Improving the Landfill: Dealing with Major Physical Constraints While Improving Access to a Regional Depository's Collection: (One Regional's Experience)

- Presented by
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Presenters

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Excerpts from Transcript

Donald Dyal, Texas Tech University.

I'm the dean of libraries. I also do research. I agree with most of what's been said here. I have an air-conditioned and heated and well-preserved landfill. The problem is in that landfill there's great value. Presently, it is undiscoverable. I use it regularly. Personally, I find it annoying that I have to go use it in the form that I do. I'm not the only one who finds it annoying.

As I listened to the Public Printer this morning and also to Ric, I heard that GOP -- or GPO rather (laughter) -- is spending money on lots of public relations initiatives. They're spending money on lots of things that seem to enhance, at least in their own minds, the value of the GPO. I'm not going to gainsay that, but I'm a little concerned about what I did not hear. I did not hear that there's any money to -- together, jointly -- digitize some of these collections, which is actually what's needed. I didn't hear that. That's something that could be done. That's one issue.
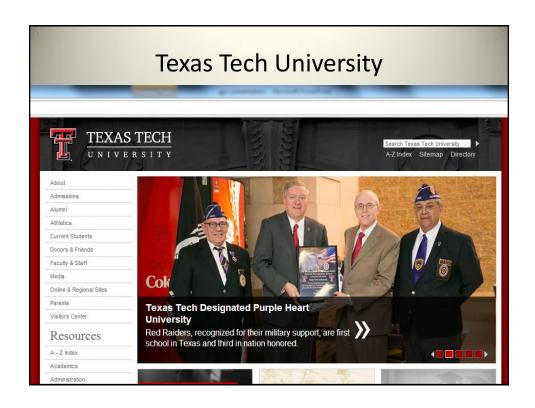
Excerpts from Transcript (continued)

The other issue is -- and maybe this is harking back to Question 2 -- there needs to be a redefinition of what constitutes an acceptable depository collection.

A digital collection ought to be acceptable. It is what our users want. I have users -- we've all heard this. It's plain. In fact, it's a principle that's been established. If it's not digital, it doesn't exist.

You and I know that's not true, but it feels like it's true. And that's what needs to change.

Texas Tech University Library

Texas Tech University

Texas Tech Facts

- Founded 1923
- 10 Colleges
- TTU System includes Law School, Health Sciences Center, Angelo State University
- Degrees: 150 undergraduate, 100 masters, 50 doctoral
- Population: 33,111 students (Fall 2013)
- Big 12 Athletic Conference

Texas Tech Libraries Facts

- University Library
- SW Collection/Special Collections Library
- Architecture Library

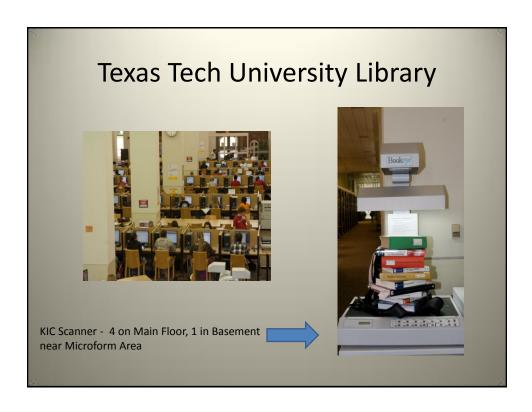- Law Library
- Health Sciences Library
- Vietnam Archive

Texas Tech University Library

Digital Media Studio – funded initially by donation from coach Bob Knight

3D Animation Lab

Texas Tech University Library

KIC Scanner - 4 on Main Floor, 1 in Basement near Microform Area

Texas Tech Depository Timeline

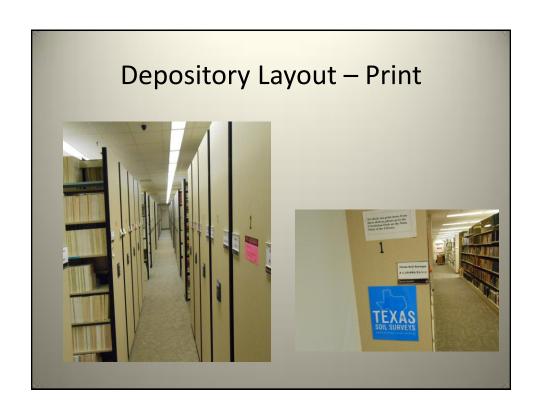- Designated a depository in 1935 by Rep. George Mahon.

