

TDL Update—The Newsletter of the Texas Digital Library

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Texas A&M University at Qatar establishes new institutional repository

Texas A&M University at Qatar is recording its own history and preserving its scholarly legacy with a [new digital repository](#) from the Texas Digital Library. The library of the young campus, which was established in 2003 as a branch campus of Texas A&M University, consists primarily of electronic resources, combined with a small print collection.

According to Library Director Carole Thompson, the unique nature of the library's resources made it perfect for the TDL. "Given the newness of the campus and the highly electronic nature of our collections," Thompson said, "it seemed appropriate to join in the effort to create the Texas Digital Library with a Texas A&M at Qatar repository."

The repository holds several oral history interviews documenting the early development of Texas A&M at Qatar, as well as campus documents and artifacts collected in cooperation with the school's Office of Marketing and Communication. "We'll also add collections

from research projects, faculty publications, and student honors papers and theses, as more work is accomplished and completed," Thompson said.

James Creel, from Texas A&M University, designed the Texas A&M at Qatar repository interface to match the look and feel of the redesigned Texas A&M at Qatar Web site. Other Texas Digital Library and Texas A&M employees instrumental in the repository's development include Jay Koenig, Scott Phillips, Adam Mikeal, Cody Green, and Phil Mattingly.

Texas A&M at Qatar offers degrees in four engineering disciplines: chemical, electrical, mechanical, and petroleum. It graduated its first class of 30 engineers in 2008.

Texas Digital Library Governing Board meets in Austin

The governing board of the Texas Digital Library met in Austin on January 14, and according to co-director Mark McFarland, the board is "excited about the current state of the TDL and its prospects for the future."

The board, which consists of selected heads of member institution libraries, meets at least twice each year to receive updates and provide advice, feedback, and support for ongoing TDL projects. Institutions from each membership level – Founder, Associate, and Affiliate – are represented on the board.

January's meeting focused on a number of key issues and upcoming events, including the spring 2009 training sessions to be held at Baylor University; efforts to

develop a comprehensive marketing strategy for the TDL; and the ongoing development of the Preservation Network, the aim of which is to ensure the long-term preservation of members' digital assets.

McFarland praised Baylor University's efforts to sponsor the spring training sessions, which begin in March: "Taking on responsibilities for logistics and staffing of important functions [like training] are important ways that schools can contribute beyond cash," he said. In addition to Baylor's role with training, McFarland noted that the TDL is in conversation with Texas Tech University regarding the staffing of a TDL help desk.

"The current membership is actively engaged and enthusiastic about the TDL," McFarland said, "and they are eager to continue their participation."

Digital Treasures at the University of Texas at Dallas

The 2.5 million documents, photographs, tapes, and other items that comprise The History of Aviation Collection at The University of Texas at Dallas tell the intriguing tale of commercial and military flight in the US. Now, many of those treasures have found a new digital home that makes them readily available to researchers anywhere in the world.

That new home is [Treasures @ UT Dallas](#), a digital repository created through a partnership between UT



**General James Doolittle's
Medal of Honor**

Dallas' Eugene McDermott Library and the Texas Digital Library. The Treasures @ UT Dallas repository includes digitized images from the library's collection of Civil Air Transport and Air America materials, which document the history of the airline famous for its CIA-sponsored operations in Southeast Asia during the Cold War. Other materials in the repository include images related to the distinguished World War II aviator, General James H. Doolittle.

Under the leadership of Dr. Larry Sall, Dean of Libraries, the university joined the Texas Digital Library consortium in

2006, and that membership paved the way for the creation of Treasures @ UT Dallas. McDermott Library's involvement in the TDL came at a particularly opportune time, as the digital asset management service it previously used was acquired by another company, and the library had to go shopping for a new service.

McDermott Library opted to use the TDL's digital repository service to manage and publish the collection. "When Dr. Sall became involved in the TDL, it didn't make sense to keep two digital asset management systems going," said Jean Vik, Associate Library Director of Operating Systems. "We migrated the assets that we had – a little over 1,000 records – into the Texas Digital Library to make the most of our investment in the TDL."

The McDermott Library staff plans to continue adding digital material to Treasures @ UT Dallas. The repository already includes archived library communications, as well as some faculty podcasts.

