Texas Digital Library Member Institution Digital Collections
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Project Overview

As a consortium of Texas higher education institutions, the Texas Digital Library (TDL) consists of 22 member institutions from every region of Texas including public and private universities of various sizes and academic medical centers. While TDL hosts some member institutions' digital repositories through DSpace, there has not previously been a comprehensive survey of member institutions' digital collections. The goals of this project were to survey TDL member digital collections and implement new ways of highlighting those collections.

This project consisted of three main components: a survey, a social media campaign, and a digital exhibit. The survey, which is detailed in this report, informed the nature of the exhibit and associated social media campaign. The information in this report can also serve as a reference to inform future TDL projects regarding digital collections.

Methods

To gather information for this report, I first surveyed the public-facing digital repositories of TDL member institutions. This gave a sense of how TDL member institutions in general are using digital repositories including which members are using their institutional repositories for digitized special collections.

I then developed a questionnaire (Appendix A) and interviewed repository managers of TDL member institutions regarding their digital collections. My supervisor identified who would be the most appropriate contact at each institution and prioritized which institutions I should contact first. I contacted repository managers to schedule interviews in batches of roughly five interviews per week over several weeks in February and March 2019. Interviews took place over the phone or via BlueJeans web conferences, and I both took notes and audio recorded each interview for reference.

The main goals of these interviews was to identify:
1. Where institutions house their digital collections
2. Justifications for using certain digital repository and collections management software
3. Collecting strengths
4. Challenges in using digital repositories and collections
5. Goals for using digital repositories and collections

Findings

Platforms in Use

A table including displaying what platforms each institution uses for institutional repositories, digital collections, and digital exhibits is included in this report as Appendix B.

Of the twenty-one (21) member institutions included in this report, fourteen (14) institutions use DSpace for special collections. Two (2) of those institutions use an in house instance of DSpace, not hosted by TDL. For two (2) of the institutions using DSpace for special collections, their special collections communities consist of finding aids only, and one (1) institution uses DSpace for both finding aids and digital objects from special collections.

CONTENTdm is the most used platform for digital collections among the institutions surveyed with seven (7) institutions using the platform. Three (3) of the institutions using CONTENTdm for digital collections also use DSpace for University Archives. Those three (3) are included in the number of institutions using DSpace for special collections. One (1) institution that uses DSpace for special collections finding aids also uses PastPerfect for digital collections of photographs.Two (2) institutions use in house sites for digital collections. One (1) institution is not currently using any platform for digital special collections.

Two (2) institutions use bepress for their institutional repositories, both are among those that use CONTENTdm for digital collections.

Nine (9) institutions have implemented digital exhibits. Among those, seven (7) use Omeka and (2) use in house digital exhibit sites.

Justifications for Chosen Platforms

When asked why institutions use their chosen platforms for digital collections, common answers related to technical support, storage space, field standards, and versatility.

Many of the institutions using DSpace hosted by TDL said that they enjoy the hosted service and support from TDL. Some institutions also stated that they use TDL hosted DSpace because they do not have the in-house staff, expertise, budget, or storage space to host a repository themselves. This seems especially true for smaller institutions.

Several institutions using DSpace for both an institutional repository and for special collections similarly often stated that they do so out of necessity; they do not have the personnel or storage space to implement other platforms specifically for digital special collections. The institutions that use DSpace for special collections finding aids also noted this as a means to make their finding aids searchable without implementing EAD.

Institutions using CONTENTdm often referred to the platform as popular or standard for digital collections. The relative versatility of CONTENTdm was also often listed as a reason for using the platform: CONTENTdm can display digital collection items of various formats in a functional way.

Institutions had various opinions on the subject of housing digitized special collections in their institutional repositories vs. using a separate platform for digital special collections. Some institutions feel that having digital collections separate from the institutional repository helps distinguish the roles of each type of collection management platform. Others feel that streamlining by having digitized special collections in the institutional repository simplifies matters. Those that found using just the institutional repository beneficial still often acknowledged a need to distinguish the separate functions of special collections communities and communities focused on scholarship and institutional records.

Common Collecting Areas

The digital collections of TDL members are widely varied as each institution has different collecting goals and policies, but there are some collecting areas that recurred as themes when asked about collection strengths.

University archives were often listed as a strength by repository managers. This included yearbooks, student publications, photographs, and other materials relating to student life and university administration. Several TDL member institutions celebrated or will soon celebrate an anniversary of the founding of their institutions, so these materials have been especially helpful for use in exhibits and promotional materials. University archive items such as yearbooks are also of great use to genealogists.

Many TDL members house special collections focused on regional history. While these collections are varied, some types of regional collections that were mentioned as strengths include maps, photographs, and oral histories.

Women's history is also a collecting area of note among TDL members. Multiple members have special collections focused on women's history. More than one institution mentioned that they may plan an

exhibit or other event using materials related to women's history for the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment which will occur in 2020.

