

Tejano Voices Press Release
(September 2001)

The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries announce the receipt of a grant from the Texas State Library and Archives' TexTreasures program. The \$20,000 grant will partially fund a project called Tejano Voices, which will provide improved access to 77 oral history interviews conducted during the 1990s by U.T. Arlington political science professor, José Angel Gutiérrez.

The interviews emphasize the personal stories and struggles of Tejano leaders, many of whom are the first individuals of Mexican descent in their communities elected or appointed to government office. The interviews uniquely reflect the history of the Tejano community as it pressed for an end to racial segregation in the state and access to political power in the post-WWII period. The interviews are housed in Special Collections at the U.T. Arlington Libraries and are available for use by the public during Special Collections' normal operating hours of Monday 9:00 am-7:00 pm and Tuesday-Saturday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

The project will run from September 1, 2001, through August 31, 2002. It will feature a web site which will provide access to streamed audio of the interviews and to the interview transcripts. Staff from the Libraries' Digital Library Services program area will create digital files and will design and implement the project web site. In addition to staff resources, the Libraries will contribute the use of the equipment required by the project. Grant funds will be used to pay the salary of a professional cataloger, who will work on the project half-time for one year in Special Collections. The cataloger's contribution to the project will include creating catalog records for the interviews and contributing information to the project's database and web site.

The purpose of the TexTreasures grant program is to assist public and academic libraries in Texas to provide access to their special or unique local collection holdings and to make information about these holdings available to library users across the state. The TexTreasures program is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Tejano Voices Project will be under the direction of Ann Hodges, Special Collections Projects Manager at the U.T. Arlington Libraries. For more information, please contact:

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