Despite growing significance as a profession, User Experience remains hard to define. It is, in almost every sense, a loaded term for many people. Depending on the context, User Experience can be defined as anything from Usability to Interaction Design to Web development. As someone who is interested in User Experience and video games, my goal was to gain professional experience in order to better understand the practice of UX. I interned in the User Experience Group at Alienware, the premiere high-performance gaming PC and peripherals maker. My work at Alienware proved that User Experience is just as complex as the confusion over its’ meaning suggests. My projects covered a broad range of activities such as developing personas for both marketing and design teams, heuristic evaluations/functional maps of proprietary hardware/software undergoing re-designs, developing content for focus groups and user testing, as well as designing interfaces and interactions for potential product concepts. The projects even delved into Business and Brand Strategy on occasion. As a result, the practice of User Experience has proven to be a thoroughly hybrid discipline, willing and able to dip its toes into anything that will support the user.

Kelly Allen

Online Research Tutorials for Incoming Freshmen
The University of Texas Austin Perry-Castañeda Library
Faculty Supervisor: Diane Bailey
Field Supervisor: Janelle Hedstrom

Encountering the academic research process for the first time is often a confusing and frustrating challenge for new college students. The librarians at the University of Texas’ Perry-Castañeda Library work with professors to provide class-specific library instruction, but they are often limited to one or two sessions a semester. To complement and expand on the information literacy skills taught in these classes, I focused on an educational psychology class for the Longhorn Scholars, a program comprised of Texas students from historically underrepresented high schools. After examining class materials, meeting with the class’s instruction librarian, and reviewing the online research offerings of UT and similar institutions, I created a website for this specific group. The website details the research process involved in completing the class’s major assignment – a research paper. With text-based tutorials supplemented with screenshots, short demonstrative videos, and helpful links to available resources, this website can be used both holistically as a guide and as a quick reference at the point of need. The website incorporates traditional information literacy and instruction elements with class-specific personalization to provide an appropriate and engaging online research resource for a specific group of students.
The massively multiplayer online role-playing game World of Warcraft (WoW) allows players to create modifications (“mods” or “AddOns”) to the user interface so that the user may tailor the experience of gameplay to suit his or her particular gameplay style. “Modders” create their mods using an application programming interface (API). APIs are becoming widely popular, however the difference between WoW’s API and other APIs lies in its scope. The user is capable of modifying (with some exceptions) the entire UI. I have developed a taxonomy of World of Warcraft AddOns in order to better understand the particular ways in which users are altering the user interface. I have also conducted qualitative research interviews with World of Warcraft players and AddOn developers in order to illuminate the ways in which AddOns affect the experience of playing the game and game culture in general and I argue that, while Addons provide players with more agency vis-à-vis the software artifact, AddOns also create power structures and generate social norms. I hope that this paper will add to the discussion of whether the WoW AddOn development model is viable for other kinds of software.

Sara Arnold-Garza

Unifying the Digital Collection Databases at LBJ Library and Museum

Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum

Faculty Supervisor: Gary Geisler

Field Supervisor: Claudia Anderson

The Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum website makes available a handful of distinct digital collections: a photo archive, LBJ's Daily Diary, oral history transcripts, and telephone conversation summaries. Each of these collections were originally digitized and stored for the use of archivists, not the public. They each contain very different digital objects, with descriptions derived from the original records, and just as variant as those records. For instance, a photo may be of “President Johnson,” while the speaker in a telephone conversation may be “LBJ”. This presents a challenge for anyone searching these collections to be sure that they are finding all records of interest to them. My challenge was to create a unifying thesaurus, an “equivalency map,” for these collections. In the next few years, the Library will implement a site search, using one search box for the entire site and its collections. This new thesaurus will ensure that such distinct collections, with the accompanying idiosyncrasies of description, will return consistent and useful results for users. As a proof-of-concept exercise, a user study was implemented at the final stage of this project. By comparing user search results from the collections in their current state to results based on implementation of the thesaurus, a case can be made for the importance of such activities in returning more useful results.

Timothy Arnold

Master’s Thesis

AddOns and the New User Interface: A Taxonomy and Qualitative Investigation of World of Warcraft AddOns

Faculty Supervisor: Megan Winget

Second Reader: Gary Geisler

The Ben Conroy Collection at the St. Edward’s University Archives consists of 843 Jazz recordings (78 RPM records), mostly from the 1920s and 1930s. The collection was donated in record boxes with a hand-written inventory. For this project I created a digital inventory of the records, a digitization plan, a 78s Resource Guide, and an Instructional Digitization Guide which will help future workers continue digitizing the collection. I made recommendations for the preservation of the records, the new digital files, and copyright issues involved with providing access to the materials. I used a Dell Optiplex 755 computer workstation (running Windows XP), an external USB sound card, an Audio-Technica turntable, a Shure cartridge and stylus made for 78s, and the free audio editing software Audacity to create preservation masters and access copies with appropriate metadata. In addition to creating WAV and MP3 files of the songs, Excel, Word, and PDF files for the inventory, resources guide, and recommendations, I also printed the Digitization Guide on acid-free paper and bound it (sewn through the fold, full-cloth).

Kristi Beauchemin

Assessing and Augmenting the History Collection at a Small Academic Library

Southwestern University A. Frank Smith, Jr. Library Center

Faculty Supervisor: Barbara Immroth

Field Supervisor: Dana Hendrix

When Southwestern University opened in the mid-1800s, faculty members and supporters of the university donated books and other materials to begin the library. Since then, the collection has expanded beyond the library's optimal capacity, but the staff has limited time to conduct extensive weeding. The first phase of my project was to review and deselect materials in the British History collection, which can be found in the 941-942 range in the Dewey Decimal system. To evaluate the books, I consulted bibliographies, WorldCat, and professional review sources. Next, I recommended the purchase of replacements, new editions, and missing volumes encountered during the weeding process, and chose new books to add to the collection. Books on twentieth-century British history were of primary interest. While working on these two phases of the project, I also created a research guide in Southwestern University's collection of LibGuides to support students conducting research in all concentrations in the subject of history.

Chris Banks

Preservation and Digitization of 78 RPM Jazz Records: The Ben Conroy Collection

St. Edward’s University Archives

Faculty Supervisor: Sarah Cunningham

Field Supervisor: April Sullivan

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Anjali Bhasin
Promoting WebJunction.org Services to Small and Rural Libraries
WebJunction.org
Faculty Supervisor: Loriene Roy
Field Supervisor: Michael Porter

In 2002, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded OCLC a three-year grant to build an online community for small and rural library staff who support public access computing. Since its launch in 2003, WebJunction.org has helped more than 40,000 library staff build job skills through online courses, events, knowledge sharing and networking with colleagues. WebJunction.org currently has 63,000 members and 9,200 of whom belong to rural libraries. In an effort to support the work of rural and small libraries, Anjali Bhasin visited ten rural libraries in Central Texas and provided training on how to use WebJunction.org. The training included instruction on navigating the website, signing up for free membership, locating useful free content, and signing-up for free webinars. Three articles detailing the experience and observations have been prepared for publication in newsletters and journals.

