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Hamon Arts Library celebrates 10 years of inspiration

By Carole Brandt, dean, Meadows School of the Arts



When Nancy Hamon spoke at the dedication of the Jake and Nancy Hamon Arts Library in November 1990, she said, "Take, read, learn, create, and enjoy."

And that is, indeed, what numerous users have done throughout the 10-year history of this spectacular and very special library on the SMU campus.

Mrs. Hamon recalls with great fondness the library groundbreaking. She is proud of partnering with her dear friend, Greer Garson, to give the campus and Meadows School of the Arts a convex library and concave theatre.

Mrs. Hamon's generosity has provided P.J. Winters ('00) with a place for study as well as employment. Winters, a music education graduate and former student employee of the Hamon Library, says the library's computer, print, and audio resources were crucial to his work and development. He cites staff who were supportive, caring, and flexible – making it possible for him to work his way through school and perform academically and artistically to his potential.

As a faculty member at SMU, Greg Warden, professor of art history and associate dean for academic affairs, has seen the growth of the Hamon Library.

"When I began teaching at SMU 19 years ago, the arts library was housed, along with the slide library, in the space that is now the Doolin Gallery. As a resource, it was little better than a reserve reading room," he says. "Now, we have an excellent slide library, a wonderful library building, and a collection that is reaching the critical mass necessary for productive research in art history at the undergraduate and graduate levels."

Hamon Library serves as an inspiration to those in the Dallas art community as well. Richard Hamburger, artistic director of the Dallas Theater Center, often uses the Hamon Library for research, conceptual thinking, and finally, to imagine and invent productions he is directing. He says he requires a place of solitude and inspiration, and confirms that is exactly what he experiences in the Hamon Library.

For me, as dean, I find great beauty, quiet, history, and the secrets of creation in this library. It fills me with special pleasures and conjures many possibilities. I celebrate it as a place of literal, figurative, and spiritual light.

'Sure-enough coffee:' Diary portrays life in Civil War Texas

On Christmas Day in 1859, 21-year-old Lucy Pier Stevens arrived in Travis, Texas, from her home in Ohio. As a member of a geographically scattered but close-knit family, she visited her aunt and uncle, Lu and James Bradford Pier, never anticipating that the outbreak of the Civil War would postpone her return to Ohio for five years.

Lucy chronicled her years in Texas in a diary, recently acquired by the DeGolyer Library. Two accounting ledger books used as journals, her photo album, and keepsake book were found in a California attic at an estate sale.

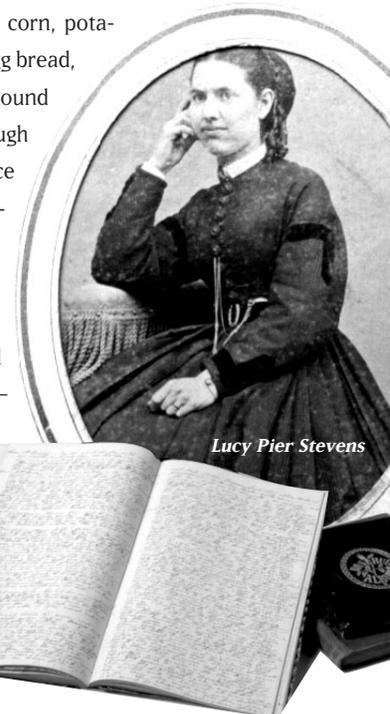
"There are a number of diaries from the mid-1800s in research collections, but they don't come on the market very often," says David Farmer, director of DeGolyer Library. "This diary is valuable to researchers because the woman who wrote it was well-educated and a keen observer. As the country began to tear itself apart in the Civil War, she found herself isolated from the world where she grew up. Spending the first years of the Civil War away from home adds a poignancy to her observations."

Lucy, in careful and thrifty penmanship, discusses farming, wine-making, health, weddings, schools, childbirth, death, slavery, and church revivals.

On June 7, 1863, Lucy records her birthday dinner – "roast pig, green corn, potatoes, succotash, pickles, egg bread, biscuits, honey, fruit and pound cake, cheese, sure-enough coffee and a bottle of nice wine." "Sure-enough coffee" was Lucy's term for a good cup of coffee. During the war, coffee was scarce and its substitutes – dried okra and potato peelings – never satisfied her. Her diary mentions other shortages, such as cloth, shoes, and paper.

