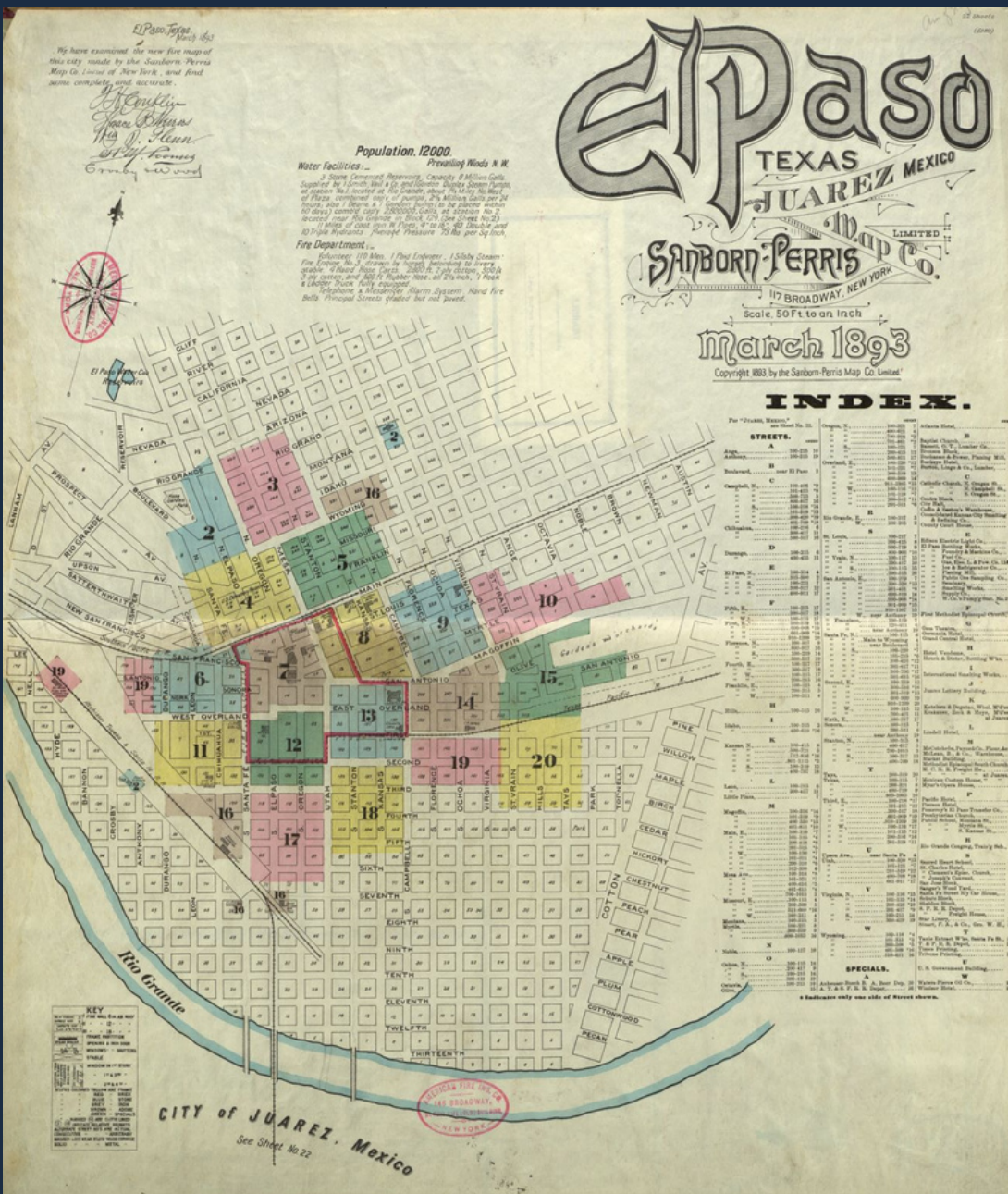


**C.L. SONNICHSEN
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
DEPARTMENT**



ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022



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 almost 800 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

Humanities Collaborative Intern

Erick Balandran

Volunteers

Eva Ross

Laura Hollingsed

Student Assistants

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

Special Collections receives Preservation Assistance Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

by Claudia Rivers

In August 2022, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded Special Collections a Preservation Assistance Grant. The grant will allow the Library to engage a consultant to make a preservation assessment of the collections and the spaces where the collections are housed. The report that the consultant will prepare will allow the department to create a preservation plan to extend the usable life of the materials. Because the department has very limited storage space available, and because the University is also facing severe space challenges, making the most of the areas where materials are stored is essential.

