



The
**Southwestern
Archivist**

May 2020
Volume 43, Issue 2

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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.

The Society of Southwest Archivists is a professional organization established to stimulate and make available research in archival administration and records management; promote sound principles and standards for preserving and administering records; foster opportunities for the education and training 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.

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July 10 | October 10

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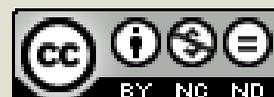
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National Archives of the Marianist Province of the United States (NAMPUS). (Photo: NAMPUS)

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MARIANISTS CONSOLIDATE PROVINCE ARCHIVES IN SAN ANTONIO

**Mary E. Kinney, Marianist Province Archivist,
National Archives of the Marianist Province
of the United States**

In June 2002, the four provinces of the Society of Mary in the United States merged into a single province. During the merger process it was decided to create the National Archives of the Marianist Province of the United States (NAMPUS) in San Antonio, Texas.

In August 2014, I was given the charge to make NAMPUS a reality.

There was no precedent or physical preparation. But there was goodwill, sound financial backing, high professional expectations, and trust. An 8,000 s.f. facility, located on the St. Mary's University campus, was purchased and leased for 50 years to the U.S. Province. As we proceeded with renovations the entire structure was cleaned, repainted, and new floors laid. Four classrooms were

converted into stacks with the installation of manual movable shelves and flat files. Microfilm cabinets were purchased as well as a Uscan+ microfilm scanner. We rewired for a new computer network, sharing the university network and supported by the IT Department.

During this process I spent many weeks at the University of Dayton, preparing the shipment of the archives of three provinces plus the original American Province, 1849-1908, from the third floor of the Roesch Library. Five full van-loads were delivered by the North American Van Lines from Dayton over a year and a half period.

A major construction project was begun in 2017, managed by Keller-Martin, San Antonio, to upgrade the HCAV system, install a room for the preservation of two glass negative collections, upgrade lighting, and lower the ceiling of the reading room. Wood-faced book

"Faith, Education and Charity: Marianist Origins in San Antonio, 1952-1927" exhibition. (Photo: National Archives of the Marianist Province of the United States (NAMPUS) in San Antonio, Texas)



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FROM THE EDITOR

NICHOLAS WOJCIK

Since the last issue of the *Southwestern Archivist*, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken over many aspects of our daily lives, including our work within the archives profession. That said, I'd like to give an extra thank you to everyone who took the time to submit articles and to our supportive advertisers for ensuring that we bring you information as an important component of SSA. As always, be thinking about your next contribution; the deadline for the August 2020 issue is July 10.

In this issue we look at the establishment of 1) two new COVID-19 collections in Oklahoma, 2) the National Archives of the Marianist Province of the United States in San Antonio, and 3) the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff. We look at the launching of a community-focused digitization initiative at LSU and *The Open Stacks* blog at NMSU as efforts for more effectively connecting with users. Plus, accessing the Clark W. Thompson congressional papers, processing a collection of restaurant menus, and the latest from our trusty SSA President and committee members.

Lastly, the SSA Publications Committee has three vacant State Liaison positions, one in Louisiana, New Mexico, and South Texas, respectively. This a great opportunity to get more involved in SSA, the publications field, and to connect with other archivists in your state. If you are interested in more information, please see the article on page 10 of this issue, or contact the Editor, Nicholas Wojcik, at nwo@ou.edu.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

JOSHUA YOUNGBLOOD, SSA PRESIDENT, 2019-2020



Exceptional times call for exceptional archivists. Fortunately, the Southwestern Archivists have exceptional and dedicated members ready to accept challenges and willing to serve, however the moment necessitates.

After a great deal of deliberation and with profound disappointment, as you all know now, the Executive Board decided to cancel our annual meeting for 2020. **Morgan Gieringer** and the Local Arrangements Committee had done a fantastic job preparing what promised to be a great meeting. We had a full slate of professional development opportunities, educational sessions, and new additions planned, including pop up sessions. The safety of our members and the conference planners, and the remarkable service professionals integral to hosting annual meetings like ours, is unquestionably the highest priority. With institutional and government restrictions on travel and closures of many of the locations where we all work, every SSA member joined colleagues around the country in focusing on what we need and can do, first to ensure the health and safety of our loved ones, then on what we can offer within recommended Covid-19 guidelines as citizens and archivists. We continue to offer gratitude to essential workers and seek ways to step up in our own way.

Archivists across the region are retooling programs and finding new ways to reach out to the communities they serve. From virtual bazaars, zine-fests and maker events, distance instruction and social media sharing, to community archiving, online reference, and consultation, SSA members are finding ways to help our
Continued on page 6



SUBMISSION DEADLINES

January 10

April 10

July 10

October 10

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

2020 - Denton, TX (canceled)

2021 - Baton Rouge, LA



FROM THE PRESIDENT

(FROM PAGE 5)

students, researchers, and communities make sense of the new reality and capture this unique time in a way in can be studied, interpreted, and used to shape future understandings. The work of some of our members has been featured on local and national news doing what they do—preserving the history unfolding and lessons of moments like these by helping people save their memories. Whether its University archives student collecting initiatives or crowd-sourced oral history collecting and web archiving, our work will prove invaluable as the nation and world move forward after the pandemic of 2020.

The changes to all our work and personal lives in response to the pandemic is one of the most significant disruptions SSA has faced in its nearly five decades. There will be financial implications for us, although SSA leadership is confident that we will be able to adjust as necessary. We have begun seeking solutions, and immediately began to find ways to continue to support our members and the cities, universities, states, and communities that rely on archives for their collective memories.

The LAC and the program committee, led by incoming president **Amy Rushing**, began planning virtual alternatives to our annual meeting soon after the final decision to cancel SSA 2020. We all worked to enable at least some of the learning and networking that would have happened in Denton, while managing the impact of not holding our primary in-person event. Next year's meeting in Baton Rouge will be a great one, and I know we will all be anxious to finally reunite as friends and colleagues.

