

Reigniting Endowed Excitement

A Case Study of
Collaborating
across Divisions
to Improve Access
to a Legacy
Collection in an
R1 Library System

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#ACREndowedExcitement

Girolamo Porro, Map of Tenochtitlan, circa 1572; Source:
<https://exploreuk.uky.edu/catalog/xt70rx93bh49#page/1/mode/1up>

Introductions...

Taylor Leigh

- Joined UKL in September 2019
- Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies, experience working with special collections and archival materials as a researcher
- Primary job duties include:
 - Collection development
 - Instruction
 - Outreach
- Professional interests include:
 - Critical librarianship
 - Primary sources
 - Community outreach

Colleen Barrett

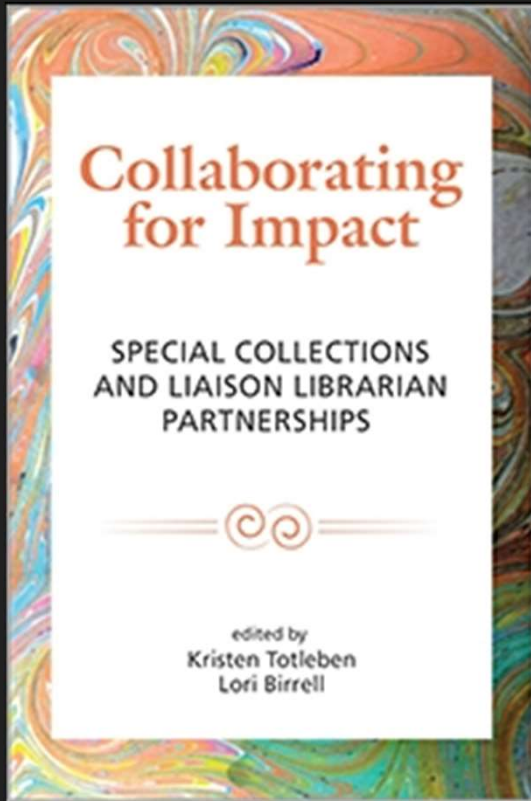
- Joined UKL in January 2019
- MLS with specialization in Rare Books and Manuscripts Librarianship, also experience with antiquarian bookselling
- Spanish minor as an undergraduate
- Primary job duties include:
 - Collection development
 - Instruction
 - Outreach
- Professional interests include:
 - Early American imprints
 - Library organizational structures
 - Community outreach

Learning Objectives

By the end of this presentation, you will be able to...

- 1) Better understand how and why the complementary skill sets of area studies librarians and special collections librarians should be combined to allow for a more holistic approach to collection access and outreach.
- 2) Incorporate critical librarianship principles into collection development practices in order to proactively diversify existing collections without compromising the donor's original intent.
- 3) Create a multifaceted plan of action to increase access points to, and promote the use of, a specific collection in order to satisfy the desired outcomes of multiple library organizational units and enhance the research and teaching applications of a collection.

... we didn't invent the wheel



Source: alastore.ala.org

“Librarians and their collaborative partners can use their expertise and creativity to increase exposure to special collections by working interdepartmentally on instruction, collection development, research, processing, and other projects. Through these experiences, librarians gain a deeper understanding of the roles of each department and work together to achieve strategic goals for the benefit of research and scholarly communities.” (ix)

