

## **Librarian's Helper Stoned: Legacy Records, Legacy Viruses**

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**Abstract:** Since the late 1980's, the Austin History Center has been using the computer program Librarian's Helper to create catalog cards for the architectural drawings in their archives. The AHC has determined that Librarian's Helper should be replaced with a modern database system. Unfortunately, many of the records created by Librarian's Helper are stored on obsolete storage media (5.25 inch floppy disks) and have become inaccessible to the staff. The AHC needed to retrieve those records, or all of them would have to be recreated in the new system. Kathryn Garvey, Carol Brock, and I successfully recovered and migrated these records for the AHC as a project for Dr. Patricia Galloway's Problems in the Permanent Retention of Electronic Records class at The University of Texas School of Information in the Spring of 2011.

To retrieve the records, we used computers in the school's Digital Archaeology Lab to create archival and working copies of the material. During virus scanning, we discovered that many of the disks had been infected with a virus known as the Stoned virus, a boot sector virus which was originally created in 1987. Despite that challenge, we were able to recover the content of the records from the infected disks, but we were unable to preserve the formatting because of difficulties created by the virus. Luckily, preservation of the formatting was not important for the AHC's purposes. We migrated the records into the format requested by the AHC, and they are now being transferred into a database.

### **About the author:**

*Jane Gruning* is a student at the University of Texas at Austin School of Information. She will be completing her MSIS degree in August 2011 with a focus in Archives. Her specific interests in the archives field lie in digital preservation and digital archaeology. She is an Intern in the Archives of American Mathematics at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, and a volunteer at the Goodwill Computer Museum in Austin, Texas.