Despite the torrent of negative news coming out of the financial sector, the Libraries recently benefitted from the generosity of a socially-conscious Houston investment firm.

In July, the University of Texas Libraries received a $1.2 million grant from The Bridgeway Foundation to collect and preserve, in digital form, the fragile record of genocide and human rights conflicts worldwide.

The Bridgeway Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bridgeway Capital Management, Inc., in Houston, has taken an active role in combating oppression, genocide and human rights violations. Among the numerous ways Bridgeway seeks to differentiate itself in the marketplace is its commitment to donate 50 percent of its investment advisory fee profits to charitable and non-profit organizations.

That the Libraries and the Bridgeway Foundation should almost concurrently identify a necessity for the preservation and subsequent accessibility of records relating to human rights was fortuitous. That the organizations should be introduced at this particular time seemed practically providential.

“There is a very real danger that fragile primary resources documenting actors and actions in human rights conflicts around the world will be destroyed by environmental or human attack,” said Fred Heath, vice provost for university libraries at The University of Texas at Austin. “This generous grant will help the University of Texas Libraries make giant strides toward locating those resources, preserving them as evidence and memorial, and making them available to conflict survivors, scholars, activists and students of human rights for generations to come.
Archivist Christian Kelleher Talks about Bridgeway Thus Far

Editor: Tell me a little about what brought you to archiving and eventually to the Benson Latin American Collection.

CK: I was a Spanish major as an undergrad and a Peace Corps volunteer so I wanted to combine all those interests into something with libraries in developing countries or with special preservation and access challenges. Something about the uniqueness and fragility of archives is very attractive to me. While I couldn't take courses in Latin American librarianship, I was able to land a part-time position at the Benson Collection and loved the place and the work. I knew the archivist at the time, Jane Garner, was retiring and lamented that I didn't have enough experience yet to apply for her position, so after graduating I went to Washington DC, where archives are everywhere, and worked at a number of different organizations. Then in 2002 the archivist position at the Benson reopened and I went for it. Really, it's the perfect job for me.

E: Am I imagining the emergence of a human rights concentration at the Benson? Or is it just serendipity?

CK: Archives and manuscript collections documenting the growth of human rights movements and the effects of human rights conflicts have become a strong focus of the Benson’s collecting in recent years. This emphasis on human rights did begin serendipitously, in fact, with the acquisition of the George Lister Papers in 2006, though the Benson has had good human rights archives since long before that. Turns out that Lister was quite literally “Mr. Human Rights.” He was a 60 year veteran of the Department of State, a ubiquitous figure in human rights circles and the first Human Rights Officer in DOS’s Bureau of Inter-American Affairs.

The Horman papers are another collection that we acquired through contacts made by the Rapoport Center. In September 1973 American journalist Charles Horman was abducted and executed by Chile’s military junta in the aftermath of Pinochet’s coup d'état. His wife Joyce and father Edmund began a long search first for Charles, as famously portrayed in the 1982 film Missing, and then for the truth of the circumstances of his death. They went as far as suing Henry Kissinger and Pinochet himself and in the process became symbols for the victims of human rights abuses in Latin America.

Add to that the University Libraries’ commitment to preserving the record of human rights conflict worldwide and it’s an eventful period for human rights studies at UT.

E: So let’s fast forward to 2007, when the Libraries were approached by the Bridgeway Foundation to see what our existing infrastructure could contribute to the Foundation’s interest in human rights. How were you brought into the project, and what were your immediate reactions to the Bridgeway proposal?

CK: I knew that Fred Heath had met a few times with Karen Engle regarding the Rapoport Center’s collaborations with the Benson Collection, and I had heard some talk of a grant proposal that the University Libraries was developing separately related to the Human Rights Archives and Documentation conference that the Libraries had co-sponsored at Columbia University. So one day I asked Dr. Heath about the grant proposal with an eye on how the Benson Collection and the Rapoport Center might become involved. He described the idea of the proposed project generally to me, but noted that as currently written the geographic focus was on Africa, the genocides in Rwanda and Darfur. I didn’t know if Dr. Heath was aware that I had been a Peace Corps volunteer in Africa--I spent a little over two years in Guinea, West Africa--so I offered him that information along with my willingness to go to Rwanda or Darfur. I guess it stuck, because before too long we were planning a trip to Rwanda to meet with the Kigali Memorial Centre.

