

“Mapping the Southwest”: UNT-UTA Collaborative Project

**Daniel Gelaw Alemneh, Jerrell Jones,
University of North Texas (UNT), and
Ann Hodges
*University of Texas at Arlington (UTA)***

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Outline

- **Project Background**
 - Description of the project
- **Project Plan:**
 - Six major areas of activities
- **Workflow:**
 - Quality control
- **Lessons Learned and Project Impact:**
 - Tasks completed
 - Summary

Background

Background

- **Project Description:**

- Mapping the Southwest is a 3-year project (2010 to 2013) funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) We the People grant.

- **Project Objective:**

- The University of North Texas (UNT) Libraries partner with the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) Library's Special Collections to digitize 5,000 historically-significant and rare maps.
- All of the digitized maps will be available online for free public access through [The Portal to Texas History](#) gateway.

Project Plan

Major Work Areas

- 1. Catalog maps without existing MARC records**
- 2. Prepare the maps for transport**
- 3. Capture and process digital images of the maps**
- 4. Create software to automate import of MARC data to populate the metadata template**
- 5. Create or enhance metadata**
- 6. Assess quality of the digital images, cataloging, and metadata**

Workflow

Institutions' Major Areas

- **UTA's involvement include:**
 - Catalog maps without existing MARC records
 - Prepare the maps for transport
 - Metadata creation and enhancements
- **UNT's major areas include:**
 - Capturing, processing, QCing, and uploading digital images of the maps
- **We regularly review the detailed activities**
 - Determine the necessary adjustments to be made to the workflows to accomplish the stated project objectives on time and within budget.

Yr.	Batch #	Schedule	# Maps Picked-up	# Maps Digitized	Remark
Year-1	1	September 30 th , 2010	098	0098	-All scanned and returned to UTA.
	2	November 3 rd , 2010	387	0485	-All scanned and returned to UTA.
	3	January 26 th , 2011	389	0874	-All scanned and returned to UTA. - (2 nd project status meeting).
	4	April 11 th , 2011	550	1424	-All scanned and returned to UTA.
Year-2	5	July 14 th , 2011	436	1860	-All scanned and most (400+) returned. - (3 rd status meeting).
	6	September 16 th , 2011	265	2125	-All scanned and returned to UTA.
	7	December 9 th , 2011	643	2768	-All scanned and most (400+) returned.
	8	March 9 th , 2012	378	3146	All are scanned and ready to be returned
Year-3	9	June 12 th , 2012	400+*	3500+	*Scheduled to be picked up

Digitization

Digitization Goals

- **Seek an adaptable and effective scanning workflow that facilitates digitizing 5,000 maps.**
- **Ensure the long-term access and preservation of the maps by creating a high quality product.**
 - Tiff (uncompressed), 400ppi
 - Grayscale (8-bit), RGB color (24-bit)

Equipment

- **Better Light Scanning System**
 - Better Light Super 8K-2 scanning back
 - 4 x 5 camera with an array of changeable lenses
 - Heavy-duty studio stand with versatile head
 - High Intensity Discharge (HID) lights
 - Vacuum easel
- **Epson 10000-XL**
 - Large flatbed scanner used for smaller items.



Setup

- **Subject**
- **Camera**
 - Select lens
 - Move and align
- **Lights**
- **Software**





