



The Kempner Empire:

Establishing Digitization Processes and Workflows for a Large-scale Collection

Christina Kellum, Library Production Associate

University of North Texas

CTLC, 2019



Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund

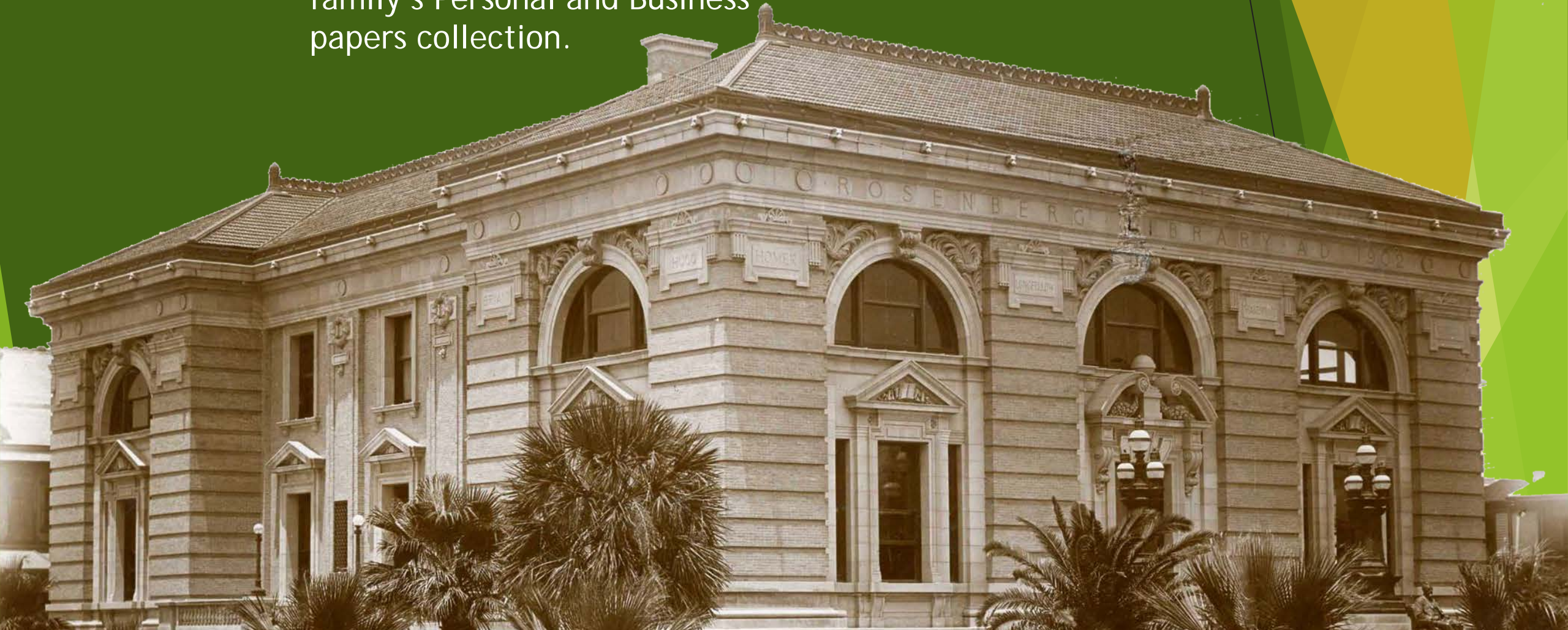
The Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund is a private family foundation that focuses on projects that use resources creatively to improve the quality of life, primarily within the greater Galveston area.





Rosenberg Library

The Galveston and Texas History Center at the Rosenberg Library houses the Kempner family's Personal and Business papers collection.



Kempner Family & Business

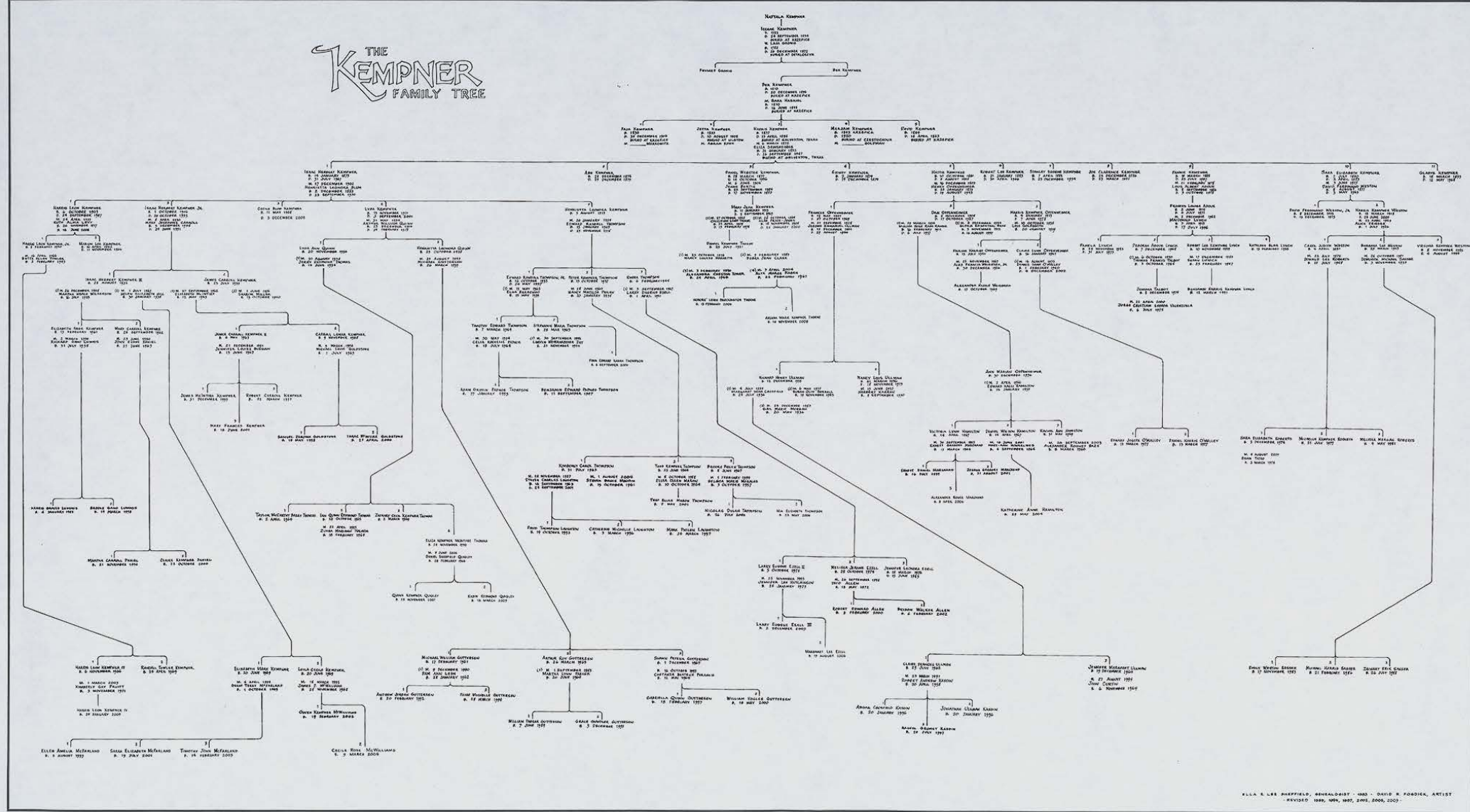
The Kempner family business first began in Galveston, and quickly grew under the supervision and ambition of the first and second-generation to an expansive business empire following the principles established by the progenitors, Harris and Eliza Kempner.