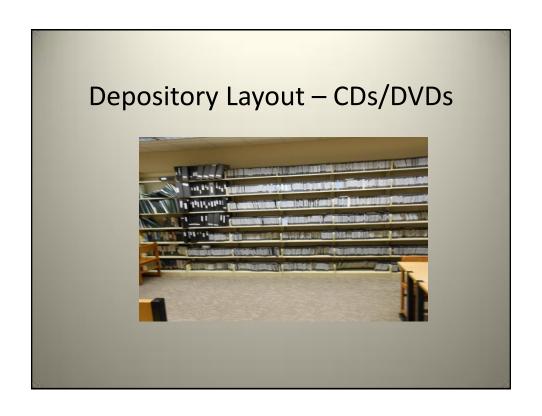Depository located first in old Science Building

In 1975, Depository was moved to current Library building.

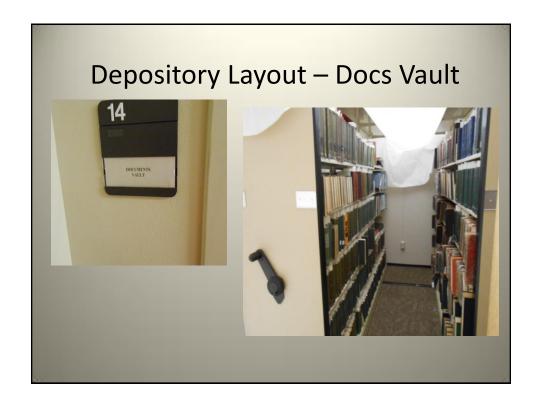# Texas Tech Depository Timeline

- 1935 – 1975 - Science Building
- 1975- 1983   Depository began on north end ground floor.
- Until renovations were completed in 1983, some material was kept on the 5th Stack Level Locked Cage and the 2nd Floor overflow shelves.
- 1983-present Depository located in Library Basement on north end. All print and microfiche is on compact shelving.

Depository Layout – Print

Depository Layout – CDs/DVDs

Depository Layout – Docs Vault

Depository Layout – Maps/Atlases

Depository Layout - Microforms

History of TTU Depository

- Important projects in providing access to government information.
  - Previous depository librarians--notably Miss Ferreline Tucker and Ms. Mary Ann Higdon--concentrated on building the collection by strong use of disposal lists and getting on mailing lists for government documents, particularly regional offices of departments, e.g. Agriculture, Census, etc.

  - In the 1980s, OCLC did a retro project of the Congressional publications shelf list—to this day, Congressional publications are nearly 100% represented in the collection.

  - In 1979, Ms. Mary Ann Higdon began as depository librarian and began loading records into OCLC. She also began circulating government documents.

  - Her predecessor, Miss Tucker, had not participated in the OCLC project, but concentrated primarily on 1 on 1 service to the patrons. Miss Tucker had arranged the collection so that the call numbers most used by patrons, e.g. As, Ys, etc. were closest to the Ref Desk.

History of TTU Depository (continued)

- In the 1990s, Tom Rohrig became depository librarian upon Mary Ann's retirement and the technical processing functions were transferred to what is now called Research and Scholarly Communication Management Services. Pam Lampe supervises the technical processing depository functions.

- In the early 2000s, the Library completed a project barcoding most individual serial issues to enhance ILL efforts. Most government documents serials were included.

- Around 2005, Esmeralda Rodriguez began processing disposal lists.

