**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
FOR THE HUMANITIES**

SAMPLE APPLICATION NARRATIVE

National Digital Newspaper Project

Applicant Institution: University of North Texas (Lone Star Ink)

This sample narrative was prepared using a previous set of application guidelines. Please refer to the guidelines for the 2007 competition when preparing your application. The guidelines are at: http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/ndnp.html

Lone Star Ink:
Exploring Texas through Historic Newspapers, 1880-1910

1. Description of the Project

For the National Digital Newspaper Program, the University of North Texas Libraries partners with the University of Texas's Center for American History, and the Texas Tech Southwest Collection/Special Collections to digitize approximately 100,000 newspaper pages. The Texas partnership will demonstrate that it holds the digital expertise, staff, advisors, cooperative partners, vendors, and resources to effectively accomplish the work plan for this program.

With its experience in completing large-scale digital conversion projects, the University of North Texas (UNT) staff understands the challenges involved in an undertaking of this scope, and possesses the knowledge and management skills to achieve success. The Center for American History's (CAH) experience with the National Newspaper Program, and its thorough scholarship background in the history of Texas newspapers uniquely qualifies CAH to handle the selection process of titles, as well as the scholarly essays. The partnership plans to outsource production of the deliverables, while managing the quality of the product for transfer to the Library of Congress (LC). Through the National Digital Newspaper program, UNT intends to deliver 100,000 pages of Texas newspapers to the Library of Congress.

Digitization of all deliverables will fully comply with the specifications outlined in the document, The National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP) Technical Guidelines for Applicants. Deliverables will include three 1,000 word essays, one for each decade covered in the project. For each title, the partnership will transmit the following: an up-to-date MARC record from the CONSER database, title-level metadata, and a 500 word essay about the scope, content, history and significance of the title. For each issue, the partnership will deliver required structural metadata. For each newspaper page, the partnership will send the following deliverables per Library of Congress specifications: two page images in raster formats, a 400 dpi grayscale uncompressed TIFF 6.0 and the same image compressed as a JPEG2000; a file with OCR text and associated bounding boxes; a PDF image with hidden text; structural metadata; technical metadata. All deliverables will be transferred to Library of Congress in a hierarchical directory structure that will facilitate identification of individual digital assets from the metadata provided. For each digitized microfilm reel, the NDNP program will receive a second generation duplicate silver made from the camera master and technical metadata concerning quality characteristics.

For the project, the University of North Texas Libraries will serve as the lead institution for the grant, handling overall management of the project and ensuring that benchmarks are met. UNT will hire a Program Manager to execute the daily operations of the project. The Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin will handle the selection process for titles and delivery of all of the essays. Texas Tech University will provide second generation microfilm from their camera masters for any titles selected from their holdings.

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The Texas Digital Newspaper Program

2. Table of contents

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Narrative

The University of North Texas Libraries and its partners at the University of Texas's Center for American History, the Texas Tech University's Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, plan to digitize and make available to the National Digital Newspaper Project 100,000 newspaper pages. The selected titles will reflect the political and economic history of the state; provide coverage for major regions of the state, including most major population areas; and have a broad chronological span. Pulling on the strengths among us, the partnership understands the challenges involved in an undertaking of this scope, and possesses the knowledge and management skills to achieve success.

History and Scope of the Project

Texas: 1880-1910

The history of Texas during this time period represents an era of tremendous growth and change for the state. With the settling of the west, pioneers and adventurers flocked to Texas in search of better opportunities. The expansive surplus of land beckoned to settlers interested in farming and cattle ranching – occupations which employed the majority of the state's population. During this time, Texas led the nation in cotton production, cattle raising, and sheep raising. In 1880, over 90% of Texans lived in rural areas, and the trend towards urbanization slowly gained ground, with just a third of Texans living in cities by 1910.

Journalism in Texas

In the 16th century, Spain reigned as the most powerful and influential empire in the world, and for almost 300 years Texas existed only as the distant Northern frontier of that empire in the Americas; an area little understood or explored. From its base in Mexico City, the Spanish Empire in the new world spread outward, exerting its control over a large area of what is now the Southwestern United States. In the 1700s, Spain established several missions throughout Texas, primarily centered near present day San Antonio, Goliad, and Nacogdoches. The *Camino Real*, also known as the *Trail of the Padres*, connected the sparsely populated area of Texas with Mexico. Neither Spain nor Mexico would make any serious effort at fully colonizing Texas, and in 1823, the Mexican government granted Stephen F. Austin empresario status, allowing him to bring Anglo settlers to the Brazos River area.

Appropriately, the first newspaper published in Texas was in Spanish. In May of 1813, the *Gaceta de Texas*, was issued by William Shaler and José Álvarez de Toledo. Both men were members of the Gutiérrez-Magee expedition which sought to overthrow Spanish rule in Texas. The party had crossed over the Sabine River from Louisiana to set up a base in Nacogdoches, from where they hoped to build revolutionary fervor. In June of 1813, Shaler and Álvarez de Toledo followed the publication of the *Gaceta of Texas* with *El Mejicano,* but only one or two issues of these first papers were printed. For well over a hundred years, it was believed that no issues of these newspapers survived, until scholar Julia Kathryn Garret discovered these first

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Texas newspapers in the National Archives while researching a book on the Gutiérrez-Magee expedition in the late 1930s. (Sibley, 27).

Due to Texas's frontier nature, business uncertainties and the volatility of the political situation with Spain and Mexico, no newspapers survived long in Texas up to the time of the Texas revolt against Mexico. Nine publishers printed newspapers between 1819 and 1836, but only the *Telegraph and Texas Register* was still in publication at the time of the Texas Revolution. Five years after Texas became a state in 1845, the number of newspapers had grown to thirty-six, and by the beginning of the Civil War, the number had grown to over eighty papers. During the war, paper became scarce and nearly impossible to find, so newspaper publishing all but stopped. During Reconstruction, publishing rapidly increased to 73 papers by 1868. As the end of the century neared, there were nearly 60 daily newspapers in Texas, and countless weeklies. By 1910, there were 89 dailies, 20 semi-weeklies, and 768 weeklies, published in over 550 towns. (Handbook of Texas Online).

Newspaper publishers enjoy a long-held reputation for supporting the communities they live in. Local newspapers in Texas promoted business, community development and public works in their areas, by enticing newcomers and businessmen to locate in their towns. The local newspaper, in many respects, served as a barometer for its community.