When I read the proposal to the Bridgeway Foundation in detail, it was immediately obvious the value of the program to scholarly and legal research on human rights conflicts worldwide. It focused on two main formats of records that present significant challenges to long-term preservation and access: audiovisual material and Internet resources. These two types of material are particularly relevant to human rights studies because of their immediacy and documentary value.

About a week before we arrived the Kigali Memorial Centre had been the target of a grenade attack that killed one of the Centre’s guards. They had there the only copies of a number of survivor testimonies and other recordings that KMC had produced.

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See Kelleher on page 2
Landmarks at the Libraries

A new public art program being instituted by The University of Texas has brought some additional life to the Libraries via the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

“Landmarks” is the first initiative in the university’s history to adopt a comprehensive public art policy with ongoing support for the acquisition of public art. The anticipation of project coordinators is that by bringing works of public art to interior and exterior public spaces, Landmarks projects serve as a powerful way to convey the university’s identity, ideals, and standards of excellence.

The first of three key initiatives by Landmarks is a long-term loan of twenty-eight sculptures from The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. These mid to late twentieth-century sculptures representing an array of artistic trends that occurred between 1948 and 2000 are located throughout the main campus—six of which reside in two library locations—five in the Perry-Castañeda Library (PCL) and one in the Life Science Library.

Artists featured at the Libraries include Americans Juan Hamilton, Seymour Lipton and Walter Dusenbery, and Canadian Robert Murray.

The non-traditional placement of the artworks has evoked mostly positive reactions at the PCL. Upon installation, students could be observed stopping to inspect the new fixtures, and since, they have become centers of activity.

“A museum creates a very controlled environment, in which the works become a destination. You have to pay admission, you walk past a security guard, and you’re participating in a staged approach to how the experience is supposed to unfold,” says Landmarks Director Andrée Bober, “whereas public art simply exists in the environment.”

“People who are walking from one place to another may have no intention of engaging with a work of art, but because it happens to be in the landscape, they happen to see it, and it becomes part of their experience in unexpected and surprising ways.”

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been the target of a grenade attack that killed one of the Centre’s guards. They had there the only copies of a number of survivor testimonies and other recordings that KMC had produced. The KMC staff, which itself includes a number of genocide survivors, realized the fragility of these records and were eager to see them protected as well as made available throughout Rwanda and the world. It’s a dramatic example of the global situation that the Bridgeway project is working to address.

E: Did your Peace Corps experience help to prepare you for what you experienced in Kigali? How did the trip affect you?

CK: There were certain similarities between Rwanda and Guinea as a Peace Corps volunteer. While in Rwanda, Fred and I visited a couple other Bridgeway Foundation projects outside Kigali—schools and a community well—and there are the same struggles for economic development and the accompanying educational and health challenges. But only 14 years after the Genocide its effects are still very evident even in the brief look that we had in June. The memorials to the victims of the Genocide are impossible to describe. There are whole “villages” for widows and orphans. And getting to know survivors like Yves Kumaronsi and Freddy Mutangwa at the Kigali Memorial Centre, to hear their terrible experiences and the importance they place on education, documentation, and memory of the Genocide, for me that gave the Bridgeway grant project an additional emotional imperative. The project became more than just an important technical challenge to preserve and provide access to documentary materials. I think that in many ways the KMC staff sees their work as a moral charge, and after being there I have to agree.
University of Texas Libraries Honor Roll 2007 – 2008

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Welcome Back

Libraries staff once again took their act to the streets and spent the first days of the 2008 fall semester hosting welcome tables at various locations around campus.

At four sites across campus staff members answered questions and provided directions and reassurance to a student population experiencing the excitement and nerves of their first day at UT. Staff braved the oppressive heat and humidity to distribute over 7,000 bottles of ice-cold water and an invaluable degree of assistance.
Benson Latin American Collection Opens Horman Papers To Research

The Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection of the University of Texas Libraries has opened the Joyce Horman and Edmund Horman Papers to researchers.

The Horman Papers were acquired as a result of the University Libraries’ collaboration with the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice at the University of Texas at Austin School of Law, and are part of the University of Texas Libraries’ efforts to document human rights conflicts worldwide.

The papers document the work by Joyce Horman and Edmund Horman to discover the truth behind the abduction, torture and murder of American journalist Charles Horman during the September 1973 coup d’état in Chile by Augusto Pinochet.

