

## Data rescue & recovery

A prototype project to unlock more than 100 years of USGS data





R. Wharton.

#### FLOODS S DEVASTA1 MANY HO

RICHMOND SEP BY THE RI

Many Names Added to Roll With Crest at Heil stead Yesterday.

SIMONTON IS REPORTED AS NOW INUNDATEL

Five Miles to Dry Land From That Point-Over 100 Homes in Vicinity of Wallis Were Washed Away by Rising Water Yesterday.

Mammafead, where the creet of the floor passed Monday, is reported to have a loss of life of over a score.

The crest of the flood passed Wharton Sunday night. Only one death is reported that of a woman, but the Schudallifamily is reported missing. Thirty I' are reported dost up and down F

At Bryan, H. R. Cavitt, Clifton E. A. J. Robbins, Albert Worley and Henry Berger, all engaged in rescue work, died. the former three of exposure and the latter two being drowned.

Simonton, according to a report from Fulshear, is submerged, a number of pegple being reported marsoned in the secand story of a store there.

Flood water is subsiding at Victoria. Smithville and Columbus, the village of Flekville, near Victoria, being Inundated, Estimated at Somerville that hundreds of people are still marconed in the bottome of that section; many refugees now making their way to that point.

Fifty deaths between Hearne and Navagents but not including deaths at Them points, is the estimate announced by Lieutenant L. A. Brown, U. S. A., In

Work of rescuing marconed people on Ross Mound, near Sealy, was undertaken vestorday by boats from Galveston.

Over 100 homes in the vicinity of Wal-

the county fall at Richmond and still ris.

A wide expanse of water surrounds Hungarford, additional deaths including six regroes being reported.



No Loss of Life Rep

Early this morning tes calned for the safety of the flood waters were ing in the town. dicated that the hou section had been flor even with the houses and the Ji o'clock this morni Richmond by tel

port that from was in the ma 1055 of 1110 WA that the effo further inur Two hun WITH THE near Fuls



