

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
SCHOOL OF



information

*Capstone Poster Session
Fall 2009*

Friday 4 December 2009

2pm-4pm

1616 Guadalupe Street, 1st floor

PRESENTERS

Alexander Bero
We Need a Photo(stat)!
The George Eastman House
Faculty Supervisor: Chela Metzger
Field Supervisor: Grant Romer

While at the George Eastman House's Kay Whitmore Conservation laboratories this summer, I worked on several aspects of Photostat™ conservation, including research, treatment and re-housing. As knowledge of this photo-reproductive process is not commonly had, I conducted research into the history of stat photo-reproduction processes, including the Photostat™ and the Rectigraph™. I then performed treatment on two stats in the archival collection of the George Eastman House. Finally, I designed and constructed new housings for the two stats, and created a set of instructions that could be followed to replicate my work in the future with other, similar objects.

Wilfred E. Cather, III
Mapping the Music Venues of the Historic East Side
DiverseArts Culture Works
Faculty Supervisor: Patricia Galloway
Field Supervisor: Harold McMillan

From WWII until desegregation Austin's East Side was a vibrant music district, sustaining local musicians and attracting nationally recognized artists. Few institutions or individuals made the effort during this period to document and collect records of the traditional and popular African-American music produced there. Compounding the problem of limited institutional holdings for researchers and residents, the social, economic and even physical changes in the district are erasing the evidence of the role music played there. This project supports the efforts of DiverseArts Culture Works, a non-profit that preserves and promotes multicultural arts primarily in Austin's African-American Cultural District. It is a pilot web site thematically constructed around an interactive map of East 11th St. Once more than a dozen venues existed on these few blocks; only the Victory Grill is still operating. Drawing from local institutional holdings, collections of residents, and DiverseArts' own Blues Family Tree Project, I have linked images, excerpts from oral histories and business information to these venues. A bibliography and acknowledgments are included, so that visitors can continue their independent research. The goal of this project is to serve as a model for expanding documentation to the rest of the 50-plus, historic music venues in Austin's African-American Cultural District.

Michael Daniels
Reference, Knowledge Management and Training in a Law Firm Library
K&L Gates LLP
Faculty Supervisor: Glynn Harmon
Field Supervisor: Thom Austin

The future of corporate information centers lies not in maintaining the status quo, but in diversifying the role of the information center to provide more value-added services to users and ultimately the organization. Three common ~ but critical ~ areas where the corporate information professional is providing such services are in the domains of reference and research, knowledge management and user training. This poster presents the results of initial efforts at diversifying the role of the corporate information professional in the local office of a large international law firm, K&L Gates LLP. The objectives of this project were threefold: 1) To expand the role of the information center by providing more sophisticated answers to reference questions that include value-added legal or business analysis and aggressively marketing these enhanced services locally and firmwide. 2) To compile and organize knowledge acquired during the course of this reference work to create a reference pathfinder that will serve as the foundational document for an internal research wiki to be developed in the future. 3) To digest lessons learned and create a presentation on best practices and cost effective research in an economic downturn. The ultimate goal of this project is to provide a new model for the corporate information center that will reposition its role in the organization to better serve users and provide more value to the organization as a whole.

Nicole Davis
Working with the Photographic Archives of the French Legation Museum
French Legation Museum
Faculty Supervisor: Patricia Galloway
Field Supervisor: Stephanie Jarvis

The objectives of this project were to arrange and describe the photographs series of the French Legation Museum institutional archives; establish guidelines for staff and volunteers working with FLM photographs series; and revise and update the FLM archives manual. The primary challenges were identifying photograph subjects and determining what arrangement would best serve the museum. The project was carried out by applying basic preservation procedures, establishing a simple arrangement, and recording my process in the archives manual so that future photographs can easily be added to the series by volunteers and staff. Updating the manual with sections on both photographic and digital preservation and including reference sources will also help the FLM staff maintain their archives.

