Exciting news - three new grant projects

This summer proved to be an exciting time for the Portal to Texas History team! With the heat and drenching summer rains came great news about three new grant projects.

The UNT Libraries received a two year _We the People_ grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to digitize historic Texas newspapers, totaling over $397,000.

The Amon Carter Foundation donated $25,000 towards “Where the West Begins: Capturing Fort Worth’s Historic Treasures.”

The Tocker Foundation awarded $30,000 towards digitizing early issues of the _Tulia Herald_ newspaper, in partnership with the Swisher County Library.

Turn to page 3 and 4 to read more about these exciting new initiatives.

A new way to browse materials

... a clickable county map of Texas!

The Portal to Texas History team is proud to announce a new browse interface for the Portal, a clickable county map of Texas.

Roll your mouse over a county to have the county name pop up, then just click to see all of the great materials we have about that county. To use the map, go to the Researcher’s Portal, and select “Browse” from the top bar.

You can also browse materials by subject, by collection by contributor, and by historical era.

http://texashistory.unt.edu/browse/
My Texas History Notebook—twenty new lesson plans available

Humanities Texas funded a new educational initiative for the Portal to Texas History, and master teachers developed twenty new lesson plans which are now online.

These lesson plans were developed using the interactive notebook method of learning, in which student’s work and notes are kept in a binder. The lesson plans engage students with content rich problem-based learning.

Lesson plans include a presidential debate between Sam Houston and Mirabeau Lamar. A lesson plan on Spanish Missions requires students to “experience” the daily events in the lives of Native Americans living at the mission.

In “Human Statues to the Progressive Era,” students identify the leaders and movements of the Progressive Era, and its impact on Texans.

The “Branches of State Government” lesson uses Trading Cards that emphasize the roles and responsibilities of each branch of the Texas State Government.

Focus on Books:
the Texas County Records Inventory Project is now online

In the fall of 1973, a team of researchers at UNT undertook the daunting task of coordinating a statewide survey of county records. A network of volunteers that included historians, archivists, students, and local historical societies, pressed forward in documenting the types of records available in various Texas counties.

When the project was defunded in 1981, nearly a hundred Inventory of County Records books had been published, and hundreds of volunteers had contributed their time to the project.

The Inventory of County Records books describe the roles of different county government offices, then detail the location, types, quantity and condition of the records. These powerful tools provide researchers with valuable information concerning the location and availability of county records.

The Portal team decided these would be a wonderful online resource, and in July we uploaded 98 volumes.

116. REGISTER OF LAND CERTIFICATES. 1830-1852. 1 vol., 15" x 6" x 1".

Register of land grant applications, showing application number, name of applicant, amount of land applying for, length of residence on land, and date. Arranged numerically by application number. Handwritten. Indexed in INDEX TO LAND GRANTS (118.).

117. RECORD OF LAND GRANT. 1838-1843. 1 vol., 12 1/2" x 8" x 1".

Extract from Inventory of County Records Nacogdoches County
UNT Libraries’ Digital Projects Unit receives $397,552 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

The UNT Libraries received a two year We the people grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to digitize historic Texas newspapers. UNT is serving as the lead institution, and is partners with both the Center for American History at UT and Texas Tech University.

The National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP) will digitize newspapers from 1836 to 1923 and place them online at the Library of Congress. The National Digital Newspaper Program will cover digitization of newspaper titles from 1880-1910. An advisory board coordinated by the Center for American History will select the titles to be digitized based on criteria from the Library of Congress. In this two year phase, 100,000 newspaper pages will be posted online.

Funding from NEH will provide a good foundation for digitizing Texas newspapers, but greater effort will be needed to meet the needs of communities wanting access to their local historic newspapers. We intend to work with private foundations and community fund-raising efforts to further build this program.


Did you know...

