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Special Collections Newsletter

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department

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C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO LIBRARY

Volume 3, Issue 2

December 2017

Year in Review

Welcome to the semiannual Special Collections Department newsletter. This year we celebrated fifty years of archives at the UTEP Library!

It was a busy and eventful year for the Department. During the 2016/2017 fiscal year we welcomed over 3,600 visitors to Special Collections and tied our record for the most researchers (41) in a day. Additionally, we hosted two major exhibit openings, produced a new department brochure, and participated in the first-ever Border Archives Bazaar in October. We also provided instruction sessions for 28 classes, conducted 53 tours for a total of 600 people, and answered 2,198 reference questions.

Online resources were also heavily used. Over 16,450 images were viewed via the Special Collections image

database and 10,149 oral histories were downloaded from Digital Commons.

This year was notable as we were able to meet and work with many of our archival colleagues in the region through the newly-revived Border Regional Archives Group. UTEP SpC staff were also able to tour New Mexico State University's Archives and Special Collections Department in August.

Sadly, we lost several Special Collections Department friends and donors this year: Sam Moore, Nancy Hamilton, Dr. Haskell Monroe, Dr. John Haddox, and Paul Danigellis. We are very thankful for their generosity over the years. They will be missed.

Upcoming events for 2018 include: the Carl Hertzog Award for Excellence in Book Design in February, a collab-

orative map exhibit with UT-Austin's Benson Latin American Collection in the spring, and a Preservation Month event in May. A 2018 Special Collections calendar will be mailed out later this month.

Very best wishes for a joyous and safe holiday season y un feliz y próspero año nuevo!



SpC staff at the 50th anniversary exhibit opening reception.

Special Collections 50th Anniversary

September 2017 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the original Archives Department at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) Library. To celebrate this anniversary, the Special Collections Department hosted an opening reception for its exhibit, *Exploring the Document*

Mineshaft: Fifty Years of Archives at the UTEP Library, on September 22, 2017. Approximately 100 people attended this event in Special Collections, including UTEP president Dr. Diana Natalicio and family members of UTEP's first archivist, Leon C. Metz. Guests en-

joyed food, drinks, and live music by the Deming Fusiliers during the fiftieth anniversary celebration.

In addition to the exhibit, the Department created a short documentary about Special Collections' history and current activities. It is available

to view on the Library's YouTube channel at: <https://youtu.be/goN4GDPGgvQ>. Special thanks to Dr. Diana Natalicio, Dr. Yolanda Chávez Leyva, Robert Stakes, and Claudia Rivers for participating in this project.

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WWI in El Paso Exhibit



Friends of the UTEP Library member John March views the WWI exhibit, July 28, 2017.

This July marked the one hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the American Expeditionary Force in Europe. To commemorate this event, the Special Collections Department created an exhibit, *Over Here, Over There: El Paso and El Pasoans during WWI*, to recount El Pasoans' war experiences.

Located in the UTEP Library's Third Floor Gallery, the exhibit features photographs, documents, and artifacts from Special Collections and the

UTEP Centennial Museum. The Special Collections Department also has a complementary display of rare WWI books in its S.L.A. Marshall Military History Room.

Over sixty people attended the opening reception on July 28, 2017 including six family members of WWI soldier José Manuel Escajeda of El Paso. Other descendants of people featured in the exhibit that attended the opening were Kurt Goetting, whose parents appear in the exhib-

it, and Nancy Wilson and her granddaughter.

The exhibit was featured on KTSM's evening news and in UTEP's student newspaper, *The Prospector*. It is also included in the Texas WWI Centennial Commission's online list of events.

The exhibit will be available to view through February 2018.

Powered Libraries West Texas Road Trip



Photo archivist David Flores shows the Powered Libraries visitors his work station. Photo courtesy of Powered Libraries.

On July 17 Steve Siwinski from the Texas State Archives and Library Commission and Sara Ortiz from the Texas Library Association visited Special Collections as part of the Powered Libraries West Texas Road Trip program. This program highlights how libraries and archives empower our local communities. In addition to Special Collections, the Powered Libraries

program visited the El Paso Public Library to learn about the "Sow/Grow/ReapEat" program and the Ysleta del Sur Tribal Empowerment Library.

