



News Release

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TSLAC awards \$100,000 in TexTreasures grants for unique local collections

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*Making
information
work
for all
Texans*

AUSTIN, Texas – The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) issued grants totaling \$100,000 to six TexShare member libraries for the digitization of special and unique collections of photographs, oral history interviews and other historical documents, making them more accessible to all.

TSLAC awarded the TexTreasures grants of up to \$25,000 each to recipients for fiscal year 2010. Internet access will allow more people in Texas to examine and enjoy these collections that were previously available on-site only.

“Recipients use the grant funds to digitize special and unique collections of photographs, newspapers, interviews and other historical documents,” said TexShare Program Coordinator Ann Mason.

TSLAC received 22 TexTreasures grant proposals. The exciting projects that have been funded are:

- **“Houston Oral History Project”** (\$25,000) – The Houston Public Library is partnering with Houston Mayor Bill White to preserve and make the video-recordings of significant Houstonians available on the web. This grant will convert an additional 288 hours of audiotapes from cassette or reel-to-reel to digital format along with transcripts for the collection.
- **“The Bexar Archives”** (\$19,930) - The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin will create a research tool, called Bexar Archives Online, which joins digital images of the original Spanish documents with the corresponding English-language translations.
- **“Marion Butts Photography Negatives Project”** (\$17,571) - The Dallas Public Library will use the photographic records produced by Marion Butts, an African-American photographer and editor of the *Dallas Express*, as well as other primary source materials such as maps, Negro city directories and oral histories to develop a series of online Texas-focused, TEKS-based lesson plans targeting seventh grade students. The records chronicle Dallas and Texas history during the segregation and civil rights eras.
- **“Lady Bird Johnson Photo Collection Project”** (\$16,610) – The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin will digitize and provide access to a unique collection of photographs of Claudia Taylor “Lady Bird” Johnson. She is the wife of former President Lyndon B. Johnson, and was born in Karnack, Texas. As the First Lady of the United States from 1963-69, she was an advocate for nature, beautification and conservation of natural resources. Most of the photographs in this collection date after her return to Texas.

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- **“Itinerant Photographer Collection”** (\$14,389) – The Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin will preserve and digitize a collection of glass plate negatives depicting local businesses owners and employees in Corpus Christi, which were taken by an unidentified photographer in February 1934 during the Depression. The center will provide an online finding aid, an online catalog record and an online exhibit of the fragile items now in danger of emulsion loss.
- **“Tejano Voices Project”** (\$6,500) – The University of Texas at Arlington Library will digitize and describe 13 oral history interviews from notable Tejanos and Tejanas from across Texas conducted in 1992-2003 by Dr. Jose Angel Gutierrez, associate professor of political science at UT Arlington. Many of the interviews emphasize the personal struggles, from individuals of Mexican decent, who are the first in their communities elected or appointed to government offices. The interviews also reflect the history of the Tejano community as it pressed for an end to racial segregation in the state and access to political power in the post-WWII period.

The TexTreasures grant program is a component of the TexShare Program of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. TexTreasures provides assistance and encouragement to libraries to provide access to their special or unique holdings and to make information about these holdings available to all Texans.

“TexTreasures grants are an important tool to increase accessibility to historical treasures in libraries and archives across the state,” said Peggy D. Rudd, Texas State Library and Archives Commission Director and Librarian.

TexShare emphasizes the benefits of statewide library resource sharing so that Texans can access and use the widest possible range of information regardless of the type of library used. Other components of TexShare include online research databases, a library card that allows for statewide borrowing of materials, and a courier service that affords quick delivery between libraries.

More information about TexShare can be found at
<http://www.texshare.edu/generalinfo/about/>.

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ABOUT THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION

TSLAC helps Texans find the information they seek. The people of Texas utilize TSLAC services and programs to effectively use information and materials that improve their lives, the lives of their families, and their communities. Since 1909, TSLAC has carried out a commitment of making information work for all Texans by providing history and genealogical services, federal and state government documents, electronic research, and library services to Texans of all ages who are unable to read standard print material due to visual, physical, or reading disabilities. For more information, go to <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us> or email pio@tsl.state.tx.us.