Members of the Kempner family with Rabbi. Rabbi Henri Cohen, Lyda Kempner Quinn, Hattie Kempner Oppenheimer, Fannie Kempner Adoue, Gladys Kempner, Isaac Herbert Kempner, Harris Leon Kempner, and Henrietta Lenora Kempner.

Link: <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapht1092717/>

THE
KEMPNER
FAMILY TREE



ELLA E LEE SHEFFIELD, GENEALOGIST : 1983 : DAVID R. FORDICK, ARTIST
- REVISED 1989, 1994, 1997, 2001, 2006, 2009 -

Kempner Family Tree, Earliest birth in 1782 to latest in 2009

Link: <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph884815/>

I. H. Kempner, Sr.

President, Sugarland Industries

D. W. Kempner

Board of Director, Imperial Sugar Company

Stanley Eugene Kempner

Imperial Sugar Company

Robert Lee Kempner

President, United States First National Bank in Galveston

I. H. Kempner, Jr.

President, Imperial Sugar Company

Harris Leon Kempner

Vice-President, United States First National Bank in Galveston

Thomas Leroy James

Vice-President, Sugarland Industries

George Andre

Secretary, Imperial Sugar Company

Important and repeating men
in the collection



[Imperial Mercantile Co. General Merchandise]. Photograph of thee buildings. The Imperial Mercantile Co. General Merchandise store, the Imperial Sugar Co. offices, and the Imperial Sugar production plant can be seen along this street.

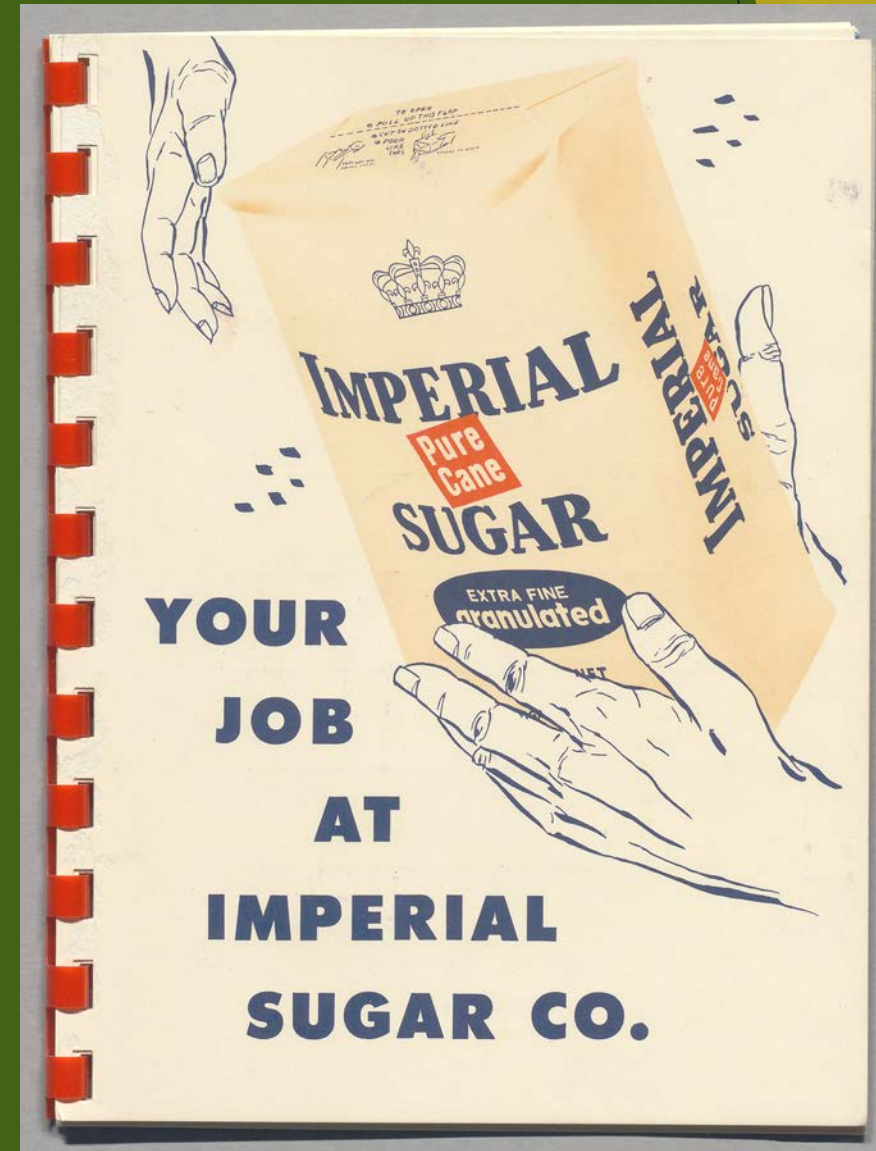
Link: <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph610996/>

Imperial Sugar Company Sugarland Industries



[Imperial Sugar Co.]. Photograph of a factory with smoke stacks across a paved road with the sign "Imperial Sugar Co" on the side of a building.

Link: <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/met>



Imperial Sugar Company Employee Handbook



United States First National Bank in Galveston, Texas

[Photograph of United States National Bank Building Construction]. Photograph of the construction phase for the United States National Bank Building. Construction workers work in a large structure with people walking along the street. Building materials are placed along the construction barrier with established buildings in the background. Link:

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1093067/>



"Cotton Picking and Cotton Ginning". Photograph of a tractor and trailer of cotton in a field. Three men are on the tractor, trailer, and standing in the foreground.

Link: <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph59132/>



[Photo of a "Cattle Pen. Sugarland, Tex."]. The photograph shows a large number of cattle contained within a barbed wire fence. Trees in background. Scanned image is of the copy.