Kelsey Brett
"Information in Social and Cultural Context*: Conducting a Literature Review for a New Course
The University of Texas School of Information
Faculty Supervisor: William Aspray
Field Supervisor: William Aspray

The School of Information has changed its core curriculum for students beginning the Master’s program in the fall of 2011. This change has resulted in three new required courses, with the current required courses being optional. One of the new courses is titled "Information in Social and Cultural Context". My contribution to this course is conducting a review of the literature relevant to the course. I have provided citations and abstracts of all of the materials I have found. I worked with Lecia Barker, from the curriculum committee, to come up with an outline of topics that should be covered in the course. My citations are organized according to the main topics identified in the course outline. This document will assist professors who teach the course for the first time in identifying major themes prevalent in the literature as well as possible readings to use in the course.

Tina M. Brooks
Legislative Reference Library of Texas
Penal Code Revision Research Guide
Faculty Supervisor: William Aspray
Field Supervisor: Kay Schlueter

The purpose of the Texas Penal Code Revision Project (1965-1973) was to substantively review and revise the entire Texas Penal Code. The penal code had been amended many times since being enacted in 1856 but had never been studied or revised in a complete coherent process. Over the past few years, librarians at the Legislative Reference Library have done much of the background for the research guide by identifying the relevant revision project documents at the Legislative Reference Library and at other libraries in Austin. My task was to organize the list of documents in a manner that would be useful to researchers interested in the history of particular sections of the code. After familiarizing myself with the documents, I decided to organize them by indexing them according to the relevant title and chapter subjects of the code that they addressed. This method of developing the research guide will give the library a guide that is immediately useful and allow for further refinement of the guide at a future date by breaking the list of documents into smaller relevant sections. It also provides a template for organizing the documents pertaining to other code revisions which the Legislative Reference Library would like to address in the future.

Lauren Brown
Evaluating and Promoting the Music Collection
Austin Public Library North Village Branch
Faculty Supervisor: Barbara Immroth
Field Supervisor: Sharon Herfurth

North Village is one of the most heavily used branches of Austin Public Library; one of its draws is its large music collection, which offers over 1500 CDs available for checkout. Part of my project was to evaluate that music collection and identify gaps in the selection. Once the gaps were determined, I also proposed suggestions for filling out the collection. In order to complete this project, I gathered usage statistics on a large sample of the CDs (about 500, or a third of the collection) to determine which artists and genres are the most popular at the North Village branch; then I referred to a combination of professional and customer reviews to suggest the best mix of critically acclaimed and widely popular music to add to the collection. The other components of my project were to develop programming in the library (primarily geared toward adults) to promote the music and film collection and to help repair damaged discs.
Network science is a relatively new field of research, with potential applications in a variety of disciplines. A number of national funding institutions (NSF, NIH, etc) have recently supported projects to develop open-access software pairing network analysis tools with visualization programs. This Capstone project considers the practical utility of scientometrics, through network analysis and domain visualization, to guide new directions of research and policy in the geosciences. The work is a collaboration between researchers at the UT Center for International Energy and Environmental Policy, a graduate student in the UT School of Information, and a team of researchers and software developers at the Indiana University School of Information. An initial investigation of open-access network analysis tools led to the selection and use of Sci2[1] to analyze geosciences publications indexed in a common bibliographic database (ISI Web of Science). The Sci2 toolkit allows users to input bibliographic datasets and design original workflows for network analysis and visualization. Several new workflows for topical network analysis were designed to identify new directions of research specific to the geosciences. These workflows will be accessible to researchers for future applications to other fields and research questions. The domain visualizations that are produced through these workflows have the potential to identify novel connections within and between fields of research, using the historical publication data as a guide for new research directions.

Lesley Caldwell

*Building a Digital Repository for a Newly-established Library and Archive*

H.J. Lutcher Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sports

Faculty Supervisor: Unmil Karadkar

Field Supervisor: Cindy Slater

Over 30 years ago, Drs. Jan and Terry Todd of the University of Texas Kinesiology and Health Education department began amassing an extensive artifact collection focused on physical culture. Originally housed in Anna Hiss Gym, major private endowments allowed for the construction of a more suitable space in 2009. The Todds’ ultimate goal was to create a permanent home for their unique collection, and to make the collection accessible for research purposes. Previous iSchool Capstone projects – and internally driven digitization initiatives – have been completed at the Stark Center, but the collection remains inaccessible to the majority of researchers. The primary goal of this project is to build a digital repository where the Stark Center’s collection can be stored and shared online. This project began with exploring and assessing possible software solutions. After selecting DSpace, an open-source package, the second step was installing the software and setting up the Stark Center’s Community and administrative functions. The third step involved the submission of documents into their respective DSpace Collections. The final step entailed making the DSpace Community directly accessible to researchers through the Stark Center website. Additionally, this project includes creating DSpace documentation and training Stark Center staff and volunteers so that the repository continues to be an accurate and effectual resource.

Meredith Bush

*Domain Visualization in the Geosciences: Tracking the Evolution of the Discipline through Topical Analysis*

The University of Texas at Austin Center for International Energy & Environmental Policy

Faculty Supervisor: Megan Winget

Field Supervisor: Suzanne Pierce

Emily Calkins

*A Little More TLC: Building Teen Services*

Cedar Park Public Library

Faculty Supervisor: Barbara Immroth

Field Supervisor: Kit Coates

The primary goal of the project was the development of a teen advisory group, now called the TLC (Teen Library Council) at the Cedar Park Public Library. To that end, I conducted outreach at local high schools to generate interest for the TLC, and planned and facilitated four TLC meetings. During these meetings, the TLC chose a name, drafted a code of conduct and mission statement, and planned and threw a Harry Potter-themed party. An average of 10 teens attended each meeting. About half of them were library regulars; the other teens were new either to the library or to teen programs at the library. The TLC will continue operating at CPPL after my project is finished, making collection suggestions, creating reader’s advisory tools, and planning events. In addition to working with the TLC, I facilitated and supervised existing programming, including the monthly teen book club and teen gaming events. I also worked weekly hours at both the adult and children’s reference desks in order to get to know the Cedar Park community and the library itself.

Andrea Cato

*Refining Rich Media: Oral History of the Early Texas Oil Industry*

Dolph Briscoe Center for American History

Faculty Supervisor: Philip Doty

Field Supervisor: Zach Vowell

Technology Advisor: Quinn Stewart

Libraries and information studies programs face the difficult task of demonstrating their relevance and justifying their expenses to the university and society at large. Publicly accessible, archival quality online content is one way for research institutions and graduate programs as a whole to give back to society and to add value over time. This Capstone project is an attempt to package the experience of staff, faculty, and students involved in the Oral History of the Early Texas Oil Industry into a repeatable project work plan with ever faster and better iterations—while also providing an example of a rich media experience by pairing audio interviews with transcripts, letters, scrapbooks, broadsides, brochures, newspaper clippings, and photographs. My duties included acting as a project manager, acting as a liaison between the School of Information and the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, selecting of materials for digitization, constructing and deploying of several surveys, and contributing to the CAH’s MediaWiki-based website.
In order to increase student interest in reading and in creative writing at McCallum High School, I developed and planned programs at such as author visits and book clubs. These programs were designed for sustainability in the future school years and to allow for adjustments to be made based on student interests. To attract students that rarely enter the library and to make involvement more convenient, online surveys and program sign up forms were added to the library's wiki page. These online surveys will allow student input regarding future topics and events. The first of a series of programs consisted of a “Meet, Greet and Eat” with Jennifer Ziegler, author of How Not To Be Popular. More than 50 students came to the library during their lunch periods to discuss creative writing with this author. Future author visits are in development, as is a Teen Book Club. I anticipate that providing the opportunity to interact with professional authors and opening channels of discussion about literature will engage teens and encourage them to read, write and express their feelings.

