

Creating Open Access to A Historic Newspaper from an International Port City

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Abstract:

In 2019, the Rosenberg Library of Galveston partnered with UNT to apply for an IMLS-funded Library Services & Technology Act TexTreasures grant through the Texas State Libraries and Archives Commission. This grant was intended to digitize Galveston's Evening Tribune, from 1885 to 1900, on The Portal to Texas History, and it represented the beginning of a productive cross-institutional partnership that has resulted in open access to rich newspaper content for researchers worldwide.

Galveston, Texas, known as the "Wall Street of the South" until the Great Hurricane of 1900, served as an international shipping and trade hub, particularly as the U.S.'s largest cotton port. Also a center of publishing, many newspapers were founded and dissolved in early Galveston to such an extent that it was dubbed the "newspaper graveyard." The Evening Tribune began publication in 1880 under the name, The Print, and was one of the few newspapers to survive to long-term publication. Upon successful completion of the 2019-2020 grant round, the two libraries received two additional years of funding to make the Galveston Tribune collection available up to 1916. In addition, after the success of the Tribune partnership, the libraries have collaborated to build access to a set of labor union titles representing Galveston and Texas between 1901 and 1950.

This paper will discuss the approach the institutions took to partner and will explore the grant project management process as a case study in collaborative workflows. It will explore the impact of building open access to this historic news content on educating researchers about a city that was rich in trade and was a hub of labor activism in the U.S. It will conclude with discussing the educational initiatives

both institutions have undertaken to incorporate these newspapers into program planning in library outreach and instruction.

Keywords: Digitization, collaboration, grant-funding, newspapers, partnership.

1 CREATING OPEN ACCESS TO A HISTORIC NEWSPAPER FROM AN INTERNATIONAL PORT CITY

Until the Great Hurricane of 1900, Galveston, Texas, served as an international port city, vying with New Orleans as the largest cotton port in the United States. As a result, Galveston was an international city with a rich newspaper publishing tradition that served businesses, workers, and readers across the world.

In 2018, Lauren Martino Henry of the Rosenberg Library of Galveston reached out to University of North Texas Libraries (UNT) to investigate how they could work together to build access to the *Evening Tribune*. Henry recognized that the newspaper was currently available in microfilm format on some pay-access websites, but the original microfilm images had not been of high quality, and the scans were not very readable or searchable as a result. The Rosenberg Library had a full collection of bound volumes of the *Evening Tribune*, and UNT's Digital Newspaper Unit owns multiple large-format scanners for projects just like these. As a result, a partnership was born.

In Texas, collaboration between public libraries and UNT has led to digital preservation of and open access to over nine million newspaper pages in the Texas Digital Newspaper Program (TDNP). This work is often grant funded, with partnering libraries applying to state agencies and private foundations to pay UNT for digitization services. UNT's Digital Newspaper Unit is almost entirely funded through external support. These library collaborations serve as the meat and mead of the program, staffing three full-time staff members, between twelve and fifteen part-time student workers, and led by a director who is UNT library faculty. The work of publicizing the grant and project activities falls primarily to the public library responsible for obtaining the funds, though the Digital Newspaper Program Director also assists with publicizing, presenting most often to university students, genealogical and historical societies, and other public libraries.

The collaborative work between the Rosenberg Library of Galveston and University of North Texas Libraries has entailed two separate projects: First, the *Galveston Print* and *The Evening Tribune* LSTA-funded project, and second the Galveston Area Labor Newspaper Project. Galveston's *Evening Tribune* began publication in 1880 under the name, *The Print*, and was one of the few newspapers to survive to long-term publication. As *The Print* and then as the *Evening Tribune*, this newspaper documents business and labor issues worldwide, as well as local news and events. After the success of the grant-funded *Tribune* project, the Rosenberg Library procured local funds to support digitization of their labor newspaper collection, with the goal of opening access to the voices of those people who fought for workers' rights on an international level, using the Galveston newspapers to do this. This paper will explain how the partnership developed, how the hands-on work was completed, and how the respective libraries have worked with users on interacting with the newspapers.

2 GROUNDWORK

In the U.S., the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) distributes funds to states through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) to support "community organizations to provide a variety of services and programs, including access to electronic databases, computer instruction, homework centers, summer reading programs, digitization of special collections, access to e-books

and adaptive technology, bookmobile service, and development of outreach programs to the underserved” (IMLS, 2022). In Texas, the Texas State Library & Archives Commission (TSLAC) utilizes these funds to support competitive grant opportunities, for which libraries within the state may apply to build different kinds of projects, including newspaper digitization (TSLAC, 2022). Libraries may apply for three consecutive years for grant funding to support the same project. Applications are due in late February/early March, each year.