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<th>Year</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>% increase from prev. decade (US)</th>
<th>Texas</th>
<th>% increase from prev. decade (TX)</th>
<th>Texas’s population rank among all U.S. states</th>
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<td>1880</td>
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<td>28%</td>
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<td>1890</td>
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<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>92,228,496</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>3,896,542</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Tocker Foundation gives $30,000 towards digitizing the Tulia Herald

Working in partnership with the Swisher County Library, the Portal team will start work on digitizing early issues of the Tulia Herald newspaper. Located about halfway between Lubbock and Amarillo, Tulia serves as the county seat for Swisher County, and was known as the “City of Windmills.” This grant project will end in July of 2008.
Amon Carter Foundation funds “Where the West Begins: Capturing Fort Worth’s Historic Treasures”

Thanks to funding from the Amon Carter Foundation, the Portal team will be begin working with sixteen collaborative partners to digitize and place their historic materials online, starting this fall.

In the past 150 years, the Fort Worth area has grown from a frontier army outpost to a bustling metropolis, while assuming a leadership position in the social and cultural development of the State of Texas. Whether as a resting point for cowboys driving their cattle to Kansas or the home of world-class museums and concert halls, the growth of Fort Worth mirrors the rise of Texas to its prominent place in the nation and world.

For the grant, UNT will partner with the Fort Worth Public Library, Texas Christian University’s Mary Couts Burnett Library, the Amon Carter Museum, UT Arlington’s Special Collections Library, the Fort Worth Jewish Archives, Tarrant County College NE, the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame, the Log Cabin Village, the Cattle Raisers Museum, the Lockheed Martin Archives, the Archives of the Central Texas Conference United Methodist Church, the UNT Archives, the Dallas Public Library, the University of Houston, and the Cowtown Coliseum. This $25,000 grant project will end in August of 2008.

Yes, I want to support Texas history!

First Name ___________________________ Last Name ___________________________
Street Address ___________________________ City/State/Zip ________________________
Daytime Phone ___________________________ E-mail ____________________________

Your name as you would like it to appear on UNT publications and on the website:

____ Check enclosed [amount] $ ____________________________
(payable to UNT Libraries Digital Projects Unit)

Thank you for supporting the Portal to Texas History! Please return this card and a check in the enclosed envelope. Your donation is tax-deductible, and all proceeds will go directly towards digitizing treasures of Texas history.

UNT Libraries
Digital Projects Unit
P. O. Box 305190
Denton, TX 76203-5190
940.891.6746

http://texashistory.unt.edu/
What’s in the Lab now?
from the Boyce Ditto Public Library,
a Pictorial History of Fort Wolters

The Boyce Ditto Public Library in Mineral Wells is working with us to digitize a multi-volume collection of photographs that document the history of Fort Wolters from its inception as a National Guard Training Center in 1921 to its role as a U.S. Army Helicopter Training Center/School to its closing, as Fort Wolters, in 1974.

The collection was compiled by Col. Willie H. Casper, from public sources and declassified government photographs and documents. Col. Casper was the deputy commander of Fort Wolters from 1965 to 1971.

Thirteen volumes are currently available online, with eight left to go.

Summerlee Foundation grants, “Rescuing Texas History . . .”
with the Bosque County Historical Commission

letters from Jacob de Cordova, a noted Texas land agent who at one time owned over a million acres of Texas land. These letters discuss land transactions and Mr. de Cordova’s travel throughout the U.S. and Europe.

Upcoming: Materials from the Museum of the American Railroad will arrive in September.

http://texashistory.unt.edu/
Mission Statement: The Portal to Texas History℠ offers students and lifelong learners a digital gateway to the rich collections held in Texas libraries, museums, archives, historical societies, and private collections. The Portal team at the University of North Texas provides strong leadership by supporting collaborative efforts with its partners, while pursuing the goals of accessibility, best practices, and preservation of historical material.

The Portal on YouTube!

In May, the Portal team uploaded their first YouTube video, a fast, exhilarating tour of the Portal covering over 250 images in just two minutes. The video uses exciting music and a quick-moving format to showcase the breadth and diversity of the online collections.

Go see what thousands have already discovered at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rlDx9n4wFb0, or just go to YouTube, and search on “Portal to Texas History”

http://texashistory.unt.edu/