Out Youth is a local non-profit organization offering support and services for LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, and Allies) youth throughout Texas. The Out Books Project is a collaborative effort with Out Youth to create a donation program that increases and diversifies Queer young adult collections in Austin high schools. The primary goal of the Out Books Project is to raise awareness about, legitimize, and celebrate the many experiences of Queer youth. I contacted local high school librarians to gain support for the project, and I worked with Queer young adult authors and publishers to procure as many donations as possible. I also drafted a grant proposal containing Out Youth's history and mission, a comprehensive budget, and an annotated bibliography of all the books included in the donation package. In addition, I maintained an Out Books Project blog to keep participating librarians abreast of developments, to offer programming ideas for the books included in the donation package, and to discuss the importance of and difficulties inherent in reaching and supporting Queer youth. The Out Books Project demonstrates how a relatively small budget can truly have a positive effect on Queer young adult collections, and the project model can and should be implemented in communities throughout the country.

Emily Hansell Clark
Providing Access to an Appalachian Folk Song Collection
Columbia University Center for Ethnomusicology
Faculty Supervisor: Gary Geisler
Field Supervisor: Aaron Fox

As archival material is digitized at an increasing rate, archivists are beginning to utilize Web-2.0 applications to create widely accessible, interactive Web exhibits for collections. Interactive features may be exploited to convey the collective, populist cultural traditions that give context to many cultural artifacts. For this project, I first researched current options and best practices for use of open source content management systems and interactive capabilities in Web exhibits of archival material. Then I designed a site providing Web access to a collection of North Carolina folk songs recorded in 1935 by Appalachian musician and insider ethnomusicologist Bascom Lamar Lunsford. In the Appalachian folk music tradition, versions of songs may evolve to overtake the canonical, collaboration among musicians is widespread, and expert opinion is held no higher than that of the Everyman. These 315 songs were gathered over decades of interaction and collaboration with other musicians. Accordingly, through use of various avenues for user contribution and participation, the site is designed to encourage a view of the songs as elements of a living and still-evolving tradition, and to facilitate the creation of a community of expertise and ownership that befits the collaborative and populist values of the Appalachian tradition.

Dana DeLoca
The SCAD Video Project: Exploring Social Conflict in Africa
Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law
Faculty Supervisor: Gary Geisler
Field Supervisor: Ashley Moran

The Strauss Center for International Security and Law has created a new website and visualization tool that permits researcher to display and understand violent social events on the African continent. This massive database of non-military events such as riots, demonstration and uprisings was created in collaboration with the University of North Texas and researchers at the LBJ School of Public Policy. My role in this capstone was to create a small collection of videos to document how the visualization was developed, to demonstrate how to use the tool, and to illustrate how the database can be used by researchers and policy makers interested in the causes of social unrest. This project involved interviewing the developers and researchers who built the database and its visualization component. These video interviews were conducted in Austin and Denton and edited together with screen captures of the tool in use as well as live archival and news footage. The live footage was obtained from sources such as Al-Jazeera creative commons, Associated Press and the UNT researcher’s own video collections. The videos were produced to coincide with the launch of the site in February as well as the debut of the visualization component in May.
Anticipate continued volunteer work with SAPCC long past graduation.

Artifacts, online accessibility to the collection, and facility improvements including expansion.

The plan includes conservation/preservation assessment, appraisals, housing and re-housing of artifacts, online accessibility to the collection, and facility improvements including expansion and renovations. Further collaboration between the iSchool and SAPCC is possible and I anticipate continued volunteer work with SAPCC long past graduation.

Andrea Donio
Preserving Austin's Creative Culture
South Austin Popular Culture Center
Faculty Supervisor: Karen Pavelka
Field Supervisor: Leea Mechling

The South Austin Popular Culture Center (SAPCC) collects, exhibits, documents, and interprets Austin art and culture of the past 50 years. It is a central repository where posters, prints, photographs and ephemera are preserved. Many of the founders were former employees of Armadillo World Headquarters and have a passion for the artwork produced for the venue. The Center’s emphasis has been on collecting and exhibiting however, there is no collection development plan in place, nor is there consistent collection processing. At present there is little intellectual control. My project focuses on organizing the collection, both physically and electronically, and is being accomplished in two phases. The first phase includes developing a rudimentary cataloging system to determine the collection’s scope and size. The second phase of the project consists of developing a five-year plan to assist the founders’ ultimate goal of positioning SAPCC to be handed over to new directors and staff. Aspects of the plan include conservation/preservation assessment, appraisals, housing and re-housing of artifacts, online accessibility to the collection, and facility improvements including expansion and renovations. Further collaboration between the iSchool and SAPCC is possible and I anticipate continued volunteer work with SAPCC long past graduation.

Mark Firmin
Examining the Past and Joining the Present: A History of The Texas Collection and a Digital Exhibit from the Papers of Governor Pat M. Neff
The Texas Collection, Baylor University
Faculty Supervisor: David B. Gracy II
Field Supervisor: John Wilson

Established in 1923 through the generous gift of Dr. Kenneth H. Aynesworth, the Texas Collection at Baylor University stands as one of the largest repositories of Texana materials in the state. The Texas Collection houses the archives of Baylor University as well as more than 3,600 manuscript collections, 125,000 library volumes, 4,000 maps, 6,500 photographs, and the 3,600 oral histories pertaining to Texas and Texans. Despite its size, however, The Texas Collection remains rather invisible to students and researchers both on and off the Baylor University campus. By delving into the history of The Texas Collection, I have brought to light the reasons and decisions that have led to a legacy of obscurity as well as the problems that continue to plague this invaluable Texana collection. One factor contributing to the The Texas Collection’s obscurity is the repository’s lack of digitized materials and presence on the Internet. In an effort to expose more external and internal users to The Texas Collection, I have assembled a digital exhibit consisting of approximately fifty items from the papers of former Texas governor, Pat M. Neff. This digital exhibit marks the repository’s first foray into digital curation, and the manual I have put together for the repository will aid future endeavors to expose people to the treasures that The Texas Collection houses.

Kathryn Garvey
Architectural Archives Database
Austin History Center
Faculty Supervisor: David B. Gracy II
Field Supervisor: Molly Hults

The Austin History Center houses over 35,000 drawings from over 150 architects. These drawings and the accompanying files document the changing landscape of Austin and the surrounding areas and serve as an invaluable resource. Currently catalog records are created using Librarian’s Helper, a computer program created in the mid-1980s. My project was to create an Access database and a user manual to facilitate the creation of the catalog records and to improve access to them going forward. My field supervisor and I consulted with Donna Coates at the Alexander Architectural Archives to determine appropriate metadata fields for the database. After finalizing the metadata fields, I created a metadata table with definitions and input instructions. Next, I created the database and began inputting records into it to explore its usability and accessibility. I wrote a user manual for volunteers explaining the purpose of the archives, the processes undertaken by the Austin History Center to acquire, catalog, and preserve architectural materials, and the process for inputting records into the database. Finally, I assisted my field supervisor with the creation of teaching and take away materials for local architects that explain how to select and preserve archival materials from their own holdings.
Crowdsourcing, the outsourcing of tasks to a large group of anonymous workers online, can be an efficient way to create data for research in the information retrieval domain. However, there are many considerations when designing and implementing a crowdsourcing task. In my report, I survey the current research on crowdsourcing in order to track the use of this new tool in information retrieval and posit possible future uses. Additionally, I evaluate these tasks from a usability perspective, focusing on the ways in which user design and other usability considerations could affect the outcomes of crowdsourced IR tasks. Finally, I consider the viability of crowdsourcing as a kind of information retrieval tool in its own right, as well as the potential impact of crowdlabor on a field that already seeks both to interpret and satisfy the information needs of “the crowd.”

