

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
SCHOOL OF



information

Summer 2013 Capstone Poster Session

Thursday, July 25th, 2013

3pm-4pm

1616 Guadalupe Street, 1st floor

PRESENTERS

Willow J. Benavides

Remaining Friends with the Dead: “Relational Continuity” and Other Factors Influencing the Emergence of Grieving Practices on Social Networking Sites

Master’s Report

Faculty Supervisor: Diane Bailey

Second Reader: Philip Doty

How do we mourn the dead and move on with our lives when the dead do not actually absent themselves from our everyday lives, but remain integrated into our community of friends on social networking sites? This paper explores the fundamental paradigm shift occurring in the ways in which we experience the deaths of our loved ones; the collapse between public and private modes of grief.

The elements of the paradigm I’m examining include questions of identity-creation and ownership, the function of ritual, the role of the bereaved, commemoration of the dead, and theoretical/therapeutic approaches to grieving. I’m also presenting some questions that remain unresolved: to whom do the dead belong? Does death become banal when it is incorporated into everyday life? How can a ritual reflect a passage from one state of being to another when you’re part of a system that doesn’t recognize a change in status?

Carlos Duarte

Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) Subject Guides

Perry-Casteñeda Library

Field Supervisor: Paul Rascoe

I am working with subject specialist Paul Rascoe and Associate Director of the NAIS Program Dr. J.H. Cox to create a subject guide for the NAIS undergraduate portfolio program. Working with Mr. Rascoe and Dr. Cox I have been gathering and organizing journals, books, databases, instructional materials and other web resources to produce subject guides catered to the Native American and Indigenous Studies field.

These materials will be made accessible to students though the Perry-Casteñeda Library. The library will host a Drupal site that will be linked to through the NAIS homepage. Care is being taken to avoid redundant information, or information that will need frequent updates.

Kimberly Farrington
***Proposing the Establishment of a Classified Digital Data
Repository at the Applied Research Labs of The University of
Texas (ARL:UT)***
Applied Research Labs of The University of Texas
Field Supervisor: Mark Donnell

The Applied Research Labs of The University of Texas (ARL:UT) in its capacity as a University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) has amassed a collection of valuable (classified) digital data since its inception in 1968. Long term digital preservation and data sharing capabilities have been non-existent or limited to tapes in boxes, in part due to the classified nature of the collection and the life-cycle of the research projects it supports as well as technological evolution. Establishing a check sum monitored dedicated data repository would enable restoration from vulnerable archival media onto active RAID systems ensuring the long term access to and preservation of the primary bit streams. Accessing the centralized repository through a secure network and rich, consistent collection metadata will increase discovery, sharing and reuse of this valuable data.

Barbara Galletly
Reading the Permanent Collection Catalogue
Master's Report
Faculty Supervisor: Melanie Feinberg
Second Reader: Craig Campbell

A museum catalogue is a legible, interpretable information system that acts as a rhetorical exposition of the museum's collection and work. The unity of a collection is of course distinct from that represented in a catalogue, and further yet from the reader's experience of it. But the information that comprises such an assemblage of individual records or representations, consistent metadata, support the ability to "read" collections as finite, enclosed, or complete. Here I perform a close reading of the elements and relationships that underpin the Walker Art Center's online collection catalogue, an emergent publication funded by the Getty's Online Scholarly Catalogue Initiative (OSCI). As I demonstrate my reading of the structure and contents of the museum website, I enact another layer of interpretation by designing a meta-catalogue that helps me address how online representation, new contextualization within a website, and the search-and-browse experience, support divergent "readings" of a collection catalogue as collective text.