FLOOD VICTIA

#### RIVER STAGE DATA

RIVER DISTRICT OFFICE Houston, Texas

Station Toxas River

Richmond

Dec 10 1913 48.2 ft

July 1899 45.6 ft

48.0 Blavation RR

June 6 1929 40.0 ft

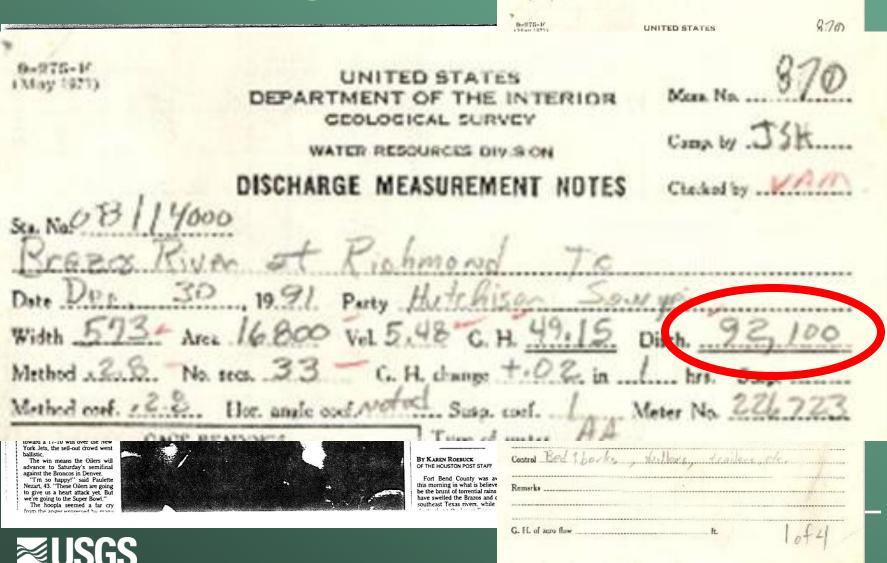
May 5 1987

37.5

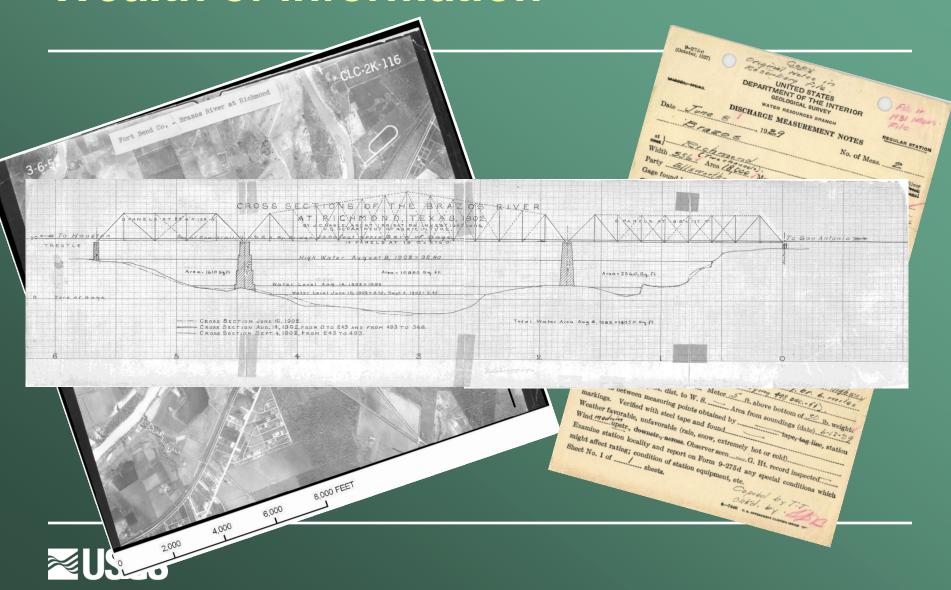
3527

42.0 Elevation LS

### 1991 flooding

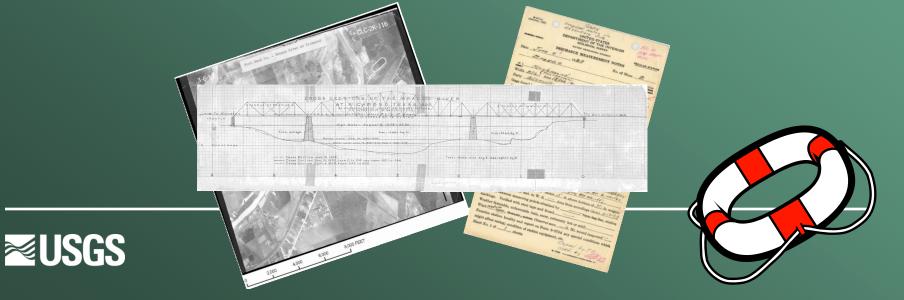


#### Wealth of information



#### Valuable data are at risk

- USGS records contain 100+ years of data
- Records storage is de-centralized
- Records retrieval is time consuming and cost prohibitive
- Valuable historical data are at risk!



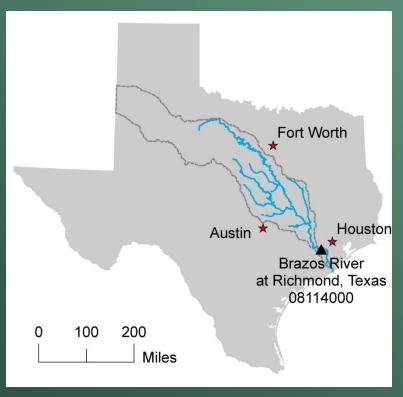
#### Approach

- 1. Select a focus site
- 2. Retrieve & inventory records
- 3. Set standards for digitizing data
- 4. Select a vendor to scan the data
- 5. Index scanned data
- 6. Design and test Web user interface





## Focus site: USGS gage 08114000



- Brazos River at Richmond, Texas
- Consistent gage location
- Observations recorded beginning in 1901

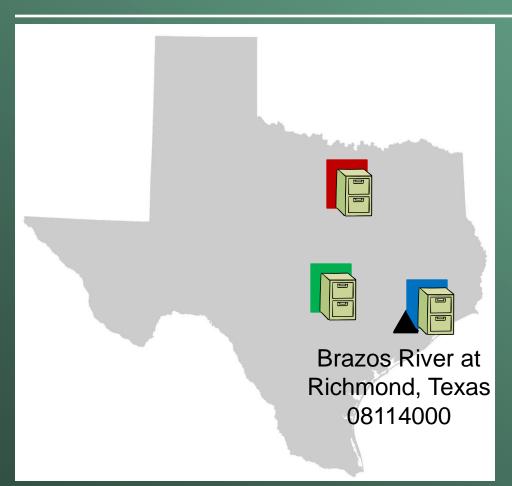




## **Brazos River history**



#### Records retrieval



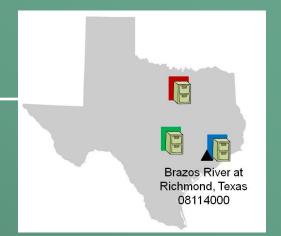
- USGS Austin
- USGS Houston
- National Archives and Records (NARA)