C.A. Grawl
Classically Trained: An Introduction to the Public Domain
Pflugerville Community Library
Faculty Supervisor: Patricia Galloway
Field Supervisor: Jennifer Coffey

Among many other utilities, Project Gutenberg (PG) is an economical and practical means by which public libraries may fill “classics” gaps in their collections. This project provided me an opportunity to showcase this particular utility inside my library, the Pflugerville Community Library (PCL). The primary objective of this project was to identify (125) popular literary, philosophical, and historical works digitized and in the public domain – that is, on PG – that were not previously within the scope of PCL’s collection, and to create MARC (bibliographic and holdings) records for each of these works, effectively adding links to the PG versions of these works to PCL’s catalog, and thriftily inflating the library’s collection size. Complementary to this, I spearheaded the creation of a virtual book club, called Pflugereads, mediated by a Wordpress blog and Facebook Page, which centers around classic literary works that are on PG in print and audio form, and in circulation at PCL in book and audiobook form. A third component of this project was to identify titles in PCL’s collection which have received prestigious literary awards and honors, to note this on their respective records, and to create Reader’s Advisory materials based upon these honors.

Halley Grogan
"Like Images in the Memory of a Stranger": Creating a Collection Development Policy for Photographic Archives
The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History
Faculty Supervisor: David B. Gracy II
Field Supervisor: Stephanie Malmros

For archives and libraries, a collection development policy allows for the mission of the institution to be implemented and realized in an organized and strategic manner. In the fall of 2010, The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History (BCAH) began the process of creating collection development policies for all of its major collection strengths, including the photographic archives. With more than five million images and a growing number of diverse collections in the photographic archives there was an immediate requirement for a collection development policy. This document would guide future collection strategies, address underrepresented collection areas and prioritize further acquisition goals. Prior to drafting the policy itself, a literature review was conducted to best inform current standards of practice. In addition, an extensive collection analysis of the photographic materials was implemented to identify current holding statistics. Throughout the process, BCAH general policies, other collection strength policy documents and individual staff members were consulted for guidance. Finally, further research was conducted concerning visual literacy and how photographic archival collections can incorporate these practices in daily work efforts. Continuing forward, this policy document must receive continued revision so as to ensure that it accurately reflects the goals and objectives of the BCAH photographic archives.

Lara Hanneman
A Special Library Website Usability Study
Center for Transportation Research Library
Faculty Supervisor: Randolph Bias
Field Supervisor: Louise Rosenzweig

The Center for Transportation Research (CTR) is a division of the University of Texas at Austin that was founded in 1963 and current and ongoing projects address virtually all aspects of transportation research, including economics, multimodal systems, traffic congestion relief, transportation policy, materials, structures, transit, environmental impacts, driver behavior, land use, geometric design, accessibility, and pavements. The CTR library collects reports and transportation resources from Texas, other states, and federal transportation sources, and their website provides a gateway to thousands of digital resources as well as information about other transportation resource that might only be available in hard copy. The usability study was conducted on the main CTR site as well as the CTR Library site, and concerned the findability, understandability, and usability of the website. Certain elements of the Library website presence were also under development and their future structure was investigated as part of the usability study, resulting in a two part study, the first part of which was summative, the second of which was formative. Hopefully, this usability study will allow CTR and the CTR Library to continue their service to the University of Texas and the Texas public in providing research assistance to educators, students, and the general public.
Melinda Pearl Hodges
Library Instruction for Beginning Computer Users
San Marcos Public Library
Faculty Supervisor: Diane Bailey
Field Supervisor: Susan Smith

The San Marcos Public Library offers instruction to beginning computer users in a different way than many area libraries. Instead of having a structured class, volunteers teach one or two students at a time, following curriculum designed by librarians that is presented in a handout. Library patrons participating in the classes want to learn these skills for a variety of reasons, including job seeking, preparing to return to school, to be able to stay in touch with family, and many more. This curriculum needs to be expanded and updated for the library’s upcoming switch to Microsoft Office 2007. I conducted phone surveys with previous students to evaluate their satisfaction with the program. These surveys and research into adult learning theories informed the creation of an orientation letter for new volunteers, with suggestions and instruction on how they can best teach their students. I updated the program’s existing curriculum to include Word 2007. I also developed curriculum and handouts covering e-mail using Yahoo Mail and Gmail, Excel 2003 and Excel 2007.

Whitney Hughes
Austin Seminary Omeka Project
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Faculty Supervisor: Patricia Galloway
Field Supervisor: Kristy Sorensen

Omeka is an open source web publishing application which allows cultural institutions to add and manage digital collections and objects while adhering to Dublin Core metadata standards. The Austin Seminary Archive had been evaluating an Omeka-hosted version of the application. The objective of my capstone project was to setup an institutionally-hosted server, transfer the existing content to the new server, and devise guidelines for the management and growth of the Austin Seminary Omeka site. As part of this process I selected new collections to be added to the site. Because the seminary holdings are primarily non-digital materials, I developed a protocol for digitizing traditional materials and assigning and tracking unique identifiers to the resulting digital surrogates. I also created a manual detailing the installation, migration, and management of the server as well as the methods for adding and managing content via the Omeka dashboard. It is my hope that this will provide the Austin Seminary Archive with an enhanced web presence and will allow patrons increased access to archival collections.

Clarke Iakovakis
Master’s Thesis
An Interdisciplinary Inquiry into the Ethics Codes of the Helping Professions: Interpretations of Moral Principles and Professional Responsibilities
Faculty Supervisor: Lynn Westbrook
Second Reader: Yan Zhang

Helping professionals are devoted to promoting human flourishing by enabling people to achieve optimal functionality and fulfillment in the physical, psychological, emotional and intellectual domains. Well-defined ethical standards for practitioners are crucial to such a vital endeavor. My thesis analyzes the official codes of ethics produced by the professional organizations of five of the helping professions: librarian, psychology, social work, nursing, and education. I seek in the codes interpretation of four moral principles—respect for autonomy, justice, beneficence, and non-maleficence—and four professional responsibilities—fidelity, veracity, privacy, and confidentiality. These are grounded in the “common morality,” or the core norms and virtues understood and exercised by all morally serious people. How do the professions define, specify, and express the principles and responsibilities? Such an interdisciplinary study clarifies and allows comparison of the expressed values of each profession. It is a critical examination of professional codes of ethics, and an argument for their explicit grounding in the common morality. The study is relevant to iSchool students who will work intimately with people, and who wish to consider the scope and purpose of professional ethics and what it means to be an ethical professional.