<u>Common Challenges</u>

With institutional repositories, repository managers often listed advocacy as a main challenge. More specifically, they found it an ongoing challenge to build relationships with faculty members and others to submit works to the repository or to understand the functions of the repository as it relates to digital preservation of scholarly works. Internally, too, several members noted siloing of information among library departments as a challenge related to advocacy for digital collections and digital repositories. This most frequently was mentioned in relation to communications with IT departments.

With all types of digital collections, many institutions cited challenges with metadata and copyright.

Another common challenge lies simply in the functionality of the platforms in use for digital collections. Many of the institutions using DSpace as their institutional repository and CONTENTdm for digital collections noted that the two platforms serve different functions. DSpace was often noted as suitable for scholarly works or text based digital objects but without the aesthetic functionality of something like CONTENTdm for displaying photographs and other visual objects. A generally limited functionality of DSpace in displaying digital objects was also often cited as a challenge working with digital collections.

Common Goals

A common goal is to continue expanding digital collections within repositories. Many institutions implementing electronic dissertations and theses have plans to digitize backlogs of print theses and dissertations. Similarly, many institutions would like to see more scholarly works from campus departments in their institutional repositories or have plans to digitize and make available online more special collections materials.

Another commonly expressed goal is to have students more involved with digital collections. Several institutions expressed that they would like to see more undergraduate student work in institutional repositories or have students assist in the curation of digital exhibits using digital collections.

Many institutions are either already partnering with other local organizations or would like to expand their connections with local cultural heritage organizations. Some would like to or are already hosting smaller institutions' digitized materials among the university's digital collections or would like to partner on other digital projects or digital exhibits.

Among the institutions not currently using digital exhibits, implementing some kind of digital exhibit in the future is also a common goal.

Member Profiles

Angelo State

Digital Collections Summary
Angelo State uses a TDL hosted instance of DSpace as their institutional repository for scholarly works as well as publications from the University Archives and finding aids for the West Texas Collection.

2987 digitized photographs from the West Texas Collection also exist in PastPerfect and can be accessed through the West Texas Collection website. The digital collection was made available through the Train to Share grant from Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Digital Collection Highlights
Within the institutional repository, electronic theses and capstone projects are a strength. These items focus on university life and provide a snapshot of current scholarship at Angelo State. In addition to theses and dissertations, course catalogs are among the most used digital materials in the institutional repository.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects
A great challenge is getting faculty to submit scholarship for the digital repository and fostering academic and public awareness of online collections. Another challenge is using DSpace as a repository for special collections. Angelo State is still working on getting that aspect of their repository "off the ground." One goal is to have a greater presence of special collections in the institutional repository. While Angelo State uses PastPerfect due to grant funding, the cost of storage space is a deterrent.

In the future, Angelo State plans to digitize older theses that currently exist only in print. Other goals for digitization include university archives including course catalogs and university newsletters. There are also plans to ingest a recent history harvest project into DSpace.

For the future of their DSpace use, Angelo State hopes to see the repository function with two distinct components: the institutional repository and special collections focused on the West Texas Collection.

Baylor University

Digital Collections Summary

Baylor uses a TDL hosted instance of DSpace, BEARdocs, as their institutional repository. They use CONTENTdm for digital collection from their libraries. Baylor stated that in their experience DSpace and CONTENTdm serve different functions well; DSpace, for instance, does not meet their needs as a visual platform for digital collections, and CONTENTdm can appropriately display "simple" as well as "complex" digital collections.

Baylor uses a hosted version of Omeka for digital exhibits. The two exhibits they have created through Omeka are an exhibit on children's literature and an exhibit on the use of "religion" in 19th century studies. Baylor also uses social media specifically for their digital collections. They have a digital collections blog with weekly updates, as well as a Facebook page, Flickr, Tumbler, and Twitter accounts.

Digital Collection Highlights

A focus among Baylor's digital collections is materials related to Victorian poets Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. The Browning Letters collection features digitized letters sent and received by the two poets and includes materials from Wellesley College as well.

A major digitization project at Baylor is the Black Gospel Music Restoration Project. This project seeks to digitize and make available the most at risk recordings of black gospel music with the ultimate goal of digitizing every song release by black gospel artists from the 1940's to the 1980's. There are currently 3344 digital items in the collection including posters, photos, and programs in addition to digitized vinyl recordings.

Other collections of note are the Black Gospel Preaching Project and the Waco Police Museum Archives.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects

In the future, Baylor is considering using an alternative to CONTENTdm for digital collections. One platform they are considering is Quartex.

Copyright poses a challenge in making items accessible online as well including specifically with the Black Gospel Music Restoration Project in which most of the recordings are under copyright. Providing these recordings digitally, however is important because of the increasing rarity of these types of recordings. Baylor also cited applying appropriate metadata as a challenge with digital collections.

In 2020 Baylor will be participating in a symposium put on by the Smithsonian regarding Black preaching. For this, they are in the process of digitizing the collection of Marvin Griffin and other notable Black preachers as part of the Black Gospel Preaching Project.

Sam Houston State University

Digital Collections Summary
Sam Houston State uses a TDL hosted instance of DSpace as their institutional repository, Scholarly Works @SHSU. For digital collections, they use CONTENTdm.

