Overview

Encoded finding aids will form the basis upon which the proposed digital repository can be built. A solid base of descriptive information will serve as the glue that holds the pieces together, assisting users in understanding the contents of the digital repository and in making connections between documents and/or collections.

The overall project will be ongoing; the current request is to fund the initial phase of the development of the digital archive (18 months).

Phase I--Building a Prototype Repository of Finding Aids

- Install a central server and search engine at UT Austin
- Establish markup and content guidelines for finding aids
- Encode existing finding aids from all archival repositories at the six participating institutions (vendor)
- Train staff at participating repositories to encode newly created finding aids in EAD
- Establish infrastructure at the participating repositories to facilitate encoding of new finding aids

Phase II-Incorporate Digitized Collections into the Digital Repository

- Establish regional digital repositories at Rice, UH, TTU, and TAMU
- Extend database to other academic institutions and large public libraries
- Begin to digitize collection materials

Phase III--Include Collection Materials from Other Museums, Libraries, and Archives

- Extend database to all archival repositories in the state
- Continue to digitize collection materials