As Lucy's stay in Texas

continued on page 2



Lucy Pier Stevens



Diary continued from page 1

lengthened, she became more politically aligned with her Southern family. On June 7, 1864, Lucy wrote, "These Yankees are up to all sorts of tricks." She kept a list of local men who enlisted in the Confederate Army in her diary, including her cousin, Sammy. She also mentioned that she helped care for the family's 14 slaves during a measles outbreak.

Studying Lucy's diary has been a labor of love for Vicki Tongate ('00). Searching for a topic for her senior history thesis, Tongate learned of the diary and began the tedious process of reading the two journals in January of 2000.

"I felt an obligation to accurately and respectfully represent Lucy," Tongate says. "She is very much a real person to me; I owed it to her to do as good a job as I could."

But her study went beyond the diaries and the resources of DeGolyer Library. Tongate traveled to a tiny cemetery — the only remains of Travis — and met with Pier family descendants. She learned that the diaries of Lucy's Aunt Lu and cousin Sarah are in the Texas Collection at Baylor University in Waco where she went to study their diaries. Many of the entries represented the three women's accounts of the same event. Because Lucy's diary ends abruptly, it was her cousin Sarah's diary that recorded Lucy's safe arrival in Ohio.

Early in 1865, Lucy received her first correspondence from Ohio since arriving in Texas. She learned that her youngest sister had died two years earlier. As the Civil War came to an end, her careful script became hurried, a reflection of her desperate attempts to return home.

"Her decision to get out of Texas is very revealing," says Edward Countryman, professor of history and Tongate's faculty adviser. "It's as if something hits her."

After attempting to return to Ohio in a conventional manner, Lucy, despite the objections of friends and the danger, chose to travel aboard a blockade runner, *Fox*, to Havana. The ship took shots as it sped past Union boats guarding Galveston, but Lucy arrived safely in Havana to see the flags of Union ships at half-mast, mourning the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. After traveling aboard another ship to New York and a train to Cleveland, Lucy arrived home May 6, 1865.

Tongate, now a graduate student in English at SMU, is transcribing and annotating the diary's contents. The DeGolyer Library plans to publish the diary and Tongate's paper as part of *The Library of Texas*, a series of books about regional accounts of 19th-century Texas. The diary and Tongate's 138-page thesis, "Transcendent Ties; A Northern Girl's Sojourn in Confederate Texas," are available for study.

"The Lucy diary would interest anyone studying Texas during the Civil War, women in the mid-19th century, and the problem of American identity," Countryman says.

"A diary like this is at the very heart of the materials our users find important to their work," Farmer says.

August 27, 1863

"We are tired of war."

December 13, 1863

"No news has been heard from home since two years ago the 19th of August."

February 2, 1864

"God grant my friends may be few who pay the dear sacrifice — life — for the cause in which they are engaged."

March 30, 1865

"How strange that some people can only look on one side of a question."

Home sweet library

Political scientist Cal Jillson believes that the library is home to any academic.

"It's where you go when the pressure builds. It's calming and reassuring, it's where I go to refresh," says Jillson, chair of the Political Science Department in Dedman College.

But the library is also where Jillson works, whether he is updating a government textbook or completing research for a new book.

"The quality of a faculty's work depends upon the quality of the University library," Jillson says. "If academic work is a struggle, the faculty will do less of it. If a university library is well-funded and well-stocked, it makes a faculty member's work a pleasure."

The Central University Library's electronic and paper resources are critical to the success of Jillson's current projects. He is completing the second edition of his text, *American Government: Political Change and Institutional Development* (Harcourt Brace, 1999), and is working on his next book, *The Evolution of the American Dream*.

Jillson has completed much of the research for the government text from his campus office using the library's electronic resources. PONI, the University's library information system, serves as a gateway to an array of electronic databases and digital documents.

"If you have a good librarian at your shoulder, electronic resources are very effective," Jillson says. "Much of a librarian's value is knowing what information databases exist, then getting you to the resources in efficient ways so you are not just staggering through the Internet. The databases I have bookmarked on my computer are the effect of a librarian's good work."

As director of the John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies, Jillson designates Tower Center funds to support the Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe electronic database for the campus community, available through the libraries' electronic resources. Lexis-Nexis provides news, business, legal, medical, and general reference resources. Until four years ago, because of a contractual limitation, the database was available only to the School of Law.