Link: <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1340/>



Collections at Rosenberg Library

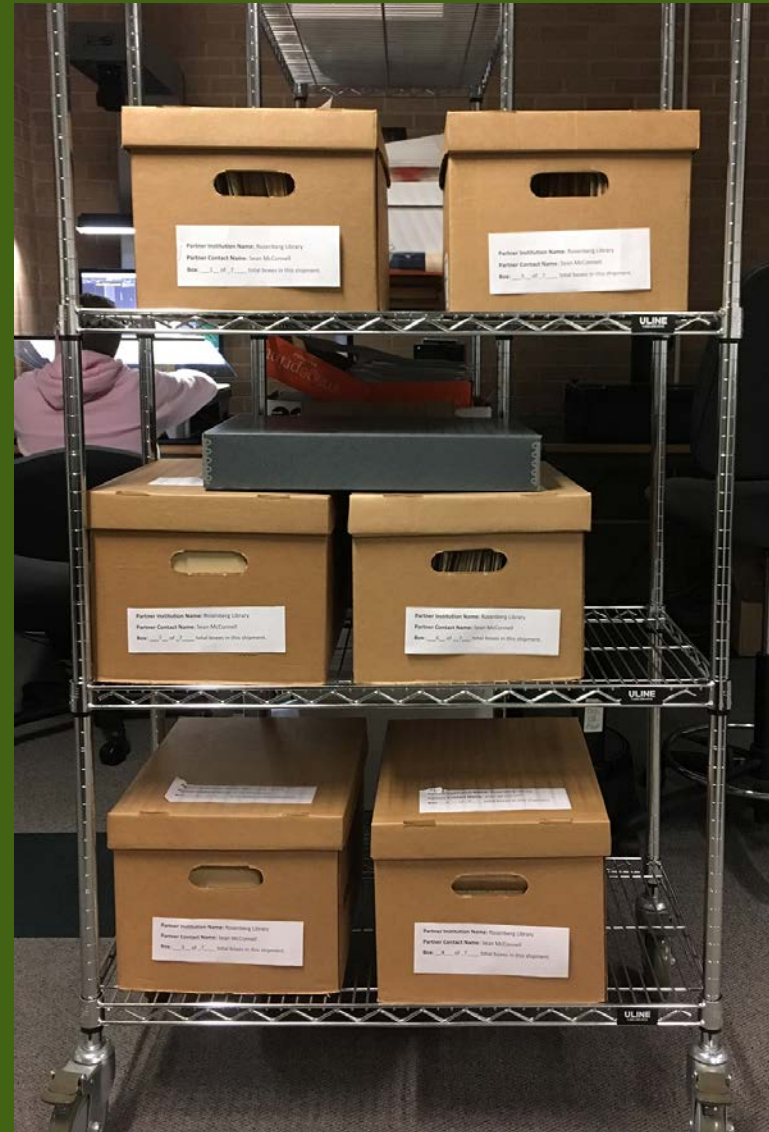
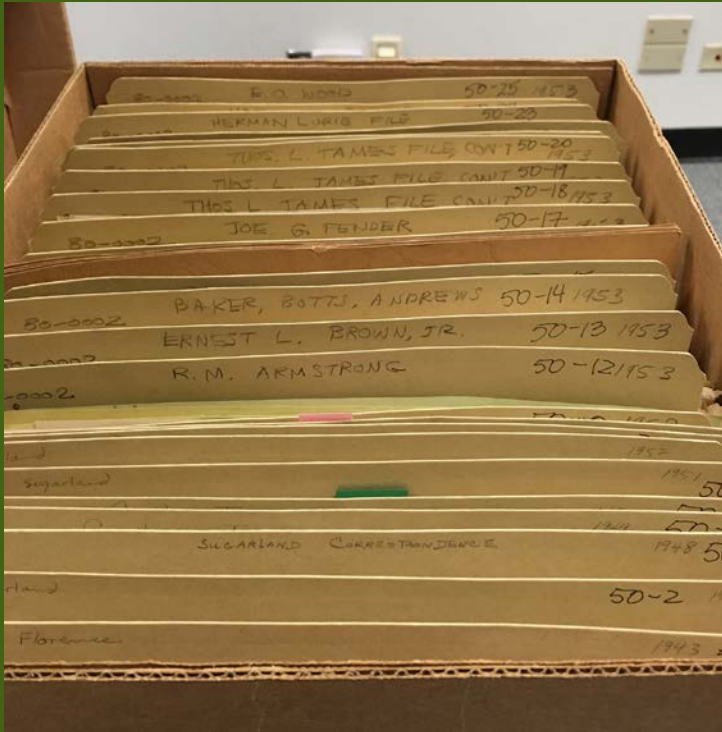
Houses collections in the attic and basement in file box storage



Current Collection Batch at UNT Digital Lab

7 Boxes filled with Business papers filed in folders

1 Box filled with scrapbook and photographs





Multi-year Funding

Separated into manageable batches
181,000 pages approved for funding to
be broken down over six years
which equals 30,166 images yearly



Growth of the Collection

May 2018: 1,052 items on the Portal
July 2019: 4,612 items on the Portal

4,612 Items	15 Types	9 Titles
2 Partners	14 Decades	4 Languages
177 Counties	44 States	43 Countries
8,639 Usage	1 year, 8 months ago Collection Created	1 month, 2 weeks ago Last Updated

Resource Types

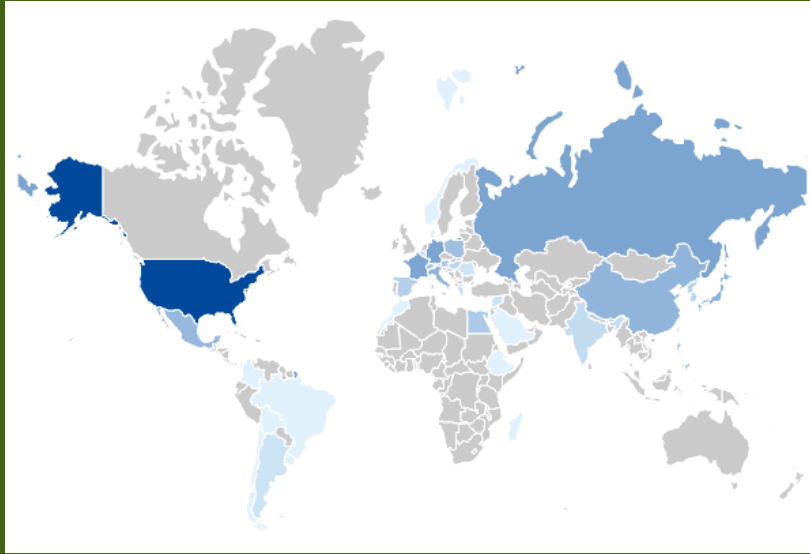
Letters
Text
Photograph
Report
Clipping
Pamphlet
Legal Document
Book
Dataset
Postcard
Journal/Magazine
Newspaper
Image
Map
Article



2009	1983	1981	1974	1972	1971
1967	1966	1965	1964	1962	1960
1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940
1939	1938	1935	1934	1932	1929
1925	1924	1923	1915	1914	1913
1912	1911	1908	1907	1906	1905
1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898
1895	1894	1893	1884	1880	1877
1864					

