

# SAA-UT RIO GRANDE RIVER VALLEY TRIP

## Touring Archives on Both Sides of the Border, May 9-12, 2008

### Objective:

Last May, the University of Texas student chapter of the SAA traveled to the United States-Mexico border to expand our breadth and understanding of archival enterprise through an exploration of diverse and intercultural environments.



Margaret H. McAllen Archives  
Museum of South Texas History  
Edinburg, Texas, USA

### Primary Holdings:

Photographs and historical documents of southwest Texas.

### Challenges:

- Digitally restoring photographs.
- Organizing photographs for searching.
- Accession decisions about photograph donations: accept or scan and return?
- Housing oversized, framed, and/or decaying photographs.



Special Collections Library  
UT-Pan American  
Edinburg, Texas, USA

### Primary Holdings:

Primary source material from local businesses and individuals.

### Challenges:

- Housing current and new acquisitions.
- Defining and re-defining the collection strategy as donations are offered.

### Conclusion:

Specific challenges vary, but obtaining adequate space for current holdings and new acquisitions was a challenge for the staff all the archives visited. The themes of preservation and access were also reiterated throughout the trip.

Archivo Municipal de Reynosa  
Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico



### Primary Holdings:

18<sup>th</sup> century Spanish government and military documents as well as mayoral records since 2004.

### Challenges:

- Processing 1500 Spanish colonial and military records without organization.
- Understanding antique vocabulary, spelling, and writing-style.
- Housing the records of each governor.