

# Translating Archival Resources: A Pilot Study

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In Fall 2020, the University of North Texas (UNT) Special Collections department initiated a pilot project to translate our English language finding aids and digital exhibits into Spanish. Given UNT's classification as a Hispanic-serving institution and our location in a state with a large Spanish speaking population, we felt it was critical to make our resources more accessible. We were surprised to learn that very little research has been conducted within the United States on the process of translating and hosting finding aids and digital exhibits in languages other than English. Therefore, we conducted research on the accuracy of translations provided by expensive translation vendors offering human translation compared to the translation resulting from free machine translation services like DeepL and Office365. Our presentation will outline our methodology, explain how we categorized errors found to determine the most cost effective translation method, and share initial usage statistics.

## **About the authors:**

**Julie Judkins** is the Assistant Head of Special Collections at the University of North Texas Libraries where she oversees the department's public services and outreach initiatives. Her research interests include methods for effective primary source instruction, book illustration techniques, and lowering barriers between archives and the communities they serve. She holds an MSI from the University of Michigan.

**Jaimi Parker** is the Exhibits Coordinator for Special Collections at the University of North Texas Libraries. She graduated with her Master's in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University in 2016. Her work includes curating exhibits utilizing Special Collections materials, collaborating with outside partners to share local history, and assisting with outreach programs for UNT Special Collections. Parker's professional interests include sharing knowledge of exhibit creation techniques with other archives as well as focusing on digital outreach initiatives.

**Maia Knighton** is a student at the University of North Texas, majoring in Social Work and minoring in Spanish. Originally from Mesa, Arizona, Maia served as a missionary in rural Guatemala for 18 months, where she learned Spanish and fell in love with Latin culture. This fall Maia will work as a congressional intern in Washington, D.C. through the NTDC program. She plans to become a social worker and immigration lawyer.