Sam Houston State feels that having the institutional repository and digital collections as separate instances helps to distinguish the role of each. This distinction facilitates advocacy for use of the digital repository by faculty members.

Collecting areas include military history, Mexican history, Texas history, and law enforcement records.

Digital Collection Highlights
Among the most notable digital collections at Sam Houston State is the John W. Thomason Collection. Thomason was a colonel in the marine corps during World War I who also wrote and illustrated many short stories and articles. Hundreds of his drawings are digitized. Other Thomason papers are available at Texas A&M University.

Another notable digital collection is the Breitenbach Mexican Mask Collection, one of the largest collections of Mexican masks in the United States.

In their digital repository, beyond theses and dissertations, a widely used collection is the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT) collection.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects
A major challenge is getting faculty on board with digital scholarship. With special collections specifically, metadata is a challenge.

Sam Houston State is currently working through a backlog of special collections materials to be digitized and made available through CONTENTdm.

One collection for which Sam Houston State has plans to digitize is the Department of Education Records. This collection would eventually be ingested into DSpace.

Stephen F. Austin State University

Digital Collections Summary
SFA uses Bepress for their institutional repository and CONTENTdm for the East Texas Digital Archives (ETDA).

They noted that Bepress incorporates an integrated journal access system and analytics into their functionality as a digital repository.

They are in the process of migrating digital collections to CONTENTdm from a local platform. They also expressed a preference for using vimeo and soundcloud to host video and audio digital collections as opposed to sites like youtube that include ads or recommended videos.

Digital Collection Highlights
One of the most significant collections from the ETRC are the Community Collections which digitized photos, objects, and papers from community members' collections. Community members who participate in this project keep the physical materials of their archive after the materials have been digitized. One of the most used photos from the community collections is a photograph of Boxer Bishop.

Another notable collection is the Norman Johnson Collection which consists of videos of the local radio and television personality's talk show.

The Texas Runaway Slave Project is a searchable database of notices, articles, and advertisements for runaway slaves published in Texas newspapers. Te project has documented over 2200 names of enslaved people from Texas.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects
SFA listed community outreach and building the reputation of the institutional repository as main challenges. Access is also an area tied to advocacy that they would like to continue to improve.

In the future, SFA would like to continue working with communities and smaller local institutions to digitize and make available community collections. In the institutional repository, they would like

Stephen F. Austin State is currently working to digitize materials related to university history and university life including frat ad sorority scrapbooks for the SFA Student Life Collection. The 100th anniversary of the founding the university will occur in 2023.

Texas A&M University

<u>Digital Collections Summary</u>
Texas A&M uses DSpace for their institutional repository, [OAKTrust](#), which they host in house. They house scholarly works as well as digital special collections in DSpace. They also have Fedora and are working toward implementing Avalon. A&M also uses Chromium for their [newspaper collection](#).

A&M's digital collections across platforms are displayed on their library [website](#) through Spotlight.

<u>Digital Collection Highlights</u>
[Electronic theses and dissertations](#) are a strength among scholarly works in the institutional repository. Historical maps are also of note among A&M's digital collections with [Austin's 1830 Map of Texas](#) being perhaps the most frequently used.

A&M also houses some collections of [state agencies](#) in their digital repository.

<u>Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects</u>
A&M listed siloing of information and lack of communication between library units as a challenge working with digital collections.

A&M also cited challenges with DSpace as a platform. They described DSpace as limited, stating that it works to display textual information or monographic materials but is not ideal for still images, streaming video, or audio. Lack of interactive features was also listed as a downside to using DSpace including its inability to interconnect multiple items as well as issues with authority control like the lack of option to add multiple contributors as metadata.

A&M partners with other institutions through their digital repository, but acknowledged that these relationships can blur lines regarding who owns what. For instance, they recently acquired materials from the former Baylor School of Dentistry, and it is unclear whether or not those materials technically belong to Baylor. They also listed copyright as an issue with these kinds of collections as it is sometimes unclear if other organizations gained copyright clearance before submitting materials.

A&M listed implementing different metadata schemas and better understanding how users look for information as opportunities in digital collections. In the future, A&M is working to expand faculty works in OAKTrust.

Texas A&M International University

Digital Collections Summary
TAMU International uses a TDL hosted instance of DSpace for electronic theses and dissertations, faculty research, and special collections and archives. They have a DSpace community titled Conference Proceedings and Journals that is labeled "coming soon."

They also have photos and digital exhibits available on their special collections website. These photos are in a gallery view on the website and do not have visible associated metadata.The photos available are modern photographs of recent events such as the opening of the special collections library. Digital exhibits on the website also consist only of digital photographs and document the Callaghan Ranch, Guerrero Viejo, and Old San Ygnacio.

TAMU International does not currently have a functioning digitization lab. Their digitization work is done with a digital camera.

The digital collections at TAMU International focus mainly on regional history.

