La Retama Central Library
LOCAL HISTORY DEPARTMENT

PRESENTED BY

SHELBY ADAMSON
Special Collections & Archives Librarian

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Local History Department & Special Collections and Archives Goals:

1. Increase Community Access & Engagement
2. Strengthen Genealogy Services
3. Collection Development & Documentation
4. Internal Organization & Discoverability
5. Digitization & Preservation Initiative

Goal #1: Increase Community Access & Engagement

- Author Series
- Native American Event Series
- Community Outreach

Goal #2: Strengthen Genealogy Services

- Offer beginner genealogy classes
- Develop appointment-based research consultations
- Build partnerships with local genealogy societies

Goal #3: Collection Development & Documentation

- Identifying gaps in representation
- Outreach to longtime community members
- Oral history initiatives
- Donation policies and workflows

Goal #4: Internal Organization & Discoverability

- Create minimal processing standards
- Train staff / volunteers in processing basics
- Add material information into library catalog (KOHA) and CONTENTdm
- Create two central points for Local History Department
    - Local History Work Room
    - Special Collections and Archives Room

Goal #5: Digitization & Preservation Initiative

- Digitizing archival materials, ongoing project
- Rehousing archival materials
- Create a Memory Lab

What is a Memory Lab?

A Memory Lab is:

1. A physical space where the public can transfer their physical memories from older formats to high quality digital files for free

2. An online resource with guides to using the lab equipment and further recommendations and readings about personal archives

3. Public events and classes that celebrate personal archives as well as teaching personal archiving concepts and skills

Background

The Corpus Christi Public Libraries has participated in a virtual *Genealogy Event*, provided by the Genealogy Network of Texas (GNT), a state-wide initiative to connect libraries/genealogical societies and provide educational and research opportunities.

In 2024, Mark Dellenbaugh, a Genealogy and Local History Librarian at the Arlington Public Library shared his experience of pitching, creating, and operating a “Retro Technology Lab” and about personal digital archiving in general.

MARK DELLENBAUGH

Genealogy and Librarian History Librarian

Why offer the service?

Memory Labs are sprouting up at libraries around the country with the main purpose of helping communities digitize their personal memories.

CCPL should join the party!

Let's make a space that helps patrons capture, digitize, and preserve family memories from a wide variety of media, from video cassettes, 8mm film reels, slides, photos, floppy disks, and more.

Opportunity:
The Memory Lab can function as a gateway for gathering community-based historical materials.

Secure funds

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Find the space

Equipment.

High Resolution Film to Digital Convertor with HDMI Output

Floppy Disk Reader

High-speed Photo Scanning System

VHS-C Compact Video Cassette Tape Adaptor

Audio / Video Convertor:
VHS Box to Digital Convertor

Digital Converter:
Record Video from VCR, VHS, AV, RCA, Hi8, Camcorder, DVD,

Equipment.

Color Photo and Document
Flatbed Scanner

CD, DVD & Blu-ray Burner

VHS, Hi8, V8 Video to DVD or
Digital Converter

Sony Camcorder for 8mm
Digital8 Hi8 Tape Transfer to
Computer USB and DVD

8mm & Super 8 Reels to
Digital MovieMaker
Pro Film Digitizer

Panasonic AG01980 VCR

Next steps...

- Hooking it up and Testing it out
  - Workflows
- Create an online space
  - Information about the Memory Lab
  - Release waiver form
  - Appointments
  - FAQ
- Marketing and Outreach
  - Pree Release
  - Social Media
  - Flyers

Step 1: Prepare scanner

- Put on gloves. This way you won't leave prints on your photographs and scanner.
- Gently lift the scanner's lid.
- Clean the scanner's surface with an anti static cloth and air puffer.

Step 2: Prepare documents

Step 7: You are done.

- Clean scanning bed with anti-static wipes.
- Make sure scanner is powered off and closed.
- Make sure your files are saved on your USB.
- Do not forget to eject your USB or hard drive and take

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Retro Technology Lab

Rescue your precious memories trapped on outdated media in our new ***Retro Technology Lab!*** We have equipment and expertise to help you digitize four kinds of video tapes, two type of audio cassettes, 8mm film, photos, negatives, slides, and more so you can preserve and share them.

Questions?