We honor and grieve those lost, as well as those in our association dealing with health and life challenges beyond the pandemic. Our association thrives because of the hard work, commitment, and service of folks across the region. We have always had new leaders emerge and step up to confront challenges. As we evolve and navigate this new reality, we continue to welcome rising officers and board members and support the efforts of our members willing and able to move the association forward. We also take a moment—and many more until and after the 50th anniversary—to recognize the phenomenal leaders and members no longer with us. It has been an honor to serve as the SSA president for the past year. Being in the position to observe other leaders, the executive board, and all of our members across the region accept challenges, work together, and continue the mission of the association has been a profound, if unexpected, joy in these exceptional times.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

LILLY CARREL, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

We are saddened by the cancellation of the annual meeting and in-person workshops due to COVID-19. Health and safety is the top priority of SSA's Executive Board and PDC fully supports the difficult decision to cancel our in-person gathering. We are working on ways to adapt our in-person workshops and offer online training in lieu of meeting in May. We will share information about online opportunities soon and hope in-person workshops will be possible later in the year.

On April 20th, in response to our new “normal for now,” the PDC teamed up with Texas Digital Library (TDL) to host a conversation with colleagues in archives and special collections about how we are adapting to working from home. **Courtney Mumma**, Deputy Director of TDL, and **Amy Rushing**, Assistant Dean for UTSA Special Collections and Vice-President of SSA, facilitated a discussion on the Accessibility & Disability Section of the SAA “Archivists At Home” document and participants shared their own strategies and solutions. Shared meeting notes may be referenced here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zD64SDz4X47hmHs7t51uK4xoy763MY3G0Ltdl6U7Xiw/edit>

As always, if you have ideas for professional development opportunities, we want to hear from you. Please contact **Lilly Carrel** at clcarrel@utexas.edu.

SSA LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT



MORGAN GIERINGER SSA LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Joshua Youngblood announced the cancellation of the SSA annual meeting on March 25, 2020. Although the conference was not scheduled to begin until May 20, the LAC was increasingly concerned for the safety of our members and for travel restrictions being put in place by archivists' home institutions, preventing their attendance.

The changes which took place across the country during the month of March happened with unprecedented speed, and decisions made during this time were made under the pressures of fear for health and safety, and fear of the coronavirus itself. With new information about the severity of the coronavirus being reported by the hour, it was difficult to sleep at night wondering what the world would look like in the morning.

Our work and home lives underwent a complete transformation during this time. University campuses closed. Businesses closed. People quickly transitioned to working at home, and some people lost their jobs. Schools closed. Daycares closed. The impact of the changes felt more like being hit by a meteor than a microorganism.

To give you a personal perspective of what this time was like, the SSA spring board meeting was held on Friday, March 6. In advance of this meeting I had prepared a short statement to be approved by the board assuring members that the LAC was monitoring the coronavirus situation and would offer registration refunds to anyone who was not able to attend the meeting due to the virus. This was meant as a precautionary statement. We wanted to make sure people continued to register and not be spooked by news of this new virus. In my report to the board I reported that we had 96 registrants and had filled half of our room block at the hotel. We were expecting 250 attendees.

On Wednesday, March 11, during a routine staff meeting in Special Collections, I asked my staff to prepare work from home plans, as a precautionary measure. Just in case. By Friday of that week I was telling people to take everything home that they would need to work from home. I started a group text with my department so I could update them quickly with news that came in over the weekend. Our public schools closed that Friday. My last day at work was Monday, March 16. My children's daycare closed on March 17. Students at UNT were told that their spring break would be extended and instructors were to use that time to transition all coursework to be delivered online.

Believe it or not, people were still registering for the SSA conference during this time. Not many, but a few. We had new registrants every day until March 15. Who could tell what would happen? For all we knew everything could be

fine by May 20 and the conference would be a welcome respite. Although the timeline for the spread of the virus was unknown, it soon became clear that the impact of the virus would be far reaching. Even if the emergency restrictions on large gatherings of people were lifted by the time of the conference, a large percentage of our membership would be precluded from travel, either by institutional travel restrictions or reductions in travel budget allocations. Following an emergency SSA board meeting on March 23 the cancellation was finalized and announced on March 25.

I am proud to say that the 2020 LAC was one of the best groups I have ever worked with. There is no way to know how much work goes into an annual meeting until you work on an LAC, but everyone worked so well together, it never felt like a burden. I started planning the annual meeting in January 2018. Our hotel contract was signed two years in advance of the conference date. And although I am very disappointed by the cancellation, I am glad that I had the opportunity to lead the LAC.

I want to genuinely thank the LAC members for their hard work and dedication to making the conference a successful event.

Julie Judkins– LAC Co-Chair

Linda Barrett– Treasurer

Samantha Dodd– Chair, Social Events, Tours and Transportation committee

Matthew Davis– Social Events, Tours and Transportation committee

James Williamson– Chair, Audio/Visual committee

Mary Saffell– Chair, Facilities and Catering committee

Brenda McClurkin- Chair, Exhibitors, Vendors and Sponsorships committee

Jaimi Parker– Chair, Publicity committee

Jodi Rhinehart-Doty – Secretary

Sian Brannon – Chair, Registration committee

Amy San Antonio- Registration committee

Kim Cupit– LAC Steering Committee member

Kevin Hawkins – Open Access Symposium

The 2020 conference was going to be a very special event. By holding the conference concurrently with the UNT

Continued on page 8



Open Access Symposium we hoped to offer new and different educational opportunities. Planning so far in advance also allowed us more time for fundraising. The annual meeting is not self-supporting; we needed to raise at least \$20,000 in revenue on top of registration fees to make the conference solvent. We raised over \$28,000 in cash sponsorships, advertiser and exhibitor fees. A special “Thank You” goes out to all of our sponsors:

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Academy of Certified Archivists
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San Jose State University
Archivists of the Houston Area
Archive-It
Texas Digital Library

Our conference theme was “Visionary Archives.” We hoped to encourage people to think about archives in new and different ways. Although this conference will not move forward, I believe now more than ever we need to imagine what our world will look like when this is over, and think about the role of archives as we recover from the coronavirus.