#### Records retrieval steps

Retrieve records from file cabinets



Meet with Office Chief

Retrieve records from file cabinets



**Deliver** records

Search paper NARA forms



Register to retrieve records



Complete electronic request form

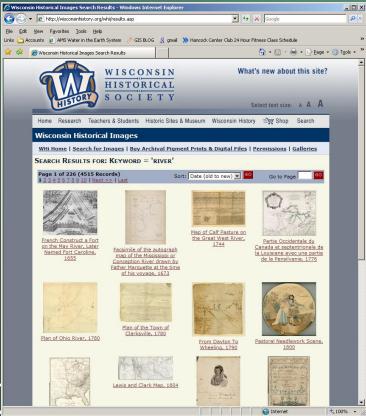


Records ship via ground mail

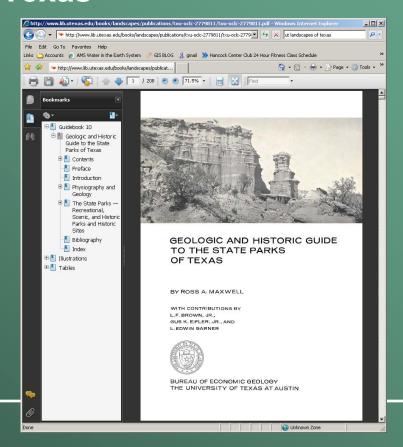


### Data recovery is nothing new

# Wisconsin Historical Society

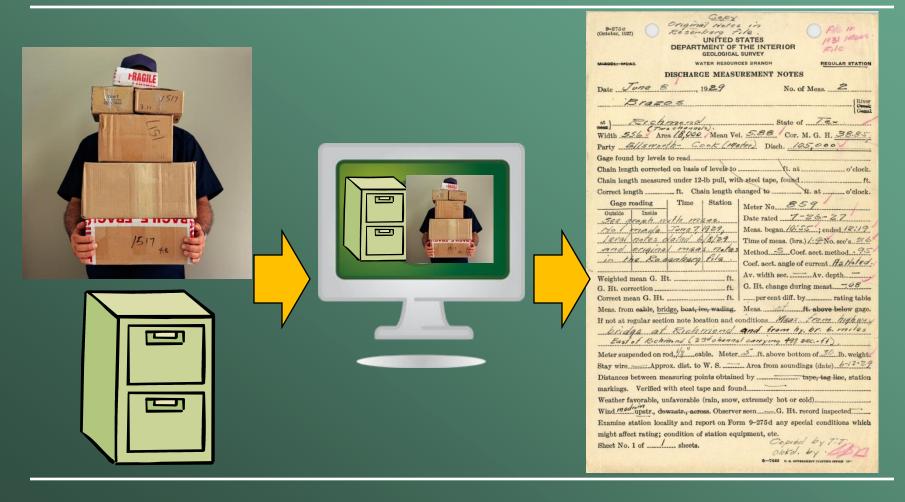


# UT Austin Landscapes of Texas





## **Books to bits: Digitizing data**





## Decisions, decisions

**JPG PDF** 622 kb @ 300 DPI scan
 57 kb @ 300 DPI scan



#### Decisions, decisions

#### **JPG**

- 622 kb @ 300 DPI scan
- Document stored as separate images
- Rely on indexing to link pages of a single document
- Good for photos
- Easy to view right away on a website

#### **PDF**

- 57 kb @ 300 DPI scan
- Pages stored as a single document
- Good for multi-page measurements
- Takes longer to view on a website