Digital Collection Highlights
The largest collection of digital special collections items at TAMU International is the El Manana Newspaper. The issues in this collection were digitized due the fragility of the physical objects.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects
A main challenge facing the development of digital collections at TAMU International is the lack of staffing necessary to have an operational digitization and digital collections management department. In the future, they would like to have staff members with knowledge of metadata and naming convention standards working with digital collections.

They also cited outreach to faculty members as a barrier to the further development of their digital repository.

Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi

Digital Collections Summary

TAMU-CC uses a TDL hosted instance of DSpace for scholarly communications and special collections, as well as electronic theses, dissertations, and graduate projects. They use DSpace as both an institutional repository and for special collections because of limited resources available to develop separate platforms; having DSpace hosted by TDL provides them with a space for both scholarly works and special collections and simplifies advocacy for the repository by having all digital items in one place. They also use ArchivesSpace and include item level links in the finding aids to items available in the repository.

They have also implemented digital exhibits using Omeka S. Their exhibits include the Hector P. Garcia Papers and a student history project entitled "South Texas Stories."

Main collecting areas include regional history, GIS, and Gulf of Mexico Studies.

Digital Collection Highlights

Some of the most significant collections at TAMU-CC include the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Papers, the Dan E. Kilgore Collection, the Hurricane Harvey Oral History Collections (HIST 3345 and HIST 5370), and the collections from the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects

TAMU-CC stated that while DSpace as a repository serves their needs of having digital items available online with persistent identifiers, the platform is not suitable for displaying images in a gallery type site or conducive to browsing.

Currently, TAMU-CC is partnering with the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History to scan over 2000 images from the Doc McGregor collection which while be hosted in their repository and displayed in the Portal to Texas History. They are considering options for a digital exhibit and would like to have a crowdsourcing metadata component to the project.

"Surveying South Texas" is another current digitization project in which TAMU-CC is digitizing maps from multiple collections, including the Charles H. F. von Bulcher Family Papers,
 in partnership with the Conrad Bulcher Institute. The access copies will exist in the digital repository and may be displayed in a more GIS-centric format as well.

In the future, they would like to have more items featured in the Portal to Texas History and other aggregators. Another long term goal is to host digital collections of other regional cultural heritage institutions, something they have already begun in their partnership on the Doc McGregor project.

Texas A&M University - Galveston

Digital Collections Summary
TAMU-Galveston uses a TDL hosted instance of DSpace for scholarly communications, government documents, special collections finding aids, and university archives. One benefit TAMUG has found in using DSpace in regard to special collections is that their finding aids are searchable in the repository.

Due to staff limitations, they do not currently have the resources to implement other software options like Omeka for digital exhibits.

Digital Collection Highlights
One of the most significant collections in TAMUG's repository is the Laffite Society Collection, a local historical society's newsletters, recordings of meetings (video files).

One of the most used collections in TAMUG's repository is the Galveston Bay Information Collection. This collection features some full text materials and a distinct bibliography.

SHOREnet functions as a place for multiple organizations to host materials related to beach management.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects
TAMUG has started offering students the option to publish capstone projects in the digital repository, ideally this would also include a statement from the student in the repository about the experience of completing an honors or capstone project so that future students can learn from their experiences.

They would also like to see SHOREnet function as a space where organizations can contribute their own materials rather than submit to TAMUG. Currently, SHOREnet has not had new materials added for some time. TAMUG also is scanning materials from the Galveston Bay collection that are not already full text online on request and adding those scanned items to DSpace.

Another project involving digitization is the processing of archival material from Texas Maritime Academy. At this time, scanned photos are being uploaded into a Google drive for internal use. These photos are not intended for publication or access outside the university, and DSpace is not conducive to easily displaying large collections photographs.

Texas State University

Digital Collections Summary
Texas State University uses DSpace as an institutional repository, but their repository is not hosted through TDL. The Digital Collections Repository houses scholarly communications, electronic theses and dissertations, and digitized materials from the Witliff Collections and the University Archives.

Texas State has used Omeka for digital exhibits of materials from the Witliff Collections and the University Archives as well as Flickr for photo galleries from the University Archives.

Digital Collection Highlights
Among the most used digital collections in Texas State's repository is the Ashes of Waco Collection. Another frequently used collection in the repository is the Austin Film Festival Conference Recordings.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects
Texas State cited outreach to faculty members as a main challenge as well as copyright and licensing in making digital objects accessible. They listed enhancing accessibility through the institutional repository as a major benefit, and they are always learning from users as to how to make the software better serve user needs.

Texas State recently finished a project to digitize Cabeza de Vaca's La Relacion which is available as a digital exhibit.

An upcoming grant funded project will digitize the San Marcos Daily Record newspaper.

Texas Tech University

Digital Collections Summary
Texas Tech uses DSpace as an institutional repository for library materials including scholarly works and for the Southwest Collection and Special Collections Library. These exist as two separate repositories, and both are hosted by TDL.

Digital Collection Highlights
One of the most notable digital collections in the repository is a complete run of All Year Round, a weekly literary magazine edited by Charles Dickens.

