

UNT Libraries' Newsletter

Fall 2001

Welcome to the Fall 2001 edition of the UNT Libraries' Newsletter and Faculty Guide.

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Gammel's Laws of Texas online

UNT Web site adds 19th century Texas laws

Hans Gammel stood looking at the gutted out, still smoldering remains of the capitol building in Austin, Texas. It was Thursday, November 10, 1881. Yesterday morning, a fire had blazed up in the old Capitol building and quickly burned out of control. In spite of the town's best efforts to put out the fire, the building was in

ruins.

After all the noise and confusion, when the shouting was over and the running firefighters had disappeared, nothing was left save the rank odor of cinders and piles of rubble mixed with the wet, soggy mess that was all that remained of years of legal documents, state records, and paperwork.

Hans and his little family lived in a rented place over at Hickory Street and Congress Avenue. He and his wife Anna had come over from Denmark several years ago. To keep the wolf from the door, Hans sold writing paper, jewelry, lemonade, and books. As another way to bring in money, Hans took on the job of clearing the debris.

Day after day Hans hauled away the mess, and began to discover not just whole pages but also partly complete books. He sorted through the piles of rubble, carefully laying aside the pages that were not completely scorched. Throughout the next few days, Hans brought home all the remaining papers, painstakingly drying each page by hanging it on the clothesline. His wife Anna was not happy to have piles of rubble in her yard, but eventually she helped Hans with the stacks of singed, but nearly complete records and documents that filled their kitchen and parlor.

It took him seventeen years, but he finally organized the salvaged papers into what became *The Laws of Texas*.

H. M. S. Gammel's rescue of the remains of most of Texas' 19th century legal documents from the state capitol fire of 1881 has become the multi-volume set, *The Laws of Texas*. Gammel's salvage has created a key resource for Texas historians, legal experts, and genealogists.

Now the University of North Texas is preserving Gammel's work by digitizing these volumes and keeping them on its Texas Law & Historic Documents Web site. *The Nineteenth Century Texas Law Online: Gammel's The Laws of Texas* (Volumes 1-10) project was sponsored by a grant from the TexTreasuries Program and by the University of North Texas Libraries.

In this on-going project, the UNT Libraries completed the digitization of volumes 1-10 (1822-1897) covering Texas history from colonization, to the Republic, and to statehood during some of the state's most tumultuous times. Within the Laws of Texas are documents from each congressional and legislative session, constitutions, constitutional convention journals and early colonization laws.

These volumes have never been reprinted despite their importance to researchers. Cathy Hartman, project manager, noted, "Only a few libraries across the state own copies of the printed volumes, but professional or amateur historians, from their office or home computer, now may quickly access the most important compilation of nineteenth century Texas laws on our Web site." All of the pages are available in PDF format. Users can browse Gammel's work by volume or perform a keyword search.

To view the web site go to <http://texinfo.library.unt.edu/lawsoftexas/>. For more information contact Cathy Hartman, Head, Government Documents Department, UNT Libraries, and manager of the Texas Law & Historic Documents digital projects, at (940) 565-3269.

N. Viens and C. Hartman

Genealogy Presentation at UNT Libraries

On Saturday, October 27, a four-member panel presented *Looking for your Ancestors in the UNT Libraries*, a program designed to showcase resources available at the UNT Libraries for genealogy researchers. Sponsored by the Friends of the Libraries, in cooperation with the Denton County Genealogical Society, Inc, the panel consisted of UNT Librarians Stacy Anderson (Reference); Mary Durio (Rare Books), Richard Himmel (Archives), and from Dallas Public Library, Associate David Hardin.

The four spoke to a capacity crowd, each of them discussing types of resources available, places to start research, and showing items from the collections. After the 2-hour presentation, members of the audience visited different areas of the libraries, and some were seen to begin research with the new sources about which they had just learned.

For more information on Genealogy resources at UNT, visit the [Genealogy Subject Guide](http://www.library.unt.edu/subjects/genealogy/genealogy.htm) at: <http://www.library.unt.edu/subjects/genealogy/genealogy.htm>

For more information on the Friends of The Libraries, visit the [Friends of the Libraries](http://www.library.unt.edu/friends/default.htm) webpage at: <http://www.library.unt.edu/friends/default.htm>

ingenta's UnCover Service available

In an effort to increase the amount of materials available to our researchers the UNT Libraries' has added Ingenta's UnCover service to the more than 300 electronic resources available to the UNT community. Ingenta UnCover provides patrons with access to both current and back issues' tables of contents of approximately 20,000 scholarly and popular journal titles from all disciplines. The coverage dates are 1988 for some titles to the present. Another component of the UnCover service is a fee based 24-48 hour document delivery service available to the UNT campus community.

The University of North Texas Ingenta Gateway can be located from the UNT Libraries' home page at <http://www.library.unt.edu/> by selecting "Electronic Resources" link under "Quick Links." At the Electronic Resources page, type '[Ingenta](#)' in the search box. Press search. Click on Ingenta to open the database.