Kaitlin Ingram
Master’s Thesis
Kraus Map Collection Database
Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center
Faculty Supervisor: Unmil Karadkar
Field Supervisor: Rich Oram

The Kraus Map Collection, one of the highlights of the Harry Ransom Center’s collection of cartography, was acquired in 1969 and contains nearly all of the maps, atlases, and globes described in Kraus’s Monumenta Cartographica (Catalogue No. 124). The collection offers a wealth of information for scholars, and yet, some of the collection materials cannot be examined in their physical form because of their large size and fragile nature. The goal of this project was to organize digital surrogates of the collection materials into a searchable online database in order to increase access to the collection. Working closely with the HRC’s digital coordinator, cataloger, and associate director, I began by developing a unique, Dublin Core-based metadata scheme for the collection. I then created a database for SQL Server, from which I produced an online web application written in ColdFusion. I also digitized the collection’s catalog and used optical character recognition software to enable a full-text search of the document. The Kraus Map Collection Database will soon be publicly accessible online at www.hrc.utexas.edu.
As university libraries experience an increase in online reference requests, instructional services face the challenge of creating and maintaining relevant digital learning objects. Online video tutorials can enhance virtual library environments by offering lessons that cater to online FAQs. "User Needs, Creator Considerations: Online Video Tutorials for Instructional Services" focused on the information literacy needs of undergraduate students at St. Edward’s University, a liberal arts university in Austin, Texas. A literature review, content analysis, stakeholder survey, and creation of an online video tutorial informed a list of key topics and best practices. Additionally, a project website (https://sites.google.com/site/libinstruct/home) was created to track progress, note lessons learned, and manage the survey. Outcomes of this project revealed the need for digital learning objects that are specific to the university’s academic agenda. Moreover, online video tutorials should be discoverable and complement in-person and virtual reference services. Although "User Needs, Creator Considerations" focused on a single university, the results of the project speak to broader challenges for instructional services in virtual environments.

Hollie Jenkins  
*Collection Development and Acquisitions for Blanton Elementary*  
Blanton Elementary School  
Faculty Supervisor: Barbara Immroth  
Field Supervisor: Christina King

In Texas, most third, fourth, and fifth grade students are subjected to state mandated testing in mathematics through the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). Fifth grade students are also tested in science. Improving these math and science scores is part of the school improvement plan at Austin Independent School District’s Blanton Elementary. In addition to administering the TAKS test, teachers must also teach the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), the official K-12 curriculum requirements for every public school course including science and math. The purpose of this project was to select and purchase science and math books to provide an updated 500s collection that could enrich and support the science and math curriculum. The current 500s section includes 1,970 books and makes up 8.86% of the library’s collection. The 500s collection was analyzed for average age, language (English, Spanish, and bilingual), reading level and interest level. Using award lists, professional reviews, and educator recommendation lists, I compiled a list of 121 possible additions to the collection. The list of recommended books was reviewed with Blanton’s librarian, and I completed and submitted an order for $944.00.

Courtney Jeffries  
*User Needs, Creator Considerations: Online Video Tutorials for Instructional Services*  
St. Edward’s University  
Faculty Supervisor: Loriene Roy  
Field Supervisor: Eric Frierson

With the world’s dependence on fossil fuels and the increase of environmental concerns associated with its use, the development and use of biofuels as a sustainable alternative is garnering growing attention. Dorsan Biofuels, Inc. has developed a business model to focus on small-scale opportunities utilizing existing waste streams in the industrial market. The basis for their technology is a genetically modified microorganism (GMO) that can convert sugar and starch-rich waste streams into hydrocarbon fuels (biodiesel). One of the challenges for Dorsan to be able to move forward with their business plan is knowing what regulatory permitting processes are required by federal, state, and city or municipal government agencies. The objective of my project was to gather information about the various biotechnology regulations from agencies like the EPA, USDA, and FDA and create a regulatory roadmap detailing the different processes. To begin, I first needed to research the biofuels industry itself to learn about its processes, technologies, markets, research endeavors, and challenges. I also analyzed several competitors, which helped me to identify regulatory challenges encountered within the industry. Much of my research was focused on government websites and databases that can often times be confounding. I created a private wiki to organize all of my research and also to allow the Dorsan executives to view my progress and give me feedback on my strategies and their results. Using the wiki also enabled me to organize the information, according to the preferences of Dorsan’s executives, to compile and synthesize into a final report.

Casey Kelly  
*Defining and Mapping Regulatory Challenges*  
Dorsan Biofuels, Inc.  
Faculty Supervisor: Claudia Chidester  
Field Supervisor: Kay Hammer

Amanda Keys  
*Their Maya Story: Archival Processing and Online Exhibition of the George F. and Geraldine D. Andrews Papers*  
Alexander Architectural Archive  
Faculty Supervisor: Megan Winget  
Field Supervisors: Beth Dodd and Donna Coates

When architect George Andrews, and his wife, Gerrie, climbed their first Maya pyramid in 1958, they hardly could have anticipated that a life’s calling was awaiting them. Yet by 2000, they had documented approximately 800 buildings at 224 separate sites, resulting in approximately 3,500 pages of descriptive data, 2,500 architectural drawings, and thousands of photographic materials. I processed slides, correspondence, and office records, and updated the EAD finding aid for the George F. and Geraldine D. Andrews Papers. I also developed an online exhibition, which involved selecting, digitizing, and preparing metadata for images, per University of Texas Digital Repository standards; crafting exhibition narratives; and using Drupal to develop the exhibition. To promote the Andrews papers and the Alexander Architectural Archive’s work on this important resource, I contributed blog posts to the Architecture and Planning Library blog, “Battle Hall Highlights,” participated in an open house at the Archive in affiliation with UT’s Maya Meetings conference, and reached out to various Mayanist scholars.
This year, as a component of the Embrey Women’s Human Rights Initiative, the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies funded the development of several new Signature Courses for undergraduate students. Students in these courses will be required to use archives on the UT-Austin campus to research a women’s human rights topic, but for many students, archival research is an unfamiliar and potentially daunting undertaking. To provide faculty and students with a resource supporting the archival research requirement of the new Signature Courses, I created an online tutorial with guidelines for identifying a collection, visiting an archive, conducting successful research, and considering emotional and ethical questions. In developing the tutorial, I gathered input from faculty, archivists, and librarians; studied best practices for online teaching tools, information literacy instruction, and human rights education; and gathered digitized archival images to illustrate the site. After creating a mockup using Adobe InDesign, I built the website using Cascade Server, the content management system used by the College of Liberal Arts. The final tutorial, which I presented to faculty at a brown bag lunch, is housed on the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies website and will be used in the upcoming school year.

Amelia Koford
Tutorial for Archival Research on Women’s Human Rights
The University of Texas at Austin Center for Women’s and Gender Studies
Faculty Supervisor: Melanie Feinberg
Field Supervisor: Kristen Hogan

Yoga Yoga is a yoga studio established in 1998 with five locations in Austin. This project included the research, design, and development of a prototype mobile website for yogayoga.com. This mobile site serves as a proof-of-concept as Yoga Yoga considers the redesign of its main website. For November 2010 through March 2011, mobile traffic for yogayoga.com made up almost 12% of total traffic with 97% of that from touch devices (iPhone, Android, iPad, and iPod). With a significant percentage of mobile traffic and a website that is not mobile friendly, a mobile site provides an opportunity to explore a design that considers both the information needs of students and the organization’s marketing goals. The research phase included a review of the site’s Google Analytics reports and interviews with Yoga Yoga staff and students. The design phase included wireframes and hi-fidelity mock-ups of main and sub-pages. The final development phase included the coding of a test site using HTML 5 and PHP.