"Lexis-Nexis is one of the leading points of electronic access to scholarly journals, newspaper archives, and law journals — electronic resources used by social science scholars in particular," Jillson says.

The Tower Center also supports the library's collection of Japan-U.S. studies materials.

Next year Jillson will take a sabbatical to write his new

Cal Jillson



book on the promise that the United States has held for immigrants and rising generations. The book begins with America's founding period and concludes with contemporary U.S. government promises in areas such as education. Even with access to electronic resources, Jillson says a new scholarly project still involves hours of browsing in the stacks.

"Part of any new project is discovering resources you didn't go looking for," Jillson says. "You go to the stacks to find a book, and you end up finding a shelf of books, then checking out half a dozen more to carry back to your office."

Friends grants enhance resources and collections

The 2000 Friends of the SMU Libraries grants will enhance the Central University Library's collections, resources, and electronic capabilities, says Judy Searles, director of Friends of the SMU Libraries. The \$16,573 in grants will be used to help produce a video archives series on the history of SMU and enhance reference materials in areas as varied as Asian studies, the Vietnam War, and the works of William Shakespeare.

Following are the 2000 grants:

- \$3,000 to Central University Libraries to fund production of its annual report.
- \$2,500 to the User Education program to purchase a new classroom projector. The classroom training was used by 2,500 students, faculty, staff, and friends last year.
- \$2,000 to Collection Development for acquisitions in Asian studies.
- \$1,860 to the Science and Engineering Library to purchase reference materials to support research and study in environmental science and engineering, natural resources, and knowledge-based systems.
- \$1,500 to Collection Development to purchase the *Oxford English Dictionary Online*.
- \$1,500 to the Norwick Center for Media and Instructional Technology to support printing, set design, and production costs of a video archives series on the history of SMU.
- \$1,500 to purchase software that will enable CUL staff members to create interactive Web pages.
- \$1,250 to Fondren Library Center Reference Services to acquire the *Encyclopedia of Psychology* and the *Encyclopedia of Stress*.
- \$1,164 to Collection Development to purchase *The Vietnam War: A Collection of Scholarly Articles* and *Shakespeare: The Critical Complex*.
- \$299 to Hamon Arts Library to purchase the CD-ROM *Corpus Mensurabilis Musicae*. The series includes vocal music from the 14th to 16th centuries.



Jim Copeland, SMU director of athletics, served as a table host at the Friends of the SMU Libraries' "Tables of Content," an evening featuring dinner and conversation with celebrity hosts. Other guests included Susan Copeland, left, and Central University Librarian Gillian M. McCombs.

Friends celebrate anniversary

The Friends of the SMU Libraries celebrates its 30th anniversary this fall with a distinguished record of support for the University's libraries, says Mike Hazel, president. Originally known as Colophon, the group was organized in 1970 to enable friends of the SMU libraries to share their love of books and generate additional financial support for the libraries. In the past 30 years, the Friends have sponsored hundreds of book-related programs, dozens of special library tours around the country, and fund-raising events that have contributed more than \$500,000 to SMU's libraries.

Last spring the Friends inaugurated a new fund-raising event, "Tables of Content," during which guests visited with a celebrity host over dinner. Each host offered expertise in a different field, such as architecture, libraries, publishing, sports, or local history. Award-winning journalist Vivian Castleberry ('44), Professor *Emeritus* of History Luis Martín, and author Jane Roberts Wood were among the hosts. The event, which raised \$5,000 for library projects, is scheduled again for April 21 in the new Meadows Museum.

The Friends' 2000-2001 programs have included a faculty panel describing favorite presidential biographies, and Associate Professor of Art Debora Hunter discussing the late Linda Finell, an expert on bookmaking. Other programs include the annual holiday luncheon December 12 when Ron Davis, professor of history, will speak about his interviews with Hollywood stars, and a January 19 program by David Farmer, head of DeGolyer Library, who will discuss Willard Clark, a pioneer printer and printmaker. On February 15 Martin Padgett, the current recipient of the Clements Research Fellowship, will discuss his work on the manuscript, "Indian Country: Representing the Southwest, 1830-1937." On April 19 the Friends will host an opening reception and gallery talk for the DeGolyer Library exhibit, "Destination Mexico — 'A Foreign Land a Step Away' — U.S. Tourism to Mexico, 1880-1952."