Population Growth, 1880-1910

Year	U.S.	% increase from prev. decade (US)	Texas	% increase from prev. decade (TX)	Texas's population rank among all U. S. states
1880	49,371,340	28%	1,591,749	94%	11th
1890	62,979,769	28%	2,235,527	40%	7th
1900	76,212,168	21%	3,048,710	36%	6th
1910	92,228,496	21%	3,896,542	27%	5th

Compiled from data at:
(2004). Historical Census Browser. Retrieved [9/26/2006], from the University of Virginia, Geospatial and Statistical Data Center: http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/index.html.

Significant events, 1880 - 1889. During this decade, several events captured the headlines. In 1881, the Texas State Capitol building burned to the ground. This loss figured prominently in the news, and the plans for funding and constructing the building were regular features in the newspapers. News coverage didn't end with the 1888 dedication of the building as allegations of improprieties involving the construction process and leaking problems plagued the building. With the ascension of ranching, disagreements over range and water rights culminated in violence. The fence cutting wars increased lawlessness in Texas, and major ranching concerns such as the X.I.T. and King ranches employed hired guns to enforce their interests. These conflicts and the resulting trials sensationalized the news of the period. Bandits and smugglers continued to ravage the U.S. and Mexican border.

Other news stories for the decade include:
- 1881 – Fort Griffin, a former bastion of the Texas frontier, closes doors.

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- 1881 – the Southern Pacific Railroad reaches El Paso.
- 1882 – The Texas Bar Association holds its first meeting in Galveston.
- 1882 – Lt. Henry O. Flipper, an Army officer who was the first African-American graduate of West Point, is court-martialed in Fort Davis.
- 1883 – Alamo survivor, Susanna Wilkerson Dickinson dies.
- 1884 – The Texas Legislature makes fence-cutting a felony.
- 1886 – A riot breaks out after elections in Laredo between the Botas (boots) and Guaraches (sandals). Three Army companies are called in to quell the violence.
- 1886 – The Texas State Fair debuts in Dallas.
- 1887 – José María Botello is ordained a Presbyterian minister, and establishes the Mexican Presbyterian Church of San Marcos.

Significant events, 1890 - 1899.

Women's suffrage, economic issues, and the Spanish-American War affected Texans during the 1890s. Women's clubs arising at this time began the first stirrings towards political equality and activism. Newspapers covered the activities of organizations such as the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Texas Federation of Woman's Clubs, chronicling the seeds of this movement that would fully mature during the progressive era. The Panic of 1893 brought economic woes to Texas. Failing mortgages and depressed commodities prices cost many farmers their land, dramatically increasing the number of tenant farmers. This proved a long-term and growing problem for a predominantly agrarian society. By 1900, over 50% of farmers worked as sharecroppers. With the start of the Spanish-American War, U.S. Army troops garrisoned throughout Texas and the Southwest were deployed to Cuba and the Philippines, disrupting the surrounding communities. Texans avidly followed coverage of the U.S. efforts against Spain.

Other news stories for the decade include:
- 1890 – During this decade, El Paso builds numerous sanatoriums to support the large number of people coming to the area to recover from tuberculosis.
- 1891 – José Mosqueda derails a Rio Grande Railroad train and steals $75,000, earning himself a permanent place in the folklore of the Texas Mexican community through ballads such as "El Corrido de José Mosqueda."
- 1893 – A statewide woman suffrage convention convenes in Dallas, chartering the Texas Equal Rights Association.
- 1893 – Fort Bliss moves to a new location at La Noria Mesa.
- 1894 – The town of Corsicana hires American Well and Prospecting Company to drill for water, but at 1,027 feet, the drillers strike oil instead.
- 1895 – John Selman shoots and kills John Wesley Hardin in the Acme Saloon in El Paso.
- 1896 – Judge Roy Bean arranges a prohibited prize fight between Peter Maher of Ireland and Bob Fitzsimmons of Australia. A chartered train delivered spectators to the remote Mexican locale.
- 1897 – Booker T. Washington speaks at the first commencement at Prairie View Normal Institute (later Prairie View A&M University).

- 1898 – Gen. Nelson A. Miles orders the "Rough Riders" from San Antonio to Tampa, Florida.
- 1899 – The coldest temperature ever recorded in the state, negative 23° Farenheit, strikes Tulia, Texas. 40,000 cattle freeze across the state overnight, a casualty of the "Big Freeze."

Significant events, 1900 - 1910. The story of the Galveston Hurricane was the most important news story of the decade in Texas. The Galveston Hurricane of 1900 remains the most fatal natural disaster ever to strike the United States, with over 6,000 deaths and three fourths of the town demolished. The Galveston *News* proved instrumental in providing information to the citizens of the town: "Although it escaped with negligible damage itself, its presses were stalled and for several days it could do no more in putting out a paper than to run off handbills on its job press. The task of surveying the damage to the city, of reporting it, of rebuilding morale of the stricken population and of contributing to relief of the suffering and various other problems that the disaster brought taxed the staff of The News to the utmost." (Galveston Daily News, 12.) The magnitude of the devastation, and the tragic stories that arose from the disaster played out in the state's newspapers in the days and months to follow. In January of 1901, the Spindletop field near Beaumont produced the first oil "gusher," an event that marked the beginning of the modern petroleum age and heralded extensive economic development for Texas's upper gulf coast. Other news stories for the decade include:

- 1902 – Newt Gresham founds the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America in Point, Texas. This organization became the National Farmers Union, the second largest farm organization in the United States.
- 1906 – Texas Ranger legend John Abijah Brooks retires.
- 1909 – The Texas Folklore Society is formed in Dallas.
- 1909 – The first ever meeting between a U.S. President and Mexican President takes place in El Paso, receiving extensive press coverage nationally and locally.
- 1910 – Frenchman Louis Paulhan pilots the first airplane to fly in Texas.
- 1910 – Jack Johnson, a boxer and Galveston native, becomes the first African-American heavyweight champion of the world.
- 1910 – A 500 pound meteorite plunges to earth from Halley's Comet landing just outside Charleston, Texas.