#### Color vs. black and white

AND THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY				
Copy.				
9-975e (October, 1927) Original Hotes in Rosen				
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR				
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY				
VMISCEL: MEAS: WATER RESOURCES BRANCH				
DISCHARGE MEASUREMENT NOTES				
Date June 7 , 1929 No. of Mens. 1				
Brazos				
Chair.				
at ] Richmond State of				
Width 570. Area 19200 Mean Vel. 6.15 Cor. M. G. H. 39.95				
Party Ellsworth - Cook Disch. 118,000				
Gage found by levels to read				
Chain length corrected on basis of levels toft. ato'clock.				
Chain length measured under 12-lb pull, with steel tape, foundft.				
Correct lengthft. Chain length changed toft. ato'clock.				
Gage reading   Time   Station   Meter No. 859				
Outside Inside Date rated 7/26/27				
notes dated 6/8/29 and Time of meas. (hrs.) 2 No. sec's 8				
Researchers tiles Coef, acet, angle of current H5 Motes				
Coer. acct. angle of current_122_10125				
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G. Ht. correctionft. G. Ht. change during meast69				
Correct mean G. Htft.  per cent diff. by rating table				
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If not at regular section note location and conditions. Man. term by bridge at Rich mand and by bridges 6-8 miles East of Rich man for the				
Pook of flood 40.61tt. See levels doted 6/8/29				
Meter suspended on rod, 12 cable. Meter 5 ft. above bottom of 30 lb. weight.				
Stay wireApprox. dist. to W. S Area from soundings (date)6-12-15				
Distances between measuring points obtained by tape, tag line, station				
markings. Verified with steel tape and found				
Weather favorable, unfavorable (rain, snow, extremely hot or cold)				
Wind hit upstr., downstr., across. Observer seenG. Ht. record inspected				
Examine station locality and report on Form 9-275d any special conditions which				
might affect rating; condition of station equipment, etc.				
Sheet No. 1 of sheets. Copied by Title				
6—7440 c. a. servannent promitive output ser				
A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A				

Coctober, 1927)  Coctober, 1927  Coctober, 19					
DISCHARGE MEASUREMENT NOTES  Date July 1, 19.27 No. of Meas.    State of Midth 570 Area 19.20 Mean Vel. Cor. M. G. H. 97.95	(October, 1927)  UNITED STATES  DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  GEOLOGIAL SURVEY				
Date Turing 7 19.27 No. of Meas.  State of State	VMISCEL: MERS: WATER RESOU	RCES BRANCH			
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Outside Inside  See attlactive graph, level  Meas began. 5	Correct length ft. Chain length	changed to ft. at o'clock.			
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6—7440 c. s. constitution reactions center serv	Sheet 110. 1 of Sheets.				
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#### In-house or outsource?

#### Student



#### Pro



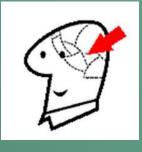


#### Vendor selection

- Factors to consider:
  - Cost
  - References
  - Knowledge and expertise
  - Document handling methods
  - Turn around time
- Selection process:
  - Site visits
  - Test scans
  - Relationship building



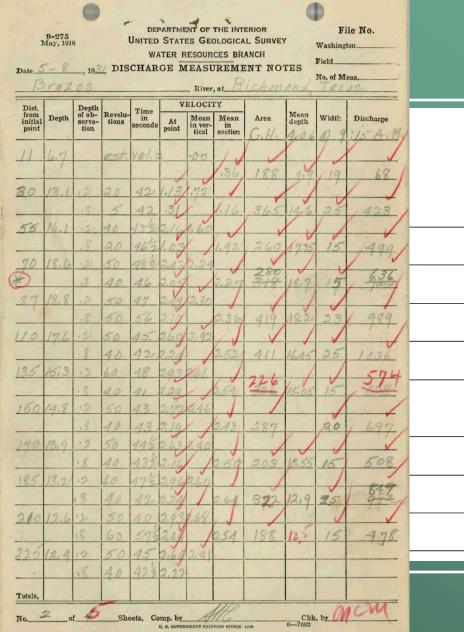






### Indexing

Please print all information in the spaces provi Last Name Home Address Home Phone **Employer Name and Address** Social Security Number **Primary Insurance** Company Name and Phone Number Billing Address Name of Insured and Relation to Patien Insured's ID Number





### **Genealogy & history**

```
(List as far as possible and in chronological order, all observers who have maintained readings at this
         station.)
                 Name of observer
                                           Dates of service
                                                                        Compensation
              C. S. Mc Elroy
                                      1/1/03 - 6/5/06 (Booth)
                                                                10/15/19 (Rosenberg
              W. J. Meininger
              Valles De Tonies
              Geo. W. Nelson
              Oliver Cochran
              Robert S. O'Brien
              Lewis A. Goss
                                                                        $7/mo + 250 ea.
              Leon J. Helwig
                                      5/1/44 - 3/31/52
                                                                        10/1/45 to dates
              Sanford J. Butler
                                                                        $8.50/mo (S & E);
              Earl Wright
                                      4/1/52 - 5/31/55
              Sanford J. Butler 6/1/55 - 3/31/57
                                                                        3.50/mo (RH-1) 600
W. J. Meininger
1912-1913
              Mrs. Willie H. Butler
                                     4/1/57 to date
                                                                        ea. extra (RH-1).
```