SSA 2020 ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

AMY RUSHING, SSA VICE PRESIDENT AND 2020 ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM CHAIR

Like organizations all across the country, we had to make the difficult decision to cancel this year’s annual meeting. And though we aren’t able to hold a virtual conference in place of the in-person one, we are looking into potential alternative approaches for sharing content from this year’s program.

We will hold the Membership Business Meeting on Friday, May 22nd, from 10 am-11:30 am Central Time via Zoom. The Membership Business Meeting includes announcements of the new officers and committee members, as well as scholarship winners and the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Please register for the Membership Business Meeting here:

https://utsalib.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtcOCqD0jGd3sK_nrv0NTwT9rBaN53Yz3.

A great deal of work by many people went into planning the Annual Meeting. I want to thank our colleagues for submitting session proposals, the Program and Professional Development Committees for their time reviewing proposals and making tough decisions to compile the program, and most especially, the members of the Local Arrangements Committee who worked tirelessly to plan and organize the meeting.

2020 Program Committee

Amy Rushing, Chair

Daniel Alonzo

Bria Corry

Elizabeth Cruces

Julie Judkins

Shannon Lausch

Kera Newby

Trish Nugent

Portia Vescio

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

ANN HODGES, NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Voting in the 2020 election concluded successfully at the close of March 23 with a participation rate of 45%. The Nominating Committee extends its sincere thanks to all who agreed to run and to everyone who voted.

Written thanks and notification of the results in their particular race have gone out to everyone who was on the ballot. A helpful list of suggestions for next year's preliminary ballot was generated by voters. All ballots were cast online, with no petition and no requests for a paper ballot having been received by the Nominating Committee.

We greatly regret that we will not be able to announce the election results in person at the annual business meeting as is customary. At the time of this writing, SSA leadership is considering how best to conduct the annual meeting. Election results will be announced as part of that meeting.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

AMY MONDT, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

I hope that everyone is safe and healthy, and adjusting well to your new work from home routines. The membership committee is looking for a volunteer. We currently 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 a Vice Chair so that we have continuity in leadership.

Also, if you have not renewed your membership this year, or if you are considering joining SSA please consider signing up. I know that we are in uncertain times right now, but SSA is a wonderful organization that gives a lot of value to its members through scholarships, professional development opportunities, and the annual meeting. SSA's dues are extremely reasonable, only \$25, so if you have been thinking of joining a professional archival organization and have the means to do so, please consider joining or renewing your membership today.

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SSA DSA COMMITTEE REPORT



MARK LAMBERT, SSA IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT, 2019-2020

The committee was formed in the fall of 2019 with the goal of some relative geographic representation of SSA members. Advertisements soliciting nominations from the membership were published in the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 newsletters, with a deadline of January 31st, 2020.

The committee also researched past DSA recipients to see who might be eligible should no nominations from the membership be forthcoming. A few persons were identified as possible leads for soliciting nominations, but in the end this work was not needed. Those names will be forwarded to the next chair of the committee.

In January 2020 the committee received an outstanding nomination, which was well written, well documented, and completed by five outstanding letters of support. The committee was unanimous in their approval of the nominee.

The nominee was approved at the March board meeting. The recipient will be announced in May as part of the abbreviated online annual meeting.

Thank you to my two committee members who agreed to serve on the committee. **Christina Wolf**, Archivist, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, OK and **Tim Nutt**, Director of Historical Research Center, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE SEEKING LA, NM, S. TX LIAISONS

KRISHNA SHENOY, SSA ASSISTANT EDITOR

SSA is in need of a new state liaison for Louisiana, New Mexico, and South Texas. The main responsibility of a state liaison is soliciting and collecting articles for the newsletter from your area and then submitting them, along with images, to the newsletter editors. Liaisons do some light editing as needed, check to make sure that submissions include the contributors' name and contact information, with captions and citations as needed for images, and that the image files are print-ready. The newsletter is published quarterly and the time commitment is easily manageable. It is a great way to get more involved with SSA, serve your archival community, and learn more about your colleagues activities.

Liaison's can also suggest content for SSA's social media pages. The Liaison's provide valuable assistance in putting the newsletter together and making sure all the SSA states are well-represented.

We want to thank the outgoing state liaisons for their service:

Louisiana State Liaison, Jennifer V. Mitchell

New Mexico State Liaison, Paulita Aguilar

South Texas State Liaison, Elizabeth Cruces

If you are interested in the position or want to learn more, please contact Nicholas Wojcik, Editor [nwo@ou.edu] or Krishna Shenoy, Assistant Editor [kedarkima@hotmail.com].

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MARIANIST PROVINCE ARCHIVES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)



April 2015 PAC shipment. (Photo: National Archives of the Marianist Province of the United States in San Antonio, Texas)

cases were installed in the Reading Room which was now properly lit for researchers.

The San Antonio Tricentennial, 2018, was approaching and the head of the History Department, Gerald Poyo, began to make extensive use of our Texas collections, with the goal of a professional exhibit, "Faith, Education and Charity: Marianist Origins in San Antonio, 1952-1927."

This potential exhibit gave impetus to the final phase of renovation, the conversion of our lobby of 1,600 s.f. and height at the center of 28 feet to a museum-quality space. With the assistance of Spellerburg Associates

of Austin, the last piece of my original vision was realized. Through the new exhibit lighting and the use of movable walls, patterned after

those at the Harry Ransom Center. UT, Austin, the first exhibit was opened in February 2020.



April 2015 lobby with PAC. (Photo: National Archives of the Marianist Province of the United States in San Antonio, Texas)

Continued on page 13



(Photo: National Archives of the Marianist Province of the United States in San Antonio, Texas)

We have achieved the housing of the evidence of accomplishments of the Sons of Mary during their history as educators in the United States and in their worldwide missions over almost two centuries.

This accomplishment was the work of many hands and minds. At this point NAMBUS is well-integrated into the university community,

offering support to the students and faculty of the History Department in particular. Professor Poyo's diligent research through the 19th and early 20th century records, with the assistance of his capable students, resulted in an exhibit useful to everyone in San Antonio and environs.