On September 11, 1973, Pinochet staged a coup in Chile against the democratically elected Marxist government of Salvador Allende. During and after the coup, thousands of people were disappeared, tortured or executed by Pinochet’s military junta. Among those who disappeared was Harvard-educated American journalist Charles Horman.

Horman’s wife Joyce and father Edmund began a frantic search to find him, and after the discovery of his body continued their efforts to learn the circumstances of his murder. In 1976 they filed the landmark lawsuit “Joyce Horman, et al. v. Henry Kissinger, et al.” in which they charged Kissinger and other Nixon administration officials with Charles Horman’s wrongful death and its concealment.

The events surrounding Horman’s death were brought to international attention with the 1978 publication of Thomas Hauser’s book “The Execution of Charles Horman: An American Sacrifice” and the 1982 film “Missing” by director Costa-Gavras.

The Horman Papers include documents from the Joyce Horman v. Henry Kissinger suit, as well as correspondence of Edmund Horman with government officials and copies of declassified documents the Horman obtained through Freedom Of Information Act requests.

In 1999, a previously heavily redacted Department of State memorandum from 1976 was released. It said, “U.S. Intelligence may have played an unfortunate part in Horman’s death. At best, it was limited to providing or confirming information that helped motivate his murder by the GOC [Government of Chile]. At worst, U.S. Intelligence was aware the GOC saw Horman in a rather serious light and U.S. officials did nothing to discourage the logical outcome of GOC paranoia.”

“The archive, which will continue to grow with new additions from Joyce Horman, will provide researchers at The University of Texas at Austin with valuable primary resource information about U.S. government cold war foreign relations in Latin America and the compromise of human rights and justice,” said Benson archivist Christian Kelleher.

The opening of the archive was commemorated on Thursday, Sept. 11, with a free screening of the film “Missing” and discussion with Joyce Horman and Peter Kornbluh of the National Security Archive to take place in Mezes Auditorium (MEZ 1.306) on the south mall of the university campus.

The archive is open to research at the Benson Latin American Collection in Sid Richardson Hall on The University of Texas campus. A guide to the archive can be found on the Texas Archival Resources Online Web page at: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utlac/00271/lac-00271.html
New Council Members

As the Libraries Advisory Council prepares to begin a new year of planning and development, they also welcome several new members.

**Cayetano Barrera** is a physician in McAllen, Texas. He graduated with a degree in Chemistry from Baylor University and received a doctorate degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas in 1963. He did residency training in Modesto, California then joined the Army and served in Vietnam. Barrera has served as Chairman of the Tejano Monument project at the State Capitol, as Chairman of the Rio Bank, and as President of the McAllen Economic Development Corporation. Dr. Barrera enjoys genealogy, ranching and photography. He is married, has three children and 9 grandchildren.

**Robert Faires** is Senior Arts Editor for The Austin Chronicle, where he has been covering the local arts scene for more than 20 years. His writing and criticism has been recognized with awards from the Association of Alternative Newsweeklies, and he belongs to the Austin Critics Table, through which he co-founded the Austin Arts Hall of Fame to recognize the achievements of the city’s cultural pioneers. Faires is also active in Austin theatre, and his long career includes work on more than 45 productions as an actor and director.

**Cale McDowell** is a third-year law student and Deputy to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He co-authored both the final report of the Task Force on Curricular Reform (2005) and the Faculty Council motion formally adopting its recommendations (2006). McDowell has been appointed as Deputy to the Dean in the new School of Undergraduate Studies, and is currently an ex officio advisor to the Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee, the Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review, the UT Quality Enhancement Plan Development Team (for SACS Accreditation), and the General Education Assessment Planning Team.

**Baldomero Vela, Jr.** is a 1977 graduate of the University of Texas School of Pharmacy, where he also established an endowment to benefit students who plan to work in rural areas. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Rio Bank, and is owner of Lee’s Pharmacy and Medical Equipment in McAllen, Texas. He is coeditor of *Index to the Marriage Investigations of the Diocese of Guadalajara*.

**Ted Whatley** is an ardent advocate of libraries—as a reader, teacher, and citizen. He spent childhood years roaming the UT libraries while his father labored in the Tower. As a school board member, he helped initiate a support group of citizens to advocate for our school libraries and the librarians who were not then considered teachers. Whatley graduated from Harvard with an A.B. in history and education degrees. He was a teacher and headmaster in his professional years and served on the Austin school board in the 1990’s.

