joyce Carol Oates, Lionel Shriver, and Kevin Young. They will also have the opportunity to meet with colleagues at the Monroe County Public Library and Key West High School.

Hankins is a full professor, librarian, and certified archivist at Texas A&M University. She is an affiliated faculty in the Interdisciplinary Critical Studies Program that includes Africana Studies, Women's & Gender Studies, and Religious Studies. Hankins offers comprehensive reference, consultative, and instructional sessions for individuals and classes. She is committed to exposing students to the excellence represented in diverse collections, particularly emphasizing race, gender, and sexuality.

"Preparing our undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff to develop new understandings through research and creativity, is central to my work in building archival and library resources in Cushing Memorial Library & Archives. I've built collections that support research on the history of race relations at A&M, sports and martial arts as dissertation subject matter, the study of science fiction as a literary catalyst, gender and sexual orientation as essential areas of scholarly inquiry, and materials that support performances for plays, theater, and music."



Rebecca Hankins, Professor, MLIS, C.A.
Librarian/Curator of Africana/Women's & Gender Studies.
Photo courtesy of the author.

The Key West Literary Seminar Scholarship Program aims to nourish a vibrant literary culture by providing support to a diverse group of teachers, librarians, readers, and writers. Since 2008, they have provided 520 individuals with nearly \$520,000 in fee waivers and lodging and travel assistance. For a complete list of winners and their bios, please visit <https://www.kwls.org/news-updates/2020-teacher-librarian-scholarships/>

The Key West Literary Seminar is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Its mission is to promote the understanding and discussion of important literary works and their authors; to recognize and support new voices in American literature; and to preserve and promote Key West's literary heritage while providing resources that strengthen literary culture.

TALK OF THE REGION



New Records Laws (from page 36)

Legislative Reference Library would provide many of the services traditionally provided by a records center, i.e. storage and retrieval services with the depositor retaining title. There were provisions that the legislature and legislators could turn their records over to other depositories, whether this means commercial records centers or Regional Historical Resource Depositories associated with the State Archives is unclear.

Governor Abbot did not veto either bill but neither did he endorse them, allowing them to become law without his signature. Nevertheless, it seems as though the Legislature intends to establish a second State archives, this one for its own records.

In essence, the Legislature made a power grab "to protect the public's interest" (HB 4181, Section 19) by thwarting the public's ability to see its records. No responsible person disagrees that legislators should be able to consult privately with their staff and constituents while working on legislative proposal. But how long should this be shielded from public scrutiny? In the case of presidential records, it is 6 years with extensions for classified documents.

So, what now? I'm not sure. When it is in our best

interests, we Americans have an amazing ability to "overlook" the requirements of laws and regulations or find loopholes to delay compliance until the problems are fixed. Just this session, the Legislature failed to pass legislation continuing the Board of Plumbing Examiners, yet Governor Abbott found a way to continue the agency by executive order. Perhaps, something like that will happen with Legislative records.

Nevertheless, for the next session, records professionals should be educating our legislators and encouraging them to rectify this session's errors.

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LEADERSHIP LOG



Krishna Shenoy, SSA Assistant Editor, Librarian/Archivist, The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza



Jonathan Frembling

Jonathan Frembling has been promoted from Archivist and Reference Services Manager to Gentling Curator and Head Museum Archivist as part of a new endowment at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art that supports primary research across the art, archives, and library collections. In his new role, Frembling will serve as the head of a newly enlarged and independent archives department, serve as the research and fellowship manager, and create exhibitions around the museum's primary collections.

Kaitlyn Sisk recently joined the Health Sciences Digital Library & Learning Center at UT Southwestern Medical Center as the Digital Archivist. Sisk was previously the Digital Archivist at William & Mary, where she established new workflows and policies for born-digital material in Special Collections. She received her master's degree at the University of Michigan School of Information and earned her Digital Archives Specialist certification in 2018.



Kaitlyn Sisk



Claudia Rivers

Claudia Rivers, Head of Special Collections at the UTEP Library, will be giving a talk, "Peleliu Landing: The Story Behind a Classic Book on a World War II Battle", on October 23, 2019 at the Library as part of Tom Lea Month. Claudia will discuss the relationship between Carl Hertzog and Tom Lea, touching on the publication of

Peleliu Landing and A Grizzly from the Coral Sea. Hertzog was a celebrated El Paso printer and book designer and Lea an important local artist and writer.

Abbie Weiser, Assistant Head of Special Collections at the UTEP Library, published an article "Remembering Lalo: Abelardo Delgado, Chicano Activist and Poet" in the latest issue of Password: Journal of the El Paso County Historical Society. The article describes Delgado's literary career and social activism.



Abbie Weiser

Southwestern Archivist

c/o Nicholas Wojcik

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