History of TTU depository (continued)

- 2007-2008 Documents Space Recovery Team (DSRT) Formed to find alternatives to stay within current Basement location.
    Proposals and results
- Deduping- getting rid of paper items that are in another format (microfiche).
    - Deduping by removing paper was vetoed by Associate Dean Hoover on the grounds that print was preferred over microfiche by patrons.
    - More success was found with removing multiple copies. In particular, the Library pared down its holdings of Texas Soil Surveys (A 57.38) to 3 copies at the most from sometimes 8 -9 copies.

- Digitize parts of the collection and offer the paper on duplicate lists as required by law.
    - Because of Regional regulations—this was not a relevant strategy to provide more room unless digitized material was placed in offsite storage.

History of TTU Depository (continued)

- Change TTU Library status from regional to selective, which would give us more options.
    - This option was discussed but was ultimately not put into practice.

  Two reasons were:
   a) Value to Texas Tech of regional depository – collections,
        service outreach, etc.
   b) Concerns about the cost of relinquishing Regional status
        following GPO guidelines.

- Move part of the collection to off-site storage. But, since obtaining off-site storage was not in the foreseeable future, planning for off-site storage was put on hold.

- The biggest benefit of DSRT was the de-duping of multiple copies which began in 2008 and continues to this day.

History of TTU Depository (continued)

- 2012 - The TTU Serial Set was moved off-site freeing up about 4 ranges. In addition to FDSYS, TTU subscribes to Proquest Congressional Collection. For the future, it is planned to move the complete Annals/Congressional Globe/Congressional Record collection offsite as TTU can search both FdSys and the HEIN U.S. Congressional Documents collection through the Law Library.

- As of 2014, TTU has processed over 1500 titles which are duplicates.

- 2014 - Anne Dela Rosa was hired to work with Pam Lampe on Government Documents.

University Library Resources - General

- 1) Academic Faculty status - provides connection to faculty and access to faculty-only resources.

- 2) Strong library faculty collaborative atmosphere. Many faculty collaborate on research/presentations locally, state, regional, nationwide, and internationally.

- 3) Provision of generous travel funds

- 4) Strong Library faculty involvement. Currently, have Library Faculty Executive Promotion & Tenure, and Research Committees.

- 5) Communications and Outreach Dept. which provides award-winning graphics, design, flyers, publicity, for faculty and staff projects.

University Library Resources - General

- 6) Campus houses Law School, Health Sciences Center, Southwest Collection/Archives (housing Vietnam Archive) on campus as well as Angelo State and several HSC campuses across the state as part of the Texas Tech University System

- 7) Strong support from Dean on-down for research and professional service.

- 8) Continued support for federal depository by Dean. Continues to provide funding for depository. Approved addition of many govt-info. databases, e.g. GovSearch for Libraries, GPO (FirstSearch), Proquest Congressional, Proquest Statistical Insight, etc.
- 9) University Library building houses:
    - ATLC (Advanced Technology Computer Center) – computer center
    - TLPDC - Teaching, Learning, & Professional Development Center – provides training, conferences, etc. for faculty, staff, and students.

University Library Resources - Govt Info

- 1) Law Library is a Selective Library. My colleague Sue Kelleher has provided strong leadership.
    - a) For many years, the Law Library had a selective housing agreement with the Geosciences Library for maps. Recently, the Geosciences Library was closed and Sue and her staff worked tirelessly on disposal lists.
    - b) Law Library provides campus-wide access to Hein databases including many federal.
    - c) Provides in-depth assistance for legal questions.

    2) Strong Texas depository community. Very involved with Texas GODORT, ALA GODORT, SLA, etc.

Challenges

- Documents are often exception to rule
  - Separate classification system with limited browsing capability
  - Late development of catalog records
  - Administrator concerns about management of depository program
  - Lack of records in TTU OPAC because of late start in adding records.
  - Historical separation of Documents area from Reference Dept.

- Space - No room for growth
  - Print collection is confined to current compact shelving and Map cases.
  - Some shelving nearby for LC/Docs Ref remains but use of that for overflow from compact shelving is problematic. Note: There is an on-going project to move LC/DOCS Ref titles into regular/Documents stacks.
  - Current off-site storage is almost full and attempts last year to move more documents off-site were denied.
  - Talks are on-going to fund more off-site storage, but planned space for Documents is an unknown.
  - At this point, Administration does not plan to provide more University Library basement shelving for growth.

