REPOSITORY NEWS

Adventures in DSpace

Evaliza Fuentes, Public History Graduate Student, Texas State University and Lauren Goodley, Archivist, The Wittliff Collections

It's never too early to start planning for summer projects! Evaliza Fuentes of Texas State University and **Lauren Goodley,** Archivist, The Wittliff Collections, spent part of the summer updating and streamlining two audio visual collections: "The Rogers & Hammerhead Show" and the Austin Film Festival Recordings. "The Rogers & Hammerhead Show" aired in 1996–1997 on Austin access television and served as a platform for songwriters who wrote the songs that made country music singers into stars. There were only 16 videos in this collection, so it served as a good pilot project to test out workflows. The Austin Film Festival has begun digitizing its holdings of past festival recordings and depositing them at the Wittliff; at this point we have audio and video files from 1994–1996 and 2003–2007.

Below are some of highlights and takeaways from the data entry and metadata world according to DSpace. The Wittliff Collections uses DSpace as an online platform to connect our finding aids and materials to researchers. Audio visual materials are accessed through a streaming media service called MediaFlo, based on the Ensemble Video tool. Fuentes created consistent metadata across both platforms, and documented the metadata in application profiles.

Goals– The main purpose of the project was to bring the Wittliff Collections into ADA compliance by providing closed captioning for all online materials. Rev.com is a captioning service used by Texas State University, and ordering captions was the first workflow that Fuentes developed. Since Fuentes is a graduate student in the public history program with experience and instruction in archives, Lauren also tasked her with creating metadata for the streaming files in MediaFlo and adapting that metadata for DSpace. This turned into a spreadsheet, or application profile, for each collection, mapping MediaFlo, DSpace, and Dublin Core with the DACS finding aid and previous spreadsheets.

Approach – We began with the metadata spreadsheets that had been previously developed for these collections. This beginning offered some basis for what we saw online, yet failed to deliver on a method going forward. When multiple collections have been handled as distinct projects rather than as

Still image from "Rogers & Hammerhead, Intro," Nov. 9, 1996, Freddy Powers Texas Heritage Songwriters Association Collection, Texas State University. https://digital.library.txstate.edu/handle/10877/7273.

part of a digital program, it requires effort to gain intellectual control over them. Slowly, we began to go beyond the original intent of the spreadsheets. The documents were expanded to provide a path for data entry into MediaFlo and DSpace, and to capture information and provide connections to the finding aid or the accession inventory.

Highlights – The short time span of summer only encouraged us to make decisions based on convenience and efficiency. While we are still in process of polishing the finding aids, the end result of each individual online item is a balance of information to the researcher and connection to the archive. We made the choice to go with "less is more" for metadata fields and are very satisfied, especially since the items are linked to the finding aids, which provide further context and description. For DSpace, fields include: Creator, Date, Identifier (filename), Rights Statement and Title. For MediaFlo, fields include: Title, Date, Copyright Statement, Genre, and a description field that includes the filename, creator, and repository.

The development of Application Profiles can be used as templates for future projects. The new spreadsheets now have separate sections that include the process of entering data, editing the item, and capturing the identifier created by DSpace.

Lessons Learned–In hindsight, maybe the first question we should have asked should have been, "how do we want the finding aid to appear on DSpace?" This question happened closer to the end of the project. A discussion regarding the aesthetics of DSpace may be a better starting place rather than
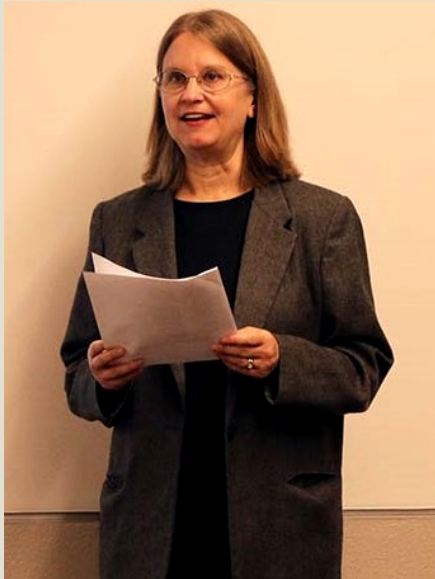
REPOSITORY NEWS

Celebrating the Opening of the Randall Popken Papers at Tarleton State University
Phyllis Kinnison, Dick Smith Library, Tarleton State University

Dr. Kathleen Mollick speaking about Dr. Randall Popken at the "Readings & Sharing Collections: Creativity, Scholarship, & Brunch" event at Tarleton State University. Photo courtesy of Tracy Holtman.

Research and Scholarship Appreciation Week is celebrated each year in October on the campus of Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. Many events are held across campus to highlight the research and scholarship of both faculty and students. This year the Dick Smith Library held a special event called "Readings & Sharing Collections: Creativity, Scholarship & Brunch." In addition to a faculty member and several students reading from their own writings, the library announced the opening of the Randall Popken Papers, 1959-2005.

Dr. Randall Popken taught English and writing at Tarleton State University for twenty years. After his death in 2005, his wife donated his papers to the Dick Smith Library Special Collections and Archives. Popken wrote numerous articles and book chapters relating to discourse analysis, genre acquisition, and technical aspects of writing.

Many of the papers Popken wrote were presented at professional conferences on the national, regional, state, and local levels; therefore, the collection contains drafts of papers and correspondence pertaining to the sessions at which he spoke. The files also include correspondence with editors and contracts drawn up with publishers for publication of some of his papers.

Part of Popken's research consisted of analyzing writing samples of his students and evaluating the Tarleton Freshman Writer Project. The collection contains his findings, which he presented at professional conferences and described in articles published in professional literature.

While working on his doctorate at the University of Kansas, Popken became interested in Edwin Hopkins, a professor of composition at the university in the late 19th century. The collection contains the extensive research he conducted on Hopkins' teaching and writings.

In 1992, Popken received the Edward P.J. Corbett Award for Best Article in Focuses, and twice he received the best paper in the Composition Section of the Conference of College Teachers of English.

Tarleton State University was founded in 1899 in Stephenville, Texas. In 1917, it became a part of The Texas A&M University System and was a junior college until 1959. Comprised of seven colleges, it currently offers almost one hundred undergraduate and graduate degrees.

For more information contact **Phyllis Kinnison**, Librarian/Archivist, at pkinnison@tarleton.edu or 254-968-1808.

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ending point, and perhaps would have avoided the pain points of decision-making throughout the project.

Also, legacy metadata is difficult! Fuentes requested and uploaded captions for 139 files and created DSpace metadata for 96 files. The difference is mainly in the "Ashes of Waco" collection, which was originally digitized and uploaded in 2010. A combination of legacy metadata imported from CONTENTdm and a lack of DACS description for these materials meant that while they are captioned and online, the discovery capability for researchers is limited.

For more information, please visit the online materials on DSpace at https://digital.library.txstate.edu/, and feel free to contact Fuentes at ef03@txstate.edu or Lauren Goodley at lgoodley@txstate.edu.