



Reference & Access – Proxy Research

Due to staffing constraints, the Briscoe Center's staff is not able to provide in-depth research services as part of its reference function. Only simple, ready reference queries can be addressed via correspondence and telephone.

The proxy researchers listed below have requested that their names be given to people who are unable to visit the Briscoe Center in person to conduct extensive research. Inclusion within this list does not imply endorsement by The Briscoe Center for American History, nor does the Briscoe Center assume responsibility for arrangements made with these researchers. The Briscoe Center for American History will not recommend researchers. Please contact these researchers directly concerning fees and arrangements.

Susan Burneson

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Education: Bachelor's degree, The University of Texas at Austin (Journalism and English)

Research Specialties: Archive research for authors, family historians, lawyers (including serving as an expert witness), communities, producers, history groups, and others. Can provide high-quality digital images.

Archival Experience: More than 25 years of research experience at the Briscoe Center, Austin History Center, Harry Ransom Center, Texas State Archives, Wisconsin Historical Society Archives, Georgia State Archives, and Family History Library, among others.

Diana Claitor

512-983-3446 (mobile)
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Education: Bachelor's degree, The University of Texas at Austin (English, Latin American Studies, Radio-TV-Film)

Research Specialties: Researcher/editor/writer with 30 years' experience researching images and documents on wide range of topics, with an emphasis on Texas and U.S. history, women, political and social justice.

Archival Experience: Researcher in multiple online archives as well as ones in Austin, including the Johnson Library, plus other smaller archives in Texas and Louisiana, and national archives in Washington D.C. and archives in Dublin and County Wexford, Ireland.

Lynn Cowles

512-522-3220 (office)
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Degree: PhD, The University of Texas at Austin (18th-century British Literature and Enlightenment Philosophy)

Research Specialties: Research plan development; discovery; reproduction; cataloguing; manuscripts, literature, correspondence, cartography, journalism, photos; records in business, science, land, and immigration.

Archival Experience: Experience researching at the British Library, the Harry Ransom Center, the US Library of Congress, the Huntington, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Texas General Land Office, Devon and Exeter Institute, Benson Latin American Collection, and the Briscoe Center for American History.

Ralph Elder

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Education: Master's degree, The University of Texas at Austin (History/Political Science; Library Science)

Research Specialties: General history of Texas, the South and Southwest; specialized knowledge of The University of Texas at Austin/UT System; comprehensive knowledge of Briscoe Center holdings and Austin-area repositories.

Archival Experience: Former Asst. Director of the Briscoe Center with over 40 years of specialized experience in public service; archival processing/cataloging; Texas bibliography; and UT archival history. Proxy research since 2010.

Helen L. Howell Graves

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Education: Master's degree, Texas Tech University (BFA Studio Art, MA Museum Studies)

Research Specialties: Texas Historical topics, Political History, general research in Austin area libraries, archives and museums; skills include digital photography of documents, publications and historic photographs.

Archival Experience: Experience as a researcher, writer, editor, curator and graphic illustrator. Worked extensively with material culture collections, managed and updated databases associated with area collections.

Patrick Graves
World-class Wordsmithing

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Education: Master's degree, LBJ School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin (state and local government, political ethics, campaign finance, lobbying)

Research Specialties: U.S. and Texas history, politics, government and public policy

Archival Experience: Familiar with research procedures at LBJ Presidential Library/Reading Room. Conceived, researched and wrote professional report (thesis) on political spending in Texas. Helped manage campaign finance database for Austin Bureau of *The Dallas Morning News*.

Freda Hamric

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Education: Bachelor's degree, Texas Christian University (English, History and Art)

Research Specialties: Texas history, all general and specific manuscripts dealing with all subjects in the Briscoe Center's holdings.

Archival Experience: Fifteen years' experience working in archives for out of country researchers as well as USA writers and researchers.