Strategies

- Continuous retro project by Gov Docs materials processing Unit Staff
  - Since the 1990s, Pam has been adding records to the OPAC. The collection has gone from about 60% of collection in OPAC to about 80% currently.

- Deduping/Copy 2 Project - As of 2014, Tech has placed several hundred items on disposal lists. Student Assistants currently watch for copy 2s when shelving.

- Less additions to collections through gifts, disposal lists, et.
  - Currently, we add titles that fall into these areas
    - Water-related items
    - Titles in all subjects related to Lubbock, South Plains, and Texas
    - This compares to earlier depository years, when more extensive collection building was done.

Strategies (continued)

- Utilize support from Administrators and Library/University Faculty
  - Current Head of RIO was former Maps Librarian
  - Current electronic Resources Library was former Maps Librarian
  - Current Associate Dean of Libraries for Outreach and Information Services Sheila Hoover has worked in depository libraries previously.
  - From 1979-2007 almost 100% Reference librarians worked both Reference and Documents/Maps desk
  - Recognition of government information by local colleagues as unique and important resource
  - I work often with these faculty and students
    - History – historical govt info, legal info, etc. .
    - Political Science/Public Administration, e.g legislative info, legal cases, presidential papers, etc.
    - Geosciences/Geography – maps, GIS resources, data sets, etc.
    - Humanities – historical info (Serial Set, Cong Record, etc.), NIH, etc.
    - Social Sciences – Census, public health, data sets, etc.
    - Sciences - Agricultural, mineral, NIST, USGS, NLM info etc

Strategies (continued)

- Perseverance and continued belief in value of government information for our patrons and for the larger communities that we serve.

- Inclusion of government info. in library instruction
  - Government info. covered in all tours, most demos
  - Library teaches a 1 hour credit course – Introduction to Library Research which has 1 day devoted to government information.
  - Two faculty (Tom Rohrig and Jake Syma) teach LIBR1100 sections for Legal Studies Minors which concentrates heavily on government and legal sources.

Outlook

1) Hopefully TTU will remain as a stand-alone or shared Regional.

2) A lot depends on the Library and University Administration. Dr. Dyal officially announced his retirement as of August 31, 2014.

    Texas Tech has a new President, Provost, and will soon get a new Chancellor with the retirement of Chancellor Hance this year.

3) So far, the view is cautiously optimistic. Our new President Nellis chose the library faculty as the first group to talk with as he began chats around Campus.

    Adding a second staff member to process documents was very encouraging.

    We have room for print title growth for 5 years at least.

Outlook (continued)

4) Continue investigating local and shared digitization projects. Tech is a member of TRAIL and continues to add content to the project.
   Some past digitization projects:
   a) Some Lubbock maps
   b) Texas Soil Surveys from about 1960s-1990s (fills out collection digitized by UNT and the USDA's born digital soil surveys.
   c) Census publications from City of Lubbock Planning department

6) Continue to work with the Texas and national depository community to provide access to government information wherever patrons are and in the format they need. In particular work with the Texas depository community to implement the Texas State Action Plan.

What about the Landfill?

- **Undiscoverable?**

Tech has made great strides: 1) Increased holdings in OPAC by about 20%, 2) Addition of many private electronic databases, e.g. Proquest; 3) links to GPO and other depository resources, 4) Outreach through Library instruction individually, tours, demos, LIBR 1100, etc, 5) Inclusion in OneSearch, and Ebsco Discovery Service Tool (trial), etc.

What about the Landfill?

- **Provide money to digitize collections**

GPO has steadily increased its digitization efforts in partnership with depository libraries, Hathi Trust, Internet Archives, Digital Library of America etc.

However, it still has a ways to go before the legacy collection is completely digitized—but we are on the path.

What about the Landfill?

* **There needs to be a redefinition of what constitutes an acceptable depository collection.**

    This is still a matter of concern to the Dean. Tech continues to grapple with how to cope with a growing collection in a limited growth space.
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Thank You! Questions?