



## Architecture of a Centralized Portal to Distributed Information: Portal to Texas History Project

### Presenters:

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### Summary:

In 2002, the University of North Texas Libraries received funding to create the technical structure to support a portal to Texas history. Over the past year, the architecture for the site was designed to support multiple functions, including:

- Content management for the Web interface.
- Support for two user groups - young scholars and researchers.
- Management of a defined metadata element set that includes both discovery metadata and preservation metadata.
- Client software to assist with ingestion of digital files into the system. This software automatically creates thumbnails and other Web viewable files from TIF digital master files, performs fixity checks and records the value, collects information about the digital master files, and enables data entry for discovery metadata through a Web form.
- Support for full-text and/or metadata-only searching.
- Support for log-in access for special group chat rooms and for posting questions to bulletin boards. This supports K-12 class learning activities by providing small group access by password-protected log-ins. The bulletin board provides researchers access to assistance from others interested in Texas history studies.
- Harvesting of materials from other sites for indexing and referrals.
- Z39.50 interoperability for inclusion when users are searching across multiple databases.
- Hosting digital collections from other institutions and private collections.

The site architecture uses open source software—the Linux operating system, the content management software, and the discussion and chat software. A chart showing the site architecture follows.

### Resources:

Portal to Texas History - <http://texashistory.unt.edu/>

UNT Libraries Metadata Element Set:

1) A Metadata Framework to Support Digital Resource Management:

<http://texashistory.unt.edu/guides/Draft-UNTL-Metadata-Guideline.htm>

2) A Metadata Framework to Support the Digital Resource Management: User Guidelines for UNTL Metadata Creation: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/guides/help/UNTL-Metadata-Guide.htm>