W. J. Meininger, USGS Observer, 1914-19, and Mayor of Rosenberg, Texas, 1912-13.

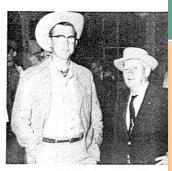


### **Genealogy & history**

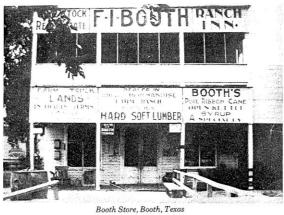
```
(List as far as possible and in chronological order, all obse
          4. Obverver.
            station.)
                    Name of observer
                                             Dates of service
T. R. Booth
                 W. J. Meininger
                 James B. Jones
                 Geo. W. Nelson
                 Oliver Cochran
                 Robert S. O'Brien
                 Lewis A. Goss
                 Leon J. Helwig
                 Sanford J. Butler
                 Earl Wright
                                         4/1/52 - 5/31/55
                 Sanford J. Butler 6/1/55
                                               - 3/31/57
                 Mrs. Willie H. Butler
                                                to date
```



Tom Russell Booth (1890– 1962) was the son of Mildred (Ryon) and Freeman I. Booth. Circa 1938, from Richmond High School Yearbook.



Thomas Walter Booth and father Tom Boo



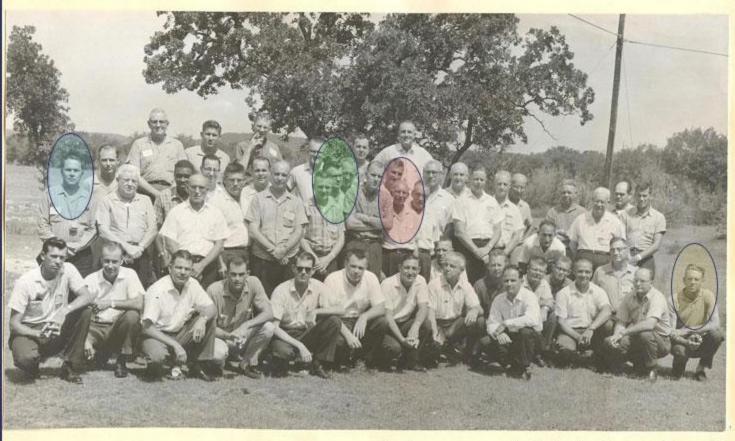
Tom Booth, USGS Observer, 1906-1914, and descendent of the "Old Three Hundred".



## **Agency history**

#### U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TEXAS DISTRICT CONFERENCE

BAR K RANCH JONESTOWN, TEXAS JUNE 24-27, 1963





Holland Reeves Johnson Reynolds McGrand Hampton

Anderson Pleasant Mills Rathbun Souer Souer Bettings Hulme Hutchison Jennings Goines Williams Kennon Pritchett Lear Spiers Hastings Allen

Massey Martin Carnes Steger Buckner Espey Gilbert Krauss Kaminski

### **Agency history**

#### U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TEXAS DISTRICT CONFERENCE BAR K RANCH JONESTOWN, TEXAS

Alexander

Hampton

Goines

Krauss

Ferguson Gordon

Reynolds McGrand

Sauer

#### **Search Results**

#### Click on a document group to expand your search results

Jump to: Data Supplementary

Smith

Twichell

Martin

#### Data

» return to top



Document	Date	Description
Data: Discharge, Gage Height, Velocity	1/10/1932	Discharge Measurement Notes
Data: Discharge, Gage Height, Velocity	7/19/1934	Discharge Measurement Notes
Data: Discharge, Gage Height, Velocity	12/4/1936	Discharge Measurement Notes
Data: Discharge, Gage Height, Velocity	12/6/1936	Discharge Measurement Notes