Texas's newspaper collections on microfilm and paper

The Center for American History at the University of Texas holds the largest collection of paper and microfilmed newspapers in the state. The CAH served as the U.S. Newspaper Program participant for Texas, microfilming over 1.1 million pages of newspapers, and cataloguing 2500 Texas titles for newspapers held at CAH. The Center holds 1,179 paper copies of original newspapers on over 1.5 miles of shelving. Prior to the inception of the U.S. Newspaper program, the CAH began microfilming newspapers in 1960 producing microfilm reproductions of approximately 1,600 Texas newspaper titles. For the target timeframe, CAH holds approximately 390,000 microfilm pages available for digitization.

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Texas Tech University's Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library maintains microfilm masters in its vault for over 1500 Texas newspaper titles, several of these representing complete or near complete runs. Texas Tech University Libraries' Southwest Collection features an in-house microfilming operation which has created an extensive catalog of microfilm masters. They hold a significant collection of West Texas newspaper titles unavailable elsewhere on microfilm. These titles provide extensive coverage for newspapers published in West Texas. For this grant, Texas Tech has agreed to be a cooperating institution for UNT, providing silver halloid microfilm copies from its master reels for selected titles. For the target time frame, they hold microfilm masters for 75 titles, constituting 240,000 pages of materials.

Commercial micro-reproduction firms have also filmed Texas newspapers. Heritage Microfilm owns the master negative inventories of three commercial firms that filmed between 1952 and 2004. For the grant, Heritage will be providing duplicate silver halloid copies of any newspaper titles chosen from their master microfilm during the selection process, and they have also provided a bid for the program deliverables. (See Appendix G for subcontractor's bids.) Heritage Microfilm is still in the process of receiving MF holdings from its buyout of Southwest Micropublishing. After researching available microfilm, Heritage identified ten titles suitable for digitization based on preliminary test scans of the film. These ten titles represent 152,400 pages of newspapers from the 1880-1910 timeframe.

Prior cataloguing effort

Phase I of the Texas Newspaper Program located historically important U.S. newspapers housed in Texas repositories and cataloged them into a national bibliographic database (OCLC). In the first eighteen months of Phase I the three major Texas newspaper repositories—the Texas State Library, The University of Texas at Austin, and Texas Tech University—received funds to catalog their newspaper holdings. Then, from July 1987 to July 1988, fieldworkers located, identified, and cataloged into OCLC newspapers housed elsewhere in the state. At the completion of Phase I in July 1988, 957 separate repositories had been surveyed and 9,045 individual newspaper titles had been cataloged and entered online into OCLC. Of these 9,045 titles, approximately 5400 are Texas titles.

Prior preservation microfilming efforts

The Texas Newspaper Project (TNP) of the United States Newspaper Program (USNP) began formally in 1986 with grant support from the National Endowment for the Humanities under the supervision of Project Director Dr. Bobby Weaver, archivist of the Panhandle-Plains Museum at West Texas State University, Canyon. In the fall of 1988, administrators of the Texas Newspaper Project and the Center for American History, with support from NEH, agreed to transfer to the Center all Texas Newspaper Project paper records. Further, it was agreed that the preservation microfilming phase of TNP would be conducted by the CAH.

The CAH's Texas Newspaper Collection, which includes approximately 2,500 Texas titles and 1.1 million pages of microfilm, is the largest collection of Texas titles in existence. Prior to 1990 and the inception of the TNP, the Center had filmed or contracted with a microfilming agent to

film various newspapers, books, and manuscripts for more than thirty years, reproducing approximately 1,600 Texas newspaper titles on microfilm. The Center directed the TNP operations on the UT campus, and its project staff of six located, inventoried, and cataloged 5,400 newspaper titles from institutions throughout Texas.

Prior digitization effort for newspapers

UNT's Portal to Texas History program hosts a year of the *Ferris Wheel* newspaper online. This weekly newspaper began publication in Ferris, Texas in 1894. During this pilot project, UNT worked with a digitization vendor to scan microfilm, as well as scanning paper issues in-house. Outside the scope of this proposal, UNT intends to host the content created from NDNP and additional materials funded by private foundations in the Portal to Texas History. Currently, the presentation of the newspapers uses Zoomify, an application which allows users to easily zoom in to see details of images. Future plans for refining this interface involve purchasing a commercial license for Zoomify that will enable us to construct a software overlay that will create highlighting of text within the newspaper pages. UNT holds extensive experience with developing, modifying and implementing software applications within its Digital Asset Management System. For example, the Portal team developed a web application that has an intuitive user interface to allow for facile reading and page turning of digital books based on interpreting an XML-based metadata format. See Appendix B for representative samples.

Methodology and standards

Access to master microfilm, 1880-1910

Due the size of the state and geographic distances involved, master microfilm exists in diverse locations throughout Texas, as well as with commercial vendors nationwide. To build a digital newspaper collection that truly represents the major population areas of Texas, as well as all of the state's major regions, strong partnerships have been formed to pull on the strengths of various institutions master microfilm holdings. There is no one-stop shopping for newspaper microfilm in Texas, so the partnership will include newspaper microfilm titles from CAH, Texas Tech, and Heritage Microfilm. CAH holds master microfilm for 1.1 million pages of newspapers, all of which meet the microfilming standards for the National Newspaper Program. Of CAH newspaper titles, approximately 390,000 pages are available within the 1880-1910 period. Texas Tech holds master microfilm for 240,000 pages of newspaper which fit within this timeframe, representing 75 titles. Heritage Microfilm recently purchased the master microfilm holdings of another company, and transfer of these reels is still in progress. After researching available microfilm currently in receipt, Heritage identified ten titles suitable for digitization based on a preliminary test scans of the film. These ten titles represent 152,400 pages of newspapers from the 1880-1910 timeframe. A comprehensive list of available newspapers for the 1880-1910 timeframe is available in Appendix A.

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Newspaper title selection

The project will engage an advisory board of eight historians, scholars, librarians, and archivists to review the proposed newspaper titles using the intellectual content selection criteria as outlined by the Library of Congress on their National Digital Newspaper Program website (www.loc.gov/ndnp/content-selection.html) and in the NEH's program guidelines. The Advisory Board will approach its decision-making process by looking at three main criteria — research value, geographic representation, and temporal coverage — and answering questions within those areas. The intellectual content selection criteria and questions include the following:

- Research value –
  - Does the newspaper have statewide or regional influence?
  - Is the newspaper a source of information on ethnic, racial, political, economic, religious, or other special audiences or interest groups?
  - Is the newspaper the "paper of record" at the state or county level?
- Geographic representation
  - Does the newspaper provide state coverage?
  - Does the newspaper provide multi-county coverage?
  - Does the newspaper provide county coverage or cover a smaller area?
- Temporal coverage
  - Does the newspaper provide coverage between 1880-1910?
  - Does the newspaper extend beyond these dates?
  - Is there a significant gap in temporal coverage?
  - Are there scattered issues, short runs, or continuous coverage over a longer period of time?