SCANNED TO QC

Scanning and QA

- **Completeness**
 - Evaluation
 - Tools
- **Consistency**
 - Placement
 - Crop

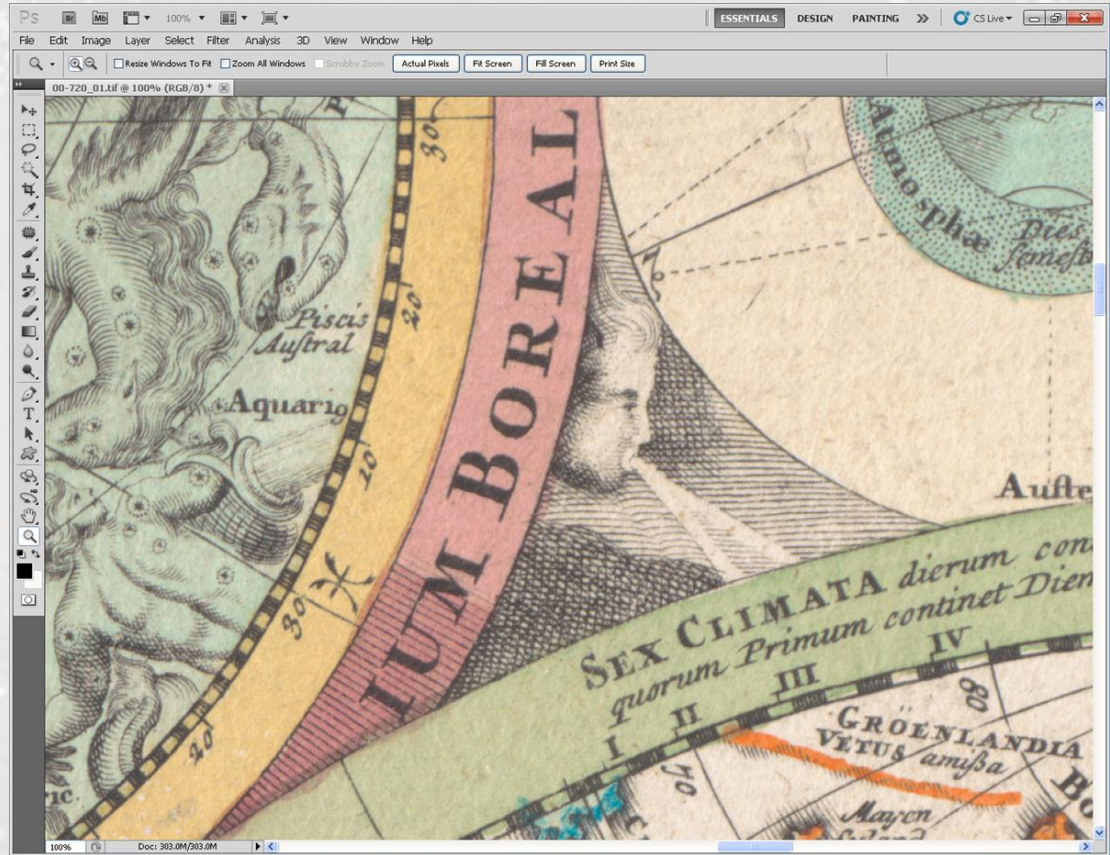


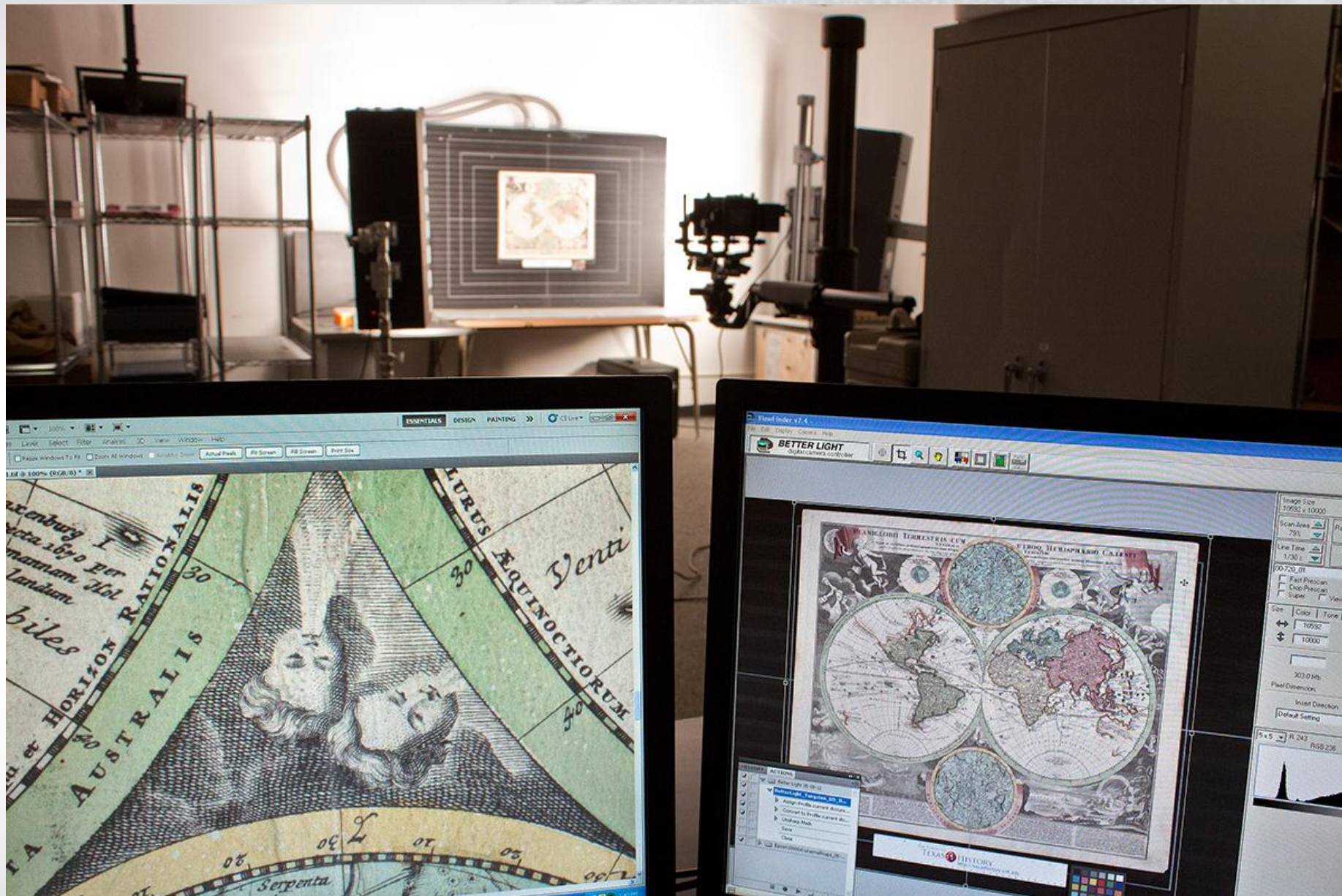
"Mexico & Guatemala" by Henry Schenck Tanner (1786-1858) - 1846

Processing

- **Enhance**

- De-skew
- Crop
- Resize
- Sharpen
- Correct color

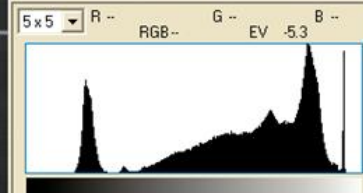




BETTER LIGHT
digital camera controllerTHE PORTAL TO
TEXAS HISTORY
<http://texashistory.unt.edu>

Image Size 10592 x 10000	File Size 303.0 Mb
Scan Area 79%	Resolution 125%
Line Time 1/30 s	ISO 758
Model Super8k	9388 MB free
13.47 V	RGB
00-720_01	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fast Prescan	00:30 05:53
<input type="checkbox"/> Crop Prescan	
<input type="checkbox"/> Super	<input type="checkbox"/> View Prescan Scan

Size	Color	Tone	Focus	Pano
10592	pixels			
10000	pixels/inch			
303.0 Mb	Lock File Size			
Pixel Dimension:	10592 h x 10000 v			
Insert Direction	From Right			
Default Setting				