In late 2018, Henry approached UNT’s Ana Kraemer, explaining the benefits of scanning from physical copies of the *Tribune* (rather than microfilm), and particularly noted the importance of having the title freely available for research in TDNP, via The Portal to Texas History. The onus for the Rosenberg Library was to argue in the grant application for the statewide significance of building open access to the newspaper. Without digitization, the content would be lost due to deterioration of the original newspapers.

From 2019 to 2021, the Rosenberg Library applied for and received three consecutive awards of \$25,000. Each award covered digitization for 23,000 pages of the *Evening Tribune*, as well as transportation and curation of the physical newspapers. The first application was the most difficult to prepare because it required planning to account for:

1. **Transport:** Moving fragile newspapers from Galveston to Denton (where UNT is located), which entails a six to seven-hour drive.
2. **Newspaper Preparation:** Newspapers had to be disbound, inventoried, and arranged in preparation for digitization.
3. **Digitization Processes:** Entailing the workflow around turning physical pages into digital images, and then building access to them.
4. **Transport Again:** Returning the newspapers to Galveston.
5. **Promotion:** Promotion would take place throughout the grant year and after the funded work was completed. Once the newspapers were visible to the public, this involved work on the parts of both institutions.

Each of these stages had to be explained in the grant project budget, accounting for every penny spent. In addition, each stage had to be scheduled within the grant application and reported on in quarterly reports by the Rosenberg Library.

After the successful application and completion of two grant rounds, as well as an award of the third grant round, the Rosenberg Library could see a proven value to building open access to the collection. Prior to being uploaded to The Portal to Texas History, the *Galveston Evening Tribune* was only accessed onsite a few times per year due to its fragile condition and lack of indexing. A significant increase in use was clearly visible from the usage statistics for the specific collection, accessible from the collection’s page (see figure 1).

Figure 1: Usage statistics arranged by month and year for the *Galveston Evening Tribune* collection.

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
2022	3,050	3,736	3,810	5,358	3,036	3,410							22,400
2021	2,548	1,759	2,754	2,706	2,488	3,677	2,530	2,979	2,151	2,687	1,743	2,398	30,420
2020	1,342	622	1,229	1,429	1,718	1,523	1,840	1,654	3,077	2,134	1,154	1,760	19,482
2019	0	77	235	219	204	106	161	173	314	161	167	580	2,397

One usage on The Portal to Texas History is defined as an individual user’s total interaction with a given object on the Portal, on a single day (The Portal to Texas History, 2022). Thus, each measured usage indicates an individual interaction with one object, or issue in this case. To draw a comparison between book checkouts at a library, the 9765 total issues from the *Galveston Evening Tribune*

Collection have been “checked out” over 74,000 times, for a 757% usage rate (The Portal to Texas History, 2022). These usage statistics are one of a number of ways the Portal tracks how people utilize its materials, but these in particular are helpful in grant reporting because the collection statistics are openly linked to every individual collection.

After the success of the LSTA-funded projects, the Rosenberg Library determined that another collection that would draw high research interest was their Galveston labor newspaper collection, which consisted of seven titles, primarily *The Union Review*. The Rosenberg Library had local funds to support growing access to their special collections, and these labor newspapers represented labor rights for the entire first half of the twentieth century.

Both the *Tribune* and the labor collections required some pre-digitization processing work, and because UNT is a university and the Newspaper Unit employs Library and Information Sciences (LIS) students, these collections represented a teaching opportunity to provide hands-on experience to students seeking to learn how to curate physical newspaper collections.

2.1 Newspaper Preparation: Initial Processing

“Digitization” is a simple word that does little justice to explaining the process involved in preparing physical newspapers for online access. The *Evening Tribune* collection was a bound set of newspapers, with each grant set comprising approximately 30 volumes. UNT’s process for the newspapers for digitization entailed an army of student workers and one full-time staff member to manage them. This process included disbinding, inventorying, and placing newspapers into archival boxes, and it served as a learning lab experience for student workers enrolled in UNT’s LIS program. The stages below are how staff and student workers processed the collection.

Each round of grants began on September 1, with the Rosenberg Library couriering newspapers to UNT. Upon receipt, UNT confirmed that everything on the packing list had arrived and then organized the items to fit into the next steps of our digitization process. As a bound collection, the *Tribune* had to be processed before scanning.

However, the separate Galveston labor newspaper collection arrived at the Digital Newspaper Unit as archivally boxed, loose newspaper issues and was therefore ready to be scanned without any initial processing. Disbinding and inventory are essential for digitization and long-term storage of newspapers, but it is labor intensive. The boxes for the Galveston Labor Collection were beautifully organized and the physical page manager Brooke Edsall believed it would cause no problems in scanning or confirming the accuracy of the page counts, so she decided to forgo local inventory in favor of more quickly finishing the project. This decision-making process aligns with Greene and Meissner’s “More Product, Less Process” (MPLP) philosophy (2005, p. 208-263). For other newspaper projects that arrive unbound but not boxed, a student assistant would arrange, inventory, and box the collection prior to scanning.