When more than one newspaper title meets the above criteria or a majority of it, the advisory board will then consider the following refined selection criteria to aid in coming to a decision:

- Has the newspaper ceased publication and does it lack active ownership, or, in other words, is the newspaper an orphan title?
- Does the newspaper document a significant minority community at the state or regional level?
- Has the newspaper already been digitized in a commercial venture? (If so, then the newspaper would be excluded from this project.) See Appendix F for a list of digitized Texas newspaper titles available in commercial databases.

Using the research information provided to them, the advisory board will rank their selections using a priority scale. The priority scale features the following ranks:

- Highest priority for digitization - Newspaper meets all intellectual selection criteria and the lack of inclusion of title would constitute a serious gap in the project. Inclusion furthers scholarship.

- High priority– Newspaper meets most intellectual selection criteria. Lack of inclusion of title would be noticed, yet other titles may suffice.

- Medium priority – Newspaper meets some intellectual selection criteria. Lack of inclusion of title may not be noticed because other titles provide similar coverage.

- Low priority – Newspaper meets few intellectual selection criteria. Inclusion of title may fill some gaps, but generally lack of inclusion would not affect scholarship.

- Not recommended – Newspaper does not meet intellectual selection criteria

With the material provided, the advisory board will review and submit their rankings to the Center's project coordinator, who will then schedule a conference call to discuss the newspaper titles and the reviews in general. (The Advisory Board members will have the means and ability to communicate with each other through the board listserv.) With the preliminary reviews as a starting point, this conference call will provide an opportunity for each title to be discussed and for any outstanding questions or issues to be resolved with all present. As a result of discussions with board members, some revisions of rankings may be made. Consequently, after the conference call, the advisory board will submit either an endorsement of its review or submit a revised review. The final selections will then be forwarded to the project's technical staff to begin the technical phase. And at this point, the Research Associate will be provided with the final list from which the 500-word essays may be generated.

To facilitate the Advisory Board's work, CAH will create a web-site for dissemination of information needed for the intellectual selection process. The site will be password protected and will include information in PDF form compiled by a Research Associate. The advisory board will log in to the website and find general information as well as information for each prospective title. Review forms and instructions for ranking will be provided on the website, which will be designed to function similarly to the National Endowment for the Humanities Grant Review password-protected website.

General information provided to each advisory board member will include the following:
- One thousand word essay on the history of Texas Newspapers
- Timeline of major political, economic, cultural history events from 1880-1910
- Index to the Texas Newspaper Collection (CAH) by Ethnic, Religious, Professional, or Political Orientation
- Index to other newspaper titles available from Texas Tech University and Heritage Microfilm
- List of Texas counties with major towns and cities within
- NEH newspaper title selection criteria
- Review form and instructions for ranking
- Advisory board roster

Briefs for each newspaper title will be prepared for the advisory board members and will include:
- OCLC bibliographic record, which will include Publication information (place of publication, city and county), years published, frequency of publication, language,

descriptors, information about previous or subsequent titles. Additional bibliographic records may be included if the run extends outside the years pertinent to this grant.

- Any history on the newspaper itself including information on publishers and/or circulation statistics.
- Fact sheet supplementary to the OCLC record to include the following:
  - Whether the title is an orphan
  - Completeness of microfilm copy
  - In lieu of an OCLC record, information about a title will be included on this fact sheet and will provide the same information that would be expected in a bibliographic record.
- Brief historical sketch of city or county serviced by the newspaper. These may simply be references to the *Handbook of Texas* (see sample entries in Appendix G), which does include county and city histories, and often newspapers as well. When a *Handbook of Texas* entry is not available, the Research Associate will compile the information from resources at the Center for American History (library secondary sources, vertical files, etc. and when necessary some primary resources).

Partner roles

The roles for each partner are fully covered in the workplan and staff sections. UNT will serve as the lead institution for the grant, handling overall management of the project and ensuring that benchmarks are met. UNT will hire a Program Manager to execute the daily operations of the project.

The CAH will manage the selection process of newspaper titles, including the research necessary to gather the information that will be provided to the Advisory Board via a password-encrypted website. Dr. Patrick Cox, a noted historian and author of *The First Texas News Barons*, will provide the three 1,000 word essays, one for each decade. A graduate research assistant will research and write the 500 word essays for each selected title under the supervision of Stephanie Malmros, Project Staff Supervisor at CAH.

Collaborative digital conversion projects

With a proven track record in collaboration, the UNT Libraries remain an advocate for the power of digital libraries in providing vital information to students, researchers, and the public. The Digital Projects Unit (DPU) at the UNT Libraries hosts and presents online two digital programs: the Portal to Texas History and UNT Libraries' Digital Collections. The Portal to Texas History is a collaborative digital project that includes forty-five institutional partners. The UNT Libraries' Digital Collections include digital collections from within the Libraries, such as government documents, music collections, and rare books materials. Materials in both programs comprise 25,095 digital objects representing over 100,000 digital images. See Appendix B for representative work samples.

The Portal to Texas History program addresses the recognized needs of several user groups: students, teachers, researchers and life-long learners wanting improved access to primary source

materials held in libraries, museums, historical societies and archives; and institutions needing assistance with digitizing and making digital copies of their collections available online. In 2002, creation of the open source infrastructure for the project proceeded with funding from a competitive Texas Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund grant. Through the technology tools developed by the DPU for the Portal to Texas History, smaller libraries and museums without the digital expertise to create their own online presence have been empowered to add materials from their collections.

Collections on the Portal to Texas History consist of newspapers, maps, books, manuscripts, photographs, posters, artifacts and letters. The site currently hosts materials from forty-five collaborative partners, comprising over 15,000 digital objects, representing over 98,000 digital images. Through prior funding, the Portal team has successfully completed several grant-funded projects involving multiple collaborative partners. Due to the outreach we provide in Texas, we hear from many public libraries intensely interested in digitizing their historic newspapers.