Johnson

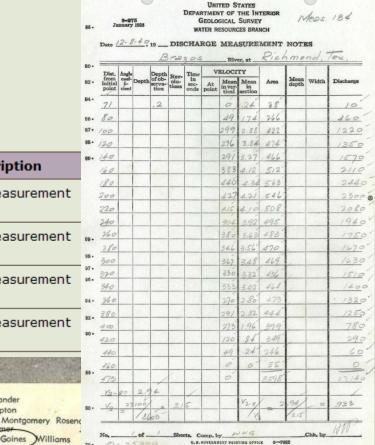
Buckner

Reeves

Steger

Albert

Carnes



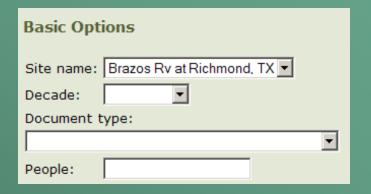
Grozier



#### Interface development

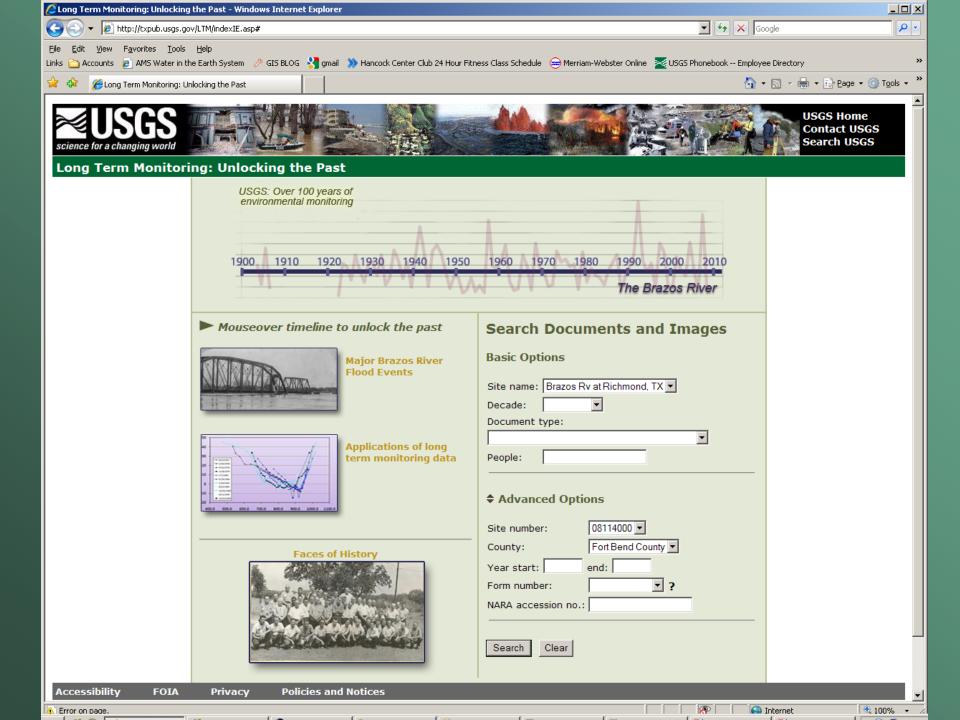
Search

- What might Joe Q. Public want to search by?
  - Ancestor name
  - Photograph
  - Place name
- What might Frank want to search by?
  - Gage number
  - Date
  - Type of document



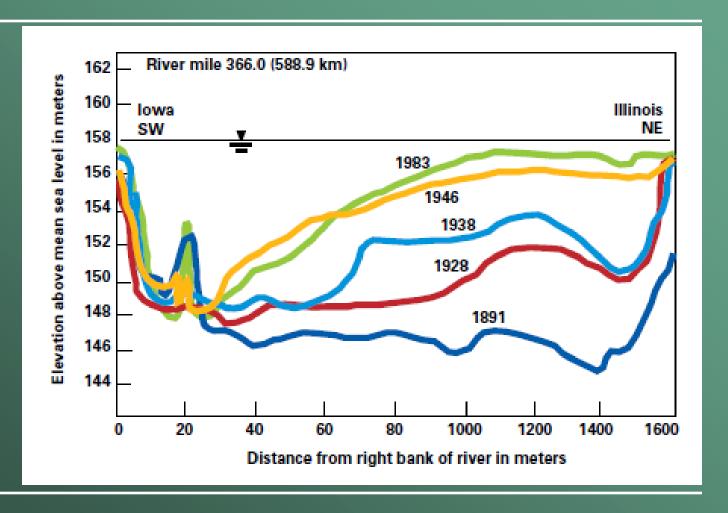
<b>♦ Advanced Options</b>		
Site number:	08114000 🔻	
County:	Fort Bend County 🔽	
Year start:	end:	
Form number:		
NARA accession no.:		