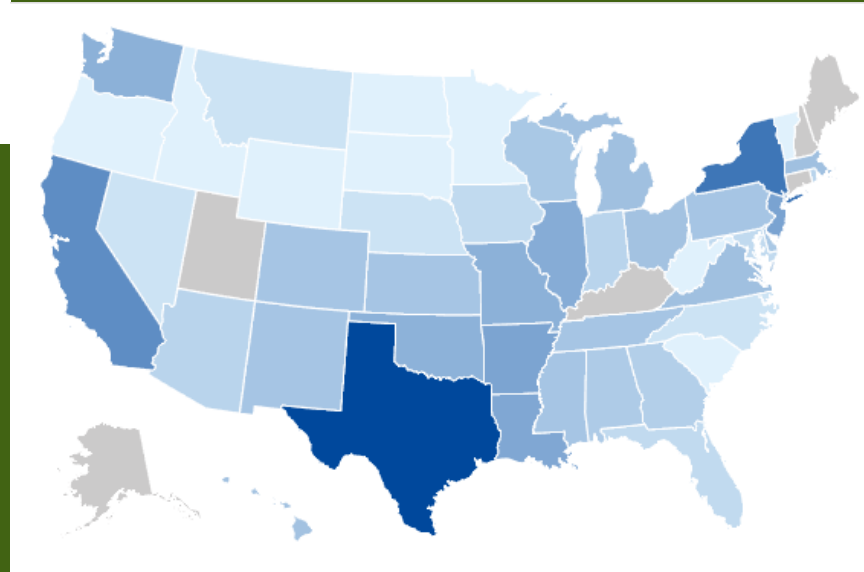
Dates from the Collection

As of now, the collection contains items from 61 years starting in 1864 to 2009.



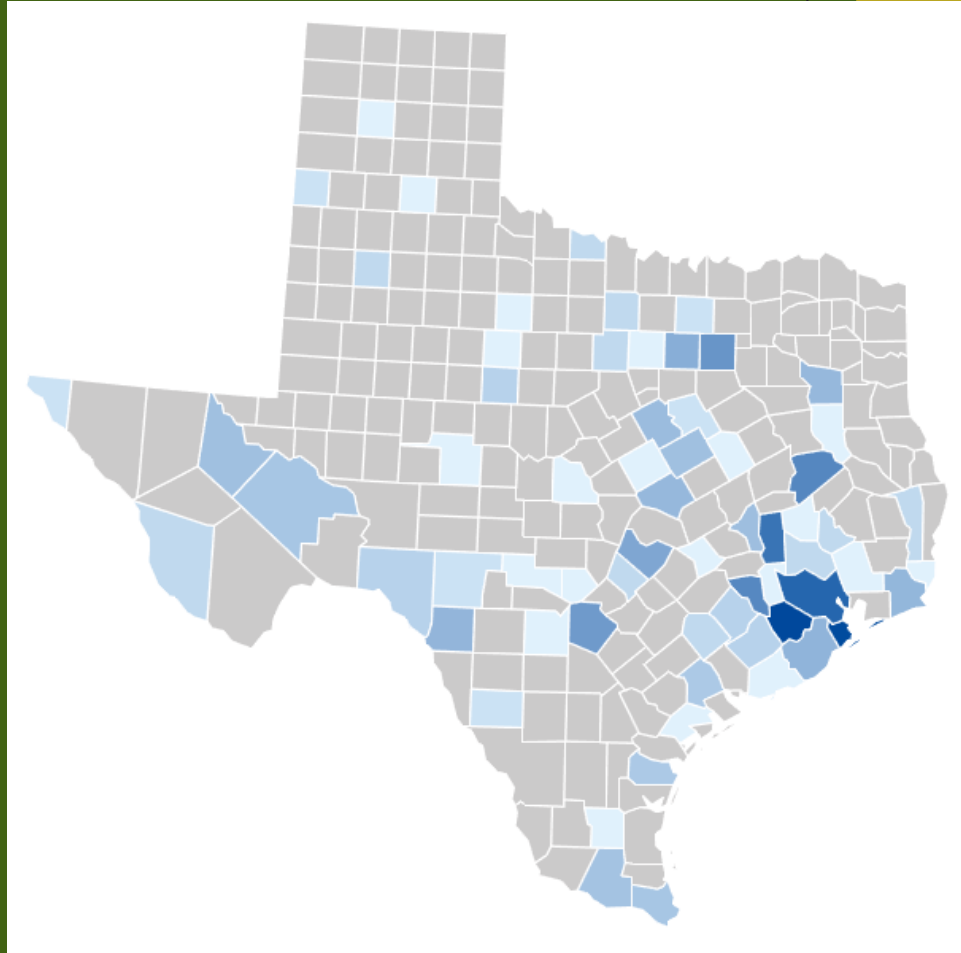
Locations from within the Collection

44 States

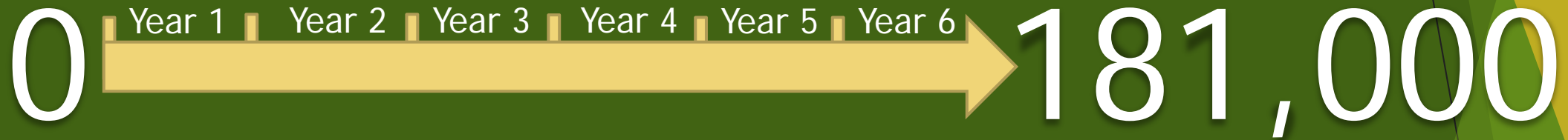


Spreading through Texas

65 counties



All the time in the World?



Micro-changes = time saving



What did I bring to the table

Bachelor in Fine Arts, Photography

Texas State University - San Marcos, 2013

Masters in Fine Arts, Studio-Photography

University of North Texas - 2017

Metadata student, UNT Special Collections

University of North Texas - 2014 to 2015

Digitized a large collection of slide film

Annette Lawrence - 2016

What I've learned and Contributed

Established purpose with the collection

Shared and discussed ideas

Embraced the Kempner history

- ▶ Project Management
 - ▶ Bi-monthly reports
 - ▶ Weekly updates
 - ▶ Breaking down project into parts
- ▶ UNT System and Workflows
 - ▶ People relationships
 - ▶ Digitization standards
 - ▶ Basic coding
- ▶ Student Hiring
 - ▶ Applications
 - ▶ Interviews
 - ▶ Orientation



Project Workflow

- ▶ Scanning
- ▶ Student Quality Control
- ▶ Supervisor Quality Control
- ▶ OCR
- ▶ Super Metadata Template creation
- ▶ Upload
- ▶ Metadata records on Portal to Texas History
- ▶ Visible for public use

Adjustments Long-term

	Items	Images
Uploaded to Portal	4,614	10,318
Digitization Workflow	955	2,301
(10/30/2018) Total	5,569	12,619
	Items	Images
Uploaded to Portal	9,331	21,507
Digitization Workflow	3,302	8,248
(7/30/2019) Total	12,633	29,755

- ▶ Developing a fluid and forgiving workflow that holds the potential to grow with the collection
- ▶ Growing the crew
- ▶ Improved Super Template creation for Metadata
- ▶ Bi-monthly updates to the partners

