

# Waxing Nostalgic: Digitizing the UT Law School Yearbooks for Preservation and Access

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## Background

The UT Law School yearbook was published from 1949 to 2004 and is among the Tarlton Law Library's most requested archival material. The goal of this project was to provide online access to 5 yearbooks (1960-1964) to foster alumni relations and to create digital surrogates for preservation.

## Objectives & Procedures

- Preserved digital scans by creating TIFF images using CopiBook scanner to be kept in dark archive
- Photoshopped images to straighten, crop and remove large blemishes
- Enabled full-text search of collection using ABBYY Fine Reader and editing text for accuracy
- Developed online collection by uploading multi-page PDFs into CONTENTdm
- Applied metadata utilizing internal controlled vocabulary to facilitate collection discovery

## Primary Challenges & Solutions

### Challenges

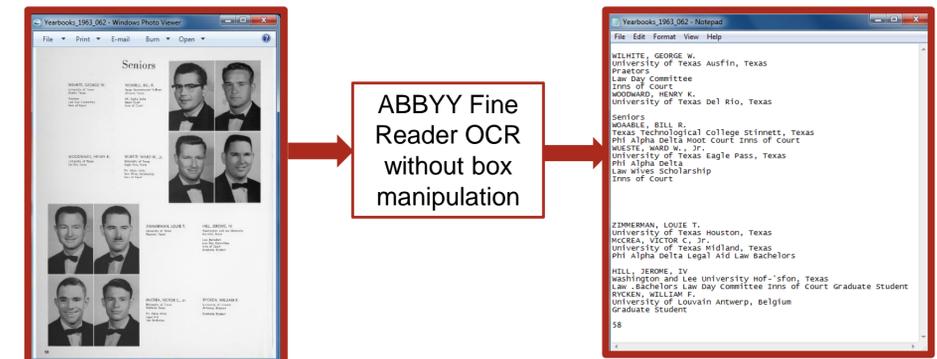
- Scanning and editing images is time consuming
- Page layouts are intricate and vary, complicating OCR text editing (see images below)
- If yearbook pages are "items" in CONTENTdm, the collection would require Tarlton to purchase a bigger license

### Solutions

- Framed scans to minimize editing
- Prioritized left to right alignment even when not alphabetical, grouping related information
- Uploaded each yearbook as a compound PDF so an entire yearbook is counted as an item

## Future Recommendations

- Utilize ABBYY Fine Reader boxes to ensure text is extracted in preferred format to reduce time spent editing text
- Use Notepad to edit transcripts instead of Word to eliminate need for format conversion

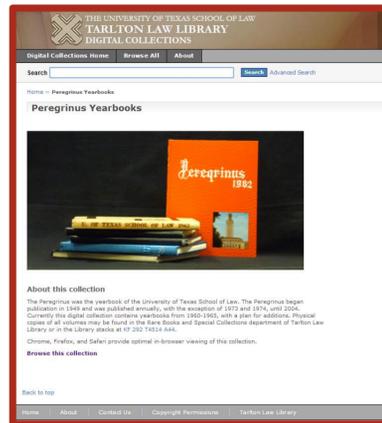


## Conclusion

Yearbook contents spark nostalgia. This digitized collection provides direct access to a digital copy of the collection to alumni. In addition, offices at the Law School who utilize the print collection for promotional materials and to cultivate alumni relations, can use the collection immediately through the internet. I have learned how digitization of a collection can provide greater access to users and enable preservation of its digital surrogates. I hope the collection will further connect alumni and their families with the school through their memories.



Copibook Scanner



CONTENTdm collection page



These page formats are distinctive and are "read" very differently by ABBYY Fine Reader.