Special Collections Coordinator Paul Oelkrug, who oversaw the digitization of the History of Aviation assets, said that other materials from the university's rich collection may be incorporated in the future, including some items related to Braniff International, a Dallas-based airline that contributed a set of documents and photographs to the library after it ceased operations in the 1980s. "I'd also like to add items from our Lighter than Air materials, of the Hindenburg and the Graf Zeppelin, just to name a few things," Oelkrug said.

With Associate Library Director of Technical Services Dr. Mary Jo Venetis serving as liaison to the Texas Digital Library, the McDermott Library staff created the Treasures @ UT Dallas repository using the DSpace open source platform and Manakin, a user interface (developed at Texas A&M University) that is part of the TDL digital repository offering.

The McDermott Library technical staff, including programmers Faizur Rahman and Daud Abdullah, worked with the TDL staff to set up and customize the DSpace repository to suit the needs of the library's collection. The library staff also communicated with other TDL member institutions, such as The University of Texas at Arlington and Texas A&M University, to gain insight into those universities' experiences with DSpace and Manakin. The process of moving the collection from its old location into the new DSpace repository began in the summer of 2008; Treasures @ UT Dallas went live on December 14 of that year.

Other members of the UT Dallas committee that made Treasures @ UT Dallas a reality include Ellen Safley, Senior Associate Library Director; Dr. Misu Kim, Media and Archives Cataloger; Iryna Shevchuk, Web Services Librarian; Thomas Allen, Curator; Patrizia Nava, Special Collections Library Assistant; and Sylvia Johnson, Re-

serves Coordinator.

For more information about Treasures @ UT Dallas, please contact Tom Koch, Public Relations coordinator for McDermott Library at tkoch@utdallas.edu or Ryan Steans, TDL Program Coordinator, at rsteans@austin.utexas.edu.

Texas Digital Library Training – Registration now open!

Staff from all TDL member institutions can now enroll in full- and half-day training courses covering a variety of topics. Offerings include courses at all experience levels on the use of the digital repository platform DSpace and on Vireo, TDL's electronic thesis and dissertation submission system. Other classes cover scholarly communication services offered by TDL, such as open-access journals, scholarly blogs, and research Wikis.

Courses begin in March and continue periodically throughout the spring, with all training sessions held on the Baylor University campus. For course descriptions and information about registration, see the [TDL training page](#).

Mark your calendars: Upcoming conferences

The [Texas Conference on Digital Libraries](#) is set to take place May 27-28 on The University of Texas at Austin campus. The conference, in its third year, continues its exploration of topics related to the creation and promotion of digital libraries at Texas institutions of

higher learning. Conference sessions will take place in the Applied Computation Engineering & Sciences (A.C.E.S.) building. Stay tuned for more information, including a call for papers, in the weeks ahead.

New communications team members join the Texas Digital Library staff

The Texas Digital Library's ranks have grown with the addition of two new staff members, Kristi Park and Dan Zappone. The additions strengthen the organization's efforts at marketing and communications.

Kristi Park will serve as the TDL's Web writer. She will be working on a variety of projects, from writing content for the Web site to developing other marketing and communications materials. Kristi comes to the TDL from Hoover's, an online business reporting service based in Austin, and has degrees from both The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University.

The TDL's new webmaster, Dan Zappone, will be taking on all things related to TDL.org as a public-facing Web site. He comes to the TDL with a set of skills developed through previous work at Active Power, Metrowerks, and other Austin businesses.

Have an item for the TDL newsletter? Contact Kristi Park at kristi.park@austin.utexas.edu.

For other questions and concerns, contact Ryan Steans, TDL program coordinator, at rsteans@austin.utexas.edu.

Texas Digital Library Member Institutions

Angelo State University
Baylor University
Southern Methodist University (*NEW member!*)
Texas A&M University (*founding institution*)
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Texas A&M University at Galveston
Texas A&M University at Qatar
Texas State University
Texas Tech University (*founding institution*)
University of Houston (*founding institution*)
University of North Texas
The University of Texas at Arlington
The University of Texas at Austin (*founding institution*)
The University of Texas at Brownsville
The University of Texas at Dallas
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center

For more information, please visit the Texas Digital Library Web site at <http://www.tdl.org>, or contact the TDL program coordinator at info@tdl.org.

Texas Digital Library
P.O. Box P
Austin, Texas 78713-8916
Ph. 512-495-4129 Fax 512-495-4347