Looking Through The Eyes of Texas: A Historic Campus Tour

Our Goal
Using 19th and 20th century images of the University of Texas from the Dolph Briscoe Center’s photo archive, we sought to create a digital campus tour that was widely accessible, and would simultaneously educate users about the campus’ past and present.

The Tool
We decided to use www.HistoryPin.com, a publicly available website that works with Google Maps and allows the public to “pin” historic images to a geographic location. The tool provides content creators the opportunity to enter limited metadata about the image including title, description and date taken. Images of locations accessible through street view can be imposed over the contemporary image and a fading functionality lets users fade the historic image into a contemporary view to witness detailed changes over time. The tour function allows images to be grouped and ordered, leading users through the collection in a specific order.

The Tour
To take the tour, scan the QR code to the right, or, from a computer, search for the Briscoe Center Channel under the “Channels” section of www.historypin.com

Limitations
• Image size
• Pinning photos of interior shots
• Limited mobile functionality
• Quality of Google Street View
• Complex URLs for Channels

Advantages
• User friendly and interactive
• Available to wide audience
• Multi purpose
• Can be used from (some) mobile devices.