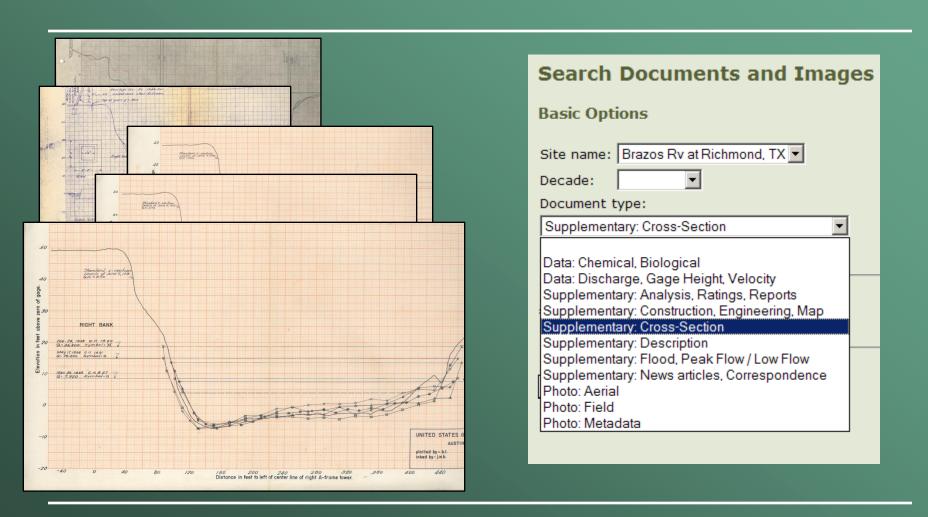
#### **Environment and wildlife health**

"The prediction that ecologically productive backwaters will fill and disappear in the next 50 to 100 years is alarming and clearly identifies sedimentation as a major concern of natural resource managers. »



