Digital preservation activities among law libraries have been largely limited by a lack of funding, staffing and expertise. Most Law School Libraries that have an institutional repository chose proprietary platforms because of the technical and development support these products provide.

The TTU School of Law Digital Repository is one of a few Law School repositories in the nation that was built on the DSpace open source platform.

The TTU School of Law Library installed and customized a DSpace instance during the past year. The repository is the Law School's first institutional repository in history. It was designed to collect, maintain, preserve, share and promote the Law School's digital materials, including research and scholarship of the law faculty and students, institutional history, and law-related resources. In addition, the repository also serves as a dark archive to house internal records.

The DR went live in April 2010 with a pilot collection of about 500 items. Professor Edgar’s collection is the first release. It contains about 500 items so far. Professor Edgar’s collection is dedicated to Texas Tech Law Professor J. Hadley Edgar (1926-2009). He taught at the Law School from 1971 to 1991. He was named the Robert H. Bean Professor of Law and was twice voted by the student body as Outstanding Law Professor. The collection was donated by his wife Helen Edgar. It includes personal correspondence, photos, newspaper clippings, etc.

The DR collection development policy was developed and implemented. It covers purpose of the repository, scope of the collections, selection criteria, selection rights and responsibility, and how to handle challenges and withdrawals. A digital repository release form was also created which requires the donor/author to sign.

The DR was customized with XML Manakin theme.

There are 13 collections currently planned for the DR:
- Faculty Scholarship
- Personal Manuscripts (sub-community)
- Texas Governor Executive Orders
- Law School History
- Law Library History
- Regional Legal History
- Law Students Works
- Audio/Video Collection
- Dark Archives (restricted access)
- E-journals
- Conference, Colloquium and Symposium
- Lectures and Presentations
- Born Digital Materials

Highlighted collections include the Faculty Scholarship and Professor J. Hadley Edgar’s personal papers and memorabilia. The Faculty Scholarship collection was migrated from an existing database. It contains about 500 items so far. Professor Edgar’s collection is dedicated to Texas Tech Law Professor J. Hadley Edgar (1926-2009). He taught at the Law School from 1971 to 1991. He was named the Robert H. Bean Professor of Law and was twice voted by the student body as Outstanding Law Professor. The collection was donated by his wife Helen Edgar. It includes personal correspondence, photos, newspaper clippings, etc.

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The system was customized to detect a particular metadata field and render it as links (displayed as icons). Items in the Faculty Scholarship collection are all linked to the most commonly used legal databases such as Hein Online, LEXISNEXIS and Westlaw.

Our promotion plan includes:
- Submit the site URL to the DSpace user registry.
- Register the site with Google Webmaster Tools for indexing.
- Link the DR to the Law Library website and other internal websites.
- Market the DR on the Law Library’s social networking sites (Facebook and Twitter).
- Announce the site to the Law School and the Lubbock County Bar during Professor Edgar’s memorial service.
- Present at the poster session of TCDL.

Future Project Highlights
- Add Social Science Research Network (SSRN) links to individual articles in the Faculty Scholarship collection.
- Create a collection for Texas Tech Law Professor Daniel Benson’s personal files from an eight-year litigation for the minority plaintiffs in the civil rights case of Jones v. City of Lubbock, 727 F.2d 364 (5th Cir. 1984). The collection has significant historical value since a Texas Tech Law Professor and five Texas Tech Law graduates participated in that case successfully as pro bono attorneys for the minority plaintiffs.

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