Chris Latham
Yoga Yoga Mobile Website
Yoga Yoga
Faculty Supervisor: Yan Zhang
Field Supervisors: Stephanie Shorter and Rob Grady

The Information Age has afforded incredible improvements in the availability of information to the general public. It has simultaneously introduced incredible complexity in the multiple methods of accessing it. It is in this complex environment that the Cedar Park Public Library serves one of the fastest growing cities in the nation with a current population of over 50,000 residents. The diverse needs of the community necessitate a wide range of technology services from introductory computer classes to downloadable eBooks. In spring 2011 I got a taste for how Cedar Park has risen to meet this challenge in the classroom and on the reference desk. My objective was to gain experience in public library services for adult learners. I provided weekly reference services and taught two basic computer classes. I designed and implemented a Microsoft Word Resume Workshop. I also hosted four OverDrive Gadget Labs to provide hands-on instruction in OverDrive, the library’s collection of downloadable eBook and audiobook content.

Tiffany (Garrett) LeMaistre
Word to Widgets: Technology Services
Cedar Park Public Library
Faculty Supervisor: Barbara Immroth
Field Supervisor: Julia Mitschke

For 40 years, the Texas Film Commission has encouraged the development of the film, television, and multimedia industries in Texas. The Texas Film Commission archives contain a variety of artifacts related to movie-making in the state of Texas, and serve as a resource for staff, constituents, and production companies considering production in Texas. The Film Commission keeps record of current projects digitally, using in-house software TexScout, but there is still a wealth of disorganized paper materials from old projects that has yet to be digitized. This past semester, I evaluated the digitization plan in the Texas Film Commission archives, including selection policies and work flow procedures. Through interviews and surveys with the Film Commission staff, I determined the staff priorities and needs for the digitized archives, and also designed and implemented a controlled vocabulary to define and organize the archive artifacts. The results from this professional experience project will ensure that a standardized and efficient digitization procedure continues in the Film Commission, and will encourage active use of the archives to promote Texas’s competitive position worldwide as a production destination.

Jo Lammert
Digitizing, Defining, and Organizing the Texas Film Commission Archives
Texas Film Commission
Faculty Supervisor: Unmil Karadkar
Field Supervisor: Alicia Downard

Yoga
Yoga
Faculty Supervisor: Jo Lammert
Field Supervisor: Alicia Downard

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Even though many other information resources exist, Google is a frequently used search engine of students. However, without explicit instruction students do not develop the necessary skills to be an effective user of Google. The popularity of Google therefore can be harnessed as a first step toward improving information literacy instruction and specific student outcomes such as evaluating websites, understanding copyright and fair use, and an awareness of the strengths and limitations of a search engine. Based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills Research Strand and the popularity of online and multimedia methods of instruction, the Google Smarter Website enables middle and high school students to have access to basic information literacy instruction on a resource that is pertinent and applicable to their everyday life. The website highlights basic research concepts such as sources and copyright, skills for evaluating a webpage, provides background on how Google works, and models some lesser known Google search applications such as timeline and wonder wheel. Using screen casts and screen shots created with Jing, Google Smarter fulfills the need for on-demand information literacy instruction. As students more effectively and ethically use Google, they will become more conscientious of using information in the digital world for academic and personal information seeking pursuits.

Zachary Loeb

*Developing a Controlled Vocabulary*

Texas Archive of the Moving Image
Faculty Supervisor: Megan Winget
Field Supervisor: Megan Peck

How do you describe a parade? What about Christmas morning? These are the types of questions that catalogers at the Texas Archive of the Moving Image (TAMI) wrestle with every time they work on a film from the archive’s collection, and as a cataloging intern at TAMI they were questions I knew well. Much of the past cataloging work at TAMI has been done by interns who have brought with them great enthusiasm, as well as their own particular controlled vocabulary for cataloging. For this project my goal was to help TAMI develop a controlled vocabulary that would provide increased uniformity across catalog entries thereby strengthening access to the collection and assisting future catalogers by presenting them with an existing vocabulary to use. Beyond examining the current holdings and practices at TAMI I researched the cataloging techniques used by other on-line film archives in order to develop a larger understanding of cataloging possibilities. My aim has been to construct a controlled vocabulary strategy that can be implemented by future catalogers and also be applied retroactively so as to streamline the cataloging process at TAMI.

Erica Leu

*Google Smarter Website*

Pflugerville High School Library
Faculty Supervisor: Barbara Immroth
Field Supervisor: Mary Lynn Galloway

The Texas Discovery Rules, which govern the acquisition of evidence from opposing parties prior to trial, underwent repeated revisions from the late 1980s through 2000. Revisions were necessitated by a general consensus among both practicing attorneys and members of the Court that the Discovery Rules were no longer sufficient due to technological advances, such as the computer, offering new sources of discoverable information. The records, which are composed of approximately 8 linear feet of material that must be retained indefinitely by the court, follow the altered Rules from early drafts prepared by the State Bar of Texas and the Supreme Court Advisory Committee, to the Court’s adoption of the final Rules. As a Supreme Court Archives Intern, I prepared a processing plan that would both provide an organizational framework tailored to the Rules Attorney, the primary user of the records, and function as a template for subsequent archival processing of the records by the Court Archivist.

Karen Louma

*A Processing Plan for the Texas Discovery Rules Records*

Supreme Court of Texas
Faculty Supervisor: Ciaran Trace
Field Supervisor: Tiffany Shropshire

The Alfred Junge Collection is part of the Film Collection at the Harry Ransom Center (HRC) at the University of Texas - Austin. Alfred Junge was a German-born Art Director and Production Designer. He was based in Britain and primarily worked on films from the 1930s through the 1950s. The collection contains over 150 original largescale drawings of sets and scenes for various films and 23 boxes of material. The bulk of the boxed material consists of photographs of Junge’s set and scene conceptions, and stills from the films. It also includes his research materials, correspondence and printed material. The objective of my project was to digitize items in the Junge Collection and then build a digital library to be displayed on the HRC’s web site. I digitized all of the original large-scale drawings using the HRC’s DigitBook and about half of the boxed items using a flatted scanner, and created entries for each item or folder in the HRC’s in-house database. The entries include identifying metadata and a thumbnail or PDF of the item. I then used this information to develop a database and digital library to be displayed on the HRC’s web site so that users can visually browse and search the collection.

Daniela Lozano

*Digitizing and Providing Online Access to the Alfred Junge Collection*

Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center
Faculty Supervisor: Megan Winget
Field Supervisor: Steve Wilson
Brigham Young University–Idaho became a four-year institution in 2000 after operating as a junior college since 1923. The special collections and archives (SPC) is adapting to that growth, but with limited staff and resources, needs guidelines developed from professional practice and catered to its circumstances to operate as a viable academic archives. Additionally, the SPC is a member of the Church Consortium of Libraries and Archives (CCLA) and must bring practices in line with CCLA guidelines. One step in this growth is to create specific directions drawn from established archival practices and the CCLA. The processing manual I developed for the SPC instructs staff concerning arrangement and description, and includes discussion of archival principles and issues of acquisition, restrictions, and reference services. Additionally, Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) was used as a standard for description, and finding aids will be compliant with DACS and CCLA guidelines. The manual will ultimately act as a training device and resource for staff and student workers, with all necessary forms attached, and prepare the SPC for the use of EAD and electronic management systems. Establishing patterns for handling records will prepare the SPC for increased recordkeeping responsibilities as the university grows.