2.2 Preparation for Scanning: Disbinding and Inventory

UNT’s newspaper disbinding process is based on training and consultation with the UNT Libraries’ (now former) Preservation Librarian, Jessica Phillips, and Cultural Heritage Preservation specialist Rebecca Elder. Disbinding ensures the best potential for catching all text from paper to scanned file, and it prepares newspapers for long-term storage by protecting the paper from acid damage due to being compressed into binding. During this process, staff will:

- **Inventory issues to document irregularities:** Missing pages, incorrect dates, missing issues.
- **Archivally box formerly-bound volumes:** Flat storage in archival boxes prevents long-term deterioration due to paper compression and shelving.
- **Open edge text visibility:** Bound newspaper volumes lose internal edge text, and disbinding ensures that the text from internal edges of pages is not cropped out of the scanned images.

The ultimate goal of disbinding is to have loose newspaper pages with no residual glue, string, or fasteners. With so many different binding methods, this sometimes entails removing nails, staples, and one time even razor blades. For the *Tribune* project, disbinding each volume required careful removal of strings and glue to free pages, but this represented the most common disbinding practices.

Disbinding took on average four hours per book, primarily with scalpels, wire cutters, and pliers to remove string and glue. To support safe and hygienic practices, the Newspaper Unit keeps a sharps bin for disposal of metal fasteners and worn scalpel blades. In addition, workers have access to face masks, aprons, and cut-resistant gloves. It is important to note that, in all physical page handling, staff do not wear cotton gloves because this risks snagging or tearing newspaper pages—gloves are only used on paper in the movies, and the Newspaper Unit is much more utilitarian than Hollywood. Staff are required to wash their hands before handling newspapers. The scanning and disbinding areas are food-free areas, with separate locations for covered drinks only.

The Newspaper Unit staff process all projects chronologically; thus, an employee will start with the earliest volume in the collection, an archival box, and their preferred tools. Employees first remove the hard binding with a scalpel, slicing down the hinge between the front cover and the first free endpaper. They then close the book, flip it over, and do the same to the back cover. This reveals the inside spine of the book which is glued to a ribbon. The employee then opens the book, squares the pages to a right angle at the spine and uses their body weight to push down along the cover to remove the external spine from the ribbon, while holding the stack of pages still. This is usually repeated on alternating sides of the binding until the cover is entirely free. This is a careful process requiring close attention to detail.

After removing the cover, what remains is a bound block of newspaper pages. Orienting the pages to have the first pages on top of the stack, the worker will next remove top end paper to reveal knots from the strings that hold the pages together. Cutting these knots frees the binding strings to be more easily removed. Similar ties exist in the back of the book, though those can often be left as we work down the spine of the book and those are at the bottom. The spine of the book is covered in glue, strings, and often a ribbon that runs the length of the spine, all of which must be removed. To do this, the employee uses a scalpel to shave off the glue which both frees the pages and allows the strings to be removed in sections. Holding the blade parallel to the spine of the book, the employee shaves off the glue with enough pressure to remove it, but not so much that they gouge into the edges of the margins. This is a very tactile skill that takes practice to perfect.

More experienced workers are able to judge the amount of pressure needed for different kinds of glue, as some are tacky and others are crusty, but this is typically the hardest part of the process to train. employees often work down the length of the spine to free sections of pages at a time, removing or cutting strings along the way. Employees can tell that they successfully removed all the glue and string because when they lift the pages up from the stack, they lift easily with no resistance. If there is resistance, that means something is keeping the pages together that needs to be removed; workers never rip pages out of the binding. Once an issue is freed from the binding, the workers will also feel down the edge of the page to confirm there is no glue left. Anything sticky or crusty has to be removed before scanning and touch is much more accurate than sight. Workers place freed pages in a pile upside down in the lid of the archival box they have pulled. This helps the scanning workers to more easily move pages around within the box, as needed, and it also helps to determine how many issues can fit in a single box. This process is then repeated until all of the glue and strings are removed, and all of the pages are freed from the binding. One employee was able to disbind between six and eight *Evening Tribune* volumes within a forty-hour work week.

During disbinding, staff also create an issue-level inventory for each year or box of newspapers, similar to the calendar collation files used for National Digital Newspaper Program microfilm projects. Collation sheets are calendars on which student workers can circle the issue date and write the number of pages in the issue. Rather than depending on printed page numbers, workers count each page because printed page number counts were often incorrect. Student workers also note

irregularities or changes when disbinding, such as extra editions or missing sections. The resulting inventory sheets are later scanned and used as a reference for quality control and metadata.

2.3 Scanning

UNT's large format scanners are housed in an adjacent room dedicated to scanning. Fondly named "The Batcave," this room is set up with consistent, low-level lighting, wire shelving, worktables, and four planetary, large format scanners. Each scanner is situated with its own workstation, each equipped with a worktable, microfiber cloths, and calibration documents.

