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

512-459-9613 (home), 512-791-8186 (mobile)
nimbus@austin.rr.com

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)
dclaitor@gmail.com

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.

Ralph Elder

(512) 453-6927 (home), (512) 484-9158 (mobile)
Ralph.L.Elder@gmail.com

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

512-833-0053 (home), 512-994-8932 (mobile)
collinfeldlady@gmail.com
https://www.linkedin.com/in/helen-l-howell-graves-89046a24/

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

512-833-0053 (home), 512-565-1813 (mobile)
wccwordsmith@hotmail.com
https://www.linkedin.com/in/patrickkgraves/
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
512-217-9966 (mobile)
Fkhamric@yahoo.com

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
512-983-7679 (mobile)
elizabeth@elizabeth-hansen.com
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
512-745-4071 (mobile)
anlleifeste@gmail.com

Education: Bachelor’s degree, The University of Texas at Austin (Literature and Radio, Television and Film)
Ann Rodriguez

830-263-2027 (mobile)
annrodriguez78629@gmail.com

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

512-912-8799 (home)
shukalo@sbcglobal.net

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.

Beverly Spicer
former of The Digital Journalist

512-453-1559
Zpycer33@gmail.com

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.

Patti Woolery-Price

512-476-7643 (home)
pattiwoo@aol.com

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.