While at UTEP Steve and Sara viewed historical photographs and interviewed archivists Claudia Rivers, Abbie Weiser, and David Flores about preservation and ac-

cess. These interviews were made into a short video about SpC and the Casasola photo identification project. As of December, the video has been viewed over 4,100 times on the Powered Libraries' Facebook page. The video is available to view at: <https://www.facebook.com/powereditraries/>.

Día de los Muertos



Altar to Dr. John Haddock.

In late October SpC staff set up two altars for Día de los Muertos. One altar was in honor of Dr. John Haddock, a longtime UTEP philosophy professor. The other altar was dedicated to Rius (Eduardo Humberto del Río García), a famous Mexican political cartoonist. This altar was located next to a dis-

play of his works in the *Latino Comics in the UTEP Library* exhibit on the second floor of the Library.

This year there were memorial displays in the Library for Dr. Haddock, writer and historian Nancy Hamilton, Sam Moore, and former UTEP president Dr. Haskell Monroe.



Altar to Rius.

The Border Archives Bazaar

On October 14, 2017 over 180 people attended the first-ever Border Archives Bazaar at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Organized by the Border Regional Archives Group (BRAG), an informal organization of archivists, librarians, and museum curators in the Las Cruces – Ciudad Juárez – El Paso borderlands, the Bazaar featured documents, photographs, rare books, and artifacts from the

collections of 16 local archives, museums, and libraries.

During the Bazaar archivists, curators, and historians presented information about various historical and archival topics. Attendees were able to view and handle archival materials while learning about local history, preservation, digitization, and archives at each institution's table.

The Bazaar was covered in

the local news and made the front page of the *Las Cruces Sun-News*. Based on the success of this event, BRAG hopes to hold another bazaar in October 2018.



The UTEP SpC table at the Border Archives Bazaar.

Volunteers and Interns

Interns Desiree Campos and Sara Larissa Vega completed their summer internships in late August. Desiree worked on the José Antonio Burciaga collection and the Arturo Islas collection, while Sara worked on the Mario Garcia papers.

Volunteer Nancy Wilson completed inventorying the Lena Butchovsky postcard collection and the Mary Sarber

collection. She is currently working on an inventory of the Haskell Monroe postcard collection.

Cindy Milazzo, another volunteer, completed inventories of the Becky Hendrick papers and the Willie Ray Parish papers. She is now working on an inventory of the Duffy Stanley collection which contains materials about historic

preservation.

Volunteer Bill Key worked on the Joseph Friedkin papers. Bill also lectured at UTEP about the history and importance of mules and about the El Paso Natural Gas Company.

Longtime volunteer Eva Ross continued her work with the vertical files and gave tours

of Special Collections to many visitors. Eva also set up a memorial display for Dr. John Haddox on the third floor of the UTEP Library in late October for Día de los Muertos.

We are very grateful for the efforts of our wonderful volunteers!

New to SpC & Exhibits, July — December

New collections include:

- Art en Vivo collection (Proper Print Shop)
- Tripp map collection
- Festival Theatre collection
- Phi3 Comics collection
- Duffy Stanley collection

Exhibits include:

- Border Glamour Photography
- WWI in El Paso
- Latino Comic Books in the UTEP Library
- SPC 50th Anniversary



SpC staff with Phi3 Comics co-creator Matt Rothblatt and his daughter Isabel, August 2017.

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO LIBRARY

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The **C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department** is located on the sixth floor of the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Overview

The collections contained in the C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department directly support research and learning at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). The Department currently has over 750 archival collections, over 1,500 oral histories, various rare book collections, and thematic book collections, such as the Southwest, Chicano, Judaica, Art, Military, and McCord Poetry collections. During the 2016/2017 fiscal year we welcomed over 3,600 visitors to Special Collections.

Mission Statement

The mission of the C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department is to acquire, preserve, and make available for use the archival, rare book, media, and digital collections of the University Library within the scope of the Department's collection policies. Areas of collection emphasis include primary sources for the history of the University, El Paso, and the border region; fine printing and book design; and military history. The Special Collections Department supports the University's mission of education, research, scholarship, and community service.

Vision Statement

The Library sits on a hill within sight of the Mexican border. Our unique position informs our attitudes and the services we offer. We aim for excellence in serving our users and in making our collections accessible.



University of Texas at El Paso Library

To donate, please visit: http://libraryweb.utep.edu/about/friends_endow.pdf

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