From the Southwest Collections and Special Collections Library, the Dr. Tetsuya Theodore "Ted" Fujita Papers is among the marquee collections. Fujita was a meteorological researcher and responsible for developing the F-scale to rate tornado intensity.

Maps and newspapers are also widely used from the Southwest Collections and Special Collections.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects
Texas Tech listed storage space as a major challenge in both repositories as well as communicating needs with IT support.

Texas Tech enjoys the benefit of being able to crosslink to digital collections in TARO finding aids. A main goal they have for using digital repositories is to increase access to their collections as Lubbock is a somewhat remote destination for in person researchers.

Recent donations of materials from the landscape architect J. Robert Anderson are a current digitization priority, as are other architecture and landscape architecture collections at Texas Tech.

Texas Tech is also currently working to digitize materials from the League of Women Voters of Texas records in preparation for the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment in 2020. In 2015, they did a similar a digitization project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. The 100th anniversary of the founding of Texas Tech will take place in 2023 and may be reason for a future digitization project.

Texas Tech also hopes to incorporate digital exhibits into their use of digital collections. They are exploring using Omeka as a platform to exhibit digital components of physical exhibits and to highlight digital collections and student work.

Texas Woman's University

Digital Collections Summary
Texas Woman's University uses a TDL hosted instance of DSpace for their institutional repository, Repository@TWU. There they house faculty and student works, electronic theses and dissertations, works related to university history, and the university photo archive. The university photo archive requires a Pioneer Portal login for access.

TWU uses CONTENTdm for digital collections from the Woman's Collection. This online archive known as the Gateway to Women's History features collections on women's groups, university history,

Digital Collection Highlights
Women in aviation and the military are featured prominently in the Gateway to Women's History including the Whirly-Girls Digital International Archive and the Women Airforce Service Pilots Digital Archive.

Women in higher education are also a major collecting area. The University Archives are featured in the Gateway to Women's History as is the Delta Kappa Gamma Digital Archive.

The Florence Nightingale Digital Archive was recently also added.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects
TWU listed customization of software as a challenge working with their institutional repository. They found this especially in working with IT departments on campus in efforts to manipulate software to serve the library's needs. They states that after migrating from an in-house DSpace to an instance hosted through TDL that many of their backend issues with the software lessened.

They also listed advocacy and outreach as challenges with the institutional repository. Being new to TDL, they expect to see more departments becoming involved with the repository including special collections.

In the future, TWU would like to see a complete and cohesive theses and dissertations collection in DSpace. They envision working department by department to achieve this. They would also like to include more faculty scholarship and encourage student content. Both faculty and student works are currently sparse collections in the institutional repository.

Trinity University

Digital Collections Summary

Trinity University uses Digital Commons powered by bepress for their institutional repository which features scholarly works and open educational resources.They cited a commitment to open access as one reason they use Digital Commons. They use CONTENTdm for digital collections from their Special Collections and University Archives. Some collections such as University Publications, are hosted on Arcasearch but linked through CONTENTdm. The digitization and OCR processing of collections in Arcasearch were outsourced.

For digital exhibits, Trinity uses Omeka. They have digital exhibits on Civil Rights activists Claude and ZerNona Black, the history of university athletics, tourism in San Antonio, and the Zeta Chi sorority. Omeka as a digital exhibit platform is also open for student use at Trinity.

Digital Collection Highlights

A main focus of Trinity's collecting is San Antonio History, with the Claude and ZerNona Black papers representing the history of the Civil Rights Movement in the area.

Another strength lies in Trinity's collections related to university history. Both the Trinity University History collection and the University Publications collection, including the Mirage Yearbook, are frequently used. This year is the 150th anniversary of Trinity's founding, and projects to promote events relating to the anniversary have used a great deal of materials from these digital collections.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects

Trinity's project to digitize early books and manuscripts is ongoing; while some are available in CONTENTdm, many still do not have digital surrogates. These books are heavily used in person by Medieval Studies classes at Trinity.

Trinity is also working to update legacy collections that were not digitized to current professional standards. Another challenge in digitization lies in metadata creation. Student workers scan materials at a faster rate than metadata can be associated with the items, so there is a backlog of scanned images awaiting metadata.

In the future, Trinity would like to have students more involved in creation of digital collections. Some public history classes have created digital exhibits in Omeka, but Trinity envisions that students could could also learn hands-on about digitization and metadata creation by being involved in the workflow.

Going forward, Trinity would like to streamline the way their digital collections are housed and presented, and they may consider migrating content to other platforms to achieve this. They do not have the infrastructure to create a custom system in-house.

University of Houston

Digital Collections Summary
The University of Houston uses a TDL hosted instance of DSpace as their institutional repository for electronic dissertations and theses, digitized theses and dissertations, and faculty, staff, and student works.

U of H also uses an in house digital library site for special collections materials and a separate site as an A/V repository. They had previously used CONTENTdm for digital collections but migrated due to what they saw as limited functionality of CONTENTdm. They have plans to build a new digital collections site through Hyracks and migrate collections there within the next few years.