**Fred Zipp** has spent 29 years in daily newspaper journalism, most recently as editor of the Austin American-Statesman. He began his career in Beaumont, Texas, and has also worked in West Palm Beach, Florida. Zipp graduated from Duke University in 1977 with degrees in history and French.

Making the Libraries Better One Wish At a Time…

Donors give to the University of Texas Libraries in countless ways, and their gifts help us maintain our status as one of the most renowned research institutions in the world. The Libraries are presenting a new tool that we hope will encourage you to consider making one extraordinary wish come true.

This fall, the Libraries website will feature a “Wish List” of items that will provide visitors an opportunity to give to the Libraries in a meaningful and specific way. Branch librarians have submitted items that would require funding beyond the scope of what is available at the current time, and visitors to the “Support Your Libraries” section of the website will be able to contribute to the purchase or funding of whichever of these items they choose.

Among the options available for funding are academic resources such as exhibit catalogs, bibliographies and reference collections; audio and video collections; outreach and academic programs; journal and database subscriptions; and much more.

We encourage you to visit the Libraries website (http://www.lib.utexas.edu) and grant a wish that will benefit both the Libraries and the innovations of students, scholars and researchers.
Tim Strawn Recommends...

Head of Cataloging and Metadata Resources Tim Strawn offers some of his favorite books for suggested reading.


The Angolan civil war, the downfall of the Shah of Iran, the last days of Haile Selassie, the bloody 100-hour conflict between El Salvador and Honduras and the fall of the Soviet empire, Ryszard Kapuscinski witnessed them all. Kapuscinski, who died in 2007 at age 74, was the Indiana Jones of 20th century reportage. He survived 27 revolutions and coups, 4 death sentences and was jailed over 40 times. He found himself in the best (perhaps the worst?) position to cover some of the most important and most tragic events of the 20th century. His writing is well-crafted, passionate and poetic. Kapuscinski was a thinker as well as a fine writer, and his ability to capture and communicate the human scale within these grand events is remarkable.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian (2007) by Sherman Alexie

Alexie’s first Young Adult title won him the National Book Award for Young People’s Literature last year. My 11-year-old daughter described this book as, “very funny and sad at the same time,” which we adults sometimes call “bittersweet.” But what narrative of Native American life, historical or modern, would not be tinged with sadness? Alexie, who is of Spokane heritage, writes with humor and poignancy about his anti-hero, NAME, born hydrocephalic who happens to have a great jump shot and a number of odd friends and relations. Life on and off the “rez,” and the shifting boundaries between modern Native American and Anglo culture are deftly explored. This book is not preachy at all, but there are lessons here for all of us.

Shadow of the Silk Road (2006) by Colin Thubron

Thubron has penned a number of entertaining and insightful books over a long career, and he may be one of the last in the British tradition of “gentlemen travelers.” His is an elegant style. He writes with crystalline clarity and his narratives, and travels, inevitably veer from the beaten track, bringing us vivid tales from faraway places inhabited by strangers who soon become our familiar. In this book, he details his journey through modern Asia along the ancient Silk Road from China to the Mediterranean through Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey, revisiting some of the same people and places he detailed in two earlier books, only twenty years on. His descriptions of history, cultures and people are vivid and unforgettable.

Tooth and Claw (2005) by T. Coraghessan Boyle

This is T. C. Boyle’s seventh collection of short stories. Since 1979, Boyle has published 19 works of fiction all of them fully engaging the human condition with hilarity and compassion. I am continually drawn to his short stories because his ruminations on and illustrations of our human plight are so intense. Boyle is what I would call a lunatic-humanist-surrealist who can elicit laughter and tears simultaneously. This collection assembles 14 of his darker stories, all gems and not to be missed. From the story of an unlikely romance between a fetching American ornithologist and a spinster Scot on the isle of Unst to the tale of a drive-time radio host’s attempt to break the world record for continuous hours without sleep, Boyle fascinates while enlivening his characters with frailty, humor, compassion and odd heroics.

