

Texas
Center - UT

New Barker History Center Merges Texana Materials

The University's Texana is divided at present among three special libraries—the Texas Collection, the Archives Collection, and the Newspaper Collection. The first two will be combined in the near future to form a collection known as the Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center.

It will be housed, along with the Texas Historical Society offices, in the Old Library Building. As soon as remodeling of the building is completed and furniture arrives, both documents and printed works will be made readily accessible in the same quarters.

At the present, the Texas Col-

lection shares the west wing of the Main Building's third floor with the Latin-American Collections. Here is brought together all printed matter concerning Texas. In its entirety, the collection covers every aspect of the state's development—social, agricultural, industrial and commercial, as well as historical and literary.

The Texas Collection includes all University and state publications, old and current books dealing with Texas and Texans, and books written by Texans. It forms an unsurpassed record of

the life and culture of the state.

The special Texas Collection came into being with the acquisition of the Swante Palm Library in 1897. Before then, Texas books were not segregated from the main library stacks. The Palm Library contained many books—some rare even then—dealing with Texas. These were separated and kept in locked cases in the crowded library room beneath the University Auditorium. Valuable additions came by gifts from Governor O. M. Roberts's library in 1898, the Texas Veterans' material in 1899, and the gift of Colonel Ashbel Smith's library.

The collection occupied a separate room on the third floor of the Old Library Building from 1912 until it was moved to its present quarters with the completion of the new main building.

The library boasts more than 40,000 titles now, with an average circulation of 50,000 volumes. The most important recent acquisition was the purchase, in 1947, of the library of Earl Vandale of Amarillo—almost 8,000 books and 35,000 pages of manuscript, beside pamphlets, periodicals, maps, and broadsides.

Mrs. Marcelle Hamer has charge of the Texas Collection.



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