If selected for funding, the Texas newspaper partnership plans to host the products resulting from this grant on the Portal to Texas History, using existing infrastructure. While funding from NDNP will provide a good foundation for digitizing Texas newspapers, we realize a greater effort will be required to meet the needs of communities wanting access to their historic newspapers. With 254 counties, and four of the ten largest metropolitan areas in the United States, the goal of providing comprehensive state coverage cannot be met with NDNP funding alone. To support this broader effort, and outside the scope of this proposal, we intend to work with private foundations and community fund-raising efforts to build on the foundation made possible by NDNP.

Work Plan

Selection of materials

- UNT staff prepares a list of newspaper titles with microfilm suitable for digitization, drawing on technical information provided by the partners from CAH, Texas Tech and Heritage Microfilm.
- For each title, CAH staff conducts research and creates a website to provide information to the advisory board as detailed in the plan for selecting newspaper titles.
- Scholar Patrick Cox writes three 1,000 word essays on Texas newspapers, one for each decade from 1880-1910.
- Advisory committee selects titles for digitization based on program criteria.
- CAH provides 500 word essays for each selected title, discussing scope, content and significance of title.
- CONSER certified catalogers from the University of Texas at Austin's General Libraries will update CONSER records to include links (in the MARC 856 field) for digitized newspapers.

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Conversion processes

UNT staff will purchase second-generation duplicate silver negative microfilm, made from the first-generation camera master for titles selected for digitization. Second generation duplicates will be provided from three sources. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission will duplicate the titles selected from the Center for American History's holdings. Texas Tech University will reproduce second generation copies of microfilm for any titles selected from the master microfilm it holds. Heritage Microfilm will provide second generation copies of any title selected from its vault.

- Second-generation negatives will fulfill the standards specified in the *RLG Preservation Microfilming Handbook, 1992*.
- Upon receipt of microfilm, UNT will enter tracking data for each reel of film in a database that will track where each reel is in the digitization process.
- Second-generation masters will be shipped to the vendor selected for the digitization deliverables

Digitization. UNT will contract with a vendor to produce deliverables as defined in the workplan. As needed, UNT will research, locate, and scan paper newspapers to fill in missing issues. The paper newspapers will be digitized with a Better Light Super 8K-2 digital scanning back camera, which is capable of scanning 10,000 pixels on the longest side. Newspapers will be scanned as 400 dpi 8-bit grayscale TIFFs as newspaper size permits, but larger sized newspapers will be scanned as 300 dpi 8-bit grayscale TIFFs when 400 dpi is not possible. These TIFF images will be shipped to the vendor via firewire hard drives for processing of derivative images, OCR and metadata, and validation. The vendor will digitize newspaper microfilm to the following specifications:

- Create digital images from a preservation copy of microfilm, a clean second-generation duplicate silver negative.
- Scan at 8-bit grayscale with a resolution of 400 dpi, if possible; otherwise, 300 dpi (relative to the size of the original newspaper)
- Create image output file as an uncompressed TIFF 6.0, from which a JPEG2000, PDF and text derivatives with the same file name will be made.
  PDFs will be created to the following specifications:
  - Create a PDF image with hidden text for each page image, with a file name that corresponds to the appropriate page image.
  - Create appropriate XMP metadata per Appendix B - File Format Profiles of the NDNP Technical Guidelines for Applicants for each PDF file.
  - Provide a page image that will be grayscale, downsampled to 150 dpi and encoded using a medium JPEG quality setting.
  - Ensure that PDFs do not contain any bookmarks, links, named destinations, comments, forms, Javascript actions, external cross references, alternate images, embedded thumbnails, annotations, or private data.
  JPEG2000s will be created to the following specifications:
  - Create a JPEG2000 for each page image, with a file name that corresponds to the appropriate page image.

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- Incorporate appropriate XMP metadata per Appendix B - File Format Profiles of the NDNP Technical Guidelines for Applicants for each JPEG2000 file.
- Ensure the JPEG2000 will be 6 decomposition levels, and 25 quality levels.
- Produce JPEG2000 with compression of 8:1.
- Capture a standards-based target film strip at the start of each session, to monitor equipment performance.
- Split dual images into individual newspaper images as necessary.
- Deskew images with more than 3% skew.
- Crop page image files to the edge of the newspaper, retaining the original edge and up to a quarter inch beyond.
- Capture microfilm target frames; however, metadata will denote these as incidental images.
- Incorporate tagged metadata relating to the creation of the images into the headers for all image deliverables (TIFF 6.0, JPEG2000, and PDF).
- Produce grayscale images that have exactly the same dimensions, spatial resolution, skew, and cropping as the images used for OCR.
- Communicate regularly with UNT staff, sending production deliverables per schedule.
- Send second generation microfilm to UNT.

Metadata creation

To support the goals of the NDNP program, both structural and technical metadata will be created. The role of structural metadata is to relate pages to title, date, and edition, sequence pages within issue or section; and to identify image and OCR files according to the specifications in Appendix A: Digital Asset Metadata Elements and Appendix C – XML Metadata Templates. Technical metadata will be created to support the functions of a trusted repository as designated in Appendix A: Digital Asset Metadata Elements, Appendix B – File Format Profiles and Appendix C – XML Metadata Templates. Vendor will create structural and technical metadata with the following specifications, except as noted:

- Create a title identifier using the Library of Congress Control Number (LCCN) for that title.
- Produce a unique identifier for each issue using LCCN, Issue Date and Edition Order.
- Produce a unique identifier for each page using LCCN, Issue Date, Edition Order and Record Sequence Number.
- UNT creates issue/edition metadata for all **known** issue/edition occurrences for issues/editions known to be published but not available as a digital asset, create a record for that issue/edition and use the Issue Present Indicator to indicate the issue/edition the record described is not available.
- UNT creates page metadata for all **known** page occurrences for pages known to be published but not available as a digital asset, create a record for that page and use the Page Present Indicator to indicate the page the record describes is not available.

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- Produce reel metadata objects that describe individual scanned reels and filmed targets.
- Deliver all digital assets in Metadata Encoded Transmission Schema (METS) object structure according to an XML Batch template structure as per Appendix C– XML Metadata Templates of the NDNP Technical Guidelines for Applicants.