The Plan

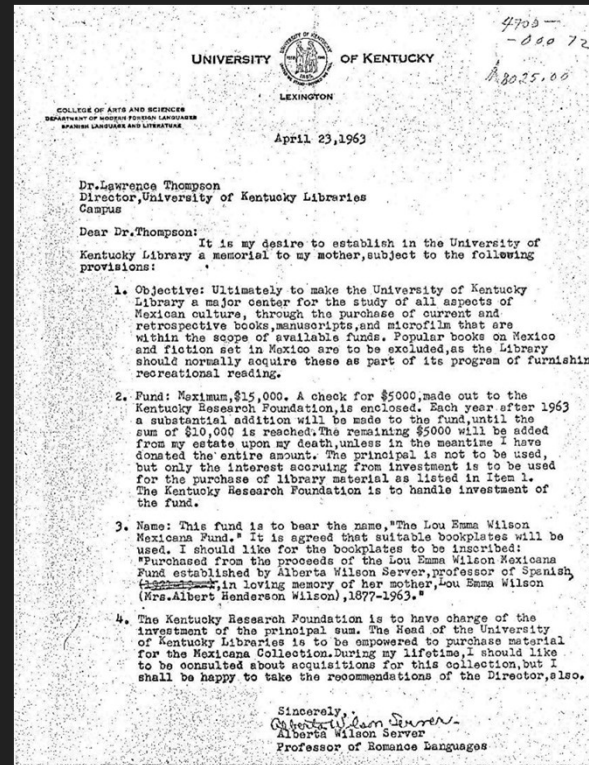
Going over our progress to date in chronological order, mostly by theme.

- History of the collection
- Our collection development work
- Description coordination work and successes
- Current outreach efforts
- Future planning

History of the Collection

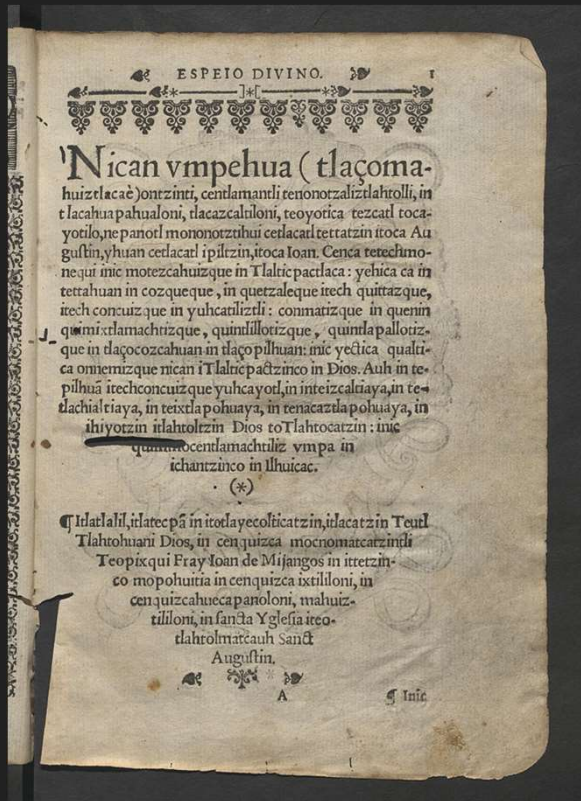


Dr. Alberta Wilson Server, 1897-1986
Source: eploreuk.uky.edu



Original letter establishing the Lou Emma Wilson Mexicana Fund
Source: eploreuk.uky.edu

Collection Development



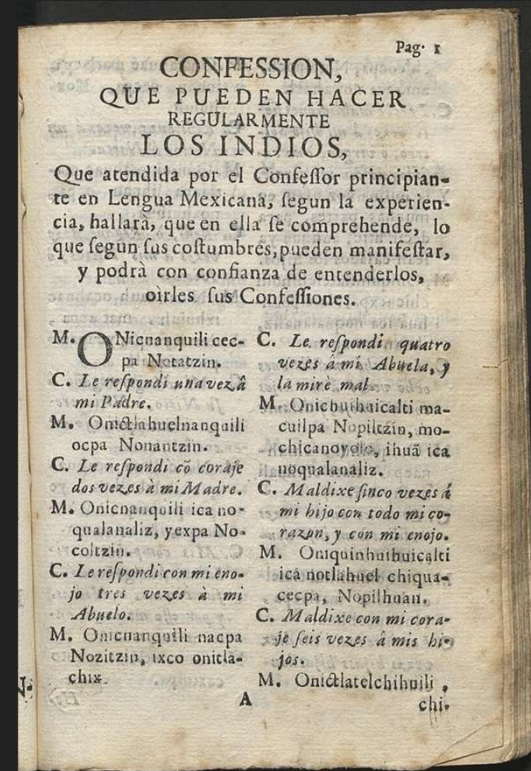
Source: exploreuk.uky.edu

Collection Development Guidelines:

