

The South Central Academic Medical Libraries Consortium (SCAMeL) graciously awarded the Moody Medical Library at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB) \$5,269.05 to digitize its collection of rare anatomical drawings. This collection is considered to be one of the largest of its kind in the nation. The 2,540 once nearly inaccessible drawings are now available for viewing online on [UTMB Health SHARED](#).

Cataloging/Metadata

Small labels were created; filled out; and temporarily affixed to each drawing. Fields included; artist, title/description, date, and measurements. If a reference existed from which the drawing was taken, that information was also included. In an effort to make the drawings easier to locate, we also numbered the individual drawings and folders.

The metadata collected was input into an Excel spreadsheet and the labels remained attached to the drawings to verify that the drawing was properly identified. When this list was complete, it was discovered that the drawings actually dated to 1981 and not to 1965 like originally thought. In addition, our original estimate of 2,358 total drawings was finally determined to be 2,540. The list was then organized alphabetically by artist with unknown artists placed at the end. The revised list reflects the new order of the drawings.

Reorganization

Physically reorganizing the drawings required, in many cases, pulling drawings from multiple folders to ensure that each artist's works were stored together. The size of the folders and a lack of table space made this challenging. The drawings done by unknown artists were easier to organize as we just made sure that each folder contained approximately 20 drawings. There are 64 folders with works by known artists and 64 folders containing works with unknown artists. Also, during the reorganization, smaller drawings were removed from the folders and are now stored in a manner more appropriate for their size.

Photography

Once the first 64 folders were organized, we scheduled the first photography session. There were 5 photography sessions over a 3 month span with each session lasting from 3 and 4.5 hours. Library staff members helped to speed the photography process by moving the drawings into position and maintaining their proper order. Each photography session averaged 25 folders completed. Even with the discovery of an additional 182 drawings, we were able to complete the photography within our budget due to the increased efficiency in our process.

Editing the photographs took a little longer than expected since some of the drawings were too large for the photography platform and had to be shot in sections and then stitched together to form a single image.

Both large edited files along with reduced, web optimized versions of the images are maintained on a UTMB server as well as UTMB Health SHARED hosted by the Texas Digital Library. Renaming the files was not necessary as the naming authority was agreed upon with the photographer prior to the start of the project.

Uploading to UTMB Health SHARED

We averaged uploading approximately 90 images per day to the UTMB Health SHARED site with basic metadata (artist, title/description, date, measurements, and three predetermined subjects). All images, including the smaller ones, have been uploaded and verified for accuracy.

A link to the UTMB Health SHARED site was also added to a designated page on the [Blocker Collections website](#).

Exhibit

Fifteen images were selected and printed for display in the Moody Medical Library as indicated in the award proposal. There were so many excellent drawings to choose from that we decided to expand the exhibit by having additional images printed (using Moody Medical Library funds). UTMB Marketing and Communications will be notified of the completion of the project as soon as the exhibit is installed. SCAMeL will be credited as the funding source for the project in all marketing, and in both the digital and physical exhibits.

Next Steps

We were so pleased with this project that we decided to enhance it by creating a finding aid with background information on the known artists.

In the future we would like to invite the UTMB anatomy department and interested members of the community to help us complete additional metadata.

Conclusion

We believe that this project was enormously successful. The allotted time was sufficient to achieve our goals and all expected outcomes were met. The photography part of the project went quicker than expected especially after the most effective way of moving the oversized drawings was determined. However, we do wish that we had secured a larger work space for the project because all of the photography work was done on the floor; simply storing the drawings onsite took up most of our tables. This project was completed through efficient and hard work in addition to the vital funding provided by the SCAMeL Speedy Startups award.

SCAMEL Speedy Startups Final Report

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Drawings (15) selected for exhibition.