OCR text conversion

Vendor will create OCR text conversion with the following specifications:
- Deliver one OCR text file per page image, with a file name that corresponds to the appropriate page image.
- Ensure that page images delivered to LC correspond exactly to the dimensions, orientation, and skew to those used for the OCR.
- Create text output in UTF-8 character set.
- Ensure no graphic elements are embedded in the OCR text.
- Order OCR text column-by-column.
- Create OCR text file with bounding-box coordinate data at the word level.
- Produce OCR text files that conform to the ALTO XML schema, version 1-1-041 or greater, with additional specifications as stated in Appendix B – File Format Profiles of the NDNP Technical Guidelines for Applicants.
- Create a PDF image with hidden text, specifications below.
- Provide, if possible, the confidence level data at the page, line, character, and/or word level.
- Provide, if possible, the point size and font data at the character or word level.

Quality review procedures

Using the Digital Viewer and Validator software, vendor sends UNT the following deliverables for quality review:
- Validated Master digital page image format = TIFF 6.0 uncompressed.
- Validated OCR text file with bounding-box coordinates = 1 text file per page.
- Validated PDF Image with Hidden Text = 1 PDF per page.
- Validated derivative digital page image format = JPEG2000 (.JP2) using specified compression options.
- Validated metadata using METS in accordance with guidelines in Appendices A and E of the NDNP Technical Guidelines for Applicants with all records combined into one dataset.

Upon receipt of validated files, UNT will:
- Enter tracking date on deliverables to monitor workflow
- Revalidate all deliverables to assure quality
- Accept or reject deliverables from vendor
- Ensure metadata exists for required Issue Present Indicators and Page Present Indicators

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Data delivery mechanisms

For delivery to LC, UNT will send deliverables organized in a hierarchical directory structure sufficient for identification of the individual digital assets from the metadata provided. Specifically:

- Ship deliverable to LC via firewire-enabled durable external hard drives.
- Send a single batch per delivery device.
- Store the batch in a batch-specific directory structure.
- Base successive sub-directories on LCCN, reel number, and issue date.
- Create an XML Batch file, per the template in Appendix C of the NDNP Technical Guidelines for Applicants, at the top-level directory.
- Deliver data to LC monthly beginning no later than spring of 2008.

After completing digitization of the newspaper microfilm, UNT will label all 2N duplicate silver negative microfilm with barcodes provided by LC, and will ship them via parcel post for deposit with LC.

Time table

Time frame	Roles
F = Fall, September – November	UNT ─────
W = Winter, December – February	CAH ────
Sp = Spring, March – May	TSLAC ────
S = Summer, June – August	TTech ────
	Vendor ───

Activities	F 07	W 07/08	Sp 08	S 08	F 08	W 08/09	Sp 09	S 09
Prepare list of suitable titles for review by Advisory Board for selection (UNT)	─							
Build website for selection process, conduct research on titles (CAH)	───							
Write three 1,000 word essays, one for each decade from 1880-1910 (CAH)	───							
Attend initial meeting at LC (as scheduled) (UNT, CAH)	═							
Develop an agreed-upon production schedule with LC (UNT)	─							
Select titles for digitization (CAH, Advisory Board)	─							
Provide LC with list of selected titles, to include title, geographic and chronological coverage, and LCCN (UNT)		─						
Deliver Federal Cash Transactions Report (UNT)	─	─	─	─	─	─	─	─
Write 500 word essay for each selected title (CAH)		───	───	───				

Task	Timeline
Purchase 2N silver negative MF (UNT)	
Create 2N silver negative MF from masters (TSLAC, Vendor)	
Perform additional technical analysis of selected titles (Vendor)	
Create deliverables: TIFFs, derivative images, metadata, OCR files, per LC guidelines specified in the workplan (Vendor)	
Validate deliverables using DVV (Vendor)	
Deliver validated deliverables to UNT (Vendor)	
Trace receipt of deliverables (UNT)	
Revalidate all deliverables from vendor (UNT)	
Create metadata as necessary for required Issue Present Indicators and Page Present Indicators (UNT)	
Deliver sample digital assets to LC (UNT)	
Deliver semi-annual report to LC (UNT)	
Deliver assets to LC on a monthly schedule (UNT)	
Ensure 25% of deliverables are validated and delivered to LC by June 1, 2008 (UNT)	
Attend annual meeting at LC (as scheduled) (UNT, CAH)	
Label all 2N duplicate silver negative MF with barcodes from LC (UNT)	
Deliver all 2N duplicate silver negative MF to LC via parcel post (UNT)	
Update CONSER MARC records for newspaper titles (UT – the General Libraries)	
Ensure all digital assets are validated and delivered to LC by end of grant (UNT)	
Deliver final report to LC (UNT)	

Staff (See Appendix C for resumes.)

University of North Texas Libraries

Cathy Nelson Hartman will provide oversight and management of the project, spending ten percent of her time during each year of the grant. Hartman will interview and hire the Program Manager in consultation with Mark Phillips and will oversee his or her work. At the beginning of the grant period, she will create an RFP for the vendor open bidding process, specifying all technical details pertaining to the deliverables, and establishing a timeline for completion. Once a vendor is selected, Hartman will supervise the Program Manager to ensure appropriate contracts and benchmarks are in place. She will manage all budgetary transactions, and will ensure delivery of Federal Cash Transaction Reports as required.   Hartman hold extensive experience in managing and administering large grant projects.

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Ms. Hartman is Assistant Dean for Digital & Information Technologies at the University of North Texas Libraries and a Fellow at the Texas Center for Digital Knowledge. She actively participates in issues surrounding government information policy and digital preservation standards at both the state and federal levels. Her research and writing interests include issues related to long-term access to electronically-published government publications. Her recent activities include membership in the OCLC/RLG sponsored Preservation Metadata: Implementation Strategies (PREMIS) working group, serving on the American Library Association Council, and appointment to the Texas Records Management Interagency Coordinating Council. She is also a past chair of the Federal Depository Library Council, an advisory body on issues related to government information access policy. Her preservation efforts for electronic government information include establishing the CyberCemetery in partnership with the U.S. Government Printing Office to preserve the Web sites of dead U.S. government agencies. In 2006, the University of North Texas Libraries was invited to became an Affiliate Archives of the National Archives and Records Administration, due to the visionary role UNT played in preserving and providing access to these important resources. Hartman also created a partnership with the Texas Secretary of State's Office to archive back electronic issues of the Texas Register and the Texas Laws and Resolutions, and participated as a Texas Electronic Depository partner site to preserve Texas state government electronic publications. Most recently, she is the UNT lead for a National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP) grant in partnership with the California Digital Library and New York University for research related to the capture of Web-published information and preserving it for the long-term.