Since UTEP has achieved R1 research status, collecting primary source materials to support faculty and student research must be a priority. We have hosted over 2,500 researchers, students, and visitors in the past year, even with a reduced schedule and staff, but we need to continue to expand our resources and services. However, having facilities to house important new collections presents a continuing challenge for Special Collections. We hope that we can use the grant to build the case for improved or expanded storage.

We expect that the NEH Preservation Assistance Grant will make recommendations on the best way to utilize and improve the spaces we have now, and help us to set goals for future facilities.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities



Class instruction for Dr. Sam Brunk's class on the Mexican Revolution, August 25, 2022. Photo courtesy of Marissa Testerman.



**Evaluating books,
February 2022.**

Digital Projects

by Claudia Rivers

Making more materials available online to researchers has been a goal of the C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department for many years, but the efforts got a push during the pandemic when offering in-person services became difficult. Working from home allowed some staff members to concentrate on projects that showed immediate benefits.

The Fannie Zlabovsky National Council of Jewish Women case files had been digitized by Imaging Specialist Yvette Delgado, but in 2020 Web Librarian Lisa Weber was able to add descriptive data to the files. This collection contains fascinating immigration background—mostly from the 1930s—relating to people fleeing fascist regimes in Europe. The project was prompted by Mrs. Zlabovsky's family members who made a donation to help make the material accessible electronically.

https://scholarworks.utep.edu/fanny_z/

A grant from the Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) allowed us to participate in the Southwest Cohort of the Community Archiving Workshop (CAW). This series of training webinars gave us and the staff members at four other institutions tools to evaluate the quality of older media in our collections and prepare the documentation necessary for making digital copies that will be accessible over the long term. As part of the grant, we received a stipend to help us send some older 16mm films out for reformatting and funds to pay for more server space to save digital files. Photo Archivist David Flores also used a template CAW provided to record information about the reel-to-reel audio tape of the KTEP radio program “The Edge of Texas” as he creates digital copies.

As our digital collections grow, we are learning that storing them presents challenges beyond the initial scanning and describing the materials. The University must charge for server space and for maintenance of the files—many of which are extremely large. Technical Support staff must back up the files periodically, and backing up terabytes of storage requires time and energy.

In September, Special Collections will begin to participate in a grant-funded project to evaluate institutions' capacity for preserving digital files. This project, in part growing out of the CAW training, is funded by the National Historical Publication and Records Commission (NHPRC), and will consist of assessing the usefulness of a set of tools developed by the Wisconsin Library System for maintaining digital media.

View other digital content from Special Collections online at ScholarWorks (https://scholarworks.utep.edu/spec_coll/), ContentDM Image Collections (<https://cdm15823.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/>) and the Oral History Institute (https://scholarworks.utep.edu/oral_history/). Other electronic collections created by Special Collections staff and students may be accessed at ScholarWorks under the heading UTEP History or the History Department's Student Papers.



Fannie Hutman Zlabovsky, Fannie Zlabovsky - National Council of Jewish Women case files, MS508

By the Numbers

**28,563 images
viewed online**

**13,455
oral histories
used**

2,532
VISITORS

2,121
BOOKS AND
ARCHIVAL
COLLECTIONS
USED

1,320
REFERENCE
QUESTIONS
ANSWERED

648
DIRECTIONAL
QUESTIONS
ANSWERED

By the Numbers cont'd

8
(117 attendees)
ONLINE
PRESENTATIONS

7
(210 attendees)
PROGRAMS

5
NEW LIBRARY
EXHIBITS

3
NEW AND
ONGOING GRANTS

28 Tours
(183 people)

15 classes
(228 students)
Bibliographic
Instruction

Department Highlights

National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grant, August 2022

Materials featured in Centennial Museum and El Paso Museum of History exhibits

Materials used in books, dissertations, and articles

Nerd Night Tours of Special Collections, August 31, 2022

Virtual Border Archives Bazaar, Border Regional Archives Group, October 2021

Over 500 Casasola Studio photographs now identified

Over 800 followers on Instagram ([@utep_specialcollections](#))

"Wish You Were Here" 2022 calendar

Day of the Dead altars to Leon Metz, Juan Sandoval, and Diana Natalicio

[El Paso Matters article](#) about the Leona Ford Washington photograph collection

History Department Seminar on Archives and the Archival Profession, October 2021

Researchers from Switzerland, California, East Texas, New York, the El Paso borderlands, and more.