Lessons Learned and Project Impact

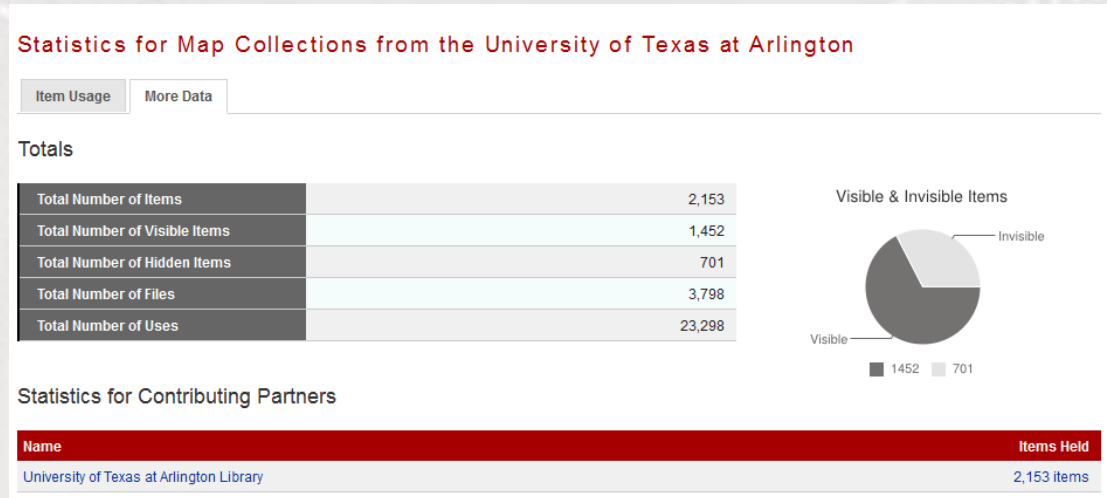
Challenges

- **Digitizing special materials**
 - Folded, oversized, and fragile maps
- **Maintenance**
 - Equipment
 - Updating color profile
- **Training**
 - Map handling
 - Metadata and related workflow
- **Inter-institutional Communication**
 - Multiple priorities

Putting Maps Online

- Currently 1450+ maps have complete metadata and are visible to the public with all digital library functionalities:

- 23,000+ uses



- UNT team uploads the maps with “short records”
- The metadata group at UTA enhance or populate the templates according to UNT metadata standards:

<http://www.library.unt.edu/digitalprojects/metadata/descriptive-metadata> .

The UTA Map Collections in the Portal to Texas History, as of May 2012:

<http://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/UTAM/browse/>

http://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/UTAM/browse/

Explore Map Collections from...

THE PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY

Home Search **Explore** About Help

About this Collection

Explore this Collection

Explore all Collections

County:

✦ Galveston County, TX (20)

✦ Tarrant County, TX (18)

✦ Dallas County, TX (12)

✦ Bexar County, TX (5)

✦ Cook County, IL (5)

✦ More...

Decade:

✦ 1990-1999 (1)

✦ 1980-1989 (5)

✦ 1970-1979 (2)

✦ 1960-1969 (4)

✦ 1950-1959 (30)

✦ More...

Language:

✦ English (1,231)

✦ French (115)

✦ German (68)

✦ Spanish (51)

✦ Latin (25)

✦ More...

Collection:

✦ Where the West Begins: Capturing Fort Worth's Historic Treasures (13)

✦ German Immigration to Texas (13)

Search Inside the Map Collections from the University of Texas at Arlington

Everything | Books | Maps | Photos | Newspapers

fulltext

Submit

Advanced Search


Search Help

You limited your search to:

✓ Collection: Map Collections from the University of Texas at Arlington

Results 1 - 10 of 1,453

Sort by: Title




A [1793] map of Kentucky drawn from actual observations by John Filson.

Date: November 23, 1793

Creator: Filson, John, ca. 1747-1788.

Description: Map shows late eighteenth century Kentucky counties, settlements, and roads. Includes text and explanation of symbols. Inset: A plan of the rapids in the River Ohio. Relief shown pictorially. Scale [1:633,600].

Contributing Partner: University of Texas at Arlington Library



1919 Map and guide of Dallas & suburbs.

Date: 1919

Creator: C. Weichsel Co.

Description: Map shows early twentieth century Dallas, Texas street names, railroads, interurban streetcar lines, neighborhoods, parks, country clubs, cemeteries, and some buildings, institutions, and businesses. Scale not given.