Ann Dobbs
Operation Teen Book Drop 2010
School of Information
Faculty Supervisor: Lorie Roy
Field Supervisor: Lorie Roy

Operation Teen Book Drop 2010 is a nationwide program that promotes teen reading by distributing thousands of books to Native American teens. The program is a joint effort by If I Can Read, I Can Do Anything, readergirls, YALSA, and GuysLitWire. To help stimulate interest in the program and make information more readily available on the program, I performed various tasks, primarily IT-related. I completed a major revision of the If I Can Read, I Can Do Anything Web site, which includes the Operation Teen Book Drop Web. The primary reasons for the revision of the site were to update the contents, reorient the site to satisfy the information needs of a more closely defined audience of users, to make the site more amenable to future changes by Webmasters with various skill sets, and to bring the site up to current accessibility and coding standards. I also updated the project's Facebook pages and created a Twitter site to continue the work done by a previous student assistant, and participated in various presentations and publications on local, regional, and nationwide levels.

Jennifer Evers
*Anticipating the Inevitable: Disaster
Planning at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Faculty Supervisor: Karen Pavelka
Field Supervisors: Jennifer Hain Teper and Laura Larkin

I was fortunate to obtain a summer internship at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, working in the Library Conservation Lab under the guidance of Jennifer Hain Teper, Head of Conservation, and Laura Larkin, Special Collections Conservator. During my time at UIUC, I was able to contribute to several different ongoing projects. The first project was updating the Salvage Priority Guidelines, a document used by collections managers to determine high priority salvage items within their collections. Upon completing this document, I met individually with the collection managers at 26 different libraries to discuss salvage priorities and physically mark the shelves containing high salvage priority items with reflective tape. I was also able to contribute to the Oak Street High Density Storage Facility disaster plan wiki. This project involved creating guidelines for responding to fire, water, and mold outbreaks, as well as outlining triage procedures and determining relevant product and service providers. On the final day of my internship, I participated in a sprinkler test designed to measure the structural integrity of wet trays and boxes after a water disaster, as well as determine how well the newly designed triage procedures function in a real-life situation.

Elizabeth Garber
From Many Angles: Cleaning, Capturing, Cataloging, Creating, and Comparing
The Texas Archive of the Moving Image
Faculty Supervisor: Caroline Frick
Field Supervisor: Megan Peck

The Texas Archive of the Moving Image digitizes film and video related to Texas and its heritage while also providing unlimited access to it through an online video library. This project aimed to engage in the entire process of placing films online through several steps: film inspection, repair, and cleaning; digitization; cataloging and description; and, finally, the creation of an online curated collection centering on Texan Lyndon B. Johnson. This online exhibit features films showcasing Johnson in combination with a comparison between newsreel footage and raw, unedited footage. Lastly, this project compares and contrasts the processes for 16mm film at the Texas Archive of the Moving Image to those employed at the Archives Center at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History.

Ron Garza
Texas Association of School Boards Usability Study
Texas Association of School Boards
Faculty Supervisor: Randolph Bias
Field Supervisor: Stacy Hobbs

Throughout the Fall Semester of 2009, I conducted a usability study of the TASB Risk Management Fund website (www.tasbrmf.org) under the supervision of my faculty advisor Dr. Randolph Bias and field supervisor Stacy Hobbs. The goals of the usability study included identifying design concerns in order to possibly improve efficiency, accessibility, productivity, and to determine user-end satisfaction. The usability test objectives were:
To determine design inconsistencies and usability problem areas within the user interface and content areas. Potential sources of errors included:
Navigation errors, presentation errors, design errors, or usage problems.
Understand whether major types of users can use the website equally well.
Determine the exact nature of problem(s) (if any) and how to fix them.
Test the TASB Risk Management Fund website under controlled test conditions with representative users. Data was used to access whether usability goals regarding an effective, efficient, and well-received user interface has been achieved.
Determine user-satisfaction of the interface and user performance for possible future redesign. The TASB Risk Management Fund Website was created by the TASB department of Online Communications, and the website has been in use since 2005. The user groups that participated in the usability test were members of the Risk Management Fund and employees of TASB. A total of 5 participants were tested at the TASB Headquarters located in Austin TX. The usability test took approximately 30 minutes for each participant to complete.