Scholarship funds advanced degree in library science

Michael Garrett, recipient of the Friends of the SMU Libraries annual library school scholarship, seeks the growth and opportunity that a library career offers. He will spend the next three years as a part-time student at the University of North Texas earning his Master's degree in Library Science while continuing to work as lending supervisor in the interlibrary loan area of Fondren Library.

"I have such a specialized job that I don't always see the other facets of the library," Garrett says. "With this degree, it seems like the opportunities are limitless."

A musician, Garrett earned a Bachelor's degree in music performance from North Texas State University in 1991 and a Master's degree in music performance from SMU in 1995.

"The library has always been a second home to me," he says. "It will offer a secure job with plenty of opportunity for growth. It's going to be exciting to see what happens down the road."

The Friends of the SMU Libraries grants the scholarship to an SMU libraries staff member who has worked at one of the libraries for at least one year.



Michael Garrett, scholarship recipient

In the news

The 22 million viewers of the "Oprah Winfrey Show" in 113 countries learned of the Laura Bush Promenade at Fondren Library Center when Texas Gov. George Bush was a guest on the program September 19. He described it as "the greatest gift he ever gave."

"Laura is an SMU graduate. She loves to read; she's all involved with literacy. And I gave the promenade to the library in her name. . . ."

Readers of the September issue of *American Libraries* also learned about SMU libraries in an article, "Who Says It's Always Greener on the Other Side?," featuring comments from Steve Short, government document librarian.



The Texoma Area Boundary agreement, resolving Texas' long-running Red River boundary dispute with Oklahoma, was signed July 26 in the Texana Room at DeGolyer Library. Signing the document are Texas Land Commissioner David Dewhurst and Oklahoma Rep. James Dunegan. Standing are (from left) Texas Sen. Tom Haywood, R-Wichita Falls; Texas Rep. Tom Ramsay, D-Mount Vernon; Clyde Siebman, Pat Peale, and Mildren Nunneley of the Texas Land Commission; and Bill Abney ('69, '72), chair, Texas Red River Boundary Commission.

Web librarian increases online efficiency

Since Amy Turner assumed the newly created position of Web librarian a year ago, she has organized and consolidated the Central University Libraries' Web site.

Turner continues to make the libraries more accessible on the Internet by organizing CUL's existing Web content, making additions, and collecting useful links. She also assists patrons as a general reference librarian.

"Some people want to talk to a person and some want to do research on their own, so we have to provide both services," Turner says. "I'm trying to make CUL's Internet resources clearer to patrons so they can easily find what they need."

Turner has led the design and production of a new CUL home page, streamlining the libraries' electronic features and resources. She also has created front pages of CUL subsites, giving a Web presence to the Institute for the Study of Earth and Man Reading Room and the library at SMU-in-Taos in northern New Mexico. Working with other staff members, Turner has developed an online staff directory as well as a set of pages linking patrons to online resources such as e-journals and specialized databases.

Turner plans to further develop online exhibits, distance services, professional resources for staff, and code pages to make CUL Web offerings more visible to search engines, she says.

Government documents feature a treasury of facts

Native American photographs from the 1890 census, a World War II brochure, "The Home Front in National Defense," and recent U.S. labor statistics are among the wealth of information to be found in Fondren Library's government document collection. Historic election materials from the collection and a private political button collection are on display in Fondren Library in honor of the library's 75th year as a federal depository library.

As one of 1,350 federal depository libraries in the United States, Fondren Library receives about 70 percent of the documents produced by the U.S. Government Printing Office. The library preserves the documents and provides access to the information, says Stephen Short, government documents librarian.

The collection is housed at Fondren Library, the Underwood Law Library, and the Science and Engineering Library. Fondren Library also serves as a depository library for the State of Texas.

Information found in historic documents, current demographics, and science and technology data attracts a wide range of students, faculty members, and researchers from the business and legal communities.

"We are really a library within a library," Short says. "We are the second line of reference. Our patrons usually have a labor-intensive question, and it is not unusual for one of our librarians to spend many days helping a patron with research."

Businesses rely on scientific and technical reports, statistical information from the Census Bureau, and manufacturing information from the U.S. Commerce Department. Marketing students analyze income and demographic breakdowns of specific geographic areas. Social scientists study vital statistics, economic reports, and health trends.

As a federal depository library, Fondren Library has access

to historical documents that become available when another federal depository library closes or changes its specialization. As a result of careful acquisitions, the library's holdings include data such as census records dating to 1790. The census materials, popular with researchers, include statistics on population as well as housing, agriculture, and manufacturing.