As state curricular and teaching standards are changing, educators often find it difficult to gain access to relevant, modern primary sources; additionally, with the time constraints placed on them by their positions, few have time to visit an archive to obtain the records they would like to use. Working with the Education Specialist of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library, we hoped to begin addressing this concern by making a variety of digitized archival materials available to a diverse user population using Glifos social media software. To accomplish this goal, we created a number of independent modules, linked through the Library, we hoped to begin addressing this concern by making a variety of digitized archival materials accessible on the Web, and project management experience.

The Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Museum is working on creating a collection of web-ready finding aids. These finding aids are being assembled from legacy finding aids and NARA’s Archival Research Catalogue (ARC) descriptions. I compared, analyzed, and edited the finding aids for the following collections: Office Files of White House Aides and Personal and Organizational Papers. I began by looking at the physical finding aids and comparing them to the digital documents of the finding aids. Any information missing in the digital finding aids but present in the physical finding aid was either typed or scanned in and edited to follow a designated format. I added additional information on the individuals in the collections that were present in ARC, but not in the archives digital finding aids. Also, I provided information about the positives of using EAD (like researchers’ familiarity with EAD) with the finding aids through conducting a survey of the legacy data. I documented my work in Excel and Word. After this project the digital finding aids are one step closer to being accessible on the Web, and I have better knowledge of the diversity of methods of archival description, editing legacy finding aids for the Web, and project management experience.

Allan Elementary School is a Title I campus located in East Austin within the Austin Independent School District. The campus serves a population of 350 students ranging in grades from PreK through 5th. Each year the campus hosts a Scholastic Book Fair as a fundraiser for the library to purchase additional books, literacy resources, and to pay for related library activities such as author visits. In an effort to promote the book fair and actively involve the families of the community, I coordinated a Family Book Night where families could shop the fair and enjoy literacy related activities and events. Our theme-Book Fair Carnival lent itself to scheduling events and booths such as a puppet theatre, reader’s corner, pictures with a story book character, face painting, ball toss, duck pond, popcorn, cotton candy, and a balloon twisting clown. In preparation of the night, I was able to obtain financial donations by two local businesses to help cover the cost of the booths and supplies needed. To further ensure we would have adequate help to operate the booths, I solicited the help of student organizations from the local feeder high school, East Side Memorial. I coordinated where the student organizations would set-up outside of the library and the functions they would be responsible for during the event.
Heather Nice  
Records in Record Time: Enhancing Archival Accessibility Using Glifos Social Media  
Faculty Supervisor: Ciaran Trace  
Field Supervisor: Marsha Sharp  
Technology Advisor: Quinn Stewart

As state curricular and teaching standards are changing, educators often find it difficult to gain access to relevant, modern primary sources; additionally, with the time constraints placed on them by their positions, few have time to visit an archive to obtain the records they would like to use. Working with the Education Specialist of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library, we hoped to begin addressing this concern by making a variety of digitized archival materials available to a diverse user population using Glifos social media software. To accomplish this goal, we created a number of independent modules, linked through the President’s Daily Diary, that organize multiple archival resources pertaining to six specific days during Johnson’s presidency. Prior to the creation of these modules, accessing the archival resources would have required navigation to multiple Web sites to locate and collect various materials. Due to the affordances of the software, an individual module can contain a variety of archival resources including, but not limited to, videotaped speeches, recorded telephone conversations, photographs, maps, oral histories, personal memoirs, and declassified government documents. The design of the modules takes into account user access for a variety of purposes and would, we believe, appeal to teachers for classroom use, the casually interested party, and academic researchers alike.

Albert A. Palacios  
“Religiously Bound”: Exploring Colonial Spanish America at the Benson  
Benson Latin American Collection  
Faculty Supervisor: Patricia Galloway  
Field Supervisor: Craig Schroer

As one of the largest university Latin American collections in the United States, the Benson preserves some of the most notable materials pertaining to colonial Spanish-American history. Among these considerable holdings are indigenous codices & maps, some of the earliest examples of American printings still in existence, and manuscripts from significant historical figures. Religiously Bound: Colonial Spanish America at the Benson exhibits relatively-unknown holdings from the extensive rare book and manuscript collections to showcase the breadth and depth of the Benson Latin American Collection. Through the selected materials, the aim of this online exhibition is to expose prospective visitors and researchers to the scholarly use of over 30 collections. Users have the option to browse the exhibition by subject, author, century, or collection. Users are also provided with further resources on how to undertake research at the Benson, including a paleographic primer for manuscript materials. The exhibition development process has included extensive archival research to locate and select materials, create and edit digital reproductions, transcribe key documents, provide concise labels, translate exhibit content for Spanish-speaking users, compile and create online resources, and design the exhibit’s online interface.

Margaret Pevoto  
National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence Archives  
The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault  
Faculty Supervisor: David B. Gracy II  
Field Supervisor: Noel Busch-Armendariz

The National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCDSV), an Austin, Texas based non-profit organization, was founded in 1998 by Deborah D. Tucker and Sarah M. Buel. These women along with others created an organization that designs, provides, and customizes training and consultation, influences policy, promotes collaboration and enhances diversity with the goal of ending domestic and sexual violence (www.ncdsv.org). Originally NCDSV’s librarian, Nancy Flanakin, kept the records of the organization in a reference library to use as a resource for those interested in researching issues regarding domestic violence. After Nancy’s death, the NCDSV decided to donate the records to the University of Houston’s Women’s Archive and Research Center. My capstone involves the archival tasks of appraisal, preservation, arrangement, and description in order to prepare these records for shipping to Houston. Since the original order of the records had been lost in their use as a reference library, my first objective was to recreate the original order and to produce a finding aid to facilitate access to the records. In addition to these tasks, my capstone also involves writing a paper on the processing experience as well as a history of the NCDSV appropriate for inclusion in an archival inventory. The methods used to process the records will be the established archival practices as taught by the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin and as outlined by the publications of the Society of American Archivists.

Maianh Phi  
Launching a Virtual Chat-Reference Volunteer Program  
St. Edward’s University Scarborough-Phillips Library  
Faculty Supervisor: Loriene Roy  
Field Supervisor: Margaret Warner

Virtual reference has become an essential service for many academic libraries, providing an online channel of communication to reference librarians for students who are unable to physically visit the library for assistance. The use of St. Edward University’s Scarborough-Phillips Library’s Ask a Librarian chat assistance is popular among students and growing, but is currently available during regular reference hours only. The goal of my Capstone project was to help expand the scope of their chat assistance by developing a volunteer program in which participants would provide chat reference help past the library’s regular reference hours. Successfully completing this objective required three components (1) creating a wiki that served as both an online training manual for volunteers and as a centralized reference resource for quickly locating information for answering patrons’ questions, (2) constructing a training program with specific elements focused on developing excellent virtual reference skills in volunteers and tailored to serving the needs of the Scarborough-Phillips Library and its users, and (3) outlining the job essentials of the positions and recruiting volunteers to fill them.
The Texas Music Museum (TMM) was founded in 1984 and immediately began collecting and housing oral histories and historical video performances of musicians from all over Texas. The collection represents the different types of music made throughout Texas, and to date, TMM has produced 175 oral histories on cassette tape and 212 video performances on VHS tape. In the spring semester 2011, I initiated a digitization project with the determined outcome to digitize the large analog audio/video history collection held by TMM in order to increase the availability of the collection to the public (students, researchers, historians, music fans). The project began with an assessment and selection of TMM’s most valuable material that deserved the most immediate attention for preservation through digitization. All selected material was digitized in accordance with current archival and preservation standards thus ensuring the accessibility and longevity of the material. The digital files were saved on an external hard drive as well as a second backup external drive, both owned by Texas Music Museum. Representative digitized material was then selected for publishing on the Museum’s Web site. Finally, an extensive metadata file was made to compliment each digital file, and the metadata scheme was recorded for TMM so that any future digitization projects can replicate the scheme.