The scanners are spaced far enough apart to prevent their respective light sources from interfering with that of their neighbors. To help with lighting, each scanner is also spaced by worktables and large shelves. The standard for physical newspaper page scanning is 400 dpi, 24-bit full color TIFF, but each scanner has different size allowances.

- **i2S CopiBook Systems:** two scanners, A2 size, on which approximately 70% of the newspapers can fit.
- **i2S SupraScan A1 Quartz:** one scanner, A1 size, on which approximately 90% of the newspapers can fit
- **i2S SupraScan A0 Quartz:** one scanner, A0 size, on which 100% of the newspapers can fit.

For project management purposes, each title is assigned to a scanner based on its page size and paper stability. Especially fragile or fragmented pages are much easier to scan on the A1 or the A0 scanners because of differences in the mechanics of the glass plate, even if they are small enough to fit on the A2. For the Galveston project, approximately three fourths of the assorted labor titles were scanned on the A2 scanners. The *Evening Tribune* and the remainder of the other labor papers were scanned on the A1 or A0.

Also for project management purposes, the Newspaper Unit employs a system of visual cuing to help students more easily work through projects without having to request their next task from a staff member. Because the Newspaper Unit runs the large-format scanning for the entire library, sometimes other, non-newspaper projects come through that also get completed on the scanners. These are arranged as:

- Two "Queue" shelves next to each scanner, where students pull boxes of newspapers to be scanned,
- Two "Outgoing" shelves for boxes that have already been scanned and are awaiting post-scanning quality control and return to partner,
- And two miscellaneous shelves for holding projects brought in from other departments in the library, oversized items, or single box projects.

All shelves are labeled with letters and numbers, for instance Rack E has shelves 1 through 4. This organization system allows the Newspaper Unit to maintain a physical location map and inventory to immediately identify where a box is in the scanning process based on its location: If it is on a scanner's queue shelf, then it is in line to be scanned on that machine. If it is on the outgoing shelf, it has been scanned and is waiting for rescans or to be returned to the partner. This makes project assignment simple and enables staff to spatially track project progress.

In addition to this spatial organization, the scanning workflow uses a color-coded sticky note system as another signifier of what is happening with a specific box of newspapers. Blue notes with a check mark designate that a box has been scanned, while pink notes with numbers designate the immediate scanning queue, and green notes communicate any special quirks related to a project. For example, when multiple partners contribute a single newspaper title, and boxes must be tagged to indicate

which came from whom. Together, these systems create visual cues that keep workers abreast of the larger project, and they represent a good project-management lab for student workers to learn from.

After physical arrangement of newspapers, post-processing steps are as follows:

1. **4-8 Hours Scanning:** Each archival box holds between 800 and 1000 pages of newspapers, with the condition of the pages dictating how long a project will take to scan.
2. **Transfer TIF files with Robocopy to:**
 - a. One issue preparation drive (external drive): workers use this drive to separate TIF files into issue folders, following a yyyyymmddEdition# format, per NDNP practice.
 - b. One backup drive: to correct any file-level mistakes or problems that may occur on the issue preparation drive. Such problems could include page file deletion during issue separation or an invalid file copy.
3. **Issue Separation:** student assistants separate raw images into folders by issue date, in which they create issue-level metadata, including volume and issue number and information about issue irregularities.

After issue separation and metadata creation, the hard drive is returned to a full-time staff member for image and metadata quality control.

The Galveston Labor Newspaper Collection, in comparison, took less time prepare for digitization because most of it was already arranged in archival boxes and inventoried according to date. As a result, UNT could skip most pre-pressing steps to complete this work within six months of receipt.

After completing scanning of both newspaper collections from the Rosenberg Library, UNT and the Rosenberg Library worked together to consider ways they could publicize access to the collection.

3 USAGE, REPORTING, AND PROMOTION

All aspects of grant-funded activities were reported to the state funding agency on a quarterly basis by the Rosenberg Library. Reports included both qualitative and quantitative data, with information gathered from the Portal to Texas History's *Tribune* collection page, Texas Digital Newspaper Program staff, Rosenberg Library staff, and users of the newly-digitized *Tribune*.

3.1 Usage

Each TexTreasures award occurs on a fiscal year cycle of September 1 to August 31. After the first grant process began on September 1, 2019, the Rosenberg Library published its first grant promotion item in the *Galveston Daily News*: a press release titled, "Galveston Library Project Will Bring Old News to New Readers," focusing on the value of the collection to genealogists and historians, with article comments particularly stressing the importance of building online access to newspaper collections (Ferguson, 2019, p.1). These comments revealed the difficulty researchers experience trying to research a news collection when it is only available in physical format at one library.