"The census records are a record of our humanity," Short says. "The census can be very intrusive, but very illuminating as well. It gives us a snapshot of our time."

The collection includes thousands of other historic government reports, including *The Cholera Epidemic of 1873*, 13 volumes of the *Ku Klux Klan Conspiracy*, dictionaries of Native American languages, and the six volumes of *The Journal of the Congress of the Confederate States 1861-1865*.

Clements Fellow Clive Siegle, a Ph.D. student in the Clements Center for Southwest Studies, is using the document collection to conduct research on *ciboleros*, 19th-century Mexican buffalo hunters who competed with Native American and white buffalo hunters for the herds that once roamed the U.S. plains. He studies War Department documents, territorial government reports, and U.S. Army reports from the 1800s.

"Trying to find this information can be baffling," Siegle says. "The librarians unravel the mystery of government documents."

Government document librarians have helped Siegle obtain information using databases from the regional depository library in Denver. In turn, the government document collection makes many of its resources available online. Researchers can study statistical, historic, scientific, and political documents on the collection's Web site at www.smu.edu/cul/gir.

The collection also includes documents relating to recent history such as occupational outlook handbooks from the early 1950s, the 1961 report from the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and reports from congressional hearings on the Challenger space shuttle disaster. Current publications such as the *Congressional Record*, the *Federal Register*, and IRS tax forms also are available.

International students at SMU often are surprised at how much information the U.S. government releases, Short says. And he is concerned about congressional efforts to restrict or eliminate the U.S. Government Printing Office.

"The access to information is very much tied into democracy," he says. "The United States has led other countries in this area. Through these documents you can see politics in action — you can see the results of your tax dollars."

Researchers in Fondren Library's Government Document Collection have access to a wealth of historic and contemporary information produced by the U.S. Government Printing Office including Senate hearing reports, military documents, and contemporary statistics.

Central University Libraries gate count

1997-1998: 401,702

1998-1999: 588,935

1999-2000: 767,629



From Lincoln to LBJ: Button display tells an American story

Political buttons and inaugural medals on display through December 1 at Fondren Library Center reveal a snapshot of American presidential history.

The collection, lent to SMU by Hervey Priddy ('99) of Dallas, includes inaugural medals of every president of the 20th century, except the rare Warren Harding medal. The display also features political buttons with contrasting messages from the 1908 election, such as "The Safest," for William Howard Taft, and "Nobody Loves a Fat Man," representing his opponent, William Jennings Bryan.

A red outline circles the word "No" on an anti-woman's suffrage button. Another button shows stylishly dressed women's feet marching to the caption "Women's Rights."

Campaign buttons are important to collect and study because they bring politics alive, says Hal Williams, professor of history in Dedman College. "They tell us what a lively interest Americans have long had in the political process."

The buttons also represent a change in Americans' attitudes toward politics. At the beginning of the 20th century, 85 to 95 percent of the voters in certain states voted in elections. Today that figure has dropped to 50 percent, Williams says.

"In the past voters were fiercely interested in issues. Thousands would listen to candidates' speeches for as long as three hours," Williams says. "In today's media age, voters have too many other choices."

The first political buttons date to 1789 and George Washington's presidency — practical buttons meant to be sewn on to clothing. In the 1820s political buttons resembled pocket change. By the 1830s steel-engraved drawings of candidates dangled from cloth campaign ribbons pinned to lapels. Ferrotypes, photographic image emulsions on metal, were used on campaign buttons by the mid-1800s. The Fondren Library Center display includes a ferrotype button featuring a photograph of Abraham Lincoln, but without his trademark beard.

The display highlights buttons from the election of 1896, one of the most exciting and interesting elections in U.S. history, Williams says. Money was the issue at stake, with the McKinley-Hobart ticket in favor of the gold standard and the William Jennings Bryan-Arthur Sewall ticket in favor of the silver standard. The silver standard was seen as the metal for the common man, the laborer, or farmer, Williams says, while the gold standard appealed to members of the middle class and prosperous Americans.

McKinley buttons featured a gold bug with pictures of the candidates on its wings. Bryan buttons used symbols such as a sunflower to appeal to farmers.