As I had mentioned in my initial

interview with the Marianists in spring 2014, a project of the large scope and complexity they proposed would require the energies of many and a firm vision. Quoting St. Madeleine Sophia Barat, R.S.C.J. I stated "Walk with confidence. All things take time, patience, and trust in God."

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TALK OF THE REGION



LSU Libraries Launches Community-Focused Digitization Initiative

Leah Powell and Scott Ziegler, Louisiana State University Libraries

LSU Libraries is pleased to announce the launch of the Y'ALL Award, a new initiative to expand participation in the Louisiana Digital Library by sharing digitization equipment and expertise with under-resourced community-oriented libraries, archives and museums from across the state of Louisiana. The award's name gestures toward the project's focus on community. "Y'ALL" is not only an inclusive and regional plural pronoun, but an acronym for the award's motto: You Are Louisiana's Legacy.

Successful Award applicants are able to choose between two options: Host a Mobile Digitization Lab, or visit LSU Libraries' Open Digitization Lab.

Understanding that many of Louisiana's memory institutions are one natural disaster away from losing everything, we center the expertise of our partners and digitize to their needs. Last semester, LSU Libraries completed a pilot project for the Mobile Digitization Lab. Packing up scanners and cameras, the team headed to the Jeanerette Museum, a volunteer-run cultural heritage institution in the Acadiana region of Louisiana. We asked our pilot partner, "If your building floods, what will be the most devastating items to lose?" Museum volunteers identified 19th-century journals, business records, and a variety of local publications.

The second option, the Open Digitization Award, provides funding for a member of the awardee



Scott Ziegler, Gabe Harrell, and Elisa Naquin working with Jeanerette Museum volunteers to review materials for digitization. (Photo: LSU Libraries)

institution to travel to Baton Rouge and use in-house digitization equipment and expertise. LSU Libraries provides training on digitization equipment and imaging software, as well as training on how to be an active participant in the Louisiana Digital Library.

All digital material created during both the Mobile and the Open Digitization Labs will be added to the Louisiana Digital Library (LDL), an online resource that opens the digital cultural heritage of Louisiana to users around the world.

The LSU Libraries Y'ALL Award Team consists of: Scott Ziegler, Head of Digital Programs and Services; Gabe Harrell, Digitization Lab Manager; Leah Powell, Digital Collections Librarian; and Amanda Davis, Digital Programs and Services Graduate Assistant.

Funds for both the Mobile Digitization Lab and Open Digitization Lab are generously supplied by LSU's Center for Computational Technology and Office of Research and Economic Development.

Applications for the Y'ALL Award are currently open. To read more about and apply for the Y'ALL Award, visit:

<https://www.lib.lsu.edu/services/digital/award>.

Gabe Harrell and Leah Powell digitizing journals and newspapers at the Jeanerette Museum. (Photo: LSU Libraries)





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The Open Stacks

Welcome to the Open Stacks Visit NMSU Library Archives & Special Collections



NMSU Launches *The Open Stacks* Blog **Dylan McDonald, CA, Political Papers Archivist,** **New Mexico State University Library**

The Open Stacks blog. (Photo: NMSU Library)

The staff of the NMSU Library Archives and Special Collections (ASC) recently launched the blog *The Open Stacks* (<https://openstacks.nmsu.edu>) as a way to share with the public the dynamic and diverse content found in our collections. With this digital platform, we hope to connect more meaningfully with our users, highlight the varied work we perform, and share important research tips. In short, we hope to open up the stacks of ASC to our readers. You will enjoy posts from ASC staff members along with guest posts by interns, student employees, and maybe a visiting researcher or two. We plan to publish at least weekly, with fresh content coming at you each Tuesday.

ASC collects both archival and published material all the while promoting academic inquiry into the history, culture, peoples, and resources of New Mexico, the American Southwest, and the US-Mexico borderlands region. Our holdings come in all published forms, genres, and formats; and predominately are in the English language with some European and Native American languages present. The collection dates from the 1500s through the present, with the bulk of the holdings created after 1900. Future posts will provide insight into how to access the ASC collections remotely and how to select and order reproductions of our holdings. Additionally, we will explain the work of the different units within the department:

- * Rio Grande Historical Collections
- * Special Collections
- * Political Collections
- * Hobson-Huntsinger University Archives

As *The Open Stacks* grows in content, we would

encourage you to explore the site by using the available search options by keyword, date, or category tags. The category tags will guide you to posts written on similar themes, uncovering content that might also be of interest. These tags will build over time as we publish more posts and make readers aware of recent donations, upcoming events, updates on long-term projects, and newly available search tools, to name just a few of our expected blog categories.

Some may wonder why ASC would start a blog now, especially given the current situation with the COVID-19 global pandemic? While ASC staff have discussed starting a blog over the last year, we feel that this effort will allow us to support our users and stay in contact with them, wherever they may be. With social distancing in place and many isolating at home, the digital environment still offers us a chance to share our interest and research in the “Land of Enchantment”.

When we look back to the last quarantine to strike Las Cruces, New Mexico, the 1918 Influenza Pandemic, we can find in the archival record eerily similar experiences and thoughts expressed by those associated with New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts as we at NMSU might be feeling 100 years later. In the 1919 student yearbook, available at the Library’s Digital Collections, the academic calendar notes the numerous 14-day quarantines, instances of ill students being transferred to El Paso, Texas for medical care, and restrictions on travel to and from Las Cruces. As the October 7th entry expressed, “This Spanish influenza is certainly no joke.”

Pandemics are, indeed, no joke. Not in 1918, nor in 2020. Take care, stay connected, and Go Aggies!