Once the first issues of *Evening Tribune* were uploaded, UNT created the *Tribune* collection page (see Figure 2). Collection pages on The Portal to Texas History give users a number of ways to work with their respective items, visible in Figure 2, showing the navigation facet options on the collection page.

Figure 2: The *Galveston Tribune* collection page on The Portal to Texas History.

The Portal to Texas History

Home Tour About Explore Search

You Are Here: Home / Explore / Collections / Galveston Tribune

About this Collection

- Overview
- At a Glance
- Latest Additions
- Cite This Collection
- Explore Holdings
- Contact Us

Items

- Titles
- Dates
- Locations
- Statistics
- API

Share

Search this Collection

Search across 9,754 items

Feed

Galveston Tribune

The Tribune, which began publication in 1880 under the name, *The Print*, was one of the few Galveston newspapers to survive to long-term publication. Galveston's evening newspaper, *The Tribune* was published six days a week until 1963, when it was combined with the *Daily News*. Both papers were published in downtown Galveston, on Mechanic Street, in the first building designed as a newspaper plant in the United States. *The Tribune* ran more social news than the *Daily News*, often publishing obituaries that were not reported in other papers. It also had a strong focus on local events and tourist attractions.

Search Inside this Collection Other Search Options

Look In: Full Text

At a Glance

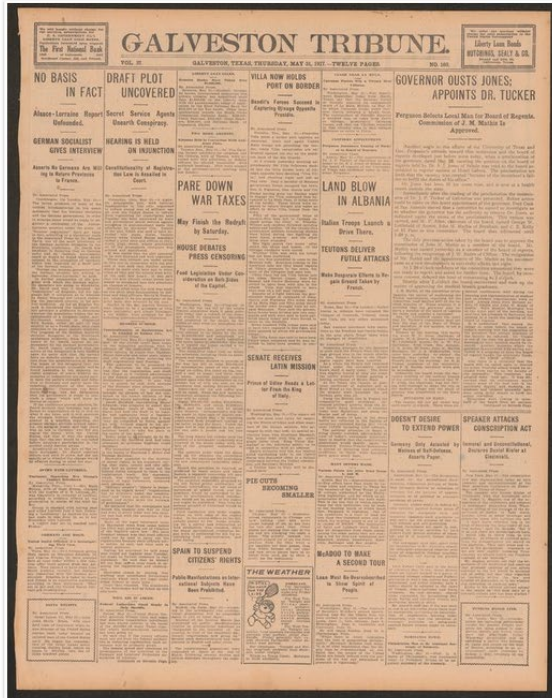
9,754 Items	1 Type	2 Titles
1 Partner	4 Decades	2 Languages
1 County	1 State	1 Country
75,233 Usage	3 years, 4 months ago Collection Created	2 weeks, 5 days ago Last Updated

On the Portal, when a user accesses an individual issue, they can see how often that issue has been used. For instance, the image below includes a paragraph about usage, located in the bottom, right-hand corner of the screenshot (see figure 3), and that information is drawn from another area of the item page, “Usage Statistics” (figure 4).

Figure 3: Screenshot displaying a single issue of the *Galveston Tribune*, accessed 26 times in the last month.

Galveston Tribune. (Galveston, Tex.), Vol. 37, No. 160, Ed. 1 Thursday, May 31, 1917

One of **7,250** issues in the title: **Galveston Tribune** available on this site.



Description

Daily newspaper from Galveston, Texas that includes local, state, and national news along with advertising.

Physical Description

twelve pages : ill. ; page 22 x 18 in. Scanned from physical pages.

Creation Information

Creator: Unknown. May 31, 1917.

Context

This [newspaper](#) is part of the collection entitled: [Galveston Tribune](#) and was provided by the [Rosenberg Library to The Portal to Texas History](#), a digital repository hosted by the [UNT Libraries](#). It has been viewed 26 times, with 26 in the last month. More information about this issue can be viewed below.



Interestingly, this issue of the *Galveston Tribune* was uploaded at the end of May 2022, and it displays 26 uses for the month of June. This information also appears in a “Usage Statistics” box, attached to every individual item on the Portal.

Figure 4: “Usage Statistics” box for May 31, 1917 *Galveston Tribune*.

When
Dates and time periods associated with this newspaper.

Creation Date

- May 31, 1917

Covered Time Period

- [New South, Populism, Progressivism, and the Great Depression, 1877-1939](#)

Added to The Portal to Texas History

- June 15, 2022, 12:26 p.m.

Usage Statistics
When was this issue last used?

Yesterday: 0
Past 30 days: 26
Total Uses: 26

[MORE STATISTICS](#)

The statistics for each issue include a “Referral” area, which is helpful to both the Rosenberg and UNT Libraries in understanding how people located each issue—including what search engines and terminology they used to do this (see Figure 5).

Figure 5: Referral breakdown for the May 31, 1917 issue of the *Galveston Tribune*.