Patrons who are used to accessing Ingenta with your Internet browser by typing www.ingenta.com should be aware that accessing the Ingenta Web site by that way results in losing the benefits of UNT Libraries' contract with Ingenta which include: a 25% document delivery discount, separate departmental accounts, links to UNT periodical holdings and more.

Consult the Science & Technology reference desk for more details at (940) 565-4745.

E.Gonzalez

Legacies Conference

From October 25-28, 2001, the UNT College of Music, and the UNT Libraries' Music Department hosted the conference "*Legacies: 500 Years of Printed Music*", presented in celebration of the quincentenary of Petrucci's *Harmonice musices odhecaton A* and in celebration of the accomplishments of UNT musicologist Helen Hewitt and 50 years of the Ph.D. program at UNT. Distinguished visitors from across the country and around the world visited UNT to hear and present papers, attend a musical performance, and to see the Music Library at UNT.

In addition to seeing the extensive holdings of the Music Library and

the treasures on display in the Sandborn Room, many of the visitors also viewed the related exhibit in the Rare Book Room, "*Capturing the Melody: 500 Years of Printed and Recorded Music, and the achievements of Helen Hewitt.*"

For more information on the UNT Music Library, see their homepage at:

<http://www.library.unt.edu/music/default.htm>

For more information about the UNT Rare Book Room, see their homepage at:

<http://www.library.unt.edu/rarebooks/>

New Faces, New Titles

In the past few months, the UNT Libraries have had a number of tearful farewells and open-armed welcomes. As a result, there are some familiar titles wearing new faces around the libraries, and some familiar faces wearing some new titles.

After 20 years, Dr. Kenneth Lavender, Curator of the Rare Book & Texana Collections has retired, moving to New York State. He will be sorely missed, but continuity is ensured with his assistant, Mary Durio, taking his place as Curator. In addition to working as his assistant, Mary had also previously served a form of modern-day apprenticeship with him. Previous to coming to UNT, she worked at the University of Dallas. Mary has a true love of rare books and of preservation. She has already impressed library staff and visitors alike in her knowledge of preservation, literature, and fine bindings. She has also charmed visitors with her open and friendly manner. Staff are impressed with her plans for the Rare Book Room, which range from fascinating exhibition ideas to a full inventory of the collection. Said Mary: "Dr. Lavender was wonderful, and knew everything about everything here. Replacing him is impossible. The inventory will not only help me learn more about the collection but will also help identify areas of the collection that need work, either in the form of better access via finding aids or added entries in the online catalog, or in the form of what areas we should buy more materials in order to help support the coursework taught at UNT." Mary has already established a good relationship with the Friends of the Libraries organization.

At the same time that Dr. Lavender left the UNT Libraries, Arne Almquist, Associate Dean of Libraries also left for another post. Assuming his duties is Melody Kelly, formerly Head of Government

Documents at UNT. Her skills in management and “people handling” are already impressing members of the library staff.

Replacing Melody Kelly as Head of Government Documents is Cathy Hartman. Cathy has been involved in a number of major projects in the Government Documents area, including the digitization of the Gammel’s Laws of Texas project. In addition, Government Documents has welcomed a new librarian to their ranks, Valerie Glenn. Valerie has already favorably impressed a number of the libraries’ staff with her knowledge and personality.

When Arne Almquist left, the libraries also lost Sharon Almquist, Head of Media Library. With her leaving, Sue Parks has been made the new Head of Media, and both her staff and others in the libraries have been impressed with her and Cecilia’s ideas for enhancing the collections of the Media Library. Joining the Media Library staff is Neena Weng, formerly a student assistant in the Multi-Media Development Lab, and well respected on campus for the work she’s done on a number of Web sites. Also joining the staff of Media is Diane Davis, transferring from Technical Services where she’s long been known and respected for being able to fix cataloging problems.

Joining the staff of the Science & Technology Reference staff is Beth Thomsett-Scott, from Canada. She’s already assumed a number of tasks at her new job, and has had a number of favorable compliments.

Leaving the Humanities & Social Sciences Reference staff is Edward Hoyenski, who has moved into the position of Assistant to the Curator, Rare Book & Texana Collections. Taking his place in H&SS is Dendra Alford, of the Sci Tech Reference Department.

“Behind the scenes” a number of other members of departments that most library users never see have also either left or joined the UNT Libraries. Georgia Bray, purchasing agent for the Libraries has left us, to be replaced by her predecessor, Jo Clark. Mark Henley has joined the UNT Libraries staff as assistant Contracts Officer, helping with the legal agreements on our 300+ electronic resources. Lisa Forest has joined the LAN Department, taking over as coordinator of the Help Desk. Joanna Cosby moved from our Preservation Department to LAN to take over the position of ILL Coordinator. Replacing her as Head of Preservation is Rebecca Barham-Johnson.

For more information on departments, personnel, and contact information, visit the “[About the Libraries](http://www.library.unt.edu/about/default.htm)” webpage at: (<http://www.library.unt.edu/about/default.htm>) In addition to personnel

and departments, it includes links to hours, directions, liaison lists, and other information.