The golden theme runs through McKinley's inaugural materials displayed with Priddy's collection of inaugural medals. The

display includes the gold-embossed 1897 inaugural program and a golden-tassled dance card featuring the second dance, a promenade to "The Gold Bug."

A distinctive art form stemming from the tradition of Renaissance medallion art, the inaugural medals are portraits that depict the personality of each president and the circumstances of his office. The reverse side of Franklin Roosevelt's 1933 inaugural medal reflects his suggestion of a naval theme with an image of the *USS Constitution* and Longfellow's lines, "Thou too sail on, O Ship of State, Sail on, O Union, strong and great."

Felix DeWeldon, known for his Washington, D.C., sculpture of U.S. Marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima, prepared the likeness for Lyndon Johnson's medal while Johnson worked in his office, in spite of the artistic challenge posed by Johnson talking on the telephone constantly, often with a phone on each ear.

At each inauguration the medals were presented to the president and vice president, members of the inaugural committee, and sometimes sold to the public.

"Priddy's collection of medals and buttons is stunning for its rarity and quality," Williams says.

Priddy says collecting buttons and medals is a natural extension of his love for history. A former investment banker, Priddy completed his Master's degree in history at SMU in 1999 and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in history.

"There is no use having the collection in boxes," Priddy says. "I wanted to share the collection with students. To me, campaign buttons make history come alive."



"In the past voters were fiercely interested in issues. Thousands would listen to candidates' speeches for as long as three hours. In today's media age, voters have too many other choices."



Solve a mystery

This large (22 inches by 17 inches), hand-painted photograph is in the Mary McCord/Edyth Renshaw Collection of the Hamon Arts Library. The collection, named for two longtime SMU theatre professors, emphasizes the performing arts in Texas and the Southwest. It also includes photographs, playbills, and other items related to the performing arts from the United States and abroad, particularly Britain. The photo is dated 1907 and includes the photographer's signature, Matzena, says Sam Ratcliffe, head of the Bywaters Special Collection. The woman may be noted English actress Dame Ellen Terry (1847-1928), he says. Readers with clues to the woman's identity or who acquired the photo may contact Sam Ratcliffe at 214-768-2303 or by e-mail at sratclif@mail.smu.edu.



Artist's sketchbooks preserved

A significant project of the Jerry Bywaters Special Collection in the Hamon Arts Library is nearing completion — the conservation of the artist's three sketchbooks comprising preliminary sketches of his prints, paintings, and pastels.

Jerry Bywaters, an SMU professor of art for 44 years, was active in the Dallas Nine, a group of painters, printmakers, and sculptors that focused on the people, land, and wildlife of the Southwest. Their works were among the most renowned expres-

sions of the Regionalist movement in American art in the 1930s and early 1940s, says Sam Ratcliffe, head of the Bywaters Collection.

The first sketchbook, conserved last spring, contains 44 pages of sketches from Bywaters' trips to

Colorado in the early to mid-1940s. The 7 1/2- x 10-

inch book is now suitable for use by researchers and for exhibition. The other two sketchbooks, in the process of being conserved by Carrabba Conservation Inc. of Austin, Texas, will be returned to Hamon Arts Library and made available to researchers by the end of the year.

Bywaters donated the sketchbooks to SMU in the late 1980s. However, pages were falling out of the books, and their poor condition made them inaccessible to researchers, says Ellen Niewyk, curator of Bywaters Special Collection.

Each sketchbook is being conserved with Bywaters' notes and other items, such as loose drawings, placed between leaves just as he left them, Niewyk says. The conservation of the sketchbooks enables researchers to study Bywaters' sketches side by side with finished pieces also in the collection.

During the sketchbook conservation, each page was removed from the composition book, deacidified, and then encapsulated in Mylar D polyester film. The books were bound in leather using the screwpost method so pages can be removed for research or exhibitions. The original covers were scanned and incorporated into the body of the books.

"Our main focus is not only to collect these materials, but also to conserve them for researchers and exhibits," she says.

The Bywaters Special Collection serves as a repository for works on paper and archival materials illuminating the cultural history of the Southwest. The artist created the Jerry Bywaters Research Collection on Art of the Southwest at SMU in 1980 and continued to add to the collection until his death in 1989.

New library technology supports special needs

The Fondren Library Center has developed new technological services to benefit users with special needs.

The Assistive Technology Center provides support in accessing printed and electronic resources for users with learning disabilities and vision impairments, says Toni Nolen, electronic resources librarian. It also provides a comfortable environment for users with physical disabilities.