Recent Referral Breakdown for the last 35 days (05/30/2022 to 07/04/2022)		
Referral Type	Total	Percentage
The Portal to Texas History	20	76%
Search Engine	6	23%
Referral	Total	Percentage
texashistory.unt.edu	20	76%
https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/partners/ROSEL/browse/?q=&t=fulltext&sort=added_d		
https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/partners/ROSEL/browse/?fq=untl_collection%3AGALTR&sort=date_d		
https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth1481712/		
https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/partners/ROSEL/browse/?q=Trinity&t=fulltext&sort=date_d&fq=untl_collection%3AGALTR		
https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/partners/ROSEL/browse/?q=Cat+spring&t=fulltext&sort=date_d&fq=untl_collection%3AGALTR		
www.google.com	6	23%
https://www.google.com/		

Usage and referral information teach libraries multiple things about this collection. First, libraries can report upon usage as a single-user interaction with an object, totaling over twenty minutes in a single day, and the Portal aggregates this information at a collection level. This metric eliminates page clicking, where a user jumps onto a page and then off again immediately, instead only measuring time spans of interaction from the same IP address. This gives libraries good information about how much their objects are used, both on a single-item level and at the collection level, and this made reporting very easy for the Rosenberg Library to submit statistics on their reports to TSLAC.

Second, the referral statistics demonstrate object visibility, both internal to the Portal and external from other search or linked means. These statistics are openly viewable with every individual object, and the referrals speak to how broadly the items are available, as well as to the scope of audience items are drawing from. Figure 3 above, for May 31, 1917, only shows Google and the Portal referrals right now, but this makes sense because the issue has been displayed as the first thumbnail image of the most recently uploaded set of newspapers, from May 30, 2022. A deeper dive into issues uploaded this past year will display keywords and different referrals. For instance, the December 31, 1912, issue shows a link referral of https://texashistory.unt.edu/search/?q=Kanewske&t=fulltext&sort=date_a&fq=untl_decade%3A1910-1919, which represents a full-text search conducted across the Portal, to locate this particular issue for the name “Kanewske” (The Portal to Texas History, 2022.)

3.2 Reporting

Usage statistics from the Portal to Texas History’s *Tribune* collection were also easy to track per quarter for grant-report purposes. After the first quarter, it was noted in each successive report that this total included use of items that were digitized and uploaded in the previous grant year. The number of pages digitized in each quarter was also visible on the *Tribune* collection page by comparing the total number of files to those of the previous quarter. For many reasons, good communication between Rosenberg Library and UNT was vital, one example being to confirm this particular statistic, as some of the digital files (pages) would not have been indexed at the time of reporting, although they had been digitized.

TSLAC also required reporting from Rosenberg on the number of staff trained or assisted each quarter. Having a small staff, the Rosenberg Library only reported one staff training session, which took place in the first grant year. The training was conducted by Mark Phillips from UNT and was attended by Rosenberg Library’s Special Collections and Adult Services Departments. In addition to the Special Collections staff, the Adult Services team frequently introduce patrons to The Portal to Texas History and the Library’s digitized newspaper collections in their reference interactions. There was no staff turnover during this project, and therefore, additional staff training was unnecessary.

The narrative section of the reports included progress on grant-related activities beyond the statistics. Each year, the Rosenberg Library held a public program about searching the *Tribune*, which included a survey of participants. The surveys provided an excellent source of quotes from users about working with this new resource, because they not only commented on the program, but also on the value of the digitized newspapers to their work. Best practices in newspaper research were also shared in the quarterly reports. This section was particularly helpful to look back on in years two and three after documenting lessons learned in year one.

Grant reports came to life with true stories from researchers and library staff. Stories of successful research outcomes were especially compelling, as they confirmed many of the goals of this project from the original grant application. For example, before digitization staff recognized that the *Tribune* contained significant content that sometimes told a different story from the other historical Galveston newspaper. Research stories from users verified this, and their research in the *Tribune* has enhanced our understanding of many historical events, including the Storm of 1900.

The COVID-19 pandemic was a frequent topic of discussion in the reports from 2020 and beyond, as it impacted the work that could be done onsite at UNT, as well as the usage of online resources. Interest in online resources increased dramatically in the early part of the pandemic when most libraries were closed. During this time, Rosenberg Library staff were able to highlight the historical newspapers in The Portal to Texas History and utilize this resource to continue providing service to the community. At the same time, the Texas Digital Newspaper Program staff were unable to conduct digitization work onsite at UNT for a period of time due to building closure for pandemic safety

policies. Instead, they focused on work that could be done remotely, such as metadata and uploading previously-digitized files.