Elizabeth Hansen

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www.elizabeth-hansen.com or <https://www.linkedin.com/in/elizabethhansen1/>

Education: Master's degree, The University of Texas at Austin (Media Studies)

Research Specialties: Broadcasting, Film, Popular Music, LBJ, Audiovisual Materials

Archival Experience: Certified Archivist with 13 years of experience as a contract researcher. Former audiovisual archives assistant at the LBJ Library and current managing director of the Texas Archive of the Moving Image. Experienced footage researcher.

Ann Lefeiste

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Degree: Bachelors Degree, The University of Texas at Austin (B.S. in Radio-TV-Film with a double concentration in English Literature; Architecture post-graduate studies.)

Research Specialties: Television, film and photography research and oral history projects. Conducted film research for both the Texas Commission on the Arts, to establish an Independent Film Library, and for WNET/New York PBS documentaries and specials and serving as Series Associate Producer of "Television" (a history of television) securing copyright clip clearance as well as participating in contract review. Conducted research and interviews for oral history projects for NPR station, KUT Public Media.

Archival Experience: Dolph Briscoe Center: Walter Cronkite Papers, Joseph and Shirley Wershba Papers, and genealogy research. Harry Ransom Center: David O. Selznick, Norman Mailer, Gloria Swanson, Leon Uris, Sherwood Anderson, and the Watergate Papers.

Ann Rodriguez

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Education: Master's degree, The University of Texas at Austin. Degrees in Information Science and American Studies (rare books/history of cartography)

Research specialties: Special collections focus, accessing manuscripts/ rare books. Picture research, map research, art history, and women's studies.

Archival Experience: In addition to providing researchers information and digital images of special collections materials, also has experience getting permission to publish images.

Alice Shukalo

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Education: PhD, The University of Texas at Austin (American Studies, with teaching concentrations in history, literature, women's studies, and art)

Research Specialties: U.S. general history; U.S. social and cultural history, including gender and race politics; women's history; U.S. art history; U.S. literature, nonfiction, and journalism.

Archival Experience: Has done archival research at the Briscoe Center, the Harry Ransom Center, and at the LBJ Library. Has also researched a large number of primary sources, especially 19th century U.S. periodicals, in the course of writing doctoral dissertation.

Danielle Brune Sigler
Sharpened Pencils

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Education: PhD, The University of Texas at Austin (American Studies; also studied U.S. History, U.S. Literature, African American History, Cultural History, and U.S. Religious History)

Research Specialties: 19th and 20th Century U.S. History and Literature, African American History and Literature, U.S. Civil War, U.S. Religious History, Cultural History, Periodical research

Archival Experience: More than 20 years archival research experience (book; manuscript; photo): Briscoe Center, Library of Congress, Emory, Ransom Center, Texas State Library and Archives, University of Virginia, University of Pennsylvania; New-York Historical Society

Beverly Spicer
formerly of The Digital Journalist

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Education: Master's degree, The University of Texas at Austin (Architecture, Neuroscience, Middle Eastern Studies, Media & Communications)

Research Specialties: Any research. Interdisciplinary. Science, photography and journalism, architecture, history

Archival Experience: Master's degree is interdisciplinary from The School of Architecture. Worked as a photojournalist for 30 years, and a writer, editor, author for 12.

Tom Wancho

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Education: Master's degree, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA (Researched the lives of enslaved people on plantations around Natchitoches, the oldest permanent European settlement within the borders of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.)

Research Specialties: Bexar Archives (1717-1836) documents, Stephen F. Austin's colonists, Texas Revolution, Republic of Texas, Broad­sides from several Texas eras.

Archival Experience: The Bullock Texas State History Museum does not have a permanent artifact collection. I researched and borrowed 75% of documents while working there between Jan. 2001 - March 2023, when I retired. I know the Austin Papers, Broad­sides, Texas Revolution, early Spanish Texas.

Patti Woolery-Price

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Education: Master's degree, The University of Texas at Austin (Library and Information Science with a concentration in Archival Studies)

Research Specialties: Specializes in historical and genealogical research and 19th and 20th century Texas history.

Archival Experience: 5 years employment at Briscoe Center. Volunteer at Austin History Center. Established archives at Nesbitt Memorial Library, Columbus, TX as the library director, 6 years.