Art tour of the Library by Abbie Weiser and Claudia Rivers for OLLI students, June 21, 2022. Photo courtesy of Marissa Testerman.



Mexican Baroque music concert in Blumberg Auditorium, April 11, 2022. The UTEP Early Music group played music from Special Collections' holdings on their historic instruments.

Department Highlights cont'd

Mexican Baroque concert with the UTEP Department of Music, April 11, 2022

El Paso Women's History Coloring Book, Volume II, Second Edition, August 2022

Community Archiving Workshop grant

Art tour of the Library for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute students, June 21, 2022

Talk about Special Collections by Abbie Weiser at the El Paso Museum of History, February 16, 2022

Hosted digital scholarship workshops with the Benson Latin American collection, June 2022

Claudia and Abbie taught sections of the Border Regional Archives Group's Archives 101 workshop, July 21, 2022

Archive-It web-archiving projects ([here](#) and [here](#))

Five new library exhibits

Ghost of Mt. Cristo Rey exhibit by Tom Lea Fellow Javier Segovia

Tom Lea Month Talk by Claudia Rivers

Texas Digital Library conference presentations by Claudia Rivers and David Flores, July 2022

Total archival accessions: 168 feet, 7 inches (linear)

New front desk!



Dr. Albert Palacios from UT-Austin taught three digital scholarship workshops at the UTEP Library on June 30, 2022. Albert, Claudia, and Abbie also curated the exhibit A New Spain, which opened in June 2022.



Border Regional Archives Group's Archives 101 workshop on July 21, 2022 in Special Collections. Participants were from central and southern New Mexico and El Paso.



Dia de los Muertos altars to Dr. Diana Natalicio (former UTEP president); Leon Metz (historian and UTEP's first archivist); and Juan Sandoval (UTEP librarian and celebrated art collector), October 2021.

Images of Black El Paso exhibit



Page from the Ada Tharp lap desk, PH038.

A New Spain, collaborative exhibit with UT-Austin's Benson Latin American Collection



El cordero vivo y muerto, 1673, Rare book collection. Example of marcas de fuego used in monastic libraries in colonial-era Mexico. The exhibit included examples of marcas de fuego and papel sellado from UTEP Special Collections.

The Pan American Round Table of El Paso



Eugenia Schuster, Stout-Feldman Studio photograph collection, PH074

Founded in 1921 by Eugenia Schuster (1865-1946), the Pan American Round Table of El Paso is a nonprofit women's organization that promotes "mutual knowledge, understanding, and friendship among the peoples of the western hemisphere". The organization's goals include improving international relations by establishing friendships with women from different countries as well as to increase members' knowledge about the Pan American nations with a focus on women's concerns and issues.

For over one hundred years members of the El Paso Round Table have learned about the culture, geography, society, economy, politics, and history of the Pan American nations (now the Organization of American States), and met with members of other Round Tables in North, Central, and South America during state and international Round Table conventions and other activities. Political and social issues were also discussed at luncheons and events and members became involved in local civic affairs. In 1946, a junior Pan American Round Table was established at the Texas College of Mines (now UTEP).



First meeting minutes, Pan American Round Table of El Paso records, MS526



Jr. Pan American Round Table of El Paso, The Flowsheet, 1946

The El Paso Round Table is unique in that it is the only Round Table with members from two different countries: El Paso, Texas and Juárez, Mexico.

Selections from the C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Dept.
The University of Texas at El Paso

Pan American Round Table of El Paso centennial exhibit

lifestyle

Special problems of minority women

Feminist battle not over yet

Stella Jauregui (below) says, "Feminism is nothing more than an extension of human rights. Who in their right mind would deny someone human rights?"



