

TDL Spotlight: UTB/TSC repository aids in border studies research



Though often associated with a single issue – illegal immigration – the communities of the US-Mexico border form a rich and complex region presenting a unique set of opportunities and challenges for scholars, policymakers, and residents. With the help of the Texas Digital Library, the University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College is undertaking a project to collect and disseminate Border Studies scholarship in order to facilitate a deeper and more nuanced understanding of this important region.

The US-Mexico border region spans 2,000 miles from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean, traversing deserts, mountains, forests, rivers, and wetlands, and serving as home to some 18 million people. Many of those people live in pairs of sister cities that straddle the border and that have evolved uniquely bi-national, interdependent cultural and economic identities.

Brownsville, the southernmost city in Texas, and

Matamoros, Tamaulipas, form one of these bi-national communities at the eastern edge of the border region. And the University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College, a member of the University of Texas System and the Texas Digital Library consortium, is uniquely positioned to provide insight into the unique challenges and opportunities presented by the border region.

With funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), UTB/TSC is currently planning the development of a Border Studies Resource Center that will collect and disseminate Border Studies research, an area of study that comprises many disciplines and has real-world implications for policymakers on both sides of the border.

One important component of the Resource Center is a digital repository hosted by the Texas Digital Library. With the repository, UTB/TSC will create a centralized collection of border-related research produced in both the US and Mexico. [Continued on pg. 2](#)

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TDL Spotlight: UTB to create Border Studies repository (cont.)

John Hawthorne, Assistant Director of the Oliveira Library at UTB/TSC, hopes the repository will elevate the usefulness of border studies by making it easily accessible to researchers around the world.

"This region of the U.S. and Mexico is misunderstood in both nations," he said. "Our hope is that the Border Studies Resource Center will help scholars and policymakers throughout the U.S. as a resource for accurate information."

In 2009 UTB/TSC received a \$99,276 planning grant from the IMLS, which it is using to gather resources, hold meetings, recruit partners, and identify content for the repository. It has been holding a series of forums in the U.S. and Mexico to solicit feedback on how the resource center can be most useful to scholars and public policymakers and to identify potential partners in the project.

A key player in the formation of the Resource Center will be the Texas Center for Border and Transnational Studies, a teaching and research center at the university that is headed by Dr. Antonio Zavaleta.

UTB/TSC has also found an external partner in El Colegio de La Frontera Norte, the preeminent Mexi-

can university that studies the border region. But the team's goal is to create a larger consortium of institutions in the two countries that will partner in the creation of the Border Studies Resource Center.

As part of the planning process, members of the UTB/TSC team will attend DSpace training classes offered by the Texas Digital Library. The team will also work with the TDL to create a prototype repository with roughly 100 items, as well as a planning document for how to move forward with the project. The team hopes to apply for a second IMLS grant to continue work on the Resource Center once the planning phase is complete.

The ultimate result will be a collection of interdisciplinary resources with a practical purpose: "We would like the rest of the country to better understand the region," Hawthorne said. "Our region is the future of the U.S."

Anyone wishing to contribute to or learn more about the Border Studies Resource Center can contact John Hawthorne, Assistant Director of the Oliveira Library, at John.Hawthorn@utb.edu. To find out more about DSpace repositories hosted by the Texas Digital Library, please visit the [TDL Web site](#). ◇

Texas Digital Library offers new tools for conference management



The Texas Digital Library is pleased to offer its members a new tool for advancing scholarly communications at their organizations: Online Confer-

ence Management powered by [Open Conference Systems software](#).

Using the Open Conference Systems platform, developed by the Public Knowledge Project, TDL can host conference Web sites and provide tools for:

- managing registration
- handling abstract and paper submissions
- managing the review process
- publishing conference proceedings

To set up a conference Web site, please contact the TDL at info@tdl.org. For more information about Online Conference Management with the Texas Digital Library, please visit the [TDL Web site](#). ◇

Services Update: Use of Vireo grows, development continues on all projects

The Texas Digital Library technical team continued work on a number of fronts, including on-going improvements to the Vireo ETD system, as well as development of the Texas Learning Object Repository (TxLOR), and the TDL Preservation Network.