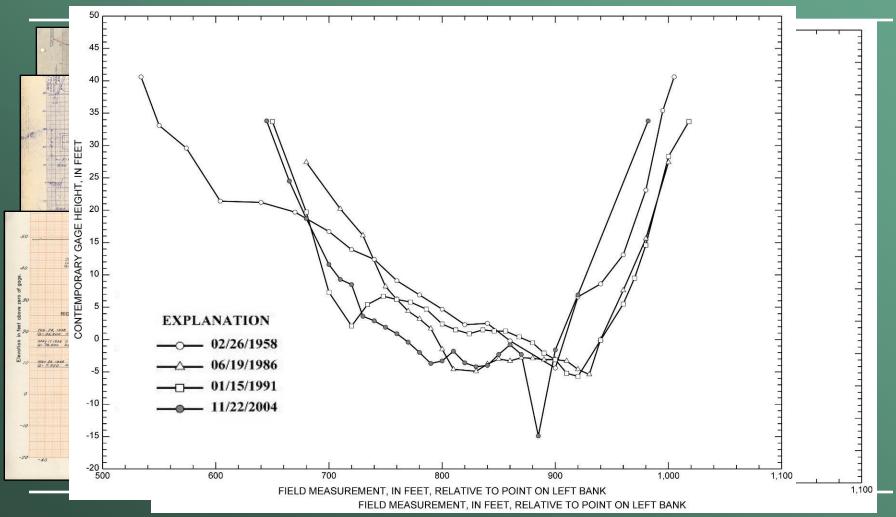


#### **Texas Instream Flow Program**



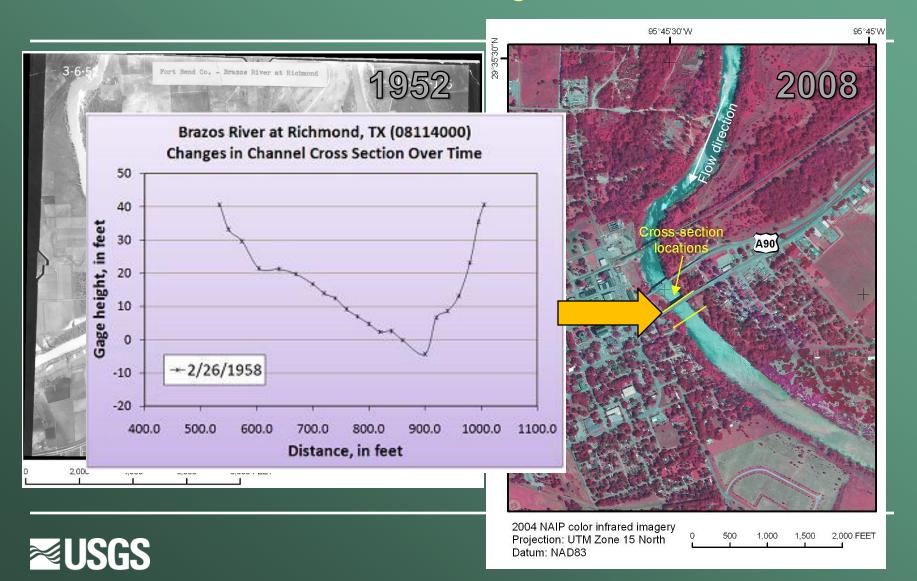


## Historical channel adjustment

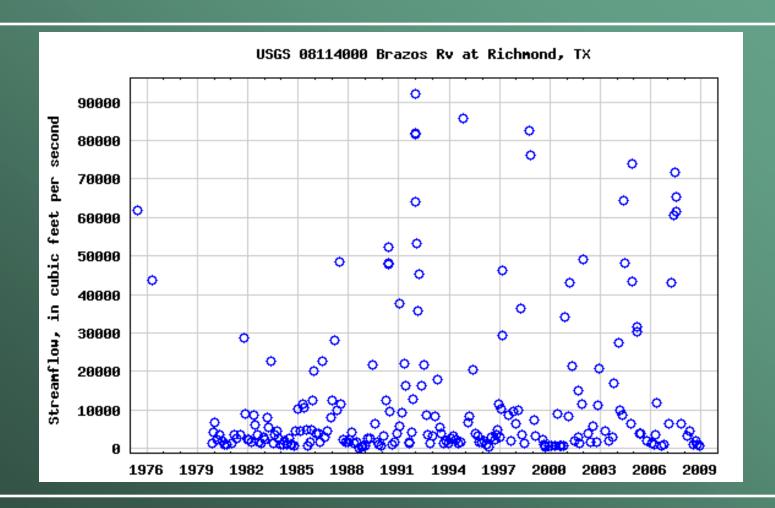




### Historical channel adjustment

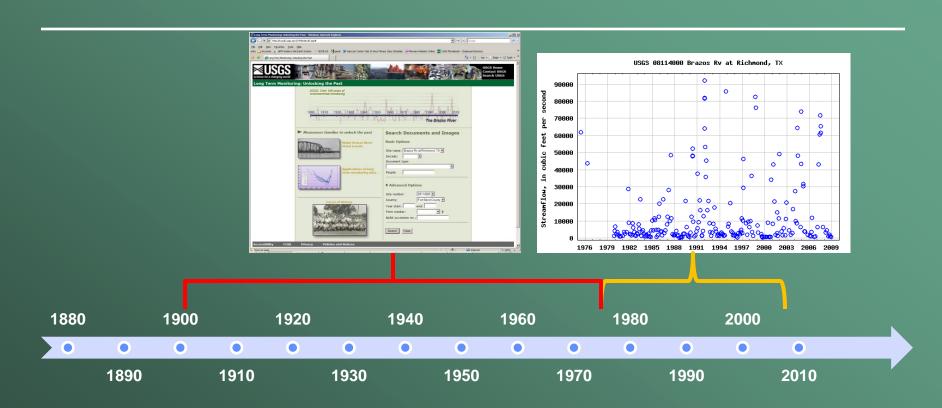


#### **NWISWeb**





### **NWISWeb**







#### **Products**

- 5709 scanned pages
- 2243 documents
- Spatially enabled database
- Searchable Web site

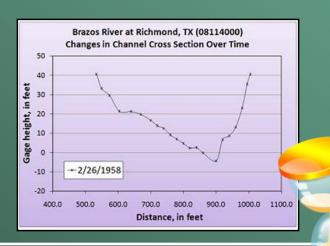






#### **Application**

- Estimate of time saved on Instream Flow project if historical data were available online
  - Student hours 10
  - Records retrieval & shipping hours 20
  - Researcher hours 2
- 32 hours total





#### **Future work**

- Text recognition
- Improve indexing
- More sites and data types
- Optimize viewing in different browsers (Firefox, Safari) and platforms (Mac, PC)





#### Acknowledgments



- Brian Reece
- Deanna Eames
- Jayne May
- Franklin Heitmuller
- Lauren Greene
- Sophia Hurtado
- Stephanie Ford
- Venezia Chavez

http://txpub.usgs.gov/LTM





#### Contact



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- Brian Reece
  - bdreece@usgs.gov

http://txpub.usgs.gov/LTM