REPOSITORY NEWS

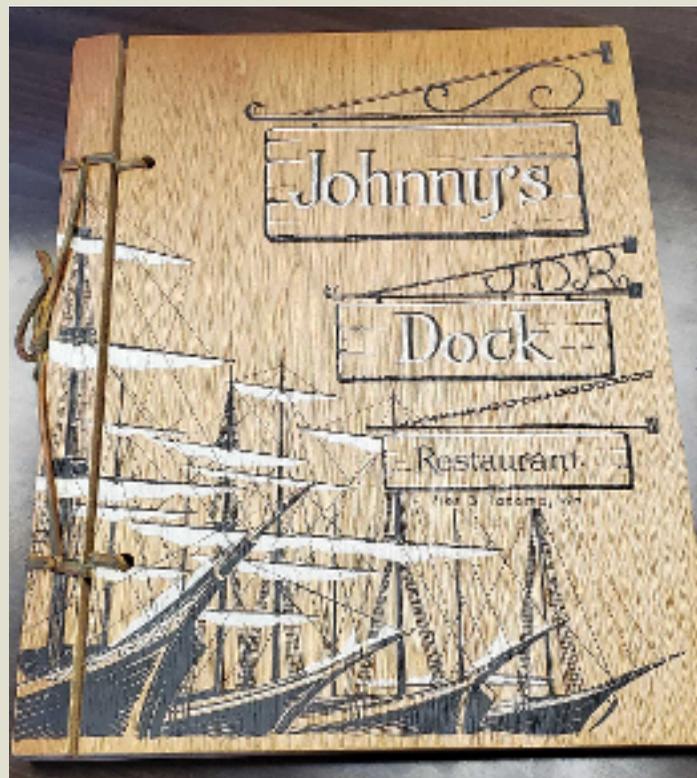
(FROM PAGE 16)

would be a good time to give them some attention. I started just by going through the menu and travel collection, which had been put into temporary archival boxes and had no general organization scheme. I sorted through the materials, put them into alphabetical order, and began going through them in earnest. We use ArchivesSpace for our manuscript collections, which allowed me to both create item records for each menu and create digital object version of each menu to attach to the item records. We frequently have international researchers interested in our materials, so a large part of my work is to make sure that their access levels are appropriate. I had reached the middle of the alphabet when news about the pandemic overseas started to creep into local news, and my work turned more toward scanning materials to prepare for working from home. The project is currently on hold, but at least half of it has been completed so far.

So what is the point of all this, and what can students and researchers learn from old menus? In talking with the Food Media professor after I started this processing project, it's clear that these items give a lot of interesting and useful information, and could be used for a variety of research projects. Most of the menus come from the 1950s and 1960s, and we know this because it was common for restaurants to list the day's date somewhere in each menu. Some restaurants printed that information on cards or slips of paper that could be switched out each day, others went to the expense and time of printing up new whole menus for each day of the week (think of the paper waste and effect on the environment!). There's also what types of food were popular at the time. "Surf and turf" was extremely common, even in cattle-industry areas like Chicago, St. Louis, and Dallas. Equally strange is the fact that seafood restaurants on Pier 39 in Seattle were offering steaks.

Shleppey collected as much as he could, like paper placemats offering games and trivia from different states that would have come from quick service restaurants or diners. At the opposite end of that scale, Hotel Adolphus in Dallas printed up table cards advertising a singer and performer named Hildegarde, who was actually quite famous for her sophisticated and flirtatious act. Shleppey even acquired (somehow) a seafood restaurant menu that is fully wooden: several pieces of glazed plywood bound together by a leather strap, with the menu items printed on vinyl and then glued to the wood.

A few of the eateries no longer exist, and are very difficult to find any record of. Some of the menu items



Wooden menu from Johnny's Dock. (Photo: University of Tulsa Special Collections)

sound unappetizing to our modern palates since they were part of the post-war push toward "convenience" foods. One cowboy-themed steak restaurant offered "Plantation Chicken," which seems to be shredded meat combined with cream of mushroom soup served on top of cornbread. Shleppey returned to certain restaurants again and again, and it's easy to see how menu item prices changed over time, as well as what proteins were offered (which could give insight into fish populations and what was considered special menu fare). Alcohol and wine prices and offerings are all here, along with the fictions and narratives poured into places like Trader Vic's and the Polynesia.

Research into graphic styles or nutritional standards are other ways this collection could be used: independently owned and operated diners attached to local motels would use the same corporate clip art from cereal manufacturers to push certain breakfast combinations deemed healthy at the time. All this information, when viewed together like this, becomes more evident than it would for a traveler just trying to get some morning OJ and cornflakes.

TALK OF THE REGION



Carl Albert Center COVID-19 Pandemic Digital Curation Project
JA Pryse, Sr. Archivist, Carl Albert Congressional Research & Studies Center

Global pandemics are not likely to be one-time occurrences. It is necessary that when the next event occurs, we know what happened last time and how the government responded. Absent a complete or near complete archiving of materials, we will be forced to rely on faulty memories and incomplete web searches that will waste precious time. Additionally, algorithms determined by external website capturing organizations such as Internet Archive and the Wayback Machine, are often scarcely scheduled which can lead to incomplete data collection.

The ever-changing nature of the Web is complex. One of the most challenging aspects of documenting historical events is the ability to capture and preserve digital data created, multiple times throughout a minute, hour, or day. The Center's archivists' unique skill sets with complex digital data curation and creation, inimitably places an enormous responsibility to collect, preserve, and disseminate relative information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The importance of scraping website data as well as social media data for government officials is imperative to grasp and relay the scope of efforts and affects that COVID-19 has on the State and all surrounding cities. As website and social media data are fluid and can change often, the Center will create a mechanism to capture data daily on all platforms as well as all assigned websites. As such, the archivists will collect social media and public relations material including press conferences, related to the pandemic.

