

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO LIBRARY

Volume 5, Issue 2

December 2019

News and Updates

Welcome to the Special Collections seminannual newsletter!

During the 2018/2019 fiscal year, we welcomed over 4,000 visitors, answered 1,815 reference questions, and did bibliographic instruction for 24 classes. In-person researchers used 566 archival collections and 1,864 books. Online resources were also heavily used: 19,285 images were viewed via our image database and 8,779 oral histories were downloaded.

Outreach activities included an Archives 101 workshop in June and the third Border Archives Bazaar, which was held on September 28 in Las Cruces. In October, Claudia Rivers, department head, gave a

talk about *Peleliu Landing* and *A Grizzly from the Coral Sea* for Tom Lea Month.

October was also Texas Archives Month, and one of our images was chosen for the official Texas Archives Month [poster](#).

Staff curated two new exhibits: 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing and the UTEP Christmas Ornament Collection on the Library's second floor. New exhibits on the third and sixth floors will open in early 2020.

Our 2020 calendars will be mailed out later this month. This year's theme is travel and tourism.

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



Claudia Rivers (second from right) with students from the Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua. The students presented at UTEP's Graduate Student Research Expo and then stopped by Special Collections for a tour. Photo courtesy of Verónica Villegas.

Archival Award of Excellence

In October Special Collections received the prestigious [2019 Archival Award of Excellence](#) (institution category) for the Casasola Studio Photo Identification Project from the nine-member Texas Historical Records Advisory Board (THRAB).

Jelain Chubb, Texas State Archivist, presented the award to Special Collections staff and library director Robert Stakes at an award ceremony in Special Collections on October 25.

Over 35 people, including members of the Casasola

family and people who identified Casasola photographs, attended the event.

Special thanks to Ms. Chubb for traveling to El Paso to present the award and to THRAB for this important recognition.



Jelain Chubb at the award ceremony in Special Collections on October 25.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department

Archives 101 Workshop



Archives 101 workshop, June 27.

The Border Regional Archives Group (BRAG) held its first professional development workshop, "Archives 101," on June 27 in UTEP Special Collections. Over 30 people attended the all-day workshop, which was geared toward archivists, curators, and librarians who manage collections, but lack formal training in archives and preservation.

Topics covered included:

Introduction to Archives; Preservation; Appraisal and Selection; Accessioning; Arrangement and Description; and Outreach.

Claudia Rivers, Abbie Weiser, and David Flores of UTEP Special Collections all taught sections of the workshop. Other instructors included Dennis Daily and Dylan McDonald of NMSU's Special Collections and Archives, Sue Taylor of the

New Mexico Space History Museum, and Robert Diaz of the El Paso County Historical Society.

Based on enthusiastic feedback, BRAG plans to hold another similar workshop sometime in 2020. Attendees also requested workshops about digital records and more in-depth preservation topics.



Building the American Dam photograph album, PH090.

New to Special Collections

- Building the American Dam in El Paso photo album
- Escuela Primaria Rosaura Zapata photo album
- American Furniture building collection
- Paso del Norte U.S.-Mexico Solidarity Committee collection
- El Paso mass shooting collection and Internet Archive site
- John Porter Bloom Mexican War collection (books and archival materials)
- Carol Price Miller papers
- Diana Natalicio papers
- *McCarthyism vs. Clinton Jencks*
- *Border Land, Border Water: A History of Construction on the U.S.-Mexico Divide*
- *Postcards from the Chihuahua Border: Revisiting a Pictorial Past*

Volunteers & Interns

Eva Ross continued working on the vertical files. She is also working with Special Collections to update her El Paso Women's History Coloring Book. Eva organized a Women's Equality Day Brunch on August 24 at Loretto Academy.

Cindy Milazzo completed her inventory of the Ray Past papers and is now

working on inventorying the Edge of Texas radio program records.

Nancy Wilson completed her inventory of the Leon Metz papers and is now working on the John O. West papers.

UTEP-EPCC Humanities Collaborative interns Luis Garcia and Katherine Espinoza worked on inventorying

and evaluating two large book collections—one by Dr. John Sharp and the other by Dr. John McNeely.

Virginia de la Fuente, a graduate student from UNT, worked on adding more-detailed metadata to the Casasola Studio photograph collection.

Thank you to everyone for your hard work.



Eva Ross at the Women's Equality Day Brunch at Loretto, August 24.

Día de los Muertos

This year Special Collections dedicated its Día de los Muertos [altar](#) to the 22 victims of the August 3 terror attack in El Paso.

The altar included a collage of photographs of the victims as well as traditional items such as sugar skulls, food and water, *papel picado*, and marigolds (traditional flower of the dead).

Abbie Weiser also set up a

display of items (primarily newspapers and publications) collected by staff about the mass shooting and its aftermath.

Additionally, Special Collections worked with Jane McGuigan of Access Services to create a [LibGuide](#) for sources about the shooting, and with Dr. Miguel Juárez of the History Department to add content to our [Internet Archive site](#).



Día de los Muertos altar, 2019.

Border Archives Bazaar



Border Archives Bazaar, September 28. Photo courtesy of the Border Regional Archives Group.

Over 275 people attended the third Border Archives Bazaar on September 28 at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces.

Organized by the Border Regional Archives Group (BRAG), participating institutions included UTEP Special Collections, NMSU Special Collections, the El Paso Public Library, the El Paso

County Historical Society, the Chamizal National Memorial, and the El Paso Archaeological Society.

In addition to displays of original historical documents and photographs, the Bazaar featured talks about local history by historians C.J. Alvarez, Rick Hendricks, Janine Young, Julia Smith, and Jeff Shepherd.

The Bazaar also included showings of two historic films: *La Venganza de Pancho Villa* from UTEP Special Collections and *The Devil's Mistress* (an early acid western) from NMSU Special Collections.

Special thanks to the Farm and Ranch Museum for hosting this event.

In Memorium

Jose Andow (1921—2019)

Mr. Andow was an award-winning photographer and owned a successful photography studio in El Paso. He started his photography career at the Casasola Studio in 1935 as a teenager. He was also a proud WWII veteran.

Russell Waterhouse (1928—2019)

Mr. Waterhouse was a celebrated local artist and member of the El Paso Artists Hall of Fame. He created oil paintings and illustrated several Texas Western Press publications. The UTEP Library hosted an exhibit of his landscapes and sketches in December 2011.

Jose Andow (center) with a trophy for his award-winning photographs, circa 1950s, Casasola Studio photo collection, PH041.



C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO LIBRARY

UTEP Library
500 W. University Ave.
El Paso, TX 79968

Phone: 915-747-5697
[Website](#)

SpC Staff

Claudia Rivers,
Department Head

Abbie Weiser,
Assistant Head

David Flores,
Photo Archivist

Yvette Delgado,
Imaging Specialist

Gracie Galvez, LA II

Anne Allis, LA II

The **C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department** is located on the sixth floor of the UTEP 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 1,600 oral histories, various rare book collections, and thematic book collections, such as the Southwest, Chicano, Judaica, Art, Military, and McCord Poetry collections. During the 2018/2019 fiscal year, we welcomed over 4,000 visitors.

Mission Statement

The Special Collections Department supports the University's mission of education, research, scholarship, and community service. 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; women's history; fine printing and book design; and military history.

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.



Archival Award of Excellence award presentation, October 25. Left to right: Abbie Weiser, Jelain Chubb, Claudia Rivers, and Robert Stakes.

To donate, please visit our [website](#).