3.3 Promotion

University of North Texas


In addition to site-tracking for collection use, at UNT, staff in the Newspaper Unit promote the newspaper collections for classroom use, particularly in UNT's Texas History and History Education courses, as well as in special topics courses, specifically related to labor. For example, Krahmer gives regular lectures to future K-12 History teachers, in which she demonstrates how to compare conversation patterns and shifts about labor and unions between the Galveston Labor Collection and other newspapers available on the Portal that were printed 100 years after the Galveston set. Edsall is also a graduate student, studying in both History and Information Science programs, in addition being a full-time employee. As the first person to look at the physical newspaper collection, she has an unprecedented opportunity to refer to and use newspapers discussing particularly helpful topics as soon as they are available as primary source material in her own projects. For example, Edsall used parts of the *Galveston Tribune* collection to demonstrate how popular opinions on infertility and childlessness were used as a tool to control or resist Progressive women's movements during the early twentieth century. In addition, she cites important historical collections within the History classroom, as well as best practices in her archival certification course.

Rosenberg Library

In terms of outreach and programming in Galveston, the Rosenberg Library consistently promoted the project throughout the grant years. As soon as the first grant was awarded, library staff reached out to the local Galveston newspaper and owner of the *Tribune*, the *Galveston County Daily News*, and invited them to visit the Rosenberg Library as the bound editions were packed for transport to Denton. This resulted in a cover story on the *Daily News* that was distributed to Associated Press outlets garnering national attention.

Social media was heavily utilized for promotion of the *Tribune* and the labor newspaper projects. For example, figure 6 displays a social media post that came from an email exchange between Krahmer and Henry after the Newspaper Unit had found a rare lecture brochure within the *Tribune* pages. Before digitization began, photos of Rosenberg Library staff packing the newspapers accompanied announcements to the Library's followers about the projects. As the newspapers were uploaded to the Portal to Texas History, staff from the Texas Digital Newspaper Program would often highlight interesting content they discovered during digitization. This content, as well as items pointed out by researchers, was regularly shared on the Rosenberg Library's various social media channels with accompanying images and direct links to the resource. Comments on social media platforms provided feedback that was included in the quarterly reports to the state funding agency, making it easy to show the high level of support and interest these projects received from the community.

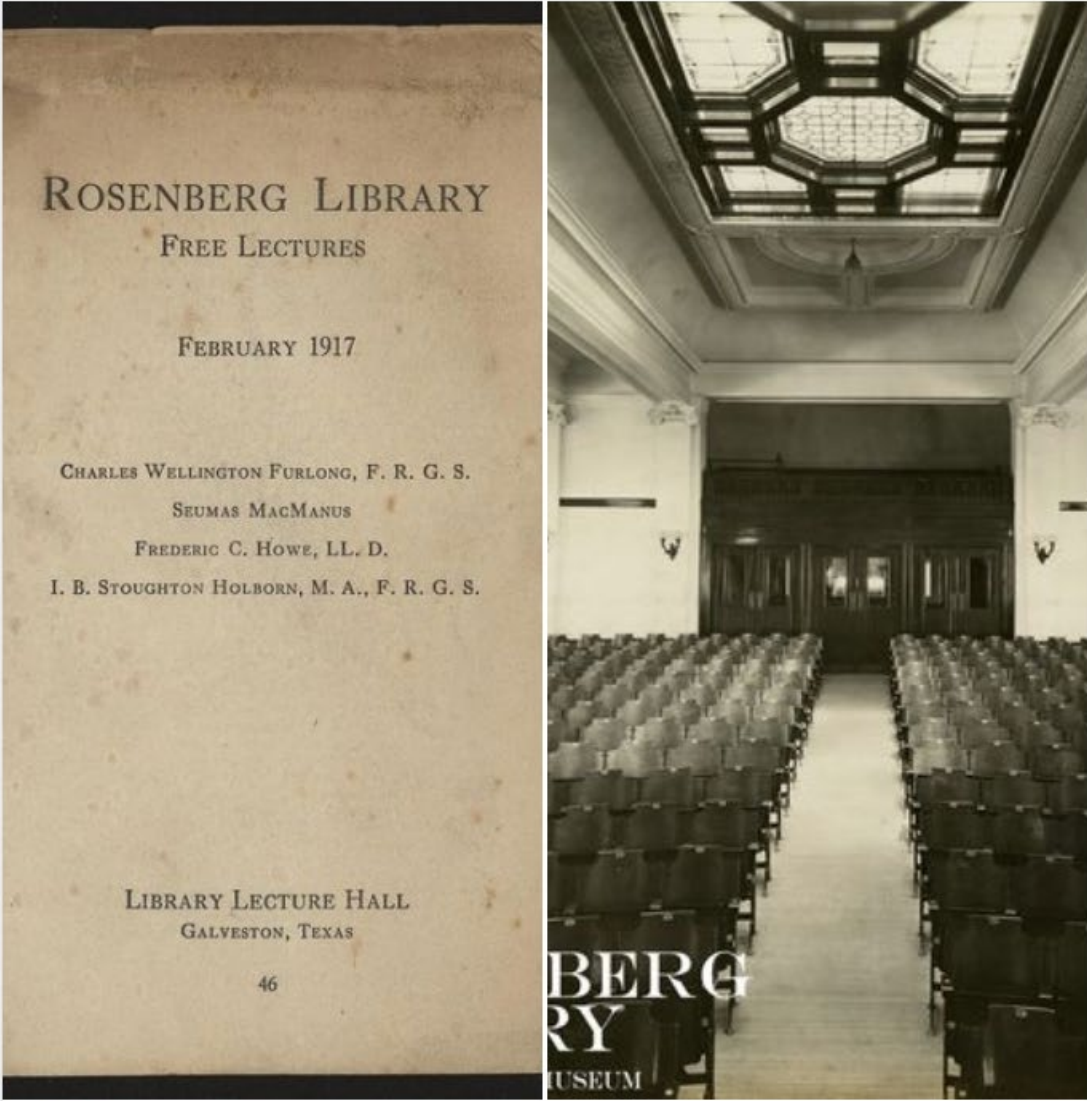
Figure 6: Rosenberg Library's Facebook post about a pamphlet found within the *Tribune* pages during the digitization process at UNT.