Mark Phillips will spend twenty percent of his time each year of the grant managing overall workflow and quality assessment of deliverables from the production vendor. He will directly supervise the Program Manager for these activities. Mr. Phillips is Digital Projects Unit Head and Digital Lab Manager at the University of North Texas Libraries. He oversees all stages of digitization projects for the UNT Digital Projects Lab, including workflow, standards, conversion, presentation, open source software development, and preservation. He proved instrumental in the creation of a digital object management system which provides preservation and access to digital resources created and collected by the various areas of the UNT Libraries. He presents regularly on the subjects of digitization workflows and system development to support digital library needs. In the DPU, he develops solutions, manages staff, and ensures success of grant funded projects within the libraries. Currently, he serves as technical lead at UNT for a National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP) grant in collaboration with the California Digital Library where he plans and constructs the development and design of systems that facilitate large scale web harvesting for preservation. Phillips further controls in-house development of software for UNT's role in a statewide Institute of Museum and Library Services grant. As a partner to the Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative's project to create a statewide gateway to digital resources, UNT is creating a software component for the Library of Texas search interface.
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Program Manager for the Texas Digital Newspaper Program. The Program Manager will be hired before the start of the grant period, to begin work on September 1, 2007. This position will

be funded during the two year grant period, from September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2009.   One hundred percent of this position's time will be spent on managing the Texas Digital Newspaper Program. The Project Manager, who will hold an ALA accredited MLS, MLIS or MIS degree, will manage responsibilites that include: coordinating efforts between vendors and cooperating institutions and ensuring that program objectives are met. This position will also attend the annual program meetings in Washington D.C., produce required semi-annual project reports documenting progress, assess quality of the deliverables from vendors, and manage overall progress of the project in collaboration with existing UNT staff. The Project Manager will take the necessary actions to locate, scan, and send images to the production vendor for issues needed to fill in for a complete run.

Center for American History

The bulk of the Center's involvement will revolve around newspaper title selection, which will be accomplished within the project's first year. Consequently, the Center's staff will devote a greater percentage of their time during the first year than during the second.

Brenda Gunn will hold administrative responsibilities for the Center's project-related activities. Ms. Gunn will spend 20% of her time during the first year and 3% the second year. She will work closely with CAH staff as they design and build the web site for the advisory board. She will establish a listserv for the advisory board in order to facilitate communication with and amongst the members of the board. (The listserv will be hosted by the University of Texas and can be established through UT's Information Technology department.) Ms. Gunn will coordinate the work of the Advisory Board and the review process. She will arrange and host a conference call during which the Advisory Board will go over each title in order to answer any outstanding questions regarding the newspapers and their rankings. During the second year, Ms. Gunn will continue to report to the project directors at UNT and to assist, as needed, with the coordination of duplication of the Centers' silver printing master.

Ms. Gunn has served as Assistant Director for Research and Collections at the Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin since August 2005 and prior to that was Head of Archives and Manuscripts, a position she held for six years. Ms. Gunn has participated in many digitization projects, both within the Center and more broadly with the University's Utopia effort (a digital gateway to UT's cultural resources). Active in professional organizations, Ms. Gunn is currently the Vice-Chair for the Society of American Archivists' Preservation Section, Regent for Examination Development of the Academy of Certified Archivists, and Immediate Past President of the Society of Southwest Archivists. Ms. Gunn holds an MLIS with an emphasis in Archival Enterprise from the University of Texas at Austin, an MA in English and BA in History from the University of Texas at Tyler.

Stephanie Malmros, Head of Archives and Manuscripts, will spend approximately 10% of her time to this project in the first year, dropping to 5% the second year. She will hire, train, and supervise a Research Associate, who will work on the project for 20 hours per week for one year. She will also participate in the hiring process of the project interns and will assist the Research Associate with supervision of the interns as needed. Ms. Malmros' direct supervision will include editing the 500-word essays written by the Research Associate. Ms. Malmros will assist

with coordination and duplication of CAH microfilm for scanning and will take over this task during the second year. With the supervisory duties no longer necessary, Ms. Malmros' time commitment to the project drops to 5%.

Ms. Malmros has been the Head of Archives and Manuscripts since August 2005 and prior to that served as the Center's Registrar. While a master's candidate in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Ms. Malmros worked on the NEH-funded Texas Newspaper Project at the Center as a student assistant and then rose to lead the project, a position she held at the project's end in 2000. Of all staff at the Center, Ms. Malmros possesses the most direct knowledge of the Texas Newspaper Project and the resulting newspaper microfilm collection, from which some titles are likely to be chosen (since the criteria for title selection for the NEH microfilm project was similar to the criteria for the NDNP).

The Center's web staff, **Linda Newland** and **Steve Williams**, will create a password-protected website for the Advisory Board that will be the basis of information dissemination. Ms. Newland and Mr. Williams have extensive experience with web applications and development, both in their current positions with the Center and, in the case of Ms. Newland, with the Texas State Historical Association, where she was instrumental in developing the *Handbook of Texas Online*.

The Center will hire a **Research Associate** who will work twenty hours per week for one year. (Job announcement is included in Appendix D.) The Research Associate will direct the work of the two **Interns** hired for four months, while assuming initial responsibility to conduct research on the proposed newspaper titles and prepare information briefs for the Advisory Board. The Research Associate will begin by compiling a timeline of events from 1880-1910, and will then conduct research on the proposed newspaper titles by using the primary and secondary resources available at the Center. Likely secondary sources to consult include the standard state encyclopedia, *Handbook of Texas*, as well as subject and biographical vertical files, various almanacs, and county, city, and general Texas histories from the Texas Collection Library. The Research Associate will also make use of specific newspaper histories, where they exist or general Texas newspaper histories such as the following: *The First Texas News Barons*, by Patrick Cox, and *The News in Texas: Essays in Honor of the 125th Anniversary of the Texas Press Association*, edited by Wanda Cash. If needed, the Research Associate may consult primary source material relevant to this project, which includes the records of the Texas Press Association during the time period covered by this grant.

