REVEAL Proposal

REVEAL: REad and View English and American Literature
(Clever title credited to Joan Sibley)

Liz Gushee, Digital Collections Librarian
January 16, 2014

**Project Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to (1) increase access for researchers to the Center's manuscript and archival resources; (2) enhance the Center’s online user experience for researchers; (3) support the Center’s mission to advance research and scholarship; (4) create workflows and best practices for the Center for future large-scale digitization projects.

**A. Project Description:**

**Part One:**
Enhance access to a selection of the Center’s archival collections by digitizing entire literature collections in the public domain, recycling descriptive metadata from finding aids, and delivering this content online via the Center’s CONTENTdm site. This “large-scale” digitization approach moves away from the traditional curated selection of exceptional documents and the creation of manually enhanced descriptive metadata; it offers instead, the potential for a more streamlined method for the delivery of the Center’s collections in an online environment and leverages prior work performed on the collections and digital environments development.

For the proposed collections, please see the Appendix.

**Staff Involvement:** Liz Gushee; Digital Production Librarian (hiring process underway); two student digitization technicians

**Part Two:**
Develop an Open Access policy for the Ransom Center. Universities and cultural heritage institutions such as Cornell, Yale, the British Library, and the Getty have developed open access policies for their public domain materials. As part of the REVEAL project, I propose that an environmental scan be made of existing open access policies, and from that information gathering exercise, a similar, yet tailored, policy be created for the Center. The marriage of an open access policy for the Center with the release of a significant portion of collections in the public domain will strengthen the value of the project as well as enhance our mission to advance research and scholarship.

**Proposed Staff Involvement:** Liz Gushee, Rich Oram, Cathy Henderson, Rick Watson

**Part Three:**
Engage scholars with the REVEAL collections. Towards the conclusion of the yearlong project, develop a Call for Proposals (CFP) asking scholars to envision uses of the collections, i.e.: creation online scholarly editions, visualizations, or digital tools to enhance usability or visibility of the project’s content. I have had an initial (and casual) conversation with Tanya Clement, Assistant Professor in the iSchool, about this idea. If possible, we would like to work together to use the students in her Digital Humanities course to act as consultants to possible responders to the CFP. They would come up with a response to the CFP based on criteria that would need to be developed. Possible activities could include: interviews with scholars, close examination of collection materials, a survey of tools or resources needed to implement the proposal, creation of budgets, etc.

Of the three parts of this proposal, this is the section that needs more development for a concrete plan and action items.

**Proposed Staff Involvement:** Liz Gushee, Danielle Sigler, Tanya Clement (iSchool), other?

**B. Selection of the collections:**
The collection selectors met several times to identify and discuss potential manuscript collections for the REVEAL project and to familiarize themselves with the size and format of the materials. The collections identified for the project have been selected based on the following criteria:
Manageable Size: No single collection exceeds six boxes of materials with the exception of the Mary Elizabeth Braddon materials (10) in the Robert Lee Wolff collection. Small collections, such as these, can be scanned and described easily.

Condition: Each collection was assessed to identify exceptionally fragile or complex materials; for the most part, these collections will allow for fairly straightforward digitization protocols.

Extant Metadata: Each of these collections has an online finding aid; this metadata can be recycled for CONTENTdm purposes.

Research Trends / Research Value: Each of these collections has proven to have durable interest and research value.

Copyright Status: For each of these collections, the majority of its content is in the public domain. Portions of collections which are not in the public domain will be digitized but excluded from ingest into the CONTENTdm REVEAL collections.

Thematic Thread: The REVEAL collections represent some of the best-known names from American and English literature from the 19th and early 20th centuries; these collections contain correspondence, early drafts of published works, and, in some cases, illustrations and architectural drawings.

Collection Selection Committee: Rich Oram, Joan Sibley, Rick Watson, Liz Gushee

C. Revised REVEAL Project Budget

Source of Project Funds:

$100,000 from Rick Adams
Account: XX-XXXX-XXXX

Project Length:

One Year

Project Equipment:

1 Epson Expression 11000XL Graphic Arts Scanner: $3,000
1 Digibook 10,000 Camera Head: $15,000 + $8,300 annual maintenance fee
1 computer workstation for project staff: $2,000

Equipment Total: $28,300

Project Staff:

Title: Digital Production Librarian
Rank: Librarian
Salary: $43,000 (I have budgeted $55,900 which includes 30% fringe)
Hours per week: 40
Position Reports to: Liz Gushee
Title: Digitization Technicians (2)
Rank: n/a, student employees
Salary: $12.00 per hour
Hours per week: 20 (10 hours per student)
Entire expenditure: $12,480 (20 hours per week over 52 weeks)
Positions report to: Digital Production Librarian

Staff Total: $68,380

Estimated Budget: $96,680 (Surplus of $3320)

Appendix: Proposed Collections for REVEAL Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victorians</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Braddon, Mary Elizabeth, 1837-1915 (segment of Wolff)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td><a href="http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00471">http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00471</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardy, Thomas, 1840-1928</td>
<td>2</td>
<td><a href="http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00532">http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00532</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopkins, Gerard Manley, 1844-1889</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><a href="http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00525">http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00525</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rossetti, Rossetti, Christina Georgina</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><a href="http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00268">http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00268</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rossetti, Dante Gabriel</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>recon fa completed, in queue to be placed online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stevenson, Robert Louis, 1850-1894</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>recon fa completed, in queue to be placed online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thackeray, William Makepeace, 1811-1863</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><a href="http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00705">http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00705</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilde, Oscar, 1854-1900</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><a href="http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00244">http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00244</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

28 boxes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Americans</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baum, L. Frank 1856-1919</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><a href="http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00749">http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00749</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Clemens, Samuel Langhorne, 1835-1910</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><a href="http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00682">http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00682</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crane, Hart, 1899-1932</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><a href="http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00753">http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00753</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey, Zane, 1872-1939</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><a href="http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00567">http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00567</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris, Joel Chandler, 1848-1908</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><a href="http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00759">http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00759</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry, O., 1862-1910</td>
<td>2</td>
<td><a href="http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00686">http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00686</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsay, Vachel, 1879-1931</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><a href="http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00535">http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00535</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thoreau, Henry David, 1817-1862</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>recon fa in progress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

190 boxes
47 Boxes Total + some oversize materials

*Pending research on the rights of the literary estate.