Currently, while there are some organizations recording personal stories of individuals affected by this pandemic, an entity comprehensively archiving

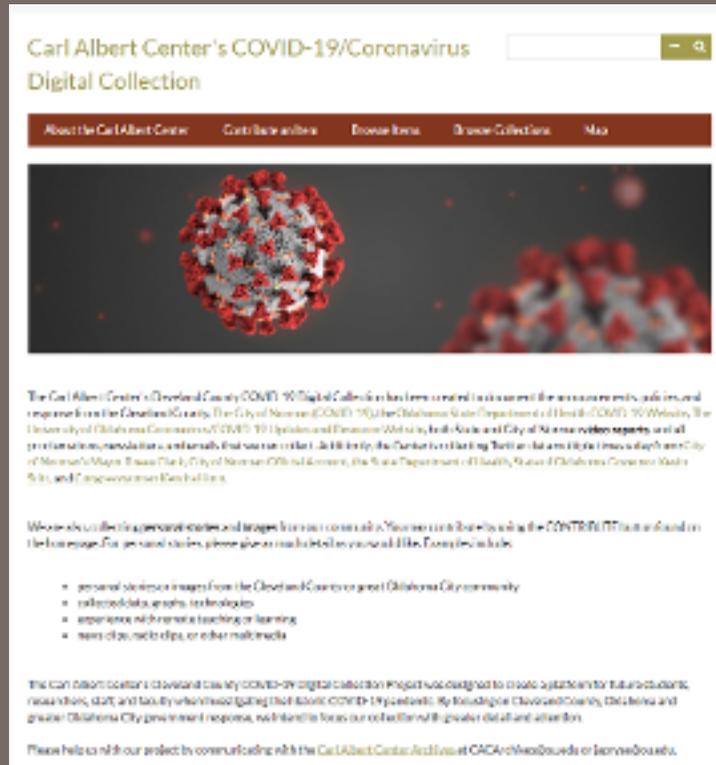
the government response to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic in Norman, OK did not exist. We find it necessary to preserve the government's response for not only future research and posterity, but also as a

reference for government officials to refer to for future outbreaks or pandemics. As such, the Center is uniquely poised to archive Oklahoma's local, state, and federal level government response to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic for research and epidemiological response to future outbreaks.

Fortunately, the Center has support from community partners and local leaders including MAYOR BREEA CLARK, REPRESENTATIVE EMILY VIRGIN, and representatives from TOM COLE'S district office. Our ongoing relationships with other congressional and state legislative offices will

help with additional information gathering. We also hope to engage with the governor's office and other executive branch agencies such as the Department of Education and Oklahoma State Department of Health. As an institution with experience in archiving records from different levels of government, the Center has the appropriate experience and tools necessary to collect, preserve, and share both paper and digital records, correspondence, public communications, and website data related to the State of Oklahoma and the City of Norman, Oklahoma's COVID-19 pandemic response.

The Center's COVID-19 Pandemic Digital Collection (see <https://caccovid19.omeka.net>) holds many formatted web pages, news clips, newsletters, community stories, and images. We are asking for community support to contribute personal images, stories, and more, to provide a robust collection which will support an efficient and more comprehensive investigation of materials related to the pandemic. By



Learn more about the Carl Albert Center's COVID-19/ Coronavirus Digital Collection at <https://caccovid19.omeka.net>.

Continued on page 19

TALK OF THE REGION



focusing on the community, local, municipal-level government response to the pandemic in this project, the Center's archivists will be able to properly archive all documents and quickly retrieve information from the easily navigable and informative online COVID-19 Pandemic Digital Collection website.

If you wish to contribute, simply navigate to the "Contribute" button and follow the easy prompts. If you have questions or ideas for our collection, please contact JA Pryse at japryse@ou.edu.

Carl Albert Center's COVID-19/Coronavirus Digital Collection

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Contribute personal images and stories to the Carl Albert Center's COVID-19/ Coronavirus Digital Collection at <https://caccovid19.omeka.net/contribution>.



"Living Through COVID-19": Call for New Collection at the University of Tulsa *Jenn Donner, Special Collections Librarian, University of Tulsa McFarlin Library*

Shortly after McFarlin Library Special Collections and University Archives was closed to the public due to the coronavirus/Covid-19 pandemic, we were trying to find a way to provide resources to our patrons as well as engage the campus community during this difficult and ever-changing time. We realized this was a historic opportunity to have the students, faculty, and staff add their personal perspective to the narrative of how future generations will learn and research about this pandemic.

The purpose of the "Living through Covid-19 Collection" will be to document how the Covid-19 pandemic is affecting everyone. From the freshman who was only half-way through their second semester, to the senior who was getting ready to graduate and go onto the work force or into Graduate School, or the faculty member who had to find a new way to teach the materials in their class or do distance research instead of physically going to the research destination. We want to hear from them all.

Donation materials will include handwritten or typed journals, scrapbooks, photographs, handwritten or printed letters, printed-out emails, poetry, news articles, magazine clippings, etc. Any materials that future researcher might use to learn more about how this global pandemic affected everyone differently. We will accept donations from anyone connected to The University of Tulsa. There is no deadline for donating materials to this collection. Our department will begin accepting donations once the office is back open in the future. Any questions can be sent to: speccoll@utulsa.edu.

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REPOSITORY NEWS



Representing Coastal Texas: Clark W. Thompson Congressional Papers Available for Research *Amanda Fisher, CA, Baylor University*

The recently opened Clark W. Thompson papers came to the W. R. Poage Legislative Library via transfer a few years ago from another Baylor University repository because the collection aligned with Poage Library's collecting scope of congressional collections. Knowing little about Thompson, the archivists began supervising several graduate students and an undergraduate on processing the collection. Then, while on vacation in Galveston, one of the archivists toured the Moody Mansion and made an interesting discovery. Libbie Moody, the youngest child of W. L. and Libbie Moody, eventually married Clark Thompson. This exciting connection with the Moody family helped the processing team to understand better some of the historical context surrounding Thompson's papers.

Representative Clark Thompson was born in Wisconsin in 1896, and grew up in Oregon, where he attended the University of Oregon at Eugene. He served in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) during World War I, remaining in the Reserves afterward and organizing the Fifteenth Battalion. Thompson married Libbie Moody of Galveston in 1918, daughter of William L. Moody, Jr. and Libbie Rice Shearn. In 1933, he was elected by the 7th district of Texas to the U.S. House of Representatives to finish Representative Briggs's term. During World War II, Thompson returned to active duty in the USMC in the Pacific, and later became the Director of the USMC Reserves from 1943-1946. For his service, he was awarded the Legion of Merit. After the war, Thompson returned to the House of Representatives, elected by the 9th district of Texas from 1947-1966. Clark and Libbie Thompson's home in Washington, D.C. was known as the "Texas Embassy" and served an important function in D.C. social life.