Meg Kemp

Title: Metadata Tool Recommendation for the University of Texas Libraries
University of Texas Libraries
Faculty Supervisor: Gary Geisler
Field Supervisor: Amy Rushing

The University of Texas Libraries digitizes a wide range of materials, including manuscripts, maps, images, audio, and video. The digital objects are created through a series of distinct digitization projects, each with its own purpose and project workflow. Each project handles metadata creation and storage differently. The UT Libraries are considering implementing a single metadata tool to streamline metadata creation and storage across all of its digitization projects. The purpose of this report is to provide a recommendation for a metadata tool based on the following:

- an evaluation of similar tools both inside and outside the UT community
- priorities, needs, and special considerations for each digitization project
- technological requirements

I found information about similar tools implemented elsewhere through research of related literature, conference papers, and library Web sites. To determine priorities, needs, and special considerations for each digitization project at the UT Libraries, I conducted and summarized interviews of key stakeholders. To determine the technological requirements, I interviewed systems librarians and experimented with various content management systems. The conclusion of this report is a discussion of the requirements for a metadata tool at the UT Libraries and a recommendation based on those requirements.

Wen-Hsin Lin

Catch up with Storytime Connection at the Austin Public Library
Austin Public Library
Faculty Supervisor: Lynn Westbrook
Field Supervisor: Kathleen Houlihan

The Storytime Connection is one of the outreach programs at the Austin Public Library. The program was designed for underserved children to participate in storytime programs that are conducted by volunteers in childcare centers. To successfully promote this program and attract more volunteers, several toolboxes and reference materials were recognized and created in this project. The storytelling techniques and reference materials for beginning and existing volunteers were collected to reduce volunteers' anxiety in conducting storytime programs. Creating new communication channels for volunteers better facilitated information exchange and built a strong relationship between volunteers and program supervisors. The recognition of dedicated volunteers encouraged and honored volunteers significantly. Also, research on reward and gift options helped retain volunteers effectively. The quality of this program was improved in a meaningful manner by designing surveys and soliciting feedback from volunteers and the target audience. Lastly, by identifying community partners and developing publicity materials for various audiences, the program might recruit more prospective volunteers as well as provide people and childcare centers with more access to this program and opportunities for partnership.

Emily Louise Preece

TP&W Magazine Archive Digitization
Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine
Faculty Supervisor: Megan Winget
Field Supervisor: Louie Bond

Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine has been sharing the beauty of the great outdoors with its readers for over 60 years, and that is quite a magazine backlog in need of digitization. This project involved the planning and initiation of a large digitization project for Texas Parks and Wildlife, with the goal of turning the physical magazine archive into a digital archive to increase access to and use of past issues. Initial digitization began with a flatbed scanner, and a new scanner with an auto feeder was purchased midway through the semester to speed the scanning process. After experimenting with various Optical Character Recognition softwares, ABBYY FineReader was chosen as being the best and most reliable. Starting the magazine scanning with the year 2002 and working backward, the final result of this semester-long endeavor was three complete years of magazines turned into searchable PDF files. To ensure future continuation of this project, an instruction manual was written, outlining the digitization plan as well as the steps and procedures involved in using the scanning and OCR equipment.

Brittany Anne Robertson

Resurrection Baptist Church Online Library
Resurrection Baptist Church – Schertz, TX
Faculty Supervisor: Lynn Westbrook
Field Supervisor: Jason Fetty

The Resurrection Baptist Church Online Library is a virtual online library for Resurrection Baptist Church of Schertz, TX. Using the cataloging resource of LibraryThing.com, the virtual library is composed of the online catalogs of the individual, personal libraries of church members. The completed project includes a website and a promotional package developed for the church's future use. The project began with my cataloging over 500 books from three personal libraries using LibraryThing.com. I then created a small website intended to link from the church's website, designed to quickly acquaint new users with the resource and how to use it. The website also contains links to other research and educational related resources. Finally, I created a logo and project description for the church's future use in order to promote the availability of the library and ensure its viability after my immediate involvement. The goal of this project is to provide a means for Resurrection members to share books with one another, as well as to provide the beginning of a greater online educational resource for the church community.