Once the information briefs are completed, the Research Associate will work with the Center's web staff to scan the information briefs for uploading to the Advisory Board's website. The Research Associate may begin to write the 500-word essays for selected newspaper titles after the reviews have been completed but prior to the Advisory Board's conference call at which time some changes in reviews may result. The project staff can direct the assistant toward titles that received highest priority rating and that meet the technical standards for project, most likely beginning with titles that were filmed as part of the Texas Newspaper Project. While writing the essays for the selected newspaper titles, the Research Associate will also coordinate the duplication of the Center's silver printing masters for the selected titles.

Additionally, the Center will hire two, 19-hour per week interns for four-months to assist in researching the newspaper titles and preparing the information briefs for the advisory board. (Job announcement is included in Appendix D.) Once the briefs are prepared, the intern will assist in preparing the documents for uploading to the Advisory Board's website and will begin working with the Center's project coordinator to prepare for the Advisory Board's conference call and the subsequent accounting of their reviews.

Advisory Board

Mark Barringer is the Associate Dean in the College of Liberal and Applied Arts at Stephen F. Austin State University. Dr. Barringer received his PhD and Masters in History from Texas Christian University and his BA from Eastern Montana College. He serves as a manuscript referee for publishers including Pearson Education, Texas A&M University Press, University Press of Kansas, University Press of Colorado, University of Nevada Press, University of Oklahoma Press, YMI, and the University of Texas Press.

Patrick Cox is an Associate Director at the Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Cox received his doctorate in history and his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas at Austin, and earned a Master of Arts in History from Southwest Texas State University. He serves on the Board of Directors of the American Journalism History Association, and a contributing editor to the *Digital Journalist* and *American Journalism* publications. With a specialization in twentieth century American political, media, and social history with an emphasis on Texas and the Southwest, Dr. Cox has been a lecturer for courses on Texas, the Southwest, the American South, media history, and U.S. history. Dr. Cox's newest publication is *The First Texas News Barons*, published by the University of Texas Press, 2005. Dr. Cox authored a biography of the late U.S. Senator Ralph W. Yarborough titled *Ralph W. Yarborough: The People's Senator*, which won the Robert Kennedy Foundation Book Award for 2002.

Cynthia Duda DuBois is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies and Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She earned her doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Texas at Austin, where she specialized in Hispanic Academic Success. Merging her experience as a social studies teacher in Texas schools with her current teaching and consulting efforts, Dr. DuBois is an ardent advocate of the use of primary source material in the classroom. She has developed K-12 curriculum for the Center for American History as well as other organizations that feature archival material.

Danielle Cunniff Plumer is the coordinator of the Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative (THDI) at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, promoting participation by institutions throughout the state, developing tools for resource discovery and access, and establishing long-term support for the project. She has a PhD in medieval English literature from the University of California at Davis and an MS in Information Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. Her interests include the creation and evolution of technologies for writing, reading, storing, and using information. Prior to joining the Texas State Library, she was an adjunct faculty member at

the UT Austin School of Information and Genealogy/Local History Librarian at the Round Rock Public Library System.

Mary Lynn Rice-Lively is the Associate Dean of the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin where she oversees the day-to-day operations of the School and coordinates staff and activities of Information Technology Services. Dr. Rice-Lively earned her doctorate in Library and Information Science at the University of Texas at Austin, her MLIS at the University of North Texas and her BA in English and History at the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to her career in academia, Dr. Rice-Lively served as a professional librarian at the University of Texas and in a public library setting in Dallas, Texas. She has presented on various library and information topics to state, national, and international audiences. Currently, Dr. Rice-Lively is the Principle Investigator in an IMLS-funded grant, "Digitization in the Round: Educating Digital Librarians for the 21st Century. The grant seeks to recruit and educate library and information professionals in the art and science of creating and managing digital libraries.

Claudia Rivers is the Head of Special Collections Department at the University of Texas at El Paso where she has responsibility for acquisition, preservation, and accessibility of book, manuscript, and photograph collections housed in UTEP's C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department. Ms. Rivers holds an MLIS with an Endorsement of Specialization in Archival Administration from the University of Texas at Austin. A certified archivist, Ms. Rivers is active in the Society of Southwest Archivists and the Border Regional Library Association, having served as the President in 2004-05. Ms. Rivers has presented widely at regional and state archival meetings on various archival, library, and preservation topics.

Carol Roark is the Manager of the Special Collections Division (Texas/Dallas History and Archives Division//Fine Books) at the Dallas Public Library. She holds a BA in Anthropology from the University of Texas, Austin, an MA in American Studies from Texas Christian University, and an MLS from the University of North Texas. Her specialties are Texas and regional history, focusing on architecture and photography. She has published four books, *Fort Worth & Tarrant County: An Historical Guide* (TCU Press, 2004), *Fort Worth Then & Now* (TCU Press, 2001), *Fort Worth's Legendary Landmarks* (TCU Press, 1995), and *Catalogue of the Amon Carter Museum Photography Collection* (Amon Carter Museum, 1988) as well as numerous articles and book reviews for historical journals. A Certified Archivist, Ms. Roark is a past president of the Society of Southwest Archivists. She also served on and chaired the State Board of Review for the National Register of Historic Places, which reviews nominations of Texas buildings, districts, and sites to the National Register.

Robert L. Schaadt is the Director-Archivist of the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty, Texas, a facility of the Archives and Information Services Division of the Texas State Library & Archives Commission. Prior to his arrival at the Sam Houston Regional Library in 1983, Mr. Schaadt was the Texas State Library's field archivist for thirty-four counties along the Gulf Coast. Mr. Schaadt holds a B. A. in History from Oakland University and an M. A. in History-Archival Management from the University of California. He is a charter member of the Academy of Certified Archivists. Since 1978 he has been active in many historical and

archival organizations, served on several state historical commissions, and has several publications to his credit including The History of Hardin County. He served in several positions with Society of Southwest Archivists, including chair of the Society's Professional Development Committee, Secretary and Treasurer from 1995-2005, receiving the Distinguished Service Award in 1999. He actively promotes Texas History through presentations, a monthly radio show and writing for newspapers. As the Center's Director he has served since 1984 as a liaison with the University of Texas at Austin's Center for American History's newspaper project due to his expertise in the newspapers of Southeast Texas.

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