By Linda Klusmann
El Paso Herald-Post

Capt. Diana James has been the minority in a multitude of situations.

"Whether it be in the way I think, my sex, my race or my religion, if I am secure in my own being and have self-value, I will be able to stand in the midst of indifference."

In the military for seven years, Capt. James advocates different coping mechanisms to sustain a sense of self in whatever situation arises. "It is not as much what others think," she said. "The important thing is for people to be secure and convinced of who they are, accepting it and being content in themselves."

Capt. James, a chaplain in the Army and director of the Life Enrichment Center at Fort Bliss, will join Rosemary Valladao, El Paso Community College instructor to contribute to the English segment of the bilingual workshop in one of a continuing series in a feminist workshop.

Feminism and the Minority Woman will begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Manhattan Presbyterian Church, 1201 N. Piedra St.

Although Stella Jauregui, director of marketing at Sierra Medical Center, is scheduled as a panelist, her obligations may keep her from attending.

In the event she cannot attend, participants will listen to a pre-recorded tape by Ms. Jauregui.

Ms. Jauregui believes, "Feminism is nothing more than an extension of human rights. It's about equality and human rights. Who in their right mind would deny someone human rights?"

A nurse by profession, she is involved in development, public relations and marketing for the medical center and also does some work in Mexico. She said she is particularly concerned about Mexican-American women. She is involved with one of the sponsoring groups of the workshop that deals with things of this nature.

She said Mexican-American National Women's Association (MANA) serves an important function as a support network. "Another point I'd like to get across is the importance of networking," she said.

Although she has a master's degree from the University of California at Berkeley, she said, being able to handle yourself is sometimes more important than formal education.

Panelist Ms. Valladao said, "There is a real need for upward mobility. It must come through education and employment." With a master's degree in nursing, the El Paso native has been conducting seminars for the past few years and said, "Women just didn't have marketable skills. It is important for them to get back into school or perfect their skills."

Specializing in mental health seminars and concentrating on minority women, she said, "Lots of women fail to check out the market and go into dead-end jobs or those being phased out. They must research the field and be aware of the avenues for promotion."

The branch of two counselors at the Women's Resource Center, the workshop was devised to educate the community on what feminism is.

Other group study opportunities at the event include Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Fort Bliss Officers' Women's Club, League of Women Voters of El Paso, Women's Center of the El Paso Community College, Women's Political Caucus and WPCA Women's Resource Center.

Two speakers will conduct a Spanish language seminar simultaneously in an other room of the building.

Conducting this portion of the program will be Karen Baillou of MANA, Irma Salas of EPCW and Joie Salazar of El Paso Women's Employment and Education Office.

Working with people is puzzle for head of 900-member group

By Wendy Forb
El Paso Herald-Post

They call her Happy, but a host of other adjectives describe her as well. Ambitious, industrious and gracious to name a few.

They also call her chairman-director, Marian "Happy" Foote is the leader of the more than 900 El Paso women who make up the Woman's Department of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce.

"I guess I must be a very restless person," Mrs. Foote says of her volunteer work. I feel like it is important to involve yourself with people. It's all like a puzzle, and I have to see if I can make it work. Sometimes I can, and sometimes I can't."

Mrs. Foote has been working the puzzle since 1949 when she and her husband, retired Col. Ashby Minor Foote, left the United States for war-ravaged Germany.

"Because of the destruction, Germany was in a sad state. We didn't even have a refrigerator. But things like that didn't matter then," Mrs. Foote recalled.

After a three-year stint in Germany, the Footes came to El Paso for the first time. Mrs. Foote describes her first encounter with the Sun City as a terrible shock. "I thought we were in the other end of the world," Mrs. Foote says with a smile.

Col. Foote's military career took the family to New York, Colorado, Mississippi and Maryland. Mrs. Foote says the family chose to settle in El Paso because of the climate and the people.

As head of the woman's department for 1982-1983, Mrs. Foote explains that she has tried to guide rather than direct.

"When you have 900 women, it's hard to get people to contribute. We try to pull in newcomers to El Paso and put them in touch with other organizations," she said. As Mrs. Foote describes the work her organization has done and continues to do with the city's parks and museums, she says, "We just don't sit around and bake cookies."

resolves that problem. "I kick myself before anyone else gets a chance to," she says.