Shelley Rowland
A Summer of Preservation Surveys at the UCLA Library
University of California, Los Angeles
Field Supervisor: Jacob Nadal
Faculty Supervisor: Patricia Galloway

This summer I completed a six-week internship at the Preservation Department of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Library. My primary goal was to develop a preservation assessment tool for archival collections, to be used to evaluate collection condition for purposes of collection appraisal, project prioritization, and backlog assessment. I interviewed multiple UCLA archivists to assess user needs and understand the processing practices of each archival unit. I then developed a functional prototype survey questionnaire in Excel, and tested and refined the survey questions and functionality by examining over 150 containers of archival material from a variety of collections. As a second component of the internship, I completed a portion of a sample survey of the UCLA circulating book collections, collecting data from approximately 200 sample items at the Charles E. Young Research Library and other campus libraries. Finally, to broaden my knowledge of preservation activities, I reviewed a sample of recent preservation literature and participated in a number of library staff meetings concerning UCLA digital library development, university-wide archives and special collections initiatives, and conservation workflows.

Samantha Ruimy
Mr. Stillingfleet's Tracts: Creation of a Special Library for the UT Herbarium
University of Texas Plant Resources Center
Faculty supervisor: Mary Lynn Rice-Lively
Field supervisor: Tom Wendt

The purpose of this project was the creation of a small special library with an electronic catalog for the use of students and faculty associated with the University of Texas Plant Resources Center (PRC). The library comprises the personal collection of Dr. Paul Fryxell, a retired botanist, as well as holdings the PRC has amassed over many years, and it contains approximately two thousand books, monographs, journal runs, atlases, and other materials. Organization is according to a unique classification developed in cooperation with Dr. Tom Wendt, Curator of the Herbarium. The classification is simple and hierarchical, with seven top-tier categories. Classes such as "Flora," "Taxonomy," and "Economic Botany" were chosen according to what would be most obvious to users in this community to allow intuitive searching of the catalog. Since the subject area represented by the collection is fairly narrow (over 90% of items are about botany), shelving and cataloging according to Library of Congress would have been inefficient and error-prone. The electronic catalog is a FileMaker Pro database, with bibliographic data verified using OCLC's publicly-available records. It is designed to provide cross-referenced subject access as well as general metadata about PRC library materials, and it will be available via the PRC website to allow users to check holdings remotely.

Rebecca M. Sexton
Cedar Fever: Experiencing the Multiple Responsibilities of a Small-town Librarian
Cedar Park Public Library
Faculty Supervisor: Mary Lynn Rice-Lively
Field Supervisor: Sarah Whited

Libraries are always looking for ways to make their materials more accessible to patrons. One way of doing this is to create or update catalog records with the searching habits of users in mind. Public library patrons, in particular, are often looking for books in a series, wanting to know which books comprise a series and in what order they were written. I updated approximately 2,000 records for materials in science fiction and fantasy series held by the Cedar Park Public Library to reflect series information in the 440 field. While this was the primary focus of my Capstone project, my work at the Cedar Park Public Library was multi-faceted and involved volunteering at the reference desk for six to ten hours per week and compiling an adult programming guide. While working at the reference desk, I responded to patrons' public computer access and support, readers' advisory, and general reference needs. The adult programming guide consisted of program ideas, speaker contacts, and sample promotional materials that Cedar Park Public Library can use in serving its adult population.