Caron E. Garstka
***Go with the (Work)Flow: Creating and Testing a Copyright
Review Management System for the Nettie Lee Benson Latin
American Collection***
The University of Texas Libraries
Field Supervisor: Georgia Harper

The University of Texas Libraries partnered with the Google Books Project to digitize works from the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection so that works in the public domain are digitally accessible to patrons. For an informed public domain determination to occur, it is imperative that legal rights information, as well as author death dates, are identified. Therefore, the primary goal of this project was to establish and implement an accurate and efficient Copyright Review Management System (CRMS) determination process informed by legal research. This system, comprised of a workflow and survey, was designed to aid public domain determinations of Argentinian works digitized by Google. By creating and testing the workflow for the CRMS, I was able to identify and analyze both the strengths and weaknesses of the process in the form of a risk assessment. This assessment provides background information as well as a context for the final test sample that is currently being processed. Both the workflow and the risk assessment will be useful to those currently working on the project and those who will be working on the project to make informed and accurate public domain decisions for other international monograph collections.

Francesca Giannetti
***Massive Open Online Copyright Disaster? Building Resources for
MOOCs in the Musical and Visual Arts***
Fine Arts Library at the University of Texas at Austin
Field Supervisor: David Hunter

Last fall, the UT System was MOOC'd; we became the fourth partner to join edX, the nonprofit MOOC platform founded by Harvard and MIT. In the spring of 2014, UTAustinX will debut five new MOOCs, one of which will be in Jazz Appreciation. My project involves the latter course, and a potential one in art history currently in development. The open online environment of the MOOC raises considerable challenges in the areas of copyright and fair use because of the high enrollments and the lack of tuition to pay. Publishers rarely license works for these uses, and academic fair use guidelines don't yet systematically address the unique pedagogical environment of the MOOC. My task was to find open access points for sound recordings, cover art, images and video and propose ways in which to use them that comply with U.S. copyright law and the principle of fair use.

Becca Havens
Automating Location and Contact Information Tasks
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul—Diocesan Council of Austin
Field Supervisor: Stacy Ehrlich

This capstone addresses a critical information problem at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVDP), a Catholic lay organization that offers person-to-person services and disaster relief to the needy in the greater Austin community. Currently, the staff at the SSVDP headquarters in Austin must manually look up the locations and parishes of their clients and volunteers in order to direct them to the appropriate SSVDP office. All of these tasks take up the staff's valuable time, particularly during times of crisis, when the SSVDP staff's efforts are better-spent providing disaster relief. This project helps to automate this information task by creating a web portal that allows clients and volunteers to input their address into a dynamic web form that then, using Leaflet, a JavaScript library, populates an interactive map with the user's location and parish boundaries, the nearest SSVDP office and its contact information.

Dan He
Developing the Best Mobile Usability Test Practice for the
User Experience Lab
Visa Inc.
Field Supervisor: James Green

Mobile usability test plays a significant role in user-centered design. However, a lack of standards for mobile usability test practices impedes the development of mobile user experience. The goal of the project is to explore the best practice, hopefully to build preliminary standards of the mobile usability test. This summer at Visa, I've reviewed and evaluated the current hardware, software and protocols for mobile usability test. Based on heuristic evaluation, I've designed a questionnaire to interview and survey mobile usability practitioners. These have helped me to develop two mobile usability test practices. After reviewing them with UX team, I've chosen the best practice for the lab. Finally, I've written the instructions of conducting the best mobile usability test and developed a demo for the best mobile usability test. By doing this project, the best practice of the mobile usability test in the context of financial field is identified. It is not only useful for the lab but also a good reference for other usability practitioners in the industry.

Caris Hurd
User Testing and Evaluation of Large Touchscreen Interface
Texas Advanced Computing Center,
The University of Texas at Austin
Field Supervisor: Kelly Gaither

The Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) runs a Visualization Lab on the UT campus, focused on providing resources for scientific and data visualization to researchers. One such resource, Lasso, is a large tiled touchscreen display, approximately 10 feet wide by 4 feet high. TACC was not sure what should be done to make this touchscreen system more usable (and more used!) by the larger community. To start the process of understanding the system and users, I conducted user testing to evaluate what works and doesn't work currently. The data from user testing and my own heuristic evaluation of the system informed recommendations for future software and hardware design updates. I also provided recommendations for the TACC team to continue conducting user tests in the future.

