

## **Diversity and Inclusion: Building the Texas Disability History Collection**

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### **Abstract:**

Staff from the UT Arlington Libraries, in collaboration with the University's Disability Studies Minor faculty and staff, are providing multidimensional access to embedded disability records housed in the Libraries Special Collections. The Texas Disability History Collection has been developed with accessibility at the forefront. To expand on the collection further, the national Disability History / Archives Consortium has been founded, and a traveling disability history exhibit has been created. Planning for the next phase is well underway and will include visits to key areas in Texas to interview disability rights advocates on the state and local levels.

This platform presentation will address the methodologies used to develop disability awareness and rights through the use of records housed in Special Collections and Archives, especially in north Texas and at UT Arlington. Presenter will discuss working with donors with disabilities and building the Texas Disability History Collection. Technology employed to make the web site accessible to the widest audience possible, including those with handicaps, will be described in detail.

### **About the author:**

*Samantha Dodd* is the special collections archivist at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). She earned a Bachelor of Arts in history with a minor in education from UTA in 2009, a Master of Arts in History from UT Dallas in 2012, and a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of North Texas in 2014. Samantha has also earned a graduate certificate in archival administration, and became a certified archivist in 2013. She started her career as an intern in the collections and exhibits department of the Dallas Historical Society (DHS) and shortly after became the archivist for the DHS. While working for the historical society, Samantha was selected to participate in the American Association for State and Local History's Seminar for Historical Administration. In 2016 she accepted the archivist position at UTA. Recently Samantha completed an additional graduate certificate program in Advanced Library Management and successfully completed the Society of American Archivists' A&D certificate program.