

# Making the Most Out of Collaboration: Partnerships & Grant Applications for Long-Term Preservation

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# TSU Library's Story

As told by the Library's Grants Task Force co-chair

# A Little Background

The TSU Library was asked to actively seek grants to assist with funding special projects. Our Library Director created a Grants Task Force to monitor opportunities and pursue grant applications that would align with identified interests. One of these special projects was our hope to digitize the earliest years of our town's newspapers, the *Stephenville Empire* and *Stephenville Tribune* (late 1800's/early 1900's).

Timing & luck appeared to be on our side. A joint webinar between the Tocker Foundation and UNT's Digital Newspaper Program Director, Dr. Ana Krahmer, on funding digitization projects was offered in late March 2016 and we saw an opportunity...

# A Partnership is Born

Tarleton celebrated a Day of Service on April 7th. Classes were dismissed so that students, staff, and faculty could participate in service projects around the community. The TSU Library staff arranged to assist the Stephenville Public Library (SPL) with a variety of projects they needed help with.

Inspired by the Tocker/UNT webinar from the week before we also sought time to talk with the Stephenville Public Library Director about interest in partnering to apply for the Tocker Foundation grant. The Tocker Foundation grant is only available to public libraries.

# But there was bad news...

The Tocker Foundation only provides funding to towns with 12,000 or less in population.\*

Timing & luck was still on our side though. At the TLA Annual Conference, I was able to talk to Ana Kraemer who recommended the Hancher Foundation <http://www.hancherlibraryfoundation.org/>. They work with towns of 50,000 or less in population. The deadline to apply was June 15th so we had about 7 weeks.



Retrieved from:  
<https://goo.gl/images/xgmkBd>

\*Stephenville's population is approx. 19,320 according to [www.stephenvilletx.gov](http://www.stephenvilletx.gov)

# The Power of Collaboration

The Grants Task Force took the lead in filling out the application since the materials (40 years worth of newspapers on microfilm) are in our collection and we had the staff time available to:

- Ask for digitization quotes from Ana
- Seek samples from other libraries who have applied for the grant
- Pull together an inventory list
- Receive assistance from the Grants Specialist (who actually works for the Office of Faculty Research) to ensure we got all the application materials together.

Our Special Services Coordinator, Amanda Pape, also included examples of the types of things that could be found in these early papers and instances of how they touched the lives of patrons located valuable information in them.

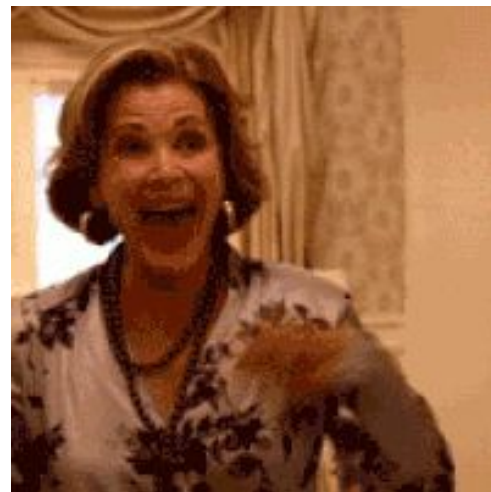
Mary Meredith, the SPL Director, provided information about the town's demographics, the history of the newspapers, and the potential impact of having these early newspapers available online.

## Throughout all of this...

We probably asked Ana a million and one questions.  
Thank you, Ana, for being so patient and helpful!

## As for the application...

It was submitted by Mary before the June 15th deadline  
and she notified us October 1st that she received a  
check for the full amount applied for. Yay!!



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<http://rs27.pbsrc.com/albums/c177/relcoh/GIF/image-11.gif~c200>

# The project got funded, now what?

We let Ana know right away that the project was funded and she provided us our next steps. Ultimately, we wanted to make sure the appropriate documents were signed (the Portal and digital rights agreements) and a packing list was created to clearly identify the reels being sent and the years they covered.

Our Library Director also coordinated a press release with our Marketing & Communications department and the Stephenville Public Library. This was sent to the *Stephenville Empire-Tribune* as well.

We hand delivered the reels to Ana while attending a digitization petting zoo event she held in late October.



# And they lived happily ever after... (or how we all benefitted)

Tarleton Library - digitization of fragile microfilm will be done and we can direct users to the online copy in the Portal. Also nice to build relationship with the SPL.

Stephenville Public Library - received assistance in grant application process and can also direct patrons to the online version without sending them out of their library.

UNT Digital Newspaper Program - grant funds secured and growth to newspapers provided in the Portal

Hancher Foundation - recognition for funding this project (multiple times in various ways)

# UNT Digital Newspaper Program

As told by the Director

# UNT: Newspaper Media Types



# What's Needed for Collaboration?

- Publisher Permission: Post-1923 content.
- Time & Patience: Can take 1-1.5 years to complete a full run of newspapers.
- More Collaboration: We work on multiple grant-funded projects all at once.

# Grant Projects

- Tocker Foundation: Awarded to libraries serving populations <12,000
- Ladd & Katherine Hancher Foundation: Awarded to libraries serving populations <50,000
- TexTreasures: *Dallas Voice* (2014), *Texas Jewish Post* (2015), Borderlands Newspaper Digitization Project (2016)
- National Endowment for the Humanities' National Digital Newspaper Program Awards (2007, 2009, 2011, 2016: Texas)

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# Questions & Open Discussion