Scanning

Instant scan and “done” method

Folder Structure creation

Naming file names

Sorting files into appropriate folders



i2S Copibook Open System

Single Shot

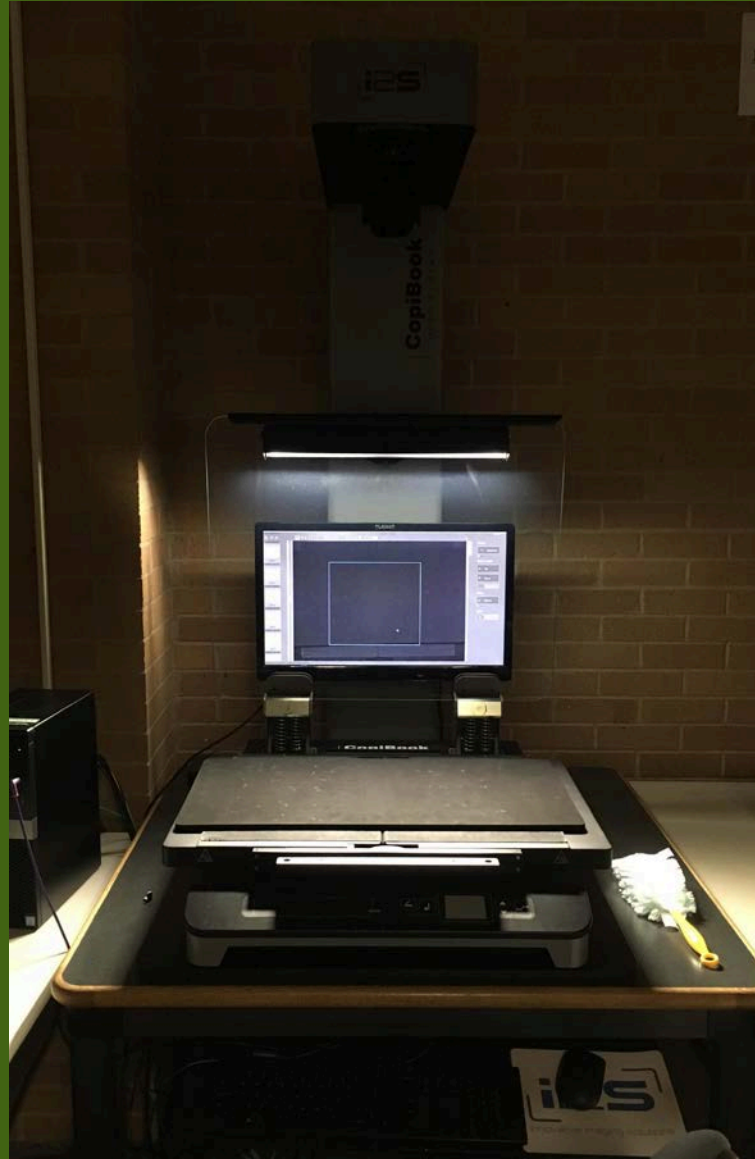
Quick Response

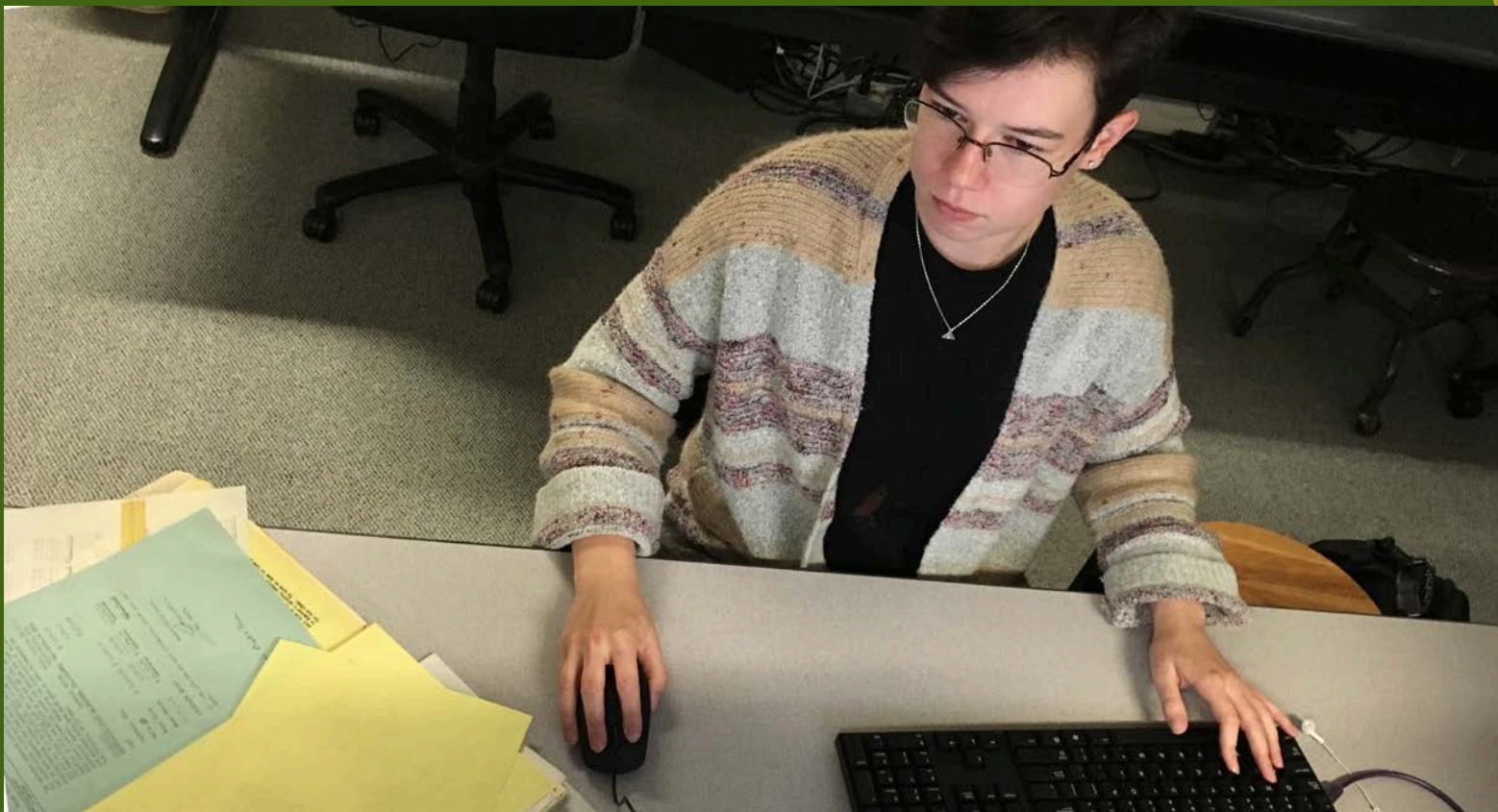
Auto deskew in frame

Auto crop

Color calibration

Works with internal network hard drives

[illegible]



