

Talk TARO 2 Me

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Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) is a consortium of over 80 archives, museums, and cultural heritage centers throughout Texas that provides a mutually-supported website for member repositories to upload archival finding aids. For over two decades, TARO has served as a free and open resource visited by hundreds of thousands of researchers per year. However, the twenty-year-old website was long overdue for holistic redesign and enhancement. Funded by a NEH Planning Grant (2015-2016) and a subsequent NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Implementation Grant (2019-present), dubbed “TARO to the 21st Century,” TARO’s Steering Committee and numerous volunteers, alongside its institutional home, the University of Texas Libraries, debuted TARO’s new website the fall of 2021. This briefing will report on the various challenges (from a global pandemic to a state wide snow storm, and a massive data remediation issue) encountered, as well as valuable lessons learned successfully relaunching a large, consortial project affectionately dubbed TARO 2.0.

About the author:

Samantha Dodd is the curator for the Archives of Women of the Southwest at the DeGolyer Library at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Her work entails collecting, appraising, processing, and making accessible archival collections in women’s history to document the historical experience of women in the Southwest, with special emphasis on Dallas and North Texas, as well as Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, and the Spanish Borderlands. Samantha was most recently the special collections archivist at the University of Texas at Arlington, where she had been working since 2016. From 2011-2015, she was the archivist at the Dallas Historical Society. She holds a BA in history from UTA, an MA in history from UTD, and an MLIS from the University of North Texas. She is a Certified Archivist and has professional certificates in Advanced Management in Libraries (UNT) and Archival Arrangement and Description (SAA).