# InfoWave

Mary and Jeff Bell Library
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Fall 2006 / Volume 12 / Issue 2

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## Library Hours Fall 2006

Mon. - Thurs.
7:30a.m. - 1:30a.m.
Friday
7:30a.m. - 8:00p.m.
Saturday
10:00a.m.- 8:00p.m.
Sunday
Noon - 1:30a.m.

**Reference Services**
Mon. - Thurs.
8:00a.m. - 10:00p.m.
Friday
8:00a.m. - 8:00p.m.
Saturday
10:00a.m.- 8:00p.m.
Sunday
Noon - 10:00p.m.

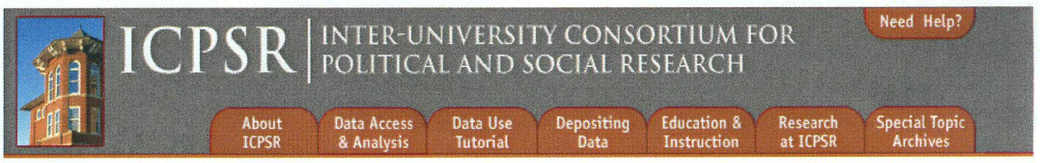
**Library Media Center**
Mon. - Thurs.
7:30a.m. - 1:15a.m.
Friday
7:30a.m. - 7:45p.m.
Saturday
10:00a.m.- 7:45p.m.
Sunday
2:00p.m. - 1:15a.m.

**Library Instruction Center**
Mon. - Thurs.
8:00a.m. - 12:00a.m.
Friday
8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.
Saturday
10:00a.m.- 6:00p.m.
Sunday
2:00p.m. - 12:00a.m.

**Special Collections & Archives**
Mon. - Fri.
8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.
and by appointment

## ICPSR Data Sets Now Available to Researchers

By Alita Pierson




In partnership with the Sociology Department, the Bell Library is providing access to ICPSR (Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research). ICPSR is a digital archive without peer. The ICPSR is the largest repository for data that social scientists collect, and it guarantees that the data will be available permanently.

Many disciplines are represented, including education, criminal justice, healthcare, and political science. Documentation accompanies all data files, and extensive bibliographic information is available. Data from over 6,300 studies are included in the archive, and total files number more than 500,000.

***Finding Data*** Users can use a simple or advanced search function to find datasets, or they can browse by subject. Browsing provides the best overview, highlighting the ICPSR's main categories, such as Census data, education, the environment, health care and facilities, political behavior, and social indicators, to name a few. To further assist users, these categories are broken down into sub-topics.

***Accessing Data*** A key point about ICPSR is that the available data is just that: raw, un-analyzed numerical data. Once users find the dataset(s) they want, they can then utilize one of several options for obtaining, manipulating, and analyzing that data.

For the bulk of the collection, users will want to download data files. Most of these data files come with setup files, which facilitate ease of use with statistical software applications such as SPSS, STATA, or SAS. First-time users must create a "My Data" account in order to download files.

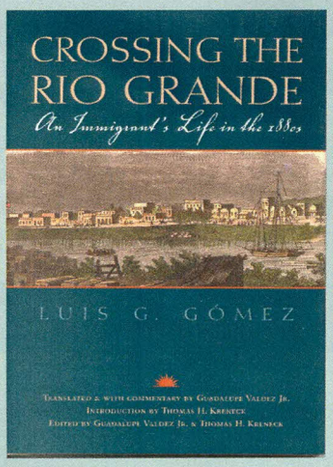
***Special Topics*** While most of the ICPSR's data is available only to subscribers such as TAMU-CC, there is a sub-set of Special Topics that anyone can access. They are publicly accessible because they were federally funded. A sample of these topics includes child care and early education, Census 2000, the United States 2000 election, and healthcare.

A major benefit of the Special Topics data is that ICPSR provides a unique method of exploring and manipulating the data online using the Data Analysis System function. This makes the datasets quite user-friendly, since there is no need to download data files. Additionally, familiarity with a commercial statistical package is not necessary, although some knowledge of statistics is useful in interpreting the results.

***Special For Instructors*** One gem that instructors will enjoy is the Special Topics module called the SIMI archive (Site for Instructional Materials and Information). This archive of ready-made datasets and instructional materials will help facilitate instruction in the use of statistics and statistical packages when there is insufficient time to collect new data.

***Help*** Bell Library highly recommends ICPSR's online tutorial. It illustrates the steps in accessing data, and it provides explicit instructions for importing data into programs such as SPSS.

Find ICPSR on the Bell Library's Database Page, alphabetically under I, or under the Subject "Social Sciences". For more information and assistance, please contact Dr. Jo Rios, at jo.rios@tamucc.edu or Sarah Sutton, sarah.sutton@tamucc.edu.