- Main focus on primary sources, but also secondary that support research of the former
- Printed materials over manuscripts
- Generally historical focus
- Areas of particular interest: women, people of color and indigenous groups, LGBTQ, history of printing, labor relations and unions, folk traditions, Mexican Revolution, non-traditional publications, ephemera

User Experience and Collection Discovery

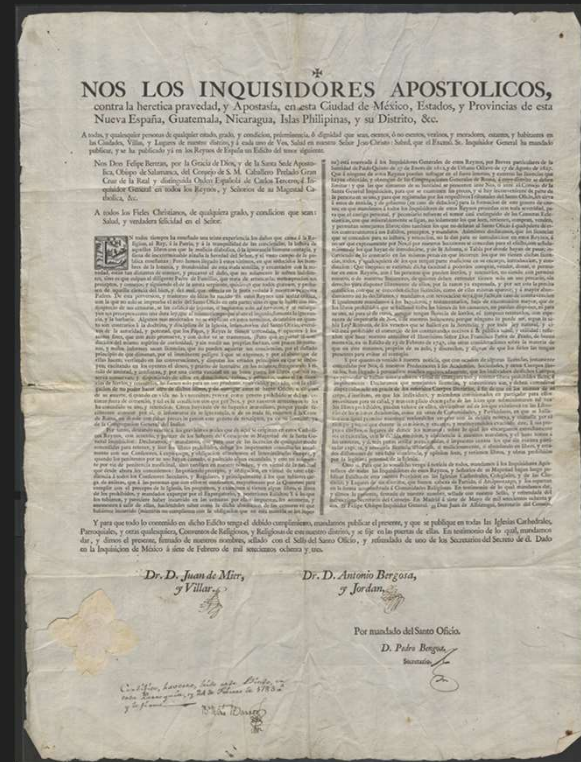
- The librarian perspective
- The user perspective
- Honing in on the challenges and identifying the solution



Source: exploreuk.uky.edu

Cataloging and Metadata Considerations

- First issue: inconsistent notation in records
 - Records created in different library units
 - Inconsistent naming/tagging across branches and platforms over time
 - Descriptions hosted in different systems
- Lots of collaboration!
 - Collaborating with the Head of Cataloging and Metadata and the Special Collections Cataloger for most printed materials
 - Collaborating with the Director of Digital Services and an Image Management Specialist for archival materials and broadsides



Source: exploreuk.uky.edu

Overall Collection Discovery

- Second issue: seeing the collection all at once
 - Related to first issue
 - Hard to know what's there if you can't group it

Our Collections feature in Primo

- Informational interviews, meetings with Digital Initiatives Metadata Librarian and also the Curator of Latin American Collections at University of Miami
- Bringing it all back home, collaboration with Library Discovery Systems Coordinator, Systems Librarian, and the UKL ILS Committee

COLLECTIONS /
Lou Emma Wilson Mexicana Collection

The Lou Emma Wilson Mexicana Collection includes manuscripts, books, other printed materials, and photographs representing all aspects of Mexican culture from the 16th century through the present. This growing collection is made possible through a special endowment established by Dr. Alberta Wilson Server, Professor of Romance Languages at the University of Kentucky, in 1963 to honor her mother Lou Emma Wilson.