Born and reared in Kansas, Mrs. Foote attended Kansas State University, studying speech and drama. She and her husband have three children—Ashby M. Foote, a stockbroker in Jackson, Miss.; Marain "Sissy" Ankian, a director of a museum in Jackson; and Taylor Marshall Foote, a student at Cathedral High School.

Though Mrs. Foote does not label herself a feminist (she confessed that she almost went to a National Organization of Women meeting in Washington) and is not a supporter of the ERA, she does feel strongly about women's equality. "I don't feel discriminated against at home, so sometimes it comes as a shock to me when I see it. But it's a man's world out there, and that's just another puzzle to solve."

"We (women) have to earn our way and not look like a bunch of little old ladies in tennis shoes. You have to prove yourself. I don't want to be coddled, and I can sense when I am."

Mrs. Foote stressed the importance of women receiving an education and says she often goes back to school to take a class to "wake up."

Aside from her duties as chairman-director, Mrs. Foote volunteers as gift shop manager for the El Paso Museum of Art, where she is responsible for making gift shop selections. Mrs. Foote has also led the El Paso Drive-A-Meal project, served as district chairman for American Women in Germany, president of the Officers' Wives Club at Fort Bliss, member of the Volunteer Board of El Paso and board member, secretary and first vice president of the woman's department.

In her Westside El Paso home filled with antiques, Mrs. Foote spends her leisure time reading. Her eyes light up when she discusses books she's read, and she is eager to suggest a favorite to read. Among her collection of books is *Bring Me a Unicorn* by Ann Morrow Lindbergh, who Mrs. Foote refers to as her heroine.

"One author I've overcome the most tragic thing, the loss of a child, and she overcame it by her husband's remarriage, and she was a great woman."

Second-Wave Feminism in El Paso exhibit (in-person and online)

New to Special Collections

University Communications photo files

Daughters of the Republic of Texas - El Paso Rio Grande Chapter collection

Lela M. Cole Kitson papers

FBI Surveillance of La Unión Nacional Sinarquista (UNS) collection

Amelia Branch Foster collection

David Long Muzquiz memoir

IMPACT/Counterpoint collection

Alexandra Minna Stern research files

Franklin Mountain Wilderness Coalition records

El Paso Native Plant Society records

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 Dr. Diana Natalicio (1939-2021)

Diana Siedhoff Natalicio was a linguistics professor and administrator at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). She served as the president of UTEP from 1988 – 2019.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Natalicio earned her undergraduate degree in Spanish from St. Louis University and received a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Brazil. She then graduated with a MA in Portuguese and a doctorate in linguistics from the University of Texas at Austin. In 1971, Natalicio became an assistant professor of linguistics at UTEP. She later served as department chair, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and as vice-president of Academic Affairs.

In 1988, Dr. Natalicio was named president of UTEP by the UT System Board of Regents. She was the first woman president of the school. During her 31-year tenure, UTEP's budget and population increased and the school greatly expanded its graduate programs. Natalicio, in particular, emphasized UTEP's accessibility to minority students and strengthened cross-border ties to Mexico.

During her career, Dr. Natalicio received many honors and awards including the Conquistador Award from the City of El Paso (the city's highest honor) and the Order of the Aztec Eagle from the government of Mexico. She was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1998. In 2016, Time Magazine named her as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

After her retirement in 2019, Natalicio was named President Emerita by the UT System Board of Regents.

Dr. Natalicio was a good friend to Special Collections over the years and attended many of our events and filmed a segment for our department's fiftieth anniversary video in 2017.

In 2020, Dr. Natalicio donated \$50,000 to Special Collections to help fund internships. We are grateful for her generosity and belief in the importance of our work.

In Memorium Dr. Diana Natalicio (1939-2021)



Dr. Natalicio with photo archivist David Flores and former Special Collections intern Michael Reyes at our ASARCO exhibit opening, 2016.



Dr. Natalicio speaks to members of the Pan American Round Table of El Paso at an exhibit opening in Special Collections, 2007.



**College of Mines faculty, staff, and students, December 1920,
UTEP collection, MS001**

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Report created by Abbie Weiser

Front cover image: Sanborn fire insurance map, 1893, MS133

