

C.L. SONNICHSEN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL
REPORT
FISCAL YEAR
2020/2021



Mission

The Special Collections Department supports the University's mission of education, research, scholarship, and community service. The mission of the C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department is to acquire, preserve, and make available for use the archival, rare book, and media collections of the University Library within the scope of the Department's collection policies. Areas of collection emphasis include primary sources for the history of the University, El Paso and the border region; fine printing and book design; and military history.

Vision

The Library sits on a hill within sight of the Mexican border. Our unique position informs our attitudes and the services we offer. We aim for excellence in providing service to our users and in making our collections accessible.

Overview

The collections contained in the C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department directly support research and learning at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). The Department has over 750 archival collections, over 1,600 oral histories, various rare book collections, and thematic book collections, such as the Southwest, Chicano, Judaica, Art, Military, and McCord Poetry collections.

Staff

Claudia Rivers, Head

Abbie Weiser, Assistant Head

David Flores, Photo Archivist

Yvette Delgado, Imaging Specialist

Anne Allis, Library Assistant II

Gracie Galvez, Library Assistant II

Interns

Alex Lopez

Vivian Ramos

Volunteers

Eva Ross

Nancy Wilson



What We Do

Reference

Access services

Archival management

Preservation

Exhibits

Digitization

Outreach activities

Art collection management

Library subject specialists

Instruction and SPC orientations

Grant-writing

Special projects

Professional service

By the Numbers

**14,028 images
viewed online**

**16,218 oral
histories used**

478

VISITORS

(partially closed
during the fiscal year
due to Covid-19)

455

**BOOKS AND
ARCHIVAL
COLLECTIONS
USED IN-HOUSE**

789

**REFERENCE
QUESTIONS
ANSWERED**



Department Highlights

34 finding aids sent to Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO)

Materials featured in exhibits, books, and articles

Virtual Border Archives Bazaar, Border Regional Archives Group, October 2020

Gettin' Spooky in Special Collections program

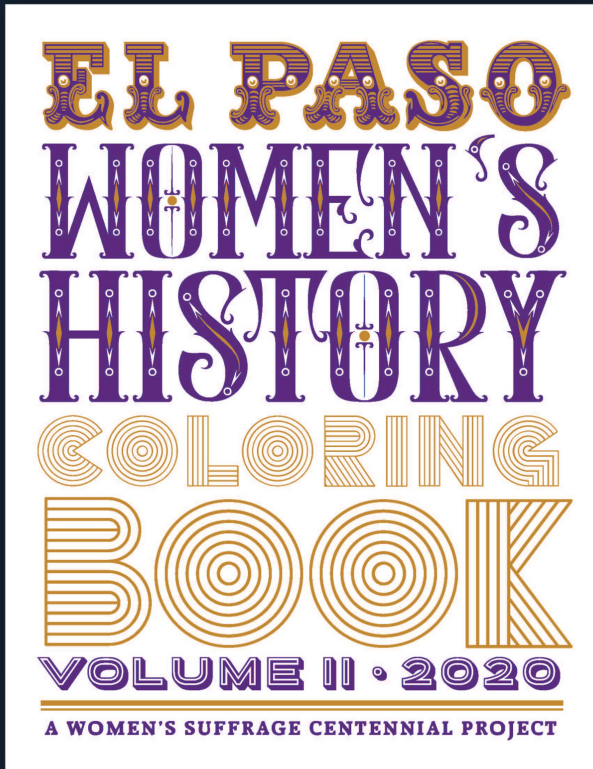
497 Casasola Studio photographs now identified

Almost 700 followers on Instagram ([@utep_specialcollections](#))

"Art in the Archives" 2021 [calendar](#)

Articles in [Archival Outlook](#) and [The Southwestern Archivist](#) ([here](#) and [here](#))

Alphabet book exhibit, Sixth Floor



Published
November 2020



Literature and Landscape photo exhibit, Third Floor Gallery

Department Highlights

El Paso Women's History Coloring Book, Volume II, November 2020

El Paso League of Women Voters presentation, March 2021

**Community Archiving Workshop grant
(digitizing a/v materials)**

Literature and Landscape photography exhibit

Alphabet book exhibit

Contributed to the "A New Spain" online exhibit by the Benson Latin American collection, UT-Austin, April 2021

40 feet, 10.5 inches (linear) of new archival materials added to Special Collections

Archive-It web-archiving projects (here and here)

In the Press

El Paso History Radio Show, July 2021

KTSM news features, 2021

Telewizja Polska (Polish public television news segment), July 2021

**Borderlands (El Paso Community College),
Volume 38, 2021**



New to Special Collections

Tillie Krakauer Steffian Zork postcard album

**Requiem for the Innocent photograph collection
(August 3rd memorial)**

Charles Ambler papers

Colonel Forrest L. Martz papers

Viola Mary Hadlock Anderson photograph collection

Tompkins-Penfield postcard collection

1905 Miniatures El Paso and Juarez album



Fun and Games

Social Media



El Paso Women's History
Coloring Books

Online Exhibits

Special Collections
Jigsaw Puzzles

Special Collections
Playlist on Spotify





Online Collections

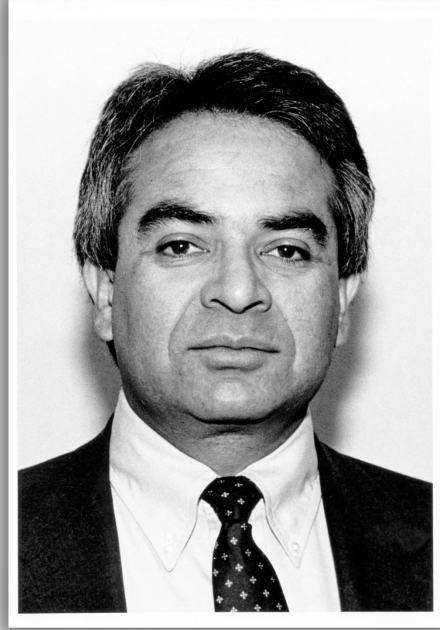
[Image Collections](#)

[Oral Histories](#)

[Special Collections
on the Portal to
Texas History](#)

[Special Collections on
ScholarWorks@UTEP](#)

In Memorium Juan Sandoval



1946 - 2021

Our friend and former colleague, Juan Antonio Sandoval, Jr., passed away on January 3, 2021. Juan was a librarian at UTEP for almost 40 years in the Reference and Special Collections Departments. He was a celebrated collector of Latin American art and his collection is now at the Mexic-Arte Museum in Austin. The museum curated an exhibit featuring his collection and library last fall.

Juan loved art, books, riding his bicycle, and going out to eat with friends. He also enjoyed his annual trips to Oaxaca and helping generations of students at UTEP.

After his passing, many people paid tribute to Juan on social media and in the local news.

Special Collections held an online memorial for Juan via Zoom in January, and his nephew, Ray Griggs, hosted a memorial fiesta for Juan on August 25 at Ardovino's Desert Crossing.

He is very much missed.



C.L. SONNICHSEN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

**Sixth Floor
UTEP Library
1900 Wiggins Way
El Paso, TX 79902**

915-747-5697

specialcollections@utep.edu

<https://www.utep.edu/library/special-collections>

Report created by Abbie Weiser