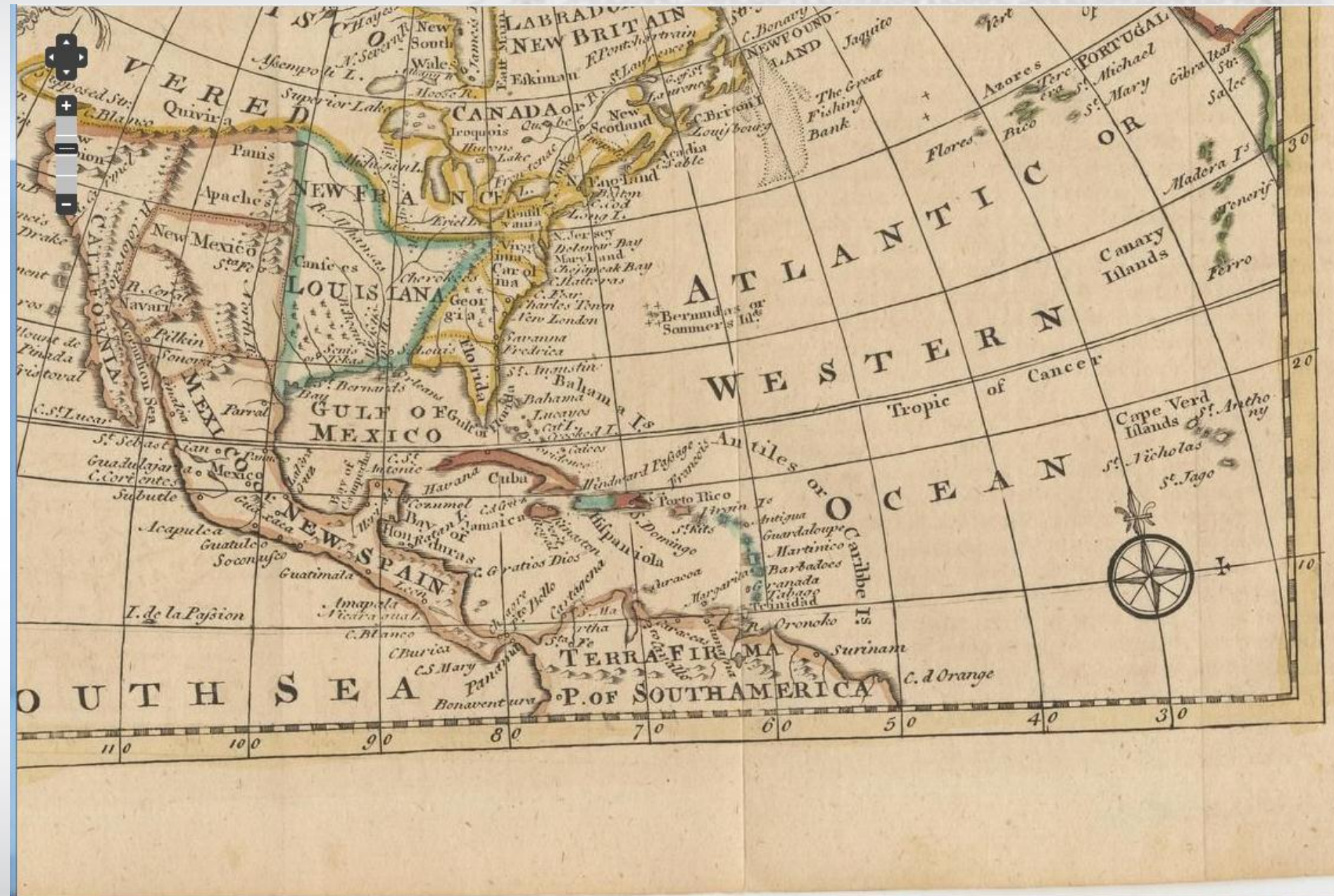
Contributing Partner: University of Texas at Arlington Library

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Zoomified View



Summary

- The scanning of large-format items presents many challenges. But the UNT-UTA collaborative project will be able to meet these challenges and share the rich cartography collections of the region widely.
- In addition to showcasing the cartography of the region, the Mapping the Southwest project promotes best practices to advance the capacity of academic libraries to reliably curate, preserve, and provide seamless access to historic maps, atlases, and related large-format items.

Project Contacts

- **PI:** Cathy Hartman, UNT
Cathy.Hartman@unt.edu
- **Project Coordinator at UTA:** Ann Hodges
ann.hodges@uta.edu
- **Project Manager:** Daniel Alemneh
Daniel.Alemneh@unt.edu