They also use Archivematica for digital preservation of archival materials and ArchivesSpace for finding aids.

Digital Collection Highlights
Among the most notable digital collections at U of H is the KUHT Film and Video collection. KUHT was the first public television station in the United States, and 644 videos from the thousands of reels and tapes in the collection are available in the A/V Repository.

U of H also holds rich collections on Houston Hip Hop including the DJ Screw Photographs and Memorabilia, and collections regarding women's history including the Houston and Texas Feminist and Lesbian Newsletters.

U of H has also digitized and made available materials from the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects
U of H is currently planning to digitize 19,000 print dissertations through a 3 year funded project. They also hope to expand partnerships with other organizations in Houston to increase their digital collections related to LGBTQ history and culture

University of Houston - Clear Lake

Digital Collections Summary
University of Houston - Clear Lake uses a TDL hosted instance of DSpace as their institutional repository. They offer this description on their DSpace homepage: "Institutional Repository @ UHCL is a digital service provided by Neumann Library that preserves and provides access to the scholarship and creative works produced and owned by the University of Houston-Clear Lake community."

The Institutional Repository contains scholarly communications, electronic theses and dissertations, archives and special collections, and faculty and researcher works.

UHCL also uses Omeka for digital exhibits and collections. The exhibits in Omeka are digital iterations of physical exhibits, while collections in Omeka are artificial collections on specific subjects such as women in NASA or space food.

UHCL also houses the Johnson Space Center History Collection. They do not own the materials from the JSC and cannot digitize them. Those materials can be searched through NASA databases which are linked on UHCL's archives and special collections website.

UHCL collects around four main areas: University History, Clear Lake Area History, Human Space Flight, and the Johnson Space Center Collection

Digital Collection Highlights
Many of UCHL's notable collections are highlighted through online exhibits such as the Women of NASA collection in Omeka.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects
UHCL listed making materials discoverable as a main challenge with their digital collections. They upload finding aids into DSpace as a kind of workaround for not having EAD finding aids available in a searchable database.

UHCL typically digitizes archival materials on demand at researcher request rather than entire collections. One current project is to scan university periodicals and catalogs.

University of North Texas

Digital Collections Summary
UNT uses an in house digital library site for their digital collections including scholarly works, theses and dissertations, and special collections. This repository was created in 2009 through a grant from IMLS and consists of a digital archive of master files as well as the public facing site linked here. At the time, there were not other digital library solutions available that would work at the scale UNT wanted for their digital collections, which is why they chose to seek a grant to build their own digital library infrastructure.

UNT also hosts the Portal to Texas History and the Gateway to Oklahoma History, which is the result of a partnership with the Oklahoma Historical Society. Administratively, all of UNT's digital collections are stored within one system; the site, portal, and gateway serve as separate access points for users. While they do not specifically implement digital exhibits of their digital library collections, UNT supports use of items from the portal by other departments and institutions. UNT also contributes to the Digital Public Library of America, which has included items from UNT in curated collections from multiple institutions.

Digital Collection Highlights
A great strength of UNT's digital collections is the Digital Newspaper Project through the Portal to Texas History.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects
Metadata creation is a main challenge for UNT's digital collections. Often each department contributes metadata to digitized objects from their own materials, and UNT's collections have had over 800 metadata editors since 2010, so metadata has not had consistent quality. They have been doing research on how to measure metadata quality and how to assist metadata editors in creating quality metadata.

UNT noted that working with the Portal to Texas History has been a great opportunity to gain recognition for their collections.

UNT is also focusing on accessibility issues with their digital collections and are undertaking project like captioning videos to make their collections more accessible.

University of Texas at Austin

Digital Collections Summary
UT Austin uses a TDL hosted instance of DSpace as their digital repository, Texas ScholarWorks, for conference proceedings and journals, electronic dissertations and theses, student and faculty works, and other UT communities including UT Libraries.

UT Libraries is also currently implementing Fedora/Islandora as a digital asset management system.

Digital Collection Highlights
In Texas ScholarWorks, electronic dissertations and theses are a major collection strength, as are student journals and other publications. UT Austin Bulletins and Publications is also a significant collection in ScholarWorks.

UT Libraries' vast collections in ScholarWorks are also of note. While many libraries on campus utilize their own digital library systems for digital collections, some special collections materials are housed in this DSpace community.

Some notable student work appears in ScholarWorks for the annual Images of Research Competition such as this 2019 second place winner.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects
UT Austin cited staff time of both library staff and faculty as a challenge. Many faculty members are interested in making their work more available in the repository, but may not have the time to contribute materials and metadata. Funding plays into this as well as UT does not always have funds to designate staff specifically for digitization or metadata creation. Other challenges arise from DSpace as a platform. UT Austin cited limited functionality, acknowledging that no platform is ideal and that they can make DSpace work for their purposes in most situations. Statistics as reported by DSpace is also a challenge to measuring usage of collection items.

In general, UT Austin's goals for using this digital repository are to increase access and visibility and promote open access while preserving digital objects.