Clark Thompson's papers, which tell the story of southeastern coastal Texas in the mid-twentieth century, are arranged in nine series: Administrations/Agencies, Committees, Correspondence, Departments, Legislative, Personal, Public, Scrapbooks, and Texas Affairs. The collection is primarily comprised of Thompson's congressional papers, though personal and campaign papers are included as well.

Thompson represented a coastal district south of Houston and including Galveston, thus the committees he served on included Merchant Marine and Fisheries, Agriculture, and Ways and Means. This committee work is preserved within the papers,

as well as materials on various Texas coastal affairs of the 1950s and 1960s, such as local harbors, public water access, and the 1947 Texas City Disaster, where chemical and oil explosions left at least 576 dead, thousands injured, and significant property destroyed.



Clark Thompson in Galveston, Memorial Day, 1947. (Photo: Baylor University)

There is also a substantial portion of constituent correspondence, arranged topically, that details Thompson's responses to constituents on a variety of issues, including Civil Rights, fishing, Galveston, healthcare, prayer, poverty, redistricting, and rivers and harbors. Unfortunately, many of the original pieces of incoming correspondence were never retained and donated. Other significant materials include legislative papers, which consist of bills and legislation from the 1940s-1960s.

One issue of legislative importance to Thompson was the Panama Canal. Thompson chaired a special subcommittee of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries on the Panama Canal, so the Legislative series contains materials relating to the United States' control of the canal. In 1950, Congress enacted governance, effective 1951, of the Canal Zone and Panama Canal by the Canal Zone Government and Panama Canal Company, respectively. In 1979, thirteen years after Thompson's service in government, the Panama Canal Commission took over.

This collection will be useful for researchers interested in the history of coastal Texas and its people, the Texas City Disaster, the Panama Canal, social policy, and many other topics included in the constituent correspondence. For more information, contact Poage Library archivists at Poage_Library@baylor.edu.

REPOSITORY NEWS

Flagstaff It Is: The Founding of Lowell Observatory Lauren Amundson, Archivist & Librarian, Lowell Observatory

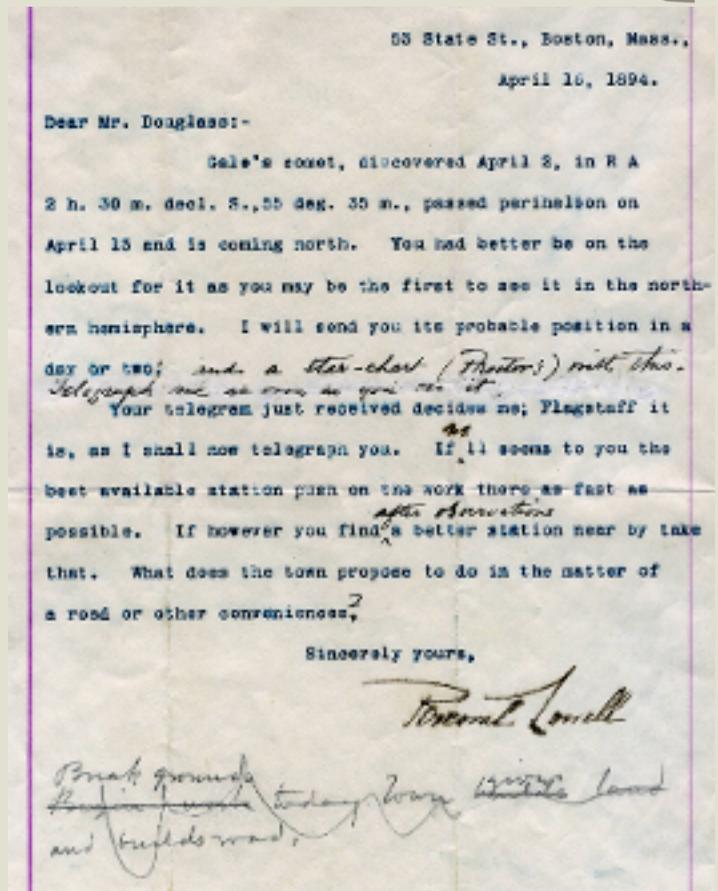
In 1894, the wealthy Bostonian Percival Lowell sent his assistant A.E. Douglass to the Arizona Territory to scout locations for an astronomical observatory. Lowell had become fascinated with astronomy, and Mars in particular, and he wanted to build his own observatory to study the stars and planets. Harvard Observatory astronomer William H. Pickering sent Douglass instructions on February 28, 1894. They outlined which towns Douglass should visit, how to conduct his testing, which representatives to meet, and what details to report back to Lowell at each stop.

Douglass traveled west and arrived in Arizona on March 7, and he spent the next six weeks testing potential sites in Tombstone, Tucson, Tempe, Prescott, and Flagstaff. At each location, Douglass sent letters, telegrams, and postcards to Lowell with updates on weather and atmospheric conditions, astronomical observations, and other pertinent details.

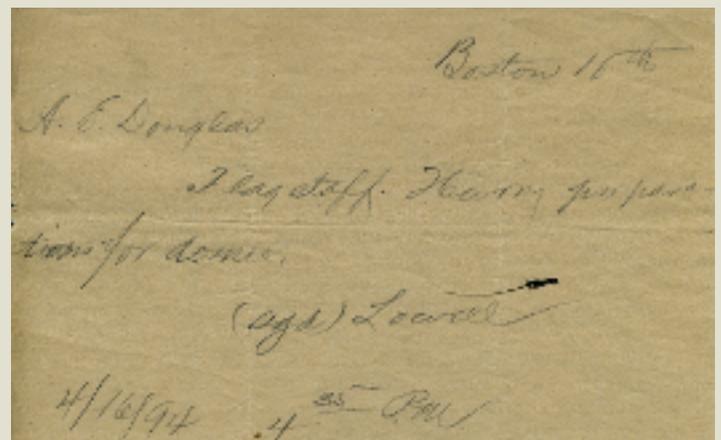
On April 16, Lowell sent Douglass a letter that read, in part, "Flagstaff it is," followed by a telegram with the instructions "Hurry preparations for domes." Lowell arrived in Flagstaff on May 28 and immediately began making observations of Mars, Saturn, and the Moon with borrowed 12-inch and 18-inch telescopes. Lowell and Douglass continued their correspondence until Lowell fired Douglass in 1901. Douglass moved to Tucson and began teaching at the University of Arizona, where he founded the science of dendrochronology, or tree-ring dating. Lowell continued working as an astronomer until his death in 1916.