Amanda Jones
Microsoft SharePoint 2013 Review and Transition
Boon-Chapman Benefit Administrators, Inc.
Field Supervisor: Carrie Mabrito

This project involved updating Boon-Chapman's intranet site from Windows SharePoint Services 3.0 to SharePoint 2013. This was accomplished through the utilization of a third-party tool to migrate content to the newly configured site, but required additional steps to ensure that all functionality of the old site was compatible with the new site. A content audit of the old intranet site was performed to ensure all relevant data ported over to the new site correctly, and to ensure that outdated or irrelevant documents and links were removed as needed. The changes were communicated to users and a timeframe was established for testing the new site prior to go-live. Troubleshooting and further customization to meet user needs is ongoing now that the new site is up and running. This includes integrating a new helpdesk ticketing system with SharePoint to enhance the old site's feature of displaying open tickets, as well as leveraging SharePoint's workflow features to enhance workflow processes for the plan building department.

Kristin Law
Preserving @UTAustin: Strategies for Capturing Twitter Content
University Communications, Digital Content Group
Field Supervisor: Rachel Appel

In recent years, social media has increasingly been viewed as a legitimate and consequential form of communication. However, adequate methods for long-term preservation and access are still being determined. As archivists and records managers expand their definition of records to incorporate these new content streams, it is necessary for institutions to develop procedures to provide for the preservation of and access to this information.

This summer, I worked with members of University Communications to apply a documentation strategy to the challenge of capturing social media. I focused on Twitter content that is either created by UT (@UTAustin) or includes relevant keywords, such as “#hookem” or “#utaustin.” I explored a range of techniques, tools, and services for preservation and access. After sharing my assessment of these tools, I prepared a report of my findings, which serves as an important first step in the challenge of preserving these social media records in perpetuity.

Jill Morena
Costume and “The Copy”: Defining Authenticity in the Analogue Original, the Reproduction, and the Digital Garment within the Museum and Archive
Master’s Thesis
Faculty Supervisor: Caroline Frick
Second Readers: Patricia Galloway, Karen Pavelka

A comparative examination of the original and reproduction *Gone With the Wind* costumes at the Harry Ransom Center is at the heart of this study, which proposes to trace the relationship between the analogue original costume, the replica garment, and the digital image reproduction. A discussion of definitions of authenticity and “the original” within such areas as conservation, film studies, and audience perception explores the questions: what is the role of the reproduction, and can it challenge the authority and “aura” of the original? This inquiry illustrates that authenticity is negotiated; it is not always fixed in a clear line ranging from “the real thing” on one side to “the copy” on the other. The study concludes with examining digital image reproductions of costume. The online digital database record can potentially reveal more than a face-to-face encounter with the object in a gallery space, illuminating the biography and history of the garment, changes in curatorial decisions and exhibition practice, and the experience of tactility and embodiment.

Emily G. Perkins
AVAA Sound Gallery
Stanford University Libraries
Field Supervisor: Geoff Willard

My capstone adds functionality and accessibility to the AV Artifact Atlas, an audio and audiovisual digitization web resource intended for archivists and librarians who encounter extraneous images and sounds during preservation transfer work. I focused only on the audio side of the AVAA. I created a “Sound Gallery,” which allows the user to listen to audio examples in a playlist style, so that they can identify the problem they have encountered during their preservation transfer. This is a new point of access to the twenty-two audio artifact pages, which explain what the artifact is, what is causing it, and how you can fix it. My goal was to make the language more accessible to non-technically trained archivists and librarians who are unfamiliar with technical audio concepts. My work involved adding more pages to the AVAA, identifying weaknesses and making changes, and simplifying technical language.