Special Collections & Archives is gratified to announce the publication of Luis G. Gomez, *Crossing the Rio Grande: An Immigrant's Life in the 1880s*, edited by Guadalupe Valdez, Jr. & Thomas H. Kreneck (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2006). This volume is the culmination of a multi-year project by the department.

An educated person, Gomez came to Texas in 1884, where he lived until his death in 1937. As an older man, Gomez wrote his reminiscences in Spanish which he privately published in 1935 under the title of *Mis Memorias*.

Through Guadalupe Valdez, Jr. (Gomez's grandson and local resident), Special Collections & Archives obtained one of the few extant copies for its permanent holdings. Because of its literary and research value, Valdez translated the text into English. Kreneck and Valdez likewise provided introductions to the volume, and it was published by A&M Press in A&M-Corpus Christi's Gulf Coast Studies series. A&M-Corpus Christi Spanish Professor Javier Villarreal provided crucial assistance with the translation.

*Crossing the Rio Grande* is not only a solid addition to Texas literature, but also represents a cooperative effort between the university and the larger Corpus Christi Hispanic community.

## New TexShare Databases for 2006-2007

TexShare, the state-wide consortium that has provided many electronic resources since 1994, has added to its stable of databases available to academic and public libraries. Some of the new additions focus on Spanish language resources and K-12 resources, as well as in-depth resources for specific subjects.

A listing of the new resources available to TAMU-CC students, faculty and staff follows:

**Spanish language resources:**
Economia y Negocios
Fuente Academica
MedicLatina

**Arts & Humanities resources:**
Bibliography of Native North Americans
Legal Collection
Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection
Religion & Philosophy
Texas Reference Center
World History Collection
Literature Resource Center with Twayne's Authors Series and Scribner Writers
Handbook of Texas

**Business resources:**
Business Source Complete

**Education resources:**
eLibrary curriculum
Ebsco Animals
Mas Ultra: School Edition
Middle Search Plus
Primary Search
Professional Development Collection

**Health resources:**
Alt Health Watch
Consumer Health Complete
Health Source: Consumer Edition
Health Source: Nursing/Academic
MedicLatina
Natural & Alternative Treatments

**Science & Technology resources:**
Computer Source
Information Science & Technology Abstracts
Internet & Personal Computing Abstracts
Science & Technology Collection
Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts

**General resources:**
Directory of Open Access Journals
eLibrary Curriculum
Ebsco Animals
Newspaper Source
Topic Search
Vocational & Career Collection
Serials Directory

**Reference resources:**
Funk & Wagnall's New Encyclopedia

To "test drive" any of these resources, go to the Bell Library's Electronic Resources page at: http://rattler.tamucc.edu/elecres/ and choose the database by title. Click on the "information" link to learn about the database's content. All of these resources are available on and off campus. For more information about accessing the Library's resources remotely (from off campus), please go to the "Remote Access" Quick Link at the bottom of the Library's home page, or go to http://rattler.tamucc.edu/offcampus/offcampus.html. All of the staff at the Library will be happy to answer your questions about these new resources which will increase the depth and breadth of electronic resources for TAMU-CC.

# Library and Personnel News

**Tom Kreneck** and **Grace Charles** attended the Society of Southwest Archivists meeting in El Paso in May. Tom and **Jan Weaver** attended the 2006 Texas State Historical Association meeting in Austin in March. In addition, Tom was selected as a Fellow of the Texas State Historical Association and received the recognition at the meeting.

**Denise Landry-Hyde** attended the Off-Campus Library Services Conference in Savannah, GA, April 26-28.

## Congratulations & Best Wishes

Jennifer Atherton, Library Associate I, married Lyndon Nance on March 18, 2006.

Cynthia Bates, Aministrative Assistant, married Robert Roper, Systems Support Specialist on April 22, 2006.

**Paula Scott** attended the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ, May 19-25 and took a class on Instructional Design. She also attended the Pediatric Librarian SIG Meeting.

**Sarah Sutton** attended the North American Serials Interest Group meeting in Denver, CO, May 3-7. Sarah is the Co-Chair of the NASIG Awards and Recognition Committee, and she is also Chair of the Library School Outreach Task Force of NASIG.

**Deanna Solomon, Jennifer Nance & Christine Shupala** attended the Innovative Users Group Conference in Denver, CO, in May.

The following staff members attended the American Library Association's Annual Meeting in New Orleans in June: **Sally Bickley**, **Abel Cantu, Christine Shupala**, **Sarah Sutton** and **Sue Willman**.

Several staff members from the Bell Library attended the Texas Library Association's Annual Conference in Houston in April: **Sally Bickley**, **Edward Kownslar**, **Laura Martinez** and **Sue Willman.**

The Library would like to welcome new staff members: **Sylvia Sanchez** was hired as Accounting Clerk III in Library Administration in March; **Julie Blackwell** and **Allison Brown** were hired as Library Associates in the Serials/Electronic Resources Department, also in March.