As part of Lowell Observatory's 125th anniversary celebration in 2019, archives staff and volunteers digitized the Lowell-Douglass correspondence and created a collection on the Arizona Memory Project called Flagstaff It Is - The Founding of Lowell Observatory. The original letters, in addition to manuscripts, photographs, research notes, logbooks, glass plate negatives, and other archival materials, are housed in the observatory's Putnam Collection Center.

The digital collection is available on the Arizona Memory Project at <https://bit.ly/2xPO8eL>.



Above: Letter from Lowell to Douglass, acknowledging Flagstaff as potential location for observatory, April 16, 1894. (Photo: Lowell Observatory). Below: A telegram from Lowell to Douglass with the instructions "Hurry preparations for domes", April 16, 1894. (Photo: Lowell Observatory)



TALK OF THE REGION



TMC Library Makes Online Tool Open to Historical Research

Philip Montgomery, Head of McGovern Historical Center and Sandra Yates, Archivist & Special Collections Librarian, TX Medical Center Library

Finding historical information about the people and institutions in the Texas Medical Center (TMC) just got easier with the TMC Library's recent launch of a web-based tool that simplifies online research.

The McGovern Historical Center, the archive and special collections department of The TMC Library, launched a website that allows searching in archival collections. Researchers can search across all 323 collections and over 53,000 individual item descriptions. The site provides access to more than 1,200 digital images and documents with more to come.

To visit the site go to <https://archives.library.tmc.edu/>.

"We're so excited to launch this site. It gives such easy access to our materials in amazing detail. It's never been easier to explore the richness of our collections," said Sandra Yates, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at the McGovern Historical Center.

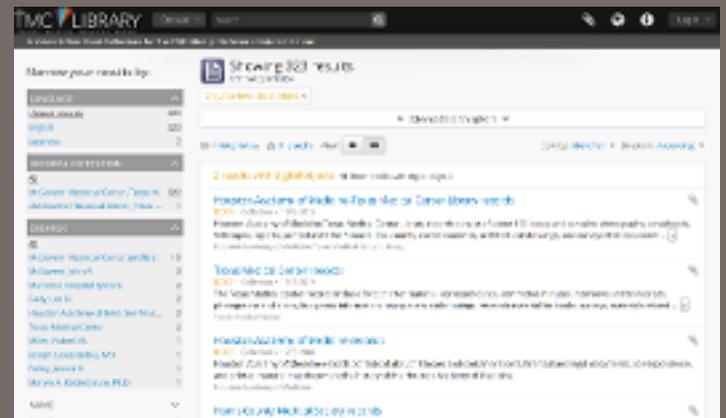
The platform is an archival management system called Access To Memory (AtoM) that is developed and maintained by Artefactual Systems. Atom is a web-based, open source application for standards-based archival description and access.

The McGovern team first learned about Atom by working with archivists and archival graduate students in Japan on a project to make records from the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission (ABCC) available online. Since the McGovern Historical Center has a large collection of ABCC materials, adopting Atom for the entire TMC-related collection seemed like a natural evolution. The process of testing and implementing Atom took more than five years.

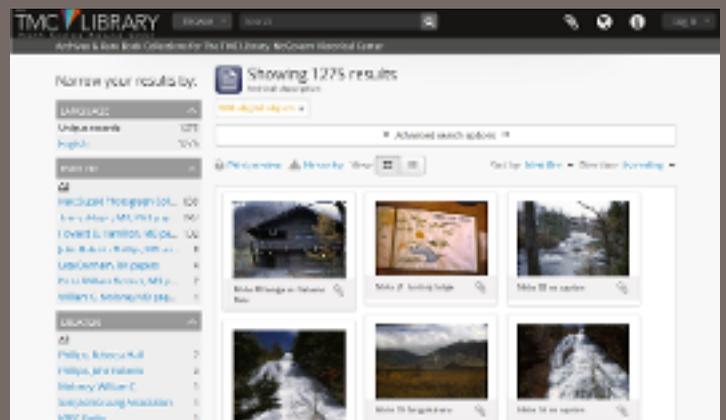
"Our decision to use Atom developed through our international collaborations over the last few years," said Philip Montgomery, Head of the McGovern Historical Center. "Atom is based on international standards and facilitates access to materials in several languages. It's easy to use for everyone -- researchers as well as archives staff."



The TMC Library, McGovern Historical Center's collection search website. (Photo: TMC Library)



The TMC Library, McGovern Historical Center's collection search website list of collections. (Photo: TMC Library)



The TMC Library, McGovern Historical Center's collection search website digital objects. (Photo: TMC Library)

LEADERSHIP LOG



Krishna Shenoy, SSA Assistant Editor

The Dallas Municipal Archives has received the 2020 Craftsmanship Award from the board of Preservation Dallas. Part of the annual Preservation Achievement Awards, this recognition is given to an individual or organization dedicated to a craft for preservation purposes. The award was made “for the collection and preservation of City of Dallas records, which is paramount to the preservation of the city’s municipal history and undertakings over the years.” City Archivist John H. Slate, CA and Assistant City Archivist Kristi Nedderman, CA will attend the awards ceremony May 28th.

Scholarship Contributions

SSA recognizes the following members for their generous contributions to the Society’s scholarship funds. Thank you for your contributions and for supporting our peers and emerging archivists!

Kay & Robert Bost, Claudia Rivers, and Laura Fowler (cash and in-kind legal services)

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