Established in 1987 as an educational non-profit organization, the Society of Folk Dance Historians (SFDH) serves the unique community of recreational international folk dancers by collecting, preserving, and disseminating information about this specialized field. The SFDH Archive contains nearly 100 linear feet of material and encompasses the records of individual dancers, prominent figures in the folk dance community, materials from other dance organizations, and items concerning folk dance around the world. In order to establish formal procedures to standardize work on the SFDH Archive, I created a processing manual tailored to meet the needs of the SFDH and a Microsoft Access database in which to store archive content information. I performed a detailed survey of the archive, which I used as a means of gathering data to add to the database. I also processed several small holdings, arranging them in order to provide a logical means of understanding and accessing the records. This ensured that the processing manual would meet the needs of the SFDH. Using the principles of Usability and Information Architecture, I improved the Society’s website and outlined future projects that would benefit the SFDH.

The UT Historical Society is an important part of the Texas Exes, yet their Web site lacks the material needed to fully express their mission. For my capstone project I wanted to help the Historical Society begin working on Phase 1 of the Web site by digitizing material they could later upload. We called this process “filling the bucket” in which articles, photos, slides, film, audio and ephemera could be digitized and later grouped with similar tags that would allow users to pull up anything related to a certain searchable terms. This project has allowed me to digitize the first 15 Alcalde volumes that held relevant articles related to UT history, as well as photos, slides, commencement programs from 1890 and much more. This project allowed me to learn more about digitization within a professional atmosphere and make decisions that would help others who work on the project after me. By providing information on such an early time in UT’s history, hopefully this will inspire future Texas Exes, as well as current Exes, to learn more about the school they love.

Ellen Peckham is a New York based poet and visual artist, who often entwines her poetry and visual artistic expressions in the same or related works. Donated by the artist to the Harry Ransom Center (HRC) Art Collection, this collection includes more than 400 items, with a main focus on Ellen Peckham’s prints, drawings, poetry manuscripts, and related publications. To make the Ellen Peckham collection accessible, I inventoried the full collection, accessioned the artworks, transferred manuscript and book items to the HRC Manuscripts Collection and Books Cataloging Department respectively, and created a hybrid finding aid that covers both Art and Manuscript Collection items. The finding aid, in particular, presented a unique opportunity to explore ways to describe and arrange works to elucidate to scholars the relationships and connections between the art and manuscript materials. The culminating document will allow researchers to find and request the Art Collection materials and their related poetry manuscript materials and publications.
São Paulo is considered to be the hub of technology in Brazil and many Brazilian women are finding jobs in the growing technology industry there. While questions about women working in technical careers in the United States are being researched by organizations such as the National Center for Women & Information Technology, the American Association of University Women, and the Anita Borg Institute, research on this topic in Brazil is more limited. In January 2011, I conducted interviews with ten women in São Paulo, Brazil working in information technology careers. I asked interviewees for their personal stories, perceptions, views, and opinions in response to questions about career choice, work/personal life balance, employment history, and education. The majority of the responses in these interviews revealed a similar situation and similar perceptions to those expressed in the United States. Participation by females in the male-dominated IT sector in Brazil has been decreasing over the past decades and reasons for low female participation in IT are complex. The findings reported in this study will help to increase understanding about why some women choose to study and work in IT in Brazil and what their particular experiences have been.

Amber Teinert  
**Web 2.0 to Support Middle School Information Seeking**  
O. Henry Middle School  
Faculty Supervisor: Barbara Immroth  
Field Supervisor: Sara Stevenson

Technology’s changing the way research is conducted and school libraries are adapting the way they reach their user population to ensure information access is sufficient. I completed my practicum assignment at O. Henry Middle School in Austin ISD, where the librarian wanted to improve her web presence to help her program reach its goals. I began by exploring the current web tools being utilized at O. Henry, researching library trends and surveying colleagues in area middle schools. With this data, I developed a new library website for the school that incorporated applicable Web 2.0 tools into the site allowing students, parents and teachers more access to information resources. Simultaneously, the construction of the site allows the current librarian to maintain the web content in the future so that it continually supports the initiatives of the campus’ educational priorities. The final product is a website that aids users in self-selected reading, encourages book club participation and excites readers through the use of various media. In addition, the site will serve as a resource in conducting research, accessing reliable information and evaluating material; therefore, addressing the two primary initiatives of the library program: increasing reading and teaching research skills.

Alana Verminski  
**Outreach at UT Austin’s Architecture and Planning Library: Reference Services, Special Collections and Instruction**  
The University of Texas at Austin Architecture and Planning Library  
Faculty Supervisor: Lorieni Roy  
Field Supervisor: Martha González Palacios

UT Austin’s Architecture and Planning Library serves the students and faculty of the School of Architecture and houses close to 100,000 volumes and hundreds of periodicals as well as the Special Collections, which feature rare and historically significant books. The purpose of this project was to increase outreach, awareness, and more specifically, reported library service usage of the Architecture and Planning Library. Three approaches were taken to reach this goal: reference, instruction, and special collections. Within these three approaches, four tasks were completed throughout the semester: reference services, which included reference hours and updating the Reference Guides available online for architecture students; instruction, both shadowing Martha González Palacios, Architecture and Planning Librarian and one personal instruction experience; tracking reference usage; and adding provenance notes to catalog records for titles in the Special Collection’s Kermacy Collection and building a display highlighting a single collection with a guide outlining steps for future students. Ideally, the results of this project will be to increase students’ in-library use of reference services and awareness of the Library’s collections.

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The University of Texas Fine Arts Library’s Visual Resources Collection (VRC) has an expansive collection of slides that has been used by library patrons for many years. These slides are labeled with terms from an uncontrolled vocabulary of a large collection of slides that has been used by library patrons for many years. These abbreviations as the slides are digested. There was no standardized vocabulary for these abbreviations. The objective of my project was to develop a VRC-specific controlled vocabulary that will replace these abbreviations as the slides are digitized into a web-accessible collection. I began by compiling the previously used vocabularies into a master list. I then identified all redundancies, noted all uses of capitalization and punctuation, and grouped terms into a more efficient and consistent schema. I collected user needs data and consulted with VRC staff to understand better the way in which patrons utilize the collection. Finally, I performed an environmental scan of comparable Visual Resource Collections and consulted Visual Resources Association guidelines before determining which aspects of the vocabulary should be retained and which should be disposed of. In doing so, I was able to assist VRC staff in evaluating their VRC-specific cataloging standards, currently a handwritten manual that has been added to by the VRC staff over the last fifteen years.