Kara Scott
Bethlehem Stone Church Papers
James Madison University, Carrier Library
Field Supervisor: Genya O’Gara

The objective of this project was to develop a metadata application scheme for the Bethlehem Stone Church papers, a collection from the Special Collections of James Madison University. The collection was scanned and digitized in the Spring of 2013, but the digitized collection was lacking in metadata. I created a metadata schema for the Bethlehem Stone Church digitized collections, and I documented how this schema would be applied to the digitized collection within an instance of Digital Commons. This generated a number of questions and concerns regarding the functionality of Digital Commons for use by Special Collections. These were documented and presented to the Head of Collections at JMU as a set of recommendations. I mapped how the schema for the Bethlehem Stone Church papers could be modified and applied to future digital collections in the Digital Commons environment. I presented my thoughts and recommendations to the Digital Commons Implementation Team as a test case, illustrating how Digital Commons might be used by the librarians at JMU for presenting other digital collections.

Sara Snow
Religiosity and Techno-spiritual Practices of
Young Adult Latter-day Saints
Master's Thesis
Faculty Supervisor: Patricia Galloway
Second Reader: James Howison

The basis of my research is an article called "No More SMS from Jesus: Ubicomp, Religion and Techno-spiritual Practices." The author, Genevieve Bell, writes about how new information and communication technologies have supported various religious and spiritual needs. She discusses several emerging techno-spiritual practices and the "anxieties surrounding their uptake" (141). I am particularly interested in how these practices affect the religiosity of church-goers, specifically in a church as expressly tech-savvy as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Church runs the world's largest online genealogical service, offers smartphone applications that include their entire scriptural canon, and maintains several websites for church members and non-members. In my research, I provide an overview of the information and communication technologies the Church offers and determine whether its members find these technologies helpful in the practice of their faith.

Nora Winslow
Implementing a Records Management Plan at University of Texas
Office of the Vice President of Research,
University of Texas at Austin
Field Supervisor: Cindy Brown

My goal was to implement the digital records management plan at the Office of the Vice-President of Research at the University of Texas. A new plan had been written for the office by a previous iSchool student and paper records had been organized. However, nothing had been done with the office's digital records.

I applied retention requirements to the legacy files, of which there were many. Proper procedure was used to dispose of records past the retention date. Current records were renamed and reorganized according to the file plan. This will allow staff members to easily manage these records in the future.

I then worked with Cindy Brown, the Assistant Vice-President, to refine the existing plan. I met with individual staff members to assist them in using the new file structure and file-naming conventions. Based on these conversations, I developed three web tutorials: a basic overview of the plan and abbreviations, the Administrative section of the plan, and the file-naming conventions. These tutorials are available to the office to use as they see fit.

Aditi Worcester
Texas Artifacts – From Closed Stacks to the Computer Screen
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
Field Supervisors: Laura Saegert and John Anderson

How does a collection of 500+ three-dimensional artifacts from the late 19th century to present day make its journey from closed stacks to the computer screen? For my Capstone project, I learned how by preparing the historic artifacts collection at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission for an interactive online database, thus making it accessible to the public for the first time in the agency's history.

First: I took an inventory of the artifacts, including physical measurements and preservation status, and compiled accession and provenance information from different sources. Second: I took digital images of each individual object. Third: I numbered each object and artifact storage box, and created a locations database for internal use. And fourth: I developed controlled vocabulary terms to make searching through the database effective and efficient. The database should be available to the public in fall 2013.

Stacy Wykle
Digitizing 16th Century Books in an Academic Digilab
University of Oklahoma Bizzell Library,
History of Science Special Collections
Field Supervisor: Kerry Magruder

The goal of my capstone project was to gain experience with the workflow from start (selection of materials) to finish (online deployment) of rare book digitization in an academic digilab. The workflow mainly consisted of tracking the work I was producing with an online spreadsheet, handling rare books and state-of-the-art photography equipment (\$36,000 Hasselblad camera and lens), taking photographs using desktop software in a Mac environment (Phocus), processing images both on and offsite using Adobe Lightroom for both Mac and PC, uploading both Lightroom catalog and unprocessed TIFF files to a server, and assigning metadata to images from a pre-existing keyword list. Additionally, because OU is in the process of dedicating an entire floor of their main library to the enterprise of digitization of rare materials, my presence was treated as an opportunity on their part to refine their workflow and consult with me on the training of student workers.