A Voyage Long and Strange: Rediscovering the New World (2008) by Tony Horwitz

When it comes to history and the “discovery” of America, Tony Horwitz is a dummy and he is betting that his readers are as well. During a visit to Plymouth Rock, Horwitz discovers, much to his private school educated chagrin, that he knew next to nothing about the people who traveled the continent (before and after Columbus), much less the folks who inhabited “America” before European contact commenced. Horwitz writes a well-paced and humorous travelogue of self-tutoring as he sweats it out in a lodge with MicMacs in Newfoundland, follows Coronado’s trail all the way to Kansas (who knew?) and tours present-day Roanoke which was briefly settled, not by fantasized Pilgrim forebears, but by a “…motley crew of slave traders, tourists, castaways and Tudor knights….” Horwitz neatly balances historical narrative with his own present-day travel stories for an engaging and entertaining history lesson.
The University of Texas at Austin

Staff Highlighter: Meghan Sitar

Position: Instruction and Outreach Librarian in Library Instruction Services

Age: 29

Hometown: Clarkston, MI

Years of service: 4

What you do at UTL:
I work with faculty in the undergraduate Signature Courses and Rhetoric programs to incorporate information literacy and library instruction into their courses, whether that means teaching a session for their students when they have research to do for a paper or designing assignments that can be used in the classroom. In addition to teaching in these programs and in the drop-in Library Classes program, I coordinate outreach to students in these same programs and work with other offices on campus to raise awareness of the Libraries. I also provide reference services through chat and at the Information and Research Help Desk at PCL.

Something you didn’t expect:
I’m continually surprised by how much fun working with undergraduates can be, even when our time together is spent talking about databases and search terms. When I began library school, I started studying to be an archivist, but after a semester working with undergraduates at a reference desk, I changed tracks and found myself incredibly energized by helping students find and evaluate the information they need.

Favorite book(s):
In the last year, some of my most enjoyable reads have been Schulz and Peanuts: A Biography by David Michaelis, Let the Northern Lights Erase Your Name by Vendela Vida, The Story of a Marriage by Andrew Sean Greer, and Special Topics in Calamity Physics by Marisha Pessl. My all-time favorite is A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith, which I’ve re-read almost every year since I was twelve.

I’m told you like films. Any obscure gems or favorites you’d like to share? I’m a huge fan of the Paramount Summer Film Series and consider it the number one benefit of surviving the somewhat overwhelming heat of the Austin summers. Every year I’m introduced or reintroduced to new “old” films that instantly become favorites. Highlights from this past summer’s program were The Long, Hot Summer, Repulsion, The Last Picture Show, George Washington Slept Here, and Golddiggers of 1933.

Hobbies:
With Oscar season fast-approaching, my main hobby is movie-watching and predicting nominees. I also spend a lot of time scoping out new vegetarian recipes and making a mess in the kitchen.

What’s the future look like ten years on?
I hope to still be working closely with students and helping them to become savvy consumers of information as that world of information continues to grow and grow.

The University of Texas Libraries initiated its efforts through a partnership with the Kigali Memorial Centre (KMC, http://www.kigalimemorialcentre.org/), which was established and is administered by the Aegis Trust (UK, http://www.aegistrust.org/) in cooperation with the Kigali City Council to document and memorialize the victims of the Rwandan genocide. Records of the genocide from the Kigali Memorial Centre, including survivor testimonies and local court recordings, will be digitized by the university and preserved in the University Libraries’ digital repository.

With the KMC, the University Libraries will design secure storage and access tools for these unique primary resources. A similar project is also underway to preserve and provide digital access to deteriorating recordings of historical broadcasts from a clandestine radio station in El Salvador during that country’s civil war.

“As the institution primarily charged with maintaining the foundational resources for research and study at the university, we are honored to be charged with a trust of information vital to understanding of this devastating socio-political phenomenon. At a time when the library as a traditional model is seeking to corral and restructure the deluge of information available through new technologies, this unique resource will provide insight into an often misunderstood aspect of global politics.”

The project’s strategy begins with the collection and cataloging of fragile or transient Web sites of human rights advocacy and genocide watch. The Internet is a primary avenue for information and misinformation on human rights conflict, and for organizations and individuals alike to document what is occurring. The University of Texas Libraries will identify, organize and preserve these records. Audio and video documentation, formats that are especially endangered, will form another core of the Libraries’ digital preservation programming.
Announcing The Littlefield History of the Civil War Era

In a joint project of the University of North Carolina Press and the Littlefield Fund for Southern History at the University of Texas at Austin, the UNC Press is publishing a landmark series of sixteen volumes covering the Littlefield History of the Civil War Era.

