

U. T. LIBRARY STORES DATA Texana for Texans Available for All Types of Readers

IN THE third floor southwest wing of the handsome new administration-library building on the University of Texas campus is housed the Texas Collection.

There in its quiet recesses, sitting on substantial, leather upholstered chairs at solid new tables may be seen at all library hours both casual and serious historians alike exploring Texana.

Undergraduates may be dipping into the files with no further objective than tomorrow's assignment.

Earnest graduate students may be looking wistfully through the red-bound theses written by earnest graduate students before them—eager about the thesis they must write this semester or next.

At still another table may be sitting a Texas author who is gathering data for a book that is headed for the best-seller lists.

A club woman perhaps is getting together notes for a paper to be presented before her group on some phase of Texas history.

A newspaper of ancient vintage may yield the information that clinches a heated argument to still another who finds the Texas Collection rich in source material.

For the Texas Collection—a working collection not a collector's collection—serves generously all those who are interested in Texas' past.

The growth of the Texas Collection has been spontaneous, brought about by library purchase, of course, for the most part and by gifts and bequests of people interested in assembling and preserving a record of the history and development of the state. It has paralleled the growth of the university itself.

IN 1895 COL. GEORGE W. BRACKENRIDGE donated \$500 for the purchase of Texas books and thus became the "father of the Texas Collection." Not all these early acquisitions, however, were segregated from the library general bookstack.

The Palm library, which was presented to the university two years later, contained a good collection of books on Texas. Among them were some that were considered rare even in that day. Prof. Garrison had recently begun an advanced course which centered about the history of Texas. An appreciation of and a need for source material bearing on the early history of Texas had been developed.

To accommodate the greatly increased bookstack of the university library, resulting from the Palm gift, it was removed to the large room under the university auditorium. The Palm books filled the eastern half of the bookroom; the university's books filled the western half.

The Texas books were taken out of the Palm library and placed in locked cases on the west side. This arrangement continued until the library was transferred in 1912 to the new Cass Gilbert library building.

In the meantime valuable additions to the Texas Collection had been made by the gift of Gov. Robert's library, in 1898, by the gift of the Texas Veterans' material in 1899, and by the gift of Col. Ashbel Smith's library, among others.

In 1915 the Texas Collection was occupying a separate room on the third floor of the Cass Gilbert library. There it remained until transferred to its present quarters in the new administration-library building.

A report on the scope of the collection written in December, 1935, showed a total of 22,514 volumes. As it is a living collection, it is constantly being augmented.

The types of material catalogued "T"—that is, sent to the Texas room—include publications of corporate bodies, periodicals published within the state and the work of individual authors. The Texas Collection also embraces original manuscripts and newspapers.

"In assembling this collection," library officials point out, "the ideal was that research people only would have access to it; but, in reality, it is a circulating collection extending service to the general public. The enormous demand enforces a large scope. Students of law, journalism, public speaking, students in education and anthropology, as well as history and American literature, all come to the Texas Collection for reference material and reference help. Constant calls are also made from the offices of student publications for the use of Texas material. Journalists from all over the state use it. These, in addition to research students and the general public, by their use of the collection, have widened its scope to that of a circulating library."

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