

Dolph Briscoe Center Capstone Project

During my capstone project, I began looking at the Dolph Briscoe Center for photographs of UT Law Buildings. After several hours of looking through archival boxes in the center's PPC collection, I realized that the amount of material on this subject -- not even including UT Law School items in general -- was immense. Using the metadata form that I created, an individual could create a visual index by collecting data on each UT Law School object and then photographing it with a digital camera (the Briscoe Center allows patrons to bring their own cameras).

Because obtaining digital copies from the Briscoe Center is cost prohibitive¹, a visual index would be very helpful to Tarlton Law Library in selecting materials for its collection. Furthermore, many of the items within archival boxes have not been described by the Briscoe Center (they have only been tagged by subject terms), so accessibility would be improved for all users.

The following should help in locating all relevant materials.

1. This is the online index to use when searching for any subject terms.
<http://www.cah.utexas.edu/db/vmi/index.php>. I suggest using the following search terms : Law School, Old Main (the Law School was in the basement from 1884-1888), Pearce Hall, Townes Hall, Jesse H. Jones Communication Center, UT – Libraries – Law, UT - Libraries - Old Main.
2. You will see that the subject terms retrieve “Collections” and “PPC.” There are also oversized collections for both types.
 - a. Collections are large boxes with many items to sort through that are often unrelated to the items you are looking for.
 - b. PPC collections are thin folders containing photographs that are only related to the subject in question, so they are much less time-consuming.
3. To retrieve any materials, you will need to fill out forms with the File Title for PPC collections and the File Title with Box Number for regular collections.
 - a. The forms are provided at the Briscoe Center next to their physical indexes -- searching by subject can be done on site with these.
4. Only one box, or folder can be viewed at a time.
5. Only pencils, laptops, cameras, and papers (these will be stamped with a Briscoe Center stamp) are allowed in the reading area.
 - a. All other items must be stored in lockers.

¹ http://www.cah.utexas.edu/services/photographic_pricelist.php