Vireo ETD Management

Three TDL member schools — Texas A&M University, UT Austin, and Texas Tech University — are using the Vireo system to manage the submission and approval process for electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) in the spring of 2010. Several other institutions — including Angelo State University, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, University of Houston, UT Medical Branch at Galveston, and Texas State University— are either evaluating or testing the system for future use.

The TDL Austin development team is currently engaged in bug-fixing and quality improvement work with Vireo. The TDL plans a release of these improvements during the spring semester.

To stay up-to-date on release dates and other news about Vireo, interested TDL members can join a new listserv designed to communicate latest devel-

opments about the software. To join the listserv, please contact Ryan Steans at info@tdl.org.

Texas Learning Object Repository

The TDL is working in partnership with the [UT TeleCampus](#) to create the Texas Learning Object Repository (TxLOR), a statewide repository for digital objects used in teaching and learning.

TxLOR developers have created a tool for depositing learning objects and a DSpace repository for storing and disseminating the items. The team is working on additional ingestion and display features in advance of the [Texas Distance Learning Association conference](#) in March, where project manager Junius Rowland of UT TeleCampus will present TxLOR to attendees.

Preservation Network

The goal of the Preservation Network (PresNet) project is to provide long-term storage of digital information via geographically distributed storage nodes. Currently, the TDL has storage nodes operational at Texas A&M, UT Austin, and Texas Tech; this alpha network is handling special collections of data from several TDL members. ◇

Texas Conference on Digital Libraries set for May 17-18, 2010

The fourth annual **Texas Conference on Digital Libraries** is set to take place May 17-18, 2010, on the University of Texas at Austin campus.

The 2010 conference, which is sponsored by the Texas Digital Library, continues its exploration of topics related to the creation and promotion of digital libraries at Texas institutions of higher learning, with a focus on collaboration among institutions in the service of advancing scholarly communications.

This year's conference sessions will take place in the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, located on the University of Texas at Austin campus. Rooms at the conference center hotel will be made available to attendees at the state rate.



Texas Conference
— on —
Digital Libraries

The two-day conference will include a poster session to close the first day, as well as a series of workshops on the afternoon of day two.

Stay tuned for announcements, including registration information and calls for participation. For more about TCDL 2010, visit the [conference Web site](#). ◇

TDL offers Spring 2010 training sessions at Baylor University in Waco

The Texas Digital Library welcomes faculty and staff from all TDL member institutions to participate in training courses covering the full range of TDL services.

Please visit the [TDL Web site](#) for more information about location, registration, and cost. Additional dates may be scheduled, so check back often.

January 25, 2010

- ETD Management with Vireo (9 AM – 4 PM)
- Introduction to DSpace (9 AM – 4 PM)

February 23, 2010

- ETD Management with Vireo (9 AM – 4 PM)
- Scholarly Electronic Journals (9 AM – 4 PM)

March 25, 2010

- ETD Management with Vireo (9 AM – 4 PM)
- Open Conference Systems (9 AM – 4 PM)



April 22, 2010

- DSpace Customization (9 AM – 4 PM)

May 27, 2010

- DSpace Systems (9 AM – 4 PM)

All sessions listed above are held at Baylor University in Waco. ◇

About the TDL

The Texas Digital Library is a multi-university consortium providing the digital infrastructure to support a fully online scholarly community for institutions of higher education in Texas and to promote the widespread availability of their enormous intellectual capital.

Services provided by the TDL to its members include:

- ◆ Institutional repositories
- ◆ Electronic Journals
- ◆ ETD Submission and Management software
- ◆ Scholarly Blogs
- ◆ Research Wikis
- ◆ Faculty homepages
- ◆ Online conference management

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University of Houston*
University of North Texas
The University of Texas at Arlington
The University of Texas at Austin*
The University of Texas at Brownsville
The University of Texas at Dallas
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center

* *founding institution*