



## CRHR Research Reports

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# Introducing CRHR Research Reports

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# Introducing *CRHR Research Reports*

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Welcome to *CRHR Research Reports*! We at the Center for Regional Heritage Research (Center) at Stephen F. Austin State University are excited to present our new digital journal, which was designed primarily as an outlet for Center-related research produced by our Research Associates, Research Affiliates, and Research Fellows.

While it is expected that the bulk of our publications will be Center-produced, we do accept original research articles, as well as proposals for Special Publications. The Special Publications will begin with the James E. Corbin Papers in Archaeology, which will consist of an annual volume. The first of these, entitled *Cultural Implications of Late Quaternary Environmental Change in Northeastern Texas* by Michael B. Collins and C. Britt Bousman, will be published in May of 2015. The second volume (May 2016) in the Corbin Papers will be *The Archeology of McGee Bend (Sam Rayburn) Reservoir, Texas* by Edward B. Jelks. The focus of the Corbin Papers is, first and foremost, to honor one of the scions of East Texas archaeology. Secondly, we wish to make available to the broadest possible audience a selection of the hidden--albeit very useful--manuscripts produced by professional and avocational archaeologists in the region that currently remain unpublished.

Throughout the past year, the Center has become increasingly focused upon digital endeavors. With the addition of our new digital repository (CRHR:ARCHIVE) only a few weeks away, we are beginning to integrate digital methods and theory on an increasingly regular basis. However, our journey up to this point was not a smooth one. In fact, it

was rife with pitfalls and potholes along the way. We were very lucky early in this undertaking to garner the support and guidance of Stephen F. Austin State University's Center for Digital Scholarship (CDS). These four individuals--Dillon Wackerman, Ann Ellis, R. Phillip Reynolds and Ashley Thompson--have been no less than incredible, and are the principal drivers behind much of our digitally-based research. Without their drive and ambition, our efforts to push beyond our (digital) limits would have quickly been stifled. Their patience, persistence, and patience (twice, I know) knows no match, and we are incredibly grateful to be surrounded by such talented colleagues.

This journal was originally imagined in a meeting with the CDS in the Fall semester of 2013, while discussing our first (Beta) digital repository, which came to be known as CRHR:ARCHAEOLOGY. That conversation was the catalyst for the research blog of the same name. Noting the informal nature of the blog, we began to explore other potential routes of disseminating both our ideas and our data.

While initially reticent to engage, I have learned much about the inherent value of digital publications over the previous one and one-half years, having served on the editorial board of the newly-minted Journal of Texas Archaeology and History. The value of the text and images published in the *CRHR Research Reports* is meant for an audience familiar with East Texas and Northwest Louisiana; however, we do hope that many beyond our region find our musings useful within a broader context. The *CRHR Research Reports*

will publish articles on a rolling basis, and more importantly, the content of this journal will remain archived at the Ralph W. Steen Library on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University in perpetuity.

Returning to my discussion of original intent, the foundation of this publication lies not with the Center itself, but with the Center's community. It is indeed a rare thing to live in a region where geography, history, and archaeology are regarded so highly, collide so often, and identify with so many. One of our many roles at the Center is to be a good steward of our local and regional communities, and to provide outlets where those voices can begin to reach a larger audience. We hope to partially achieve this latter goal through engagement with our community through Stephen F. Austin State University's first digital journal; the *CRHR Research Reports*.