 **Rosenberg Library**
March 15, 2021 · 🌐

This 1917 pamphlet was discovered between issues of the Rosenberg's copies of the Galveston Tribune newspaper during digitization at [UNT Libraries](#). Galvestonians were invited to learn about Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ireland, Irish folk tales, Town and City Planning, and Hellenic Pioneers. Reading lists were provided beforehand. See the full pamphlet on [The Portal to Texas History](http://ow.ly/4MWF50DVK7) at <http://ow.ly/4MWF50DVK7>


Like today, the library offered free lectures with guest speakers on the arts, science, and humanities. Lectures were held in the auditorium pictured here (now the 4th floor museum space).

Image: G-87263.3-FF1-15. Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas.



👍❤️😮 23 4 Shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

 Write a comment... 🗨️ 😊 📷 🎬 🗑️

An instructional program on how to access and use the digitized *Tribune* was held for the public during each grant year. Led by Kevin Kinney, Archivist at the Rosenberg Library, these workshops introduced participants to the *Tribune* and touched on the Library's other digitized resources in the Portal to Texas History. Participants learned how and where to access these resources, how to conduct searches utilizing the Portal's interface, and how to apply the results to their own research. Kinney offered attendees sample research topics to engage them in the process of searching, filtering results, downloading, and citing articles. Participants were then given opportunities to try for themselves and ask questions. These programs were another outstanding source of reportable feedback to submit to TSLAC. Surveys were distributed to participants and those results and comments were included in the quarterly reports.

The impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on all library programming cannot be overstated. The first *Searching the Tribune* program was originally scheduled to take place onsite at the Rosenberg Library. However, public health restrictions necessitated a quick shift to virtual programming and the 2020 *Tribune* workshop was one of the Library's first virtual programs. The virtual platform worked so well, and reached such a large audience, that it was held virtually the following two years even though in-person programming had resumed. Conducting the program virtually was advantageous in many ways. Participants were able to replicate searches in real-time on their own computers and they were not limited by geography. The *Tribune* programs drew interest from researchers and genealogists from across Texas and out of state.

Prior to the pandemic, and after the easing of local restrictions, the *Tribune* and labor newspaper digitization projects were highlighted on numerous tours of the Rosenberg Library. As the oldest, continuously-operating public library in Texas, the Rosenberg Library and its history museum draw thousands of tourists and visitors each year. Tours of the Special Collections have always included an introduction to the historical newspaper collection and have provided excellent opportunities to educate visitors on the value of digitizing historical resources.

4 CONCLUSION

Public libraries, especially those serving small or isolated communities, can benefit greatly from partnering with large institutions to conduct large-scale digitization projects. While the Rosenberg Library contains a treasure trove of historical collections in need of digitization and preservation, it lacks the space, equipment, and staff to do such projects in-house. Outsourcing to experts ensures that high-quality scans are created and digitally preserved. Furthermore, Rosenberg Library staff recognized that hosting collections in TDNP would provide far greater access and discoverability than hosting them on the Library's website.

The value of collaboration is high, and the Rosenberg Library-UNT partnership will lead to other successful collaborations across Texas, to the benefit of worldwide research. For UNT, the opportunity to partner with local libraries provides unprecedented opportunity for preserving local, state, national, and international history, representing Texas on a worldwide stage over time. The success of the Galveston newspaper digitization projects has led UNT to investigate partnering with other Texas institutions who hold physical labor collections. UNT has leveraged the Galveston labor newspaper project with the goal of creating a statewide labor newspaper collection. At the time of this writing, UNT is currently working on a partnership to add a border labor newspaper title, with the goal of representing labor history at multiple civil levels, including international, over the first half of the twentieth century.

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