**Mark Pfeifer** was hired as the Reference/ Information Literacy Librarian in July. He holds an MLS from the University of North Texas, and a PhD. in Urban Social Geography from the University of Toronto.

**Jennifer Anderson**, formerly an adjunct librarian in Technical Services, was hired as the Catalog Librarian in July. Jennifer received her MLS from Texas Women's University in 2002.

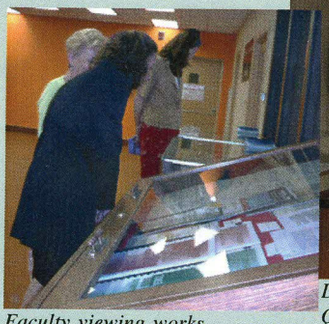
The following staff have left the library to pursue other employment: **Patty Buenano, Christine Freeman,** and **Olympia Reeves**. We wish them luck in their new careers.

The following librarians are currently serving on committees with the Texas Library Association: **Sally Bickley**, Webmaster and Mentoring Chair, New Members Round Table; **Edward Kownslar**, Councilor, Government Documents Round Table, and Chair, Digital Libraries Interest Group Nominating Committee; **Denise Landry-Hyde**, Chair, Distributed/E-Learning Interest Group; **Laura Martinez**, Member, Texas-Mexico Relations Committee; and **Sue Willman**, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster, Library Instruction Round Table.

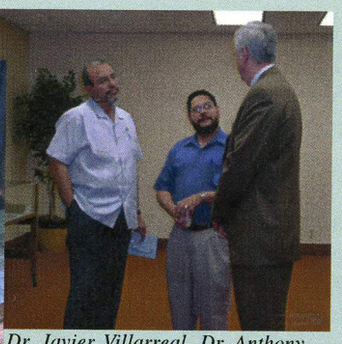
Several librarians are also serving on committees with the American Library Association: **Sally Bickley,** New Members Round Table Director and Member of the International Relations Pre-Conference Committee; **Edward Kownslar**, Chair of Dartmouth Medal Committee and Member of the RUSA Programming Committee; **Alita Pierson**, Member of GODORT's Education Committee; **Sarah Sutton**, Member, ALCTS Serials Section Nominating Committee; and **Sue Willman**, Member of the Sophy Brody Medal Committee.

## Faculty Publications Bibliography

The Mary and Jeff Bell Library and The Office of Graduate Studies & Research hosted the annual Faculty Publication Reception & "The Academy Speaks" on April 5, 2006. This reception recognizes those faculty and staff who made scholarly contributions to their fields in 2005 and to view the works of student scholars. Dr. Jesus Rosales was this year's recipient of the Excellence in Creative/Scholarly Activity Award for 2005/2006.



*Faculty viewing works*



*Dr. Javier Villarreal, Dr. Anthony Quiroz, and President Killebrew*

# Special Collections & Archives: Undergraduate Individual Studies

By Dr. Thomas H. Kreneck

During Summer Session I, 2006, Special Collections & Archives was privileged to host two Undergraduate Directed Individual Studies in archival practice. These studies proved to be of benefit both to the students and to the department, once again demonstrating the educational value of Special Collections materials.

The first Individual Study was with Christian N. Diller, a graduating senior and history major. Originally from the Dallas area, Diller was a transfer student from Loyola University in New Orleans, who has spent the last two years at A&M-Corpus Christi. Diller plans to attend Tulane University where she will pursue a degree in architecture, with a specialization in architectural preservation.

Christian N. Diller

In preparation for her future goals, Diller did her Individual Study in architectural archives. She studied the career of noted Texas restoration architect Raiford Stripling as well as familiarized herself with the work of James G. Rome, Corpus Christi's leading preservation architect. Most important, Diller archivally processed the Joseph A. Hans Papers, one of the department's architectural collections. Hans was an accomplished, versatile architect who practiced in Corpus Christi from the early 1950s until his death in 1983. Diller created a detailed preliminary finding guide to these materials which was posted on the library's homepage for access on the world wide web.

The second Individual Study was with Patty Jo James, a senior with a major in history and a minor in art history. A native Corpus Christian, James was a transfer student from Western Washington University, and has been at A&M-Corpus Christi for approximately one year. Her future plans include either law school or history graduate school.

James sought an individual study to receive practical, archival experience with historical documents, particularly with vintage photographs. Accordingly, she archivally processed an important segment of the department's Buccaneer Commission Records. This collection documents the development of Buccaneer Days, the signature Corpus Christi community event. Processing approximately two hundred photographs, James removed these images from their non-archival containers, identified, numbered, and placed them in archival support materials, and created a partial finding aid. These photographs contained many subjects, including Buccaneer parades, floats, downtown street scenes, people who directly participated, and crowds that attended various festivities. In completing her study, James worked closely with department volunteer Kelly Sasser.

Patty Jo James

Christian Diller and Patty James produced outstanding work for the department. They upheld the highest standards of our university.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