Texas State University Libraries Digital Initiatives 2016-2018

(Written In Support of Great Western Library Association Application, GWLA)
Dr. Ray Uzwyshyn, Ph.D. MBA MLIS, Director of Collections and Digital Services

Alkek Library Digital and Web Services is focused on technology, research and growth pursuing leading edge digital technologies and expanding possibility for online digital research and digital scholarship. Working in tandem with other library divisions, the unit in the past three years has completed three watershed years of technological innovation milestones and digital projects ranging from online exhibits and digital libraries to more technologically complex projects such as online research data repositories.

National Tour of Texas
To note some of these in more detail The Santiago Tafolla Online Exhibit creates a stunning visual online exhibit of a historical Southwest Mexican American Confederate soldier complete with biographical manuscript. The Texas State Bobcat Flickr Commons site digitizes thousands of images from Texas State Bobcat sports history. The Earth Did Not Swallow Him is an online multimedia exhibit based on director Severo Perez’s acclaimed film tracing the development of this historical landmark in Texas Mexican film history. The University Pedagogs Project digitizes 100 years of University student yearbooks with page turning modules and zoom features. The National Tour of Texas: The Ultimate Texas Road Trip surrounds a 1987 historical journey by noted Texas journalist, Dick Reavis, chronicling a forgotten Texas and synthesizing a spectrum of higher-end technologies ranging from GIS mapping to digital video.

Recently, the library digitization unit received a 2017 TSLAC Tex Treasures grant to digitize a multi-decade run of the San Marcos Daily Record newspaper to preserve the visual imagery of Central Texas history. This year the unit completed a multi-year project of the Texas State Online Data Research Repository enabling faculty and students to share and archive their data.
Texas State Online Research Data Repository

Most recently, the unit completed the Cabeza de Vaca project, a digitization of a 500 year old conquistador’s account of his South West journey utilizing both advanced imaging technologies the IIIF (International Image Interoperability Framework) and Mirador Viewer so scholars globally can access the manuscript for further scholarship.

Cabeza De Vaca IIIF Digital Manuscript Archive
Addendum

In terms of physical technologies, Alkek Library is in the midst of a multi-million dollar learning commons infrastructure expansion. A large offsite repository, the ARC (Archival Research Center) has been completed and Learning commons technology possibilities have entered design phases with various multi-phase learning commons centers. New technology areas being planned range from Visualization walls to Makerspaces. A 3D printing lab has been successfully launched in the past couple years with a Youstar digital video studio for campus use and the 3D printing lab entering version two of expansion.