There are currently 50,000 theses and dissertations that exist only in print. There is not a systematic digitization of these currently, but there is an effort to digitize print theses and dissertations as they are requested. An ongoing project is to digitize and make available in ScholarWorks the Great Britain Ministry of Information collection.

University of Texas at Dallas

Digital Collections Summary
UT Dallas uses an in house site, Treasures @ UT Dallas, as their institutional repository for electronic theses and dissertations, departmental records, special collections, and university archives.

Digital Collection Highlights
Notable digital collections include the History of Aviation Collection and the Louise B. Belsterling Botanical Collection.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects
UT Dallas has recently begun partnering with TDL to begin using a TDL hosted instance of DSpace as their repository.

University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley

Digital Collections Summary
UT Rio Grande Valley uses a TDL hosted instance of DSpace, [UTRGV Scholarworks](#), for their institutional repository, which includes electronic theses and dissertations as well as scholarly works by faculty and students. UTRGV Scholarworks also has communities specifically for materials created by the School of Medicine, the University Archives, and University Publications.

They use [CONTENTdm](#) for digital collections from their Special Collections and Archives

Available through the library website are also the [Border Studies Archive](#), a project managed through the Anthropology department rather than the libraries, and [government documents](#).

UTRGV used Omeka for their digital exhibit [Rio Grande Valley Hometown Teams](#). The exhibit was made possible through a partnership with the Texas State Historical Society and the Smithsonian Institute.

Major collecting areas include materials regarding the Chicano Movement and regional collections relating to borderlands. Cattle ranching is also a theme among their regional collections.

Digital Collection Highlights
UTRGV has highlighted some of their digital collections in a [libguide.](#)

Some notable digital collections include the [Hidalgo County Official Records](#), the [Fort Brown Quartermaster's Ledger](#), and [oral histories](#) regarding the history of northern Mexico and the Rio Grande Valley. The oral histories collection is also UTRGV's largest digital collection with 447 items.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects
In 2020 UTRGV may plan a digital exhibit using materials relevant to the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment.

University of Texas Medical Branch

Digital Collections Summary
UT Medical Branch uses a TDL hosted instance of DSpace, UTMB Health SHARED, for electronic dissertations and theses, department repositories, UTMB reports, UTMB President's Cabinet Awards, and the Truman G. Blocker, Jr. History of Medicine collections. With DSpace, they enjoy having a hosted service that works well with electronic theses and dissertations as well as technical support from TDL.

The Blocker collections also has a page on the library's website devoted to digital collections. Some of the items available in the digital collections are also on SHARED while others are available through the Portal to Texas History.

Also on their library's website, UTMB displays digital components of physical exhibits such as brochures and label text, but they do not utilize this platform for digital exhibits.

Digital Collection Highlights
Among the digital collections at UTMB, the William Keiller, M.D. Department of Anatomy Drawings is one of the most frequently used.

In addition to medical history collections, space medicine specifically is also a strong theme among UTMB's collections as the university has an active aerospace medicine program. The William Thornton M.D. Papers are one example of a rich space medicine collection available digitally at UTMB.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects
UTMB listed cost of hosting services as a challenge to digital collections, which is one of the reasons they have chosen to use a hosted services through TDL. Increasing discoverability of digital collections is also an ongoing challenge. They recently implemented Primo as a discovery platform, and have found making that integrate with DSpace to get items discoverable challenging. Regarding open source software, UTMB cited lack of in-house expertise as a barrier.

UTMB has goals to add more special collections materials to DSpace as well as more institutional documents. Institutional documents are less of a priority as they are added at the request of each department

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Digital Collections Summary
UT Southwestern uses a TDL hosted instance of DSpace for their institutional repository which includes electronic dissertations and theses, other scholarly works, Grand Rounds materials, archives, and library collections. They use CONTENTdm for digital collections of the Dell Medical Images and UT Southwestern Images. They feel that CONTENTdm works better as a platform for displaying images while DSpace functions better with text based items. They also cited TDL's association with DSpace as one reason they use that platform; their CONTENTdm account existed before UT Southwestern became a TDL member, so they continued to use it for images.

They have also used Omeka for a digital exhibit on medical milestones in Dallas and another digital exhibit displaying images of apothecary jars.

Digital Collection Highlights
Campus News Releases and Student Publications are frequently used from the institutional repository. Annual medical student forum. They also listed electronic dissertations and theses as a major strength within the repository.

Both image collections in CONTENTdm are also frequently used. The images related to the history of medicine in Dallas are frequently promoted and used in partnerships with the Dallas Public Library and other city institutions.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects
UT Southwestern listed advocacy in communicating with campus departments as a main challenge in digital collections. They plan to continue building the university archives and cited preservation as a priority goal for using the repository.

West Texas A&M University

Digital Collections Summary
WTAMU uses a TDL hosted instance of DSpace for their digital repository where they house faculty research as well as electronic theses and dissertations.

They have a website devoted to their special collections, but do not have searchable, digitized special collections.