"It's a little unusual for a private university to make something like this available for people beyond the campus," Nolen says. "Because we have the equipment and are trained to support it, we will make it available to anyone."

Francisco Villagran, a sophomore business major with a visual impairment, has used the services at the Assistive Technology Center almost daily since the doors opened. The center's newly updated ZoomText Xtra software helps to magnify Web sites or document text on the computer screen and it can read text out loud. ZoomText also allows Villagran to change the contrast of images.

Three computers with Kurzweil software enable written documents, such as textbooks or articles, to be scanned into the computer and translated into a spoken voice. Aural documents then can be recorded onto audiocassette or saved to diskette.

Kurzweil software also assists those with learning disabilities such as dyslexia, who often work faster and retain more by using aural materials. Users with less severe disabilities or attention deficit disorder will benefit from a Kurzweil feature that highlights the words on the screen as they are read aloud.

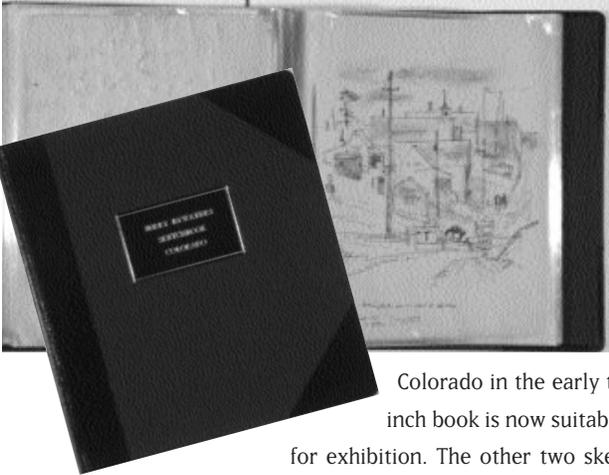
Other software assists low vision or learning disabled users by reading screen text aloud from various PC applications. New software can recognize a person's voice and transcribe spoken words into text through dictation.

The center also features a Braille Embosser, a printer that translates computer documents from any application into Braille and prints hard copies.

Located in Fondren East, the Assistive Technology Center is adjacent to the reference desk to give users easy accessibility to librarians, Nolen says.

During the fall, librarians are being trained to use the new technology by the Center for Computer Assistance to the Disabled (C-CAD), a nonprofit organization that specializes in assistive technology.

The Assistive Technology Center was funded by Academic Computing, the Office of the President, and the Friends of the SMU Libraries.



Central University Libraries Exhibits

Political Buttons

Through December 1, Fondren Library

Diaries, Handmade Books, and other Ephemera by Linda Finnell (1948-1999)

Through December 8, Hawn Gallery, Hamon Arts Library

Trailing the Herd — The Cattle Trade in the American West

December 8 through February 16, DeGolyer Library

Millennium Summary Exhibit

January 1 through January 30, Fondren Library

Willard Clark: Santa Fe Printer/Printmaker

January 16 through March 2, Hawn Gallery, Hamon Arts Library

Selections from Mexican Dances

March 12 through May 25, Hawn Gallery, Hamon Arts Library

Destination Mexico — 'A Foreign Land a Step Away' — U.S.

Tourism to Mexico, 1880-1952'

April 19 through June 29, DeGolyer Library



This C.B. Waite photo of Mexico City in 1905 is among many of his images that will be part of the Mexican tourism exhibit at DeGolyer Library.

Library Phone Numbers

DeGolyer Library/Special Collections	214-768-2253
Friends of SMU Libraries	214-768-3225
Fondren Library — recording	214-768-7378
Fondren Library — Information Desk	214-768-2326
Fondren Library	
Circulation/Reserve	214-768-2329
Government Information Resources	214-768-2331
Hamon Arts Library	214-768-2894
Norwick Center for Media and	
Instructional Technology	214-768-3199
Science and Engineering Library — general	214-768-2444
Science and Engineering Library — reference	214-768-2282
Systems Office	214-768-3229

Web Sites

All SMU Libraries	www.smu.edu/libraries/
Ask-a-Librarian	www.smu.edu/cul/refquestion.html
Government Document Collection	www.smu.edu/cul/gir
Online Resources	www.smu.edu/cul/or/
World War II Materials	www.smu.edu/cul/memorial/memhome.htm

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