



Baylor Collections of Political Materials



REPORT: JUNE 2004

Open Records Workshop

On Tuesday, June 8, Chris LaPlante and two others from his staff at the [Texas State Archives](#) held a workshop in the Bullock Exhibit Area relating the Texas [Open Records Act](#) to the Bullock papers. Representatives from Texas Tech, UT Austin, Texas A&M Laredo, Blinn College, and Hill College met at Baylor for the workshop. The staff revealed the difficulty descending upon us all if someone requests to see the Bullock papers or microfilm. Requests for information that may contain private information cannot be released to a researcher. If they insist, an open records request must be filed with the Texas Attorney General's office. Copies of the requested items must be submitted along with a legal brief within ten days of the request. Failure to do so in a timely manner automatically makes the requested information available to the researcher. Because of the way Bullock's staff filed correspondence, private information could be contained in any file. Therefore, archival staff must preview every document in every file before releasing them to researchers.



The logistics of this may require institutions with inadequate staff to relinquish their records to the state archives. Unfortunately, Baylor does not have this option. Fortunately, as a private institution, Baylor is not legally subject to the Texas Public Information Act. Baylor lawyers have been in contact with the state archives working out a contract whereby we can make open records requests directly to the attorney general's office. Because this is pending, it is uncertain what we will do if a researcher appears after July 12 but before the contract is signed. We plan a visit to the state archives some time in July to see how the process of requesting an open records ruling works. Hopefully, a Baylor lawyer will be able to go with us.

RESEARCHERS

Mark Finlay, Dean of the Honor College at Armstrong Atlantic College in Savannah, Georgia, has made plans to visit us this summer on July 12—13 to further his research on rubber substitutes in WWII.



Bullock Opening . July 10.

Invitations have gone out to over 400 individuals for the Bullock opening dinner on July 10.

Bullock Exhibit

Plans are well underway for the Bullock exhibit to open on July 10th. The exhibit will utilize six of our glass cases. Benna has chosen a number of items for the exhibit and Ben has been working on captions. Brazos Oaks is making mats.

Bullock Exhibit Area

We are still awaiting workmen to arrive and begin work on renovating the [exhibit area](#).

Cataloging, June: Janet Pence: Books cataloged: 77 titles, 20 of titles original cataloging, Hogan Papers 56 titles.

STUDENT WORKERS

- **Grace Cromeens** continues to work on special projects.
- **Matt Gonzales**, our new graduate assistant, is an ISY major working for us on EAD and XML implementation along with digital imaging.
- **Todd Pagitt** continues to work on Hightower papers. He has completed processing all the media formats and has begun sorting items that have accumulated over the last 20 years on the Hightower shelves.
- **Kim Mathis** has returned and is also working on sorting Hightower papers for the summer.
- **Naadei Nikoi** is working on Hightower photographs, WWII letters and on Hightower's Vernon legal files.
- **Tiffany Tsang** just completed processing the Dowdy autograph collection. She hopes to receive her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology in August.



Workshop lunch

Submitted
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