Digital Collection Highlights
WTAMU currently will fulfill digital image orders upon patron request. Some of the most frequently requested materials are from the university archives including newspapers and yearbooks as well as football films.

Among the most viewed digital objects are student theses on popular literature including To Kill a Mockingjay and The Women in Harry Potter's World.

Challenges, Goals, and Future Projects
WTAMU is in the planning stages of implementing digitization. They hope to have a digitization lab established within the next year.

Collections they would like to digitize include the university newspaper and the photo collections of the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum. While scholarly works can currently be submitted digitally, WTAMU would also like to digitize theses and dissertations that exist only in print.

Once a digitization workflow is established, WTAMU also has long term goals for using digital exhibits. A priority would be an exhibit drawing from the university archives.

A recent strategic plan includes long-term goals of establishing a digital archive for the materials of both the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum and WTAMU.

In the future WTAMU would like to partner with other regional institutions to digitize materials of local significance.

Appendix A

1. What is your background in libraries in general and digital collections specifically?

    a. What are some of the challenges you've experienced working with digital collections?

    b. What are some of the greatest opportunities or benefits you've had working with digital collections?

2. What are your institution's digitization goals?

3. Are there any "hidden" collections in your institution that you would like to see digitized in the near future?

4. Does your institution have digital collections?

    a. What platform do you use as a digital repository (DSpace or something else?)

    b. Why did you choose that platform for your digital collections?

    c. What are your goals for using a digital repository?

5. What would you say is a strength or focus among your digital collections?

6. What is your most used digital collection? Or some frequently requested or viewed digital items.

7. Does your institution implement digital exhibits?

    a. If so, how have you used digital exhibits in the past and what are your future digital exhibit goals?

    b. If not, would you like to and what would you want to highlight in a digital exhibit?

8. Are there any upcoming events that could relate to your institution's digital collections? Like an anniversary, holiday, completion of a related project, etc.?

9. Are you aware of any related digital collections at other institutions?

Appendix B

TDL Member	Institutional Repository	Digital Special Collections	Digital Exhibits
Angelo State University	DSpace (TDL-hosted)	DSpace (TDL Hosted) - For finding aids PastPerfect - For photos from the West Texas Collection	
Baylor	DSpace (TDL-hosted)	CONTENTdm	Omeka
Sam Houston State University	DSpace (TDL-hosted)	CONTENTdm	
Stephen F. Austin State University	bepress	CONTENTdm	
Texas A&M University	DSpace (Not hosted by TDL)	DSpace (Not hosted by TDL) - University Libraries community *Spotlight displays digital collections from multiple platforms including DSpace,Fedora Chromium, and Avalon	
Texas A&M International	DSpace (TDL-hosted)	DSpace (TDL-hosted) - Special Collections and Archives Community	Library Website
Texas A&M - Corpus Christi	DSpace (TDL-hosted)	DSpace (TDL-hosted) - Special Collections Community	Omeka
Texas A&M - Galveston	DSpace (TDL-hosted)	DSpace (TDL-hosted) - For finding aids	
Texas State University	DSpace (Not hosted by TDL)	DSpace (Not hosted by TDL) - Wittliff Collections and University Archives communities	Omeka and Flickr (all digital projects listed here)

Texas Digital Library Member Institution Digital Collections
Rachael Zipperer, MSIS Candidate, UT Austin School of Information, 2019

TDL Member	Institutional Repository	Digital Special Collections	Digital Exhibits
Texas Tech	DSpace (TDL-hosted)	DSpace (TDL-hosted) *Separate repository for the Southwest Collection/Special collections Library	
Texas Woman's University	DSpace (TDL-hosted)	CONTENTdm DSpace (TDL-hosted) University Photo Archive sub-community - requires login	
Trinity University	bepress	CONTENTdm	Omeka
University of Houston	DSpace (TDL-hosted)	Digital Library Site (in house) Audio/Video Repository Site (in house)	
University of Houston - Clear Lake	DSpace (TDL-hosted)	DSpace (TDL-hosted) - Archives & Special Collections Community for finding aids and digital objects	Omeka
University of North Texas		Digital Library Site (in house)	
UT Austin	DSpace (TDL-hosted)	Some special collections within UT Libraries Community	
UT Dallas	DSpace (TDL-hosted)	DSpace (TDL-hosted) - Archives community	
UT Rio Grande Valley	DSpace (TDL-hosted)	CONTENTdm DSpace (TDL-hosted) - For University Archives	Omeka
UT Southwestern	DSpace (TDL-hosted)	CONTENTdm DSpace (TDL-hosted) -	Omeka

Texas Digital Library Member Institution Digital Collections
Rachael Zipperer, MSIS Candidate, UT Austin School of Information, 2019

TDL Member	Institutional Repository	Digital Special Collections	Digital Exhibits
		University Archives sub-community	
UT Medical Branch	DSpace (TDL-hosted)	Library Website DSpace (TDL-hosted) - Truman G. Blocker History of Medicine Collections community	Website
West Texas A&M University	DSpace (TDL-hosted)		