Daniel Shiman
Implementing OAI-PMH for The Open Video Digital Library Toolkit Project
University of Texas School of Information
Faculty supervisor: Gary Geisler
Field supervisor: Gary Geisler

The Open Video Digital Library Toolkit (OVDLT) project, funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Service, is a joint project led by Gary Geisler (University of Texas School of Information), and Karan Sheldon (Northeast Historic Film). The OVDLT project is downloadable, open source software tool for organizations to build Web-based digital video libraries from their moving image collections. This Capstone project implements the OAI-PMH (Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting) data exchange standard to allow installations of the Open Video Digital Library Toolkit to easily share their objects' metadata. The product is a fully-operational, fully-compliant, server-ready implementation of the OAI-PMH. The OAI-PMH handler is integrated with OVDLT's Ruby source code, and responds to OAI-PMH verb requests with appropriate queries to the toolkit's MySQL backend. The result is that an institution's relevant Dublin Core metadata - along with information about its particular implementation of OVDLT - is exposed as valid, well-formed XML for client applications to harvest.

Rebecca Smyrl
A Survey of the Bieber Collection at the Harry Ransom Center
Harry Ransom Center
Faculty Supervisor: Chela Metzger
Field Supervisor: Olivia Primanis

In order to better understand the scope and conservation needs of the Bieber Collection at Harry Ransom Center, I created and implemented a survey tool geared toward its contents. The collection contains mainly early American prose, poetry, and music; although it has been at UT for many years, there is still much to be learned about its current condition, its history, and its importance to researchers of early American culture and literature. My assessment, conducted primarily at the item level, was designed to provide the collection's curator with information to better promote its materials, to determine the level of safety with which the materials may be used in their current state, and to pinpoint its conservation needs. The survey revealed many unique and rare items, and also much material damage to the collection. It also highlighted the importance of establishing a comprehensive system of inventory in order to better preserve the collection.

Doug Stuart
Rethinking Long-Term Research & Communication
Shipley & Associates
Faculty Supervisor: Megan Winget
Field Supervisor: Dalton Young

Shipley & Associates is a consulting firm that specializes in litigation support and research. Often their projects span several years and result in tens of thousands of individual files. Recently, Shipley's staff began research on a new case, and wanted to use the opportunity to attempt a new way of organizing work created for the project, as well as new modes of communication among employees. Further, any possibility of presenting such organization directly to their clients was considered an added benefit. In order to best facilitate these goals, hundreds of documents were culled by hand to sketch out a master timeline of the events of the case in question; this timeline was then converted to an online interactive timeline written in javascript and xml. Additionally, work began on an in-house wiki cataloging important people, events, places, and documents relevant to the case. Finally, content management tutorials were created to establish standards for the continuation of both the wiki and the timeline by Shipley employees. Presently, of the 8,000 documents acquired or created by Shipley in the past year relating to the case, approximately 15% have been considered and cataloged, and the rate of cataloging is expected to increase exponentially as several of Shipley's employees begin cataloging independently.

Jennifer Teichelman
Digitization of Law School Composites (1883-1960)
Tarlton Law Library, University of Texas at Austin
Faculty Supervisor: Caroline Frick
Field Supervisor: Elizabeth Haluska-Rausch

One of the main goals of the Tarlton Law Library's archival and manuscript collection is to collect, preserve, and make available the records of enduring value created by The University of Texas School of Law. My project was to work with a series of composite photographs of the Law School's senior classes and faculty, which begins with the first graduating class in 1884 and continues until 1960. The goal of my capstone is to digitize all the photographs and complete an index of all the individuals pictured. The completed work will assist researchers with genealogical requests and questions on law school history. The digitization of this large collection will provide digital back-ups of unique institutional material, will increase access to the material, and will reduce wear and tear on the originals. The project also will provide an opportunity for the department to re-house the original composite images into more appropriate archival containers. This project has also helped me to better understand digitization practices and preservation techniques.

