Working Group to Standing Committee:
We started from the bottom, now we here.1

1. Drake, "Started From the Bottom," Nothing Was the Same, 2013.

The Digital Preservation Working Group at Texas State University started in 2015, influenced by the University of Houston's presentation at TDCL the previous year. In 2021, the working group submitted a Library Operating Letter to become a standing Committee. This bottom-up leadership and direction has benefitted the group in that we worked on our own timeline and set our own priorities. Over the past 6 years, we've shown the importance of the work, our abilities, and educated administration on Digital Preservation.

Membership is represented across several library departments: Digital & Web Services, Digital Collections, University Archives and Wittliff Collections, and General Libraries.

The group wrote a Digital Preservation Policy, implemented first steps for preservation across library departments, and continue to add to and improve the University Library Digital Preservation Program by creating AIPs with Archivematica and initiating storage on Chronopolis via DuraCloud@TDL.

System Administrators in Digital & Web Services liaise with the IT department and manage software tools. Librarians and archivists develop and assist each other with parallel procedures and workflows.

University Archives
AIPs - 11
Collections - 6
Total size - 712 GB / 0.712 TB
Total files – 3695

Wittliff Collections
AIPs - 33
Collections - 4
(2 complete)
Total size - 811 GB / 0.8 TB
Total files - 1284

Selection and Storage
Selection is a key tenet of digital preservation. Much of this selection for preservation begins long before the materials reach off-site, distributed storage.

The manuscript archives maintains a 'fragile materials inventory,' and selects based on curators' priorities and fragility of original medium. The Institutional Repository is starting with Theses and Dissertations. For General Libraries, the Acquisitions Librarian is compiling an inventory of purchased content with permissions to preserve and not preserved elsewhere (LOCKSS, Portico). All these initial inventories contain useful metadata for preservation.
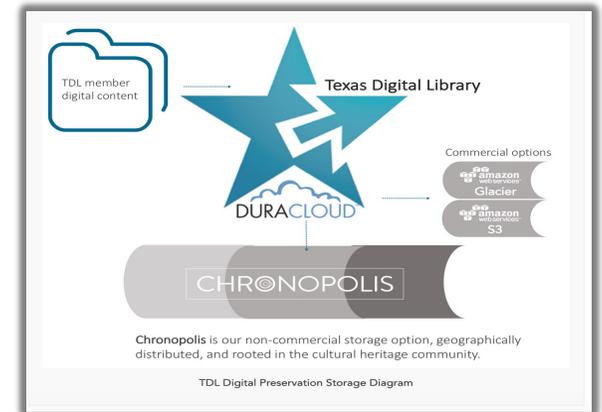

Issues and Successes
The team developed a shared vocabulary and understanding of key concepts across fields. There was a steep learning curve for Archivematica for users, and for sys admins working with IT and maintaining upgrades.

The library hired AtMire to develop a Task Replication Suite (IR/Dspace direct to DuraCloud@TDL). University Archives produced a very large single AIP, in number of files and total file size. And, the Acquisitions Librarian trained on Archivematica to create AIPs.

Current Work and Next Steps:
- Continue creating Archival Information Packages with Archivematica
- Initial steps for ingest to Chronopolis via DuraCloud@TDL.
- Engagement with community of practice
- Governance: change from Working Group to Committee
- Planning: solutions to problems of scale and staffing.

TDL Digital Preservation Storage Diagram

Questions, thoughts, suggestions?

Contact us via email or find us on TDL Slack Preservation Channel.

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- Programmer Analyst (Jason Long)
- Digital Collections Librarian (Laura Waugh),
- University Archivists (Laura Kennedy and Nicole Critchley),
- Wittliff Manuscript Archivists (Lauren Goodley),
- Acquisitions Librarian (Amanda N. Price)
- Digital Media Specialist (Erin Mazzei).