Sort items by: Relevance Search

Items in this collection (272) View: [Grid Icon] [List Icon]

<p>BOOK Forced marches : soldiers and military caciques in modern Mexico</p>	<p>BOOK The first letter from New Spain : the lost petition of Cortés and his company, June 20, 1519</p>	<p>BOOK Mexico's evolving democracy : a comparative study of the 2012 elections</p>	<p>BOOK The politics and poetics of Sor Juana Inés de La Cruz</p>	<p>BOOK A companion to Mexican history and culture</p>
<p>BOOK Specters of revolution : peasant guerrillas in the Cold War Mexican countryside</p>	<p>BOOK Colonial itineraries of contemporary Mexico : literary and cultural inquiries</p>	<p>BOOK The fate of earthly things : Aztec gods and god-bodies</p>	<p>BOOK Primitive revolution : restorationist religion and the idea of the Mexican Revolution, 1940-1968</p>	<p>BOOK Mexico's Supreme Court : between liberal individual and revolutionary social rights, 1867-1934</p>
<p>BOOK Bibliografía general de Tabasco.</p>	<p>BOOK Voyage au Mexique, de New York à Vera-Cruz, en suivant les routes de terre</p>	<p>BOOK Mexico ancient and modern,</p>	<p>BOOK Reflexiones imparciales sobre la humanidad de los españoles en las indias, contra los pretendidos filósofos y políticos</p>	<p>BOOK Murder and counterrevolution in Mexico: the eyewitness account of German Ambassador Paul von Hintze, 1912-1914</p>

Source: <https://saa-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/collectionDiscovery?vid=UKY&inst=UKY&collectionId=81372108310002636>

Collection Grouping Elsewhere

Temistitan (Tenochtitlan), circa 1572

Date
1572


Creator
Porro, Girolamo 1520-1604 cartographer. Porcacchi, Thomaso approximately 1530-1585? author.


Language
Italian

Collection
[Lou Emma Wilson Mexicana Collection](#)

Description
1 map: color; 11 x 14 cm, on sheet 28 x 19 cm. Map 575

Download

 **JPEG**
of this page

 **PDF**
of entire item

Source: exploreuk.uky.edu

- Designated Collection in ExploreUK
 - Worked with our Director of Digital Services to ensure that digitized items and finding aids are connected in our archival description interface
- Cross-referencing
 - When items can't be displayed together, there's at least a note to check other areas

Outreach & Promotion

- Collection development → Promotion
- Digitization of select content
- Consideration of other avenues of outreach → Learning Lab, projects for Diversity Interns, etc.

The screenshot shows the 'Hispanic Studies: meridianos' research guide page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the UK Libraries logo and 'Research Guides'. Below this is a search bar and a breadcrumb trail: 'UKY / Research Guides / Hispanic Studies / meridianos: Research resources for Hispanic Studies (blog)'. The main heading is 'Hispanic Studies: meridianos: Research resources for Hispanic Studies (blog)'. A secondary navigation bar contains tabs for 'Welcome', 'Start Here: Reference Resources', 'Primary, Secondary, & Tertiary Sources', 'Databases: Books, Articles, and More...', and 'News & Newspapers'. Below this is another set of tabs for 'Special Collections Materials', 'Open-Access Resources', 'Films', 'Online Resources', 'Maghreb Collection', and 'Citation Help'. A third set of tabs includes 'Nomenclatura: Aproximaciones a los estudios hispánicos', 'Calls for Papers', 'Inter-Library Loan', 'Study Abroad', and 'Grants & Scholarships'. The main content area features a highlighted article titled 'UK Libraries' Wilson Mexicana Collection Now Accessible in InfoKat!' by Taylor Leigh, dated March 22nd, 2021. The article includes a thumbnail image of a book cover and text describing the collection. Below this is another article titled 'A Latinx Resource Guide: Civil Rights Cases and Events in the United States' by Taylor Leigh, dated February 1st, 2021. On the right side, there is a search bar for the blog, a 'Recent Posts' section with a list of links to other guides, and a 'Subscribe' button.

Source: libguides.uky.edu/hispanic/meridianos

Future Planning

- More thematic outreach (Hispanic Heritage Month)
- Developing a robust collection LibGuide for users
- More instruction with primary sources
- Future exhibit planning

Takeaways!

- You can do this, too!
- Partnering with colleagues to manage collections is a good idea: two heads are better than one, draw on different skill sets and perspectives
- Good opportunity for inter-library collaboration that can pay off later
- Start a conversation! If you don't say something, people won't know.
- Horizontal and vertical communication

Thank you for attending!

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to get in touch:

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