Rae Lynn Tipping
Inventory and Arrangement of the Maddox Sketches
Texas General Land Office
Faculty Supervisor: David B. Gracy II
Field Supervisor: Mark Lambert

Brothers John W. and Frank M. Maddox ran a land agency and surveying company in Austin, Texas in the late 1800s and early 1900s. In the course of their work, they amassed a collection of surveying sketch maps of lands throughout Texas. Many of these sketch maps were created by their company, Maddox Brothers and Anderson, and the rest were obtained as copies of maps from different sources, such as the Texas General Land Office. This collection of surveying sketches was obtained at auction in 1991 and is an important addition to the Texas General Land Office inventory. While a number of the Maddox maps were originally copied from the originals at the General Land Office, in some cases over the intervening century, the originals have been lost or destroyed. My involvement with the collection is to describe each map, logically and physically arrange the maps, and create a finding aid for the collection. In addition, I will create a guide for users and processors of collections such as this. It will define some traits of the maps as well as provide some suggestions on how to process the collected data.

Tami Erin Wibel
Developing Digital Libraries that Support Institutional Missions: A Look at the David O.
Selznick Collection through the Lens of Sustainability
Master's Report
Faculty Supervisor: Caroline Frick
Second Reader: Patricia Galloway

Digitizing special collections is one way that digital library research has been carried out, but is continued development of digital libraries in that manner a sustainable choice? This report will explore that question through a case study of the David O. Selznick Collection owned by the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin. The case study consists of a description of the collection and an examination of stakeholder interests as they pertain to the use of the Selznick Collection as a potential foundation for developing a digital library that supports the Harry Ransom Center's mission of advancing the study of arts and humanities. Other questions addressed within this report and highlighted by the examination of stakeholder interests include; what does sustainability mean within the context of digital library development? Do stakeholder interests support a determination that the use of digitized special collections as a basis for the development of a digital library is a sustainable choice? While this report has produced more questions than it answers, its intention is to contribute thoughts about the choices library, archive, and cultural institutions make as they adapt to an environment increasingly dominated by digital technology.

Eryn Whitworth
*One Butterfly: Understanding Interface and Interaction Design for Multitouch
Environments in Museum Contexts*
Master's Report
Faculty Supervisor: Gary Geisler
Second Reader: Luis Francisco-Revilla

Museums can be perceived as stuffy and forbidding; Web technologies enable museum staff to expand access to their collections and perhaps counterbalance these somewhat unfair perceptions. Museums are also looking for new ways to communicate with the public in part to make a case for their relevance in a digital information age. With the emergence of multitouch computing and popularization of user experience design museum professionals will soon be wondering how to marry users' information seeking experiences occurring on multiple computing platforms. As a means of addressing those issues this Master's Report summarizes the One Butterfly design project. That project's goal was to create a multitouch interface for federated search of Smithsonian collections. The report describes the project's three major phases. First, an idea for an interface was developed and then designs based on that idea were captured and clarified. Second, a formal review of related research was taken on to ground these designs in a tradition of museum informatics, as well as interface and interaction design literatures; Third, a evaluation was conducted of the design and the underlying idea in light of things learned in the previous phase. A discussion on future projects related to One Butterfly concludes this report.

Christine Zepeda
*Evaluating Open Source Exhibit Creation Software: Curating a Web Exhibit Using
Pachyderm and Omeka*
Dolph Briscoe Center for American History
Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Gary Geisler
Field Supervisor: Linda Newland

The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History places priority on creating new web content in order to more readily share the Center's resources with the public. An integral part of achieving this aim is creating web-based exhibits, but the best way to accomplish the creation of such exhibits is still under review. The purpose of my project is to aid the Briscoe Center in the search for an effective and efficient way to produce web exhibits by evaluating two different open source exhibit creation software packages, Pachyderm and Omeka. The first stage of the project involved selecting a collection and choosing items from that collection for inclusion in the web exhibit. Once chosen, the items were digitized, and the resulting digital images were edited and adjusted in accordance with the standards set forth by the Briscoe Center. The second stage of the project encompassed creation of the web exhibits themselves. This involved developing a structure for the exhibit, performing research to generate text to accompany the artifacts in the exhibit, and building the exhibit using the open source software. Once completed, the exhibits will be uploaded to the Briscoe Center's site for inclusion in the existing repertoire of web exhibits.