Student Quality Control

Minimal batch edits

Physical checks

Checks for errors

Crop and deskew items unable to be done by Copibook

Supervisor Quality Control

Physical checks

Checks for errors

Check folder structure and file names

Color profile, resolution, file type, and bit depth checks

Metadata Super Template

- ▶ Created before uploaded to the Portal
- ▶ To help reduce time spent per record once uploaded

▶ Automobiles	▶ ImpSug-CashBalances	▶ Insurance-2
▶ Christensen	▶ ImpSug-employees	▶ Invoices-general-3
▶ Clippings-8	▶ ImpSug-general-2	▶ Invoices-ImpSug
▶ Clippings-Letters-1	▶ ImpSug-letters-AnnualReports	▶ JoeFranklinMyersCandies
▶ Continental-Gin-Company	▶ ImpSug-Letters-projectoperations	▶ JulianPlaton-Inc
▶ Donations	▶ ImpSug-Letters-statements-2	▶ LambornSugar
▶ Figs	▶ ImpSug-Letters-SugStockandSales	▶ Letters-15
▶ Football	▶ ImpSug-Meetingreminders	▶ MaxH.JacobsAgency
▶ Freight-Rates	▶ ImpSug-Merger-TexasImpCo	▶ MendozaSugarReview
▶ Government	▶ ImpSug-PastDueAccounts	▶ NY-CoffeandSugarExchange
▶ HermanLurie-correspondence	▶ ImpSug-Pensions	▶ PrairieViewCollege
▶ IHK-BankAccount-ImpBankandTrust	▶ ImpSug-Reports-CloseofBusiness	▶ Purchases-IHK
▶ IHK-BankAccount-SugInd	▶ ImpSug-Reports-PastDueAccountStatements	▶ StatementofBorrowings
▶ Imp-Agency	▶ ImpSug-Reports-projectoperations	▶ SugInd-Visits
▶ Imp-Agency-Letters-Statements	▶ ImpSug-Reports-SugarStockandSales	▶ Telegrams
▶ Imp-Agency-Reports-Statements	▶ ImpSug-Reports-SummofCombinedOperations	▶ Teletype-Expenses
▶ ImpBankandTurst-Reports-NotesReceivable	▶ ImpSug-SalesDepartment	▶ TeleTypes
▶ ImpSug-BoardofDirectors-2	▶ ImpSug-Stocks	▶ Text-14

Super Template Record information

Grouping items together

General and repeating subjects found in
multiple items

Creating a template that can be imposed onto
multiple items

Titles

- **Main Title:** [1952 Crop Schedule]
- **Series Title:** Business Papers (MS 80-0003)

Description

Schedule for the 1952 crop season.

Physical Description

[1] p. ; 28 x 22 cm.

Subjects

Keywords


- alfalfa
- bills
- crops
- grain
- invoices
- purchases
- schedules
- tenant farming

University of North Texas Libraries Browse Structure

- Agriculture - Farming - Corn
- Agriculture - Farming - Cotton
- Business, Economics and Finance - Finance




Publishing



Visible☒

Hidden☐

Finished Editing?

Publish




Fields

Title			
Creator	1	Citation	0
Contributor	1	Relation	1
Publisher	1	Collection	1
Date	0	Institution	1
Language	1	Rights	0
Description	1	Resource Type	1
Subject	2	Format	1
Primary Source	37	Identifier	1
Coverage	1	Degree	0
Source	2	Note	0
	0	Meta	6

Metadata Record Creation

item level description

- Items, or Records, are edited online through the Portal
- Fields are assessed individually per record before becoming public

Title				
Thumbnail	Links	System	Collection(s)	Partner(s)
[Letter from {{{name}}} to {{{name}}}, {{{date}}}] KEMPF_Box2-50-11-0007				
	<div>Edit</div> <div>Summary</div>	PTH	KEMP	ROSEL
[Letter from {{{name}}} to {{{name}}}, {{{date}}}] KEMPF_Box2-50-11-0008				
	<div>Edit</div> <div>Summary</div>	PTH	KEMP	ROSEL
[Letter from {{{name}}} to {{{name}}}, {{{date}}}] KEMPF_Box2-50-11-0009				
	<div>Edit</div> <div>Summary</div>	PTH	KEMP	ROSEL

Metadata

item level description

- ▶ Creating completed record information per item
- ▶ Fields of information ranging from titles, subjects, descriptions, to dates

Title

Help

Select a qualifier for this title

Main Title

Enter a value for this title

[Letter from Thomas E. Berry to Brian S. Odem, March 20, 1953]

TC ψ + x

Title

Help

Select a qualifier for this title

Added Title

Enter a value for this title

Imperial Sugar Company v. United States of America

TC ψ + x

Title

Help

Select a qualifier for this title


Series Title

Enter a value for this title

Business Papers (MS 80-0003)

TC ψ + x

Publishing



Visible ☒

Hidden ☐

Finished Editing?

Publish

Fields

Title	3	Citation	3
Creator	1	Relation	0
Contributor	1	Collection	1
Publisher	0	Institution	1
Date	1	Rights	0
Language	1	Resource Type	1
Description	2	Format	1
Subject	10	Identifier	1
Primary Source	1	Degree	0
Coverage	4	Note	0
Source	0	Meta	0



	Amount in Field	Items with Field Amount
Relations	0	8,268
	1	1,448
	2	520
	3	99
	4	36
	5	10
	6	2
Keywords	2	265
	3	3,421
	4	1,205
	5	1,141
	6	1,143
	7	850
	8	592
	1	895
Names	2	2,013
	3	1,158
	4	534
	5	224
	6	151
	7	96

Key Field Factors

Metadata priorities

Of the 4,613 items on the Portal:

1,448 have a relation to another item,

3,421 items have at least 3 keywords,

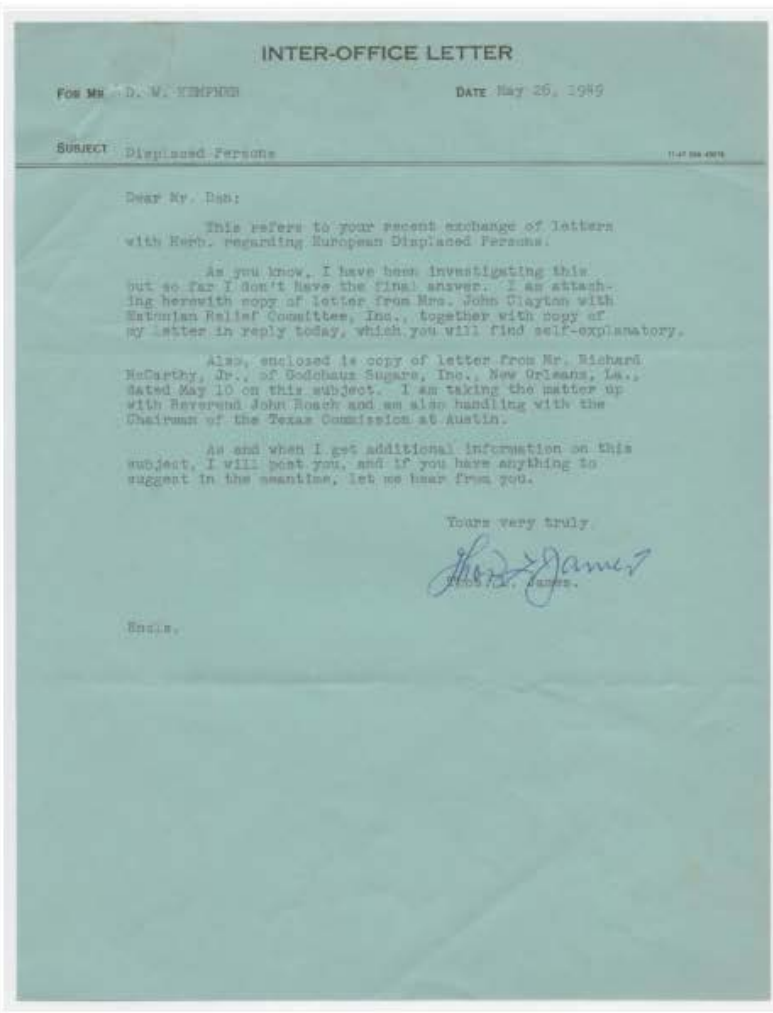
2,013 items have at least 2 named people

Relations and Reasoning

Connecting items that
create a string of
information one time
to another

[Letter from Thos. L. James to D. W. Kempner, May 26, 1949]

One of **3,396** letters in the series: **Business Papers (MS 80-0003)** available on this site.



Description

Letter from Thos. L. James to D. W. Kempner discussing information and correspondence James has had with Estonian Relief Committee Incorporated and Godchaux Sugars Incorporated concerning Displaced families for farm hire.

Physical Description

[1] p. ; 28 x 22 cm.

Creation Information

James, Thomas Leroy May 26, 1949.

Context

This **letter** is part of the collection entitled: Harris and Eliza Kempner and was provided by Rosenberg Library to The Portal to Texas History, a digital repository hosted by the UNT Library. More information about this letter can be viewed 

Mapped

Related (5)

Search

Ease of Items with Relations

Movement through the collection
Research benefits

Related Items

[Letter from Thos. L. James to Mrs. John Clayton, May 26, 1949] (Letter)



Letter from Thos. L. James to Mrs. John Clayton discussing questions about the effect of Texas weather on the displaced families, and the type of housing and job positions that Sugarland Industries has to offer.

Relationship to this item: (References)

[Letter from Thos. L. James to Mrs. John Clayton, May 26, 1949],
[ark:/67531/metaph1013637](https://n2t.net/ark:/67531/metaph1013637)

[Letter from Mrs. John Clayton to T. L. James, May 13, 1949] (Letter)



Letter from Mrs. John Clayton to T. L. James discussing information needed to procure displaced families for farm hire through the Estonian Relief Committee.

Relationship to this item: (References)

[Letter from Mrs. John Clayton to T. L. James, May 13, 1949],
[ark:/67531/metaph1013211](https://n2t.net/ark:/67531/metaph1013211)

[Letter from Richard McCarthy, Jr., to Thomas L. James, May 10, 1949] (Letter)



Letter from Richard McCarthy, Jr., to Thomas L. James discussing what steps and advice is needed to procure displaced families for farming.

Relationship to this item: (References)

[Letter from Richard McCarthy, Jr., to Thomas L. James, May 10, 1949],
[ark:/67531/metaph1013725](https://n2t.net/ark:/67531/metaph1013725)

[Letter from D. W. Kempner to Thos. L. James, May 27, 1949] (Letter)



Letter from D. W. Kempner to Thos. L. James discussing pay rates and housing that can be offered by Plantersville for the discussed displaced families.

Relationship to this item: (Is Referenced By)

[Letter from D. W. Kempner to Thos. L. James, May 27, 1949],
[ark:/67531/metaph1013622](https://n2t.net/ark:/67531/metaph1013622)

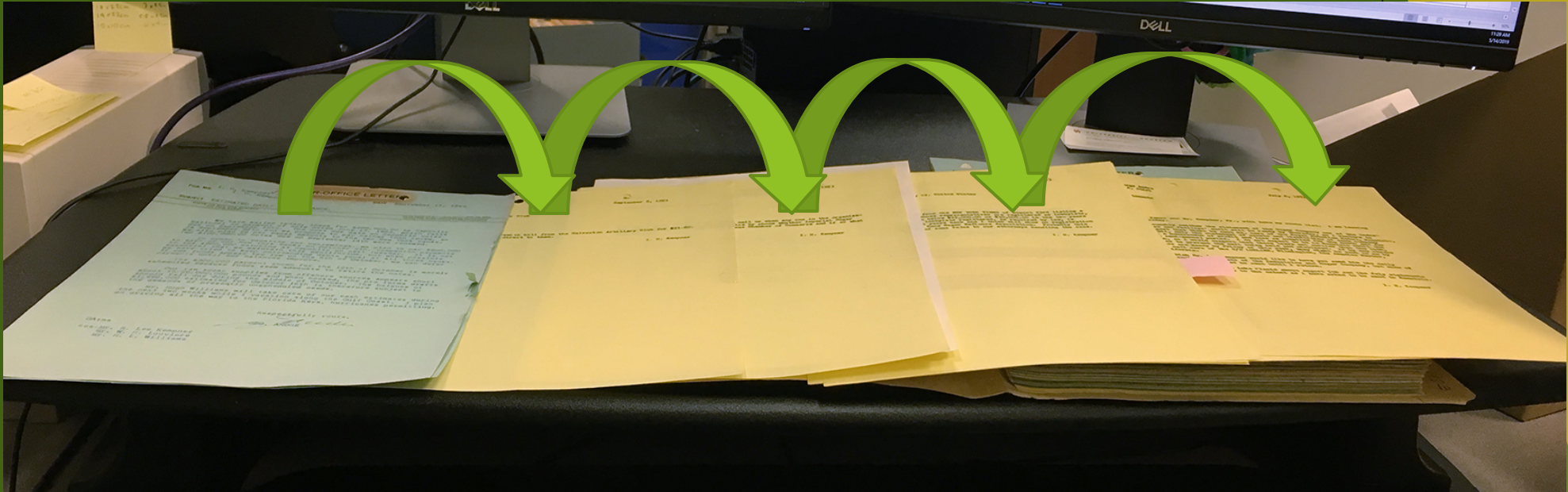
[Letter from I. H. Kempner, Jr., to D. W. Kempner, May 6, 1949] (Letter)



Letter from I. H. Kempner, Jr., to D. W. Kempner discussing displaced families from Europe being hired for farm labor.