Edited by Gary Gallagher and T. Michael Parrish, books in the Littlefield Series, written by some of today’s most respected Civil War historians, will cover the War from the earliest rumblings of disunion to its devastating conclusion and Reconstruction. This ambitious sixteen-volume series marks the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Publication begins in Fall 2008 and continue through 2015 at a rate of two volumes per year.

Forthcoming volumes include: Shearer Davis Bowman on The Secession, Mark Neely on Politics in the Civil War, William Blair on The Home Front, Peter S. Carmichael on The War for the Common Soldier, Carol Reardon on The War in the East, James M. McPherson on The War at Sea, George C. Rable on The Role of Religion in the Civil War, Earl Hess on The War in the Western Theater, Howard Jones on Diplomacy in the Civil War, Caroline Janney on Memory, Thomas W. Cutrer on War in the Trans-Mississippi Theater, Thavolia Glymph on Women in the War, Joseph P. Reidy on Emancipation, Mark Wahlgren Summers on Reconstruction, and T. Michael Parrish on The Civil War in a World Comparative Context.

The series launch and publication of the inaugural volume Disunion!: The Coming of the American Civil War, 1789-1859 by Dr. Elizabeth R. Varon of Temple University, will be celebrated with a public lecture, panel discussion, and reception beginning at 4:00 on Tuesday, November 18, at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center on the University of Texas campus. The event is free and open to the public. For further information, please contact Eve McQuade at 495-4350 or by email at emcquade@austin.utexas.edu.

Financial support from The Littlefield Fund has enabled UNC Press, long recognized as a leading publisher on the Civil War, to attract the field’s top scholars to the series, including James M. McPherson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era; Mark E. Neely Jr., winner of the Pulitzer Prize for The Fate of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties; and George C. Rable, whose Fredericksburg! Fredericksburg! won the Lincoln Prize.

Established at the University of Texas at Austin in 1914 by Major George W. Littlefield, the Fund has supported the acquisition of materials relating to the South for the University of Texas Libraries. The Libraries have one of the most extensive collections of holdings on the South and southern history and culture in the United States.
Libraries work to preserve the varied record of human endeavor over deep stretches of time. The women and men charged with fulfilling this mission are accustomed to watching their efforts bear fruit through multiple channels and over long time spans. Occasionally, though, the multiple paths of our work converge for a moment to highlight a new and immediate opportunity.

When approached by the Bridgeway Foundation—the charitable arm of Bridgeway Capital Management—about how the Libraries might be able to leverage our infrastructure to assist in documenting and preserving the record of human rights activities around the world, we began to consider how this request could mesh with our mission and strategic plans.

It quickly became evident that many strands of our work in the area of digital libraries were directly relevant to this request. In 2006, we worked with the Congressional Black Caucus to develop and host a website and archive of African American Congressional history (www.avoiceonline.org) and, subsequently, we partnered with the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library to assist with an ambitious project to explore recent American history through presidential administrations (www.presidentialtimeline.org). More recently, the University Libraries has been a primary partner in developing the collaborative Texas Digital Library (www.tdl.org), and has recently created a resource for archiving faculty scholarship— the University of Texas Institutional Repository (repositories.lib.utexas.edu). Collectively, these projects represent significant experience and expertise in building the processes and digital infrastructure needed to acquire, preserve, and create access to digital records of all types—capabilities that would be useful in responding to Bridgeway Foundation’s request for help in collecting and preserving documents relating to the Rwandan genocide and other pressing issues of our time.

The grant by Bridgeway provided the Libraries the chance to build upon our traditional responsibilities by incorporating conventional practices into a modern technological framework in ways that were unconventional. Existing infrastructure—resources both physical and intellectual—and the dictates of our mission made it possible to preserve the most fragile aspects of the human record.

If a transient website, fragile document or outmoded media can be saved capturing the reality of a given situation, who better to do so than a great research library at the nexus of technology, collection and preservation? That the foundation provided by previously instituted strategies allowed us to step in and implement such an important process at a moment’s notice speaks to the import of the library as an essential component of not only our society, but—as in this case—of the global community, as well.