Relationship to this item: (References)

[Letter from I. H. Kempner, Jr., to D. W. Kempner, May 6, 1949],
[ark:/67531/metaph1012957](https://n2t.net/ark:/67531/metaph1012957)



Get to the Beginning

Handling items

Investing in "Your Letter on..."

Understanding the full conversation

Correspondences and Associations

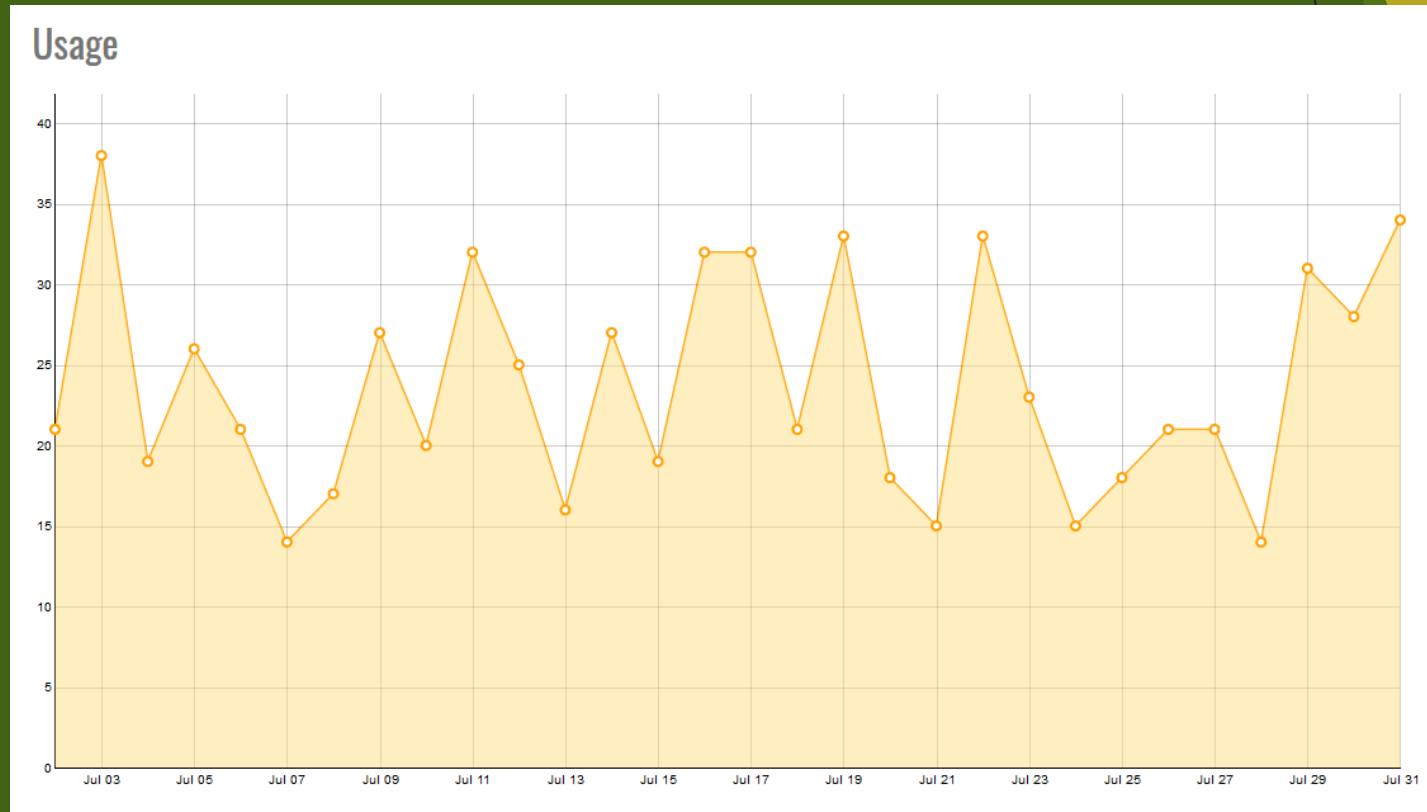
- ▶ Reference list containing names and associations for the collection
- ▶ Over 750 names mentioned thus far

Name	Alias(s)				Association/Business
Kempner, Cecile Blum					Daughter of Isaac Herbert Kempner and Henrietta Leonora Blum
Kempner, Daniel W. (Daniel Webster), 1877-1956	"22" "24" "52"	D. W. Kempner	Dan		Husband to Jeane Bertig
Kempner, Fannie	Adoue, Fannie				Wife to Louis Albert Adoue
Kempner, Gladys					
Kempner, Harris Leon	Harris	H. L.	"31" "43" "33"		Son to I. H. Kempner
Kempner, Harris, 1837-1894					
Kempner, Hattie	Oppenheimer, Hattie				Wife to Henry Oppenheimer
Kempner, Henrietta Leonora	Blum, Henrietta Leonora				Wife to I. H. Kempner
Kempner, Henrietta Leonora	Thompson, Henrietta Leonora		Nonie		Daught to I. H. Kempner
Kempner, I. H. (Isaac Herbert), 1873-1967	Ike	"15" "11" "13"	I. H. Kempner, Sr.		Husband to Henrietta Leonora Blum. President, Sugarland Industries
Kempner, Isaac Herbert, III	Denny				Son to I. H. Kempner, Jr.
Kempner, Isaac Herbert, Jr.	"I. H., Jr."	I. H.	Herb	Herbert	Husband to Mary Josephine Kempner
Kempner, James Carroll	Jim				Son to I. H. Kempner, Jr.
Kempner, Jeane	Bertig, Jeane	"2"			Wife to Daniel Webster Kempner
Kempner, Lyda	Quinn, Lyda				Daughter to I. H. Kempner
Kempner, Mary Jean	Thorne, Mary Jean [Oct 27, 1948-Oct 25, 1968] Pryce Jones, Mary Jean [Oct 26, 1968-				Daughter to Daniel Webster Kempner and Jeane Kempner
Kempner, Mary Josephine	Carroll, Mary Josephine				Wife to Isaac Herbert Kempner, Jr.
Kempner, Robert Lee	R. L.	Lee			President and Chairman, United States National Bank
Kempner, Ruth Alma	Levy, Ruth Alma				Wife to Harris Leon Kempner
Kempner, Sara Elizabeth	Weston, Sara Elizabeth				Wife to David Ferdinand Weston
Kempner, Stanley Eugene	S. E.	"Pat"			President, Texas Prudential Insurance Company

Views and Uses on the Portal to Texas History

5,679 uses so far in 2019

8,732 uses since 2017



The Collection's Future Growth

Long-term value in individual metadata creation for researchers and the public

Images per record can be difficult to compare

- ▶ 15% completion for entire project
- ▶ 95% completion for yearly agreement
- ▶ 2nd largest collection with letters on the Portal currently
- ▶ Already being used in academic presentations

Collection Growth



Overview

Object based digitization and workflow that compliments Metadata creation on the Portal to Texas History for a large and long-term collection.





Thank you!

Christina Kellum

Christina.Kellum@unt.edu