

# Description and Rationale

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## Title

The Era of Mexican Liberal Reform and French Intervention in the Genaro García Collection

## Project Description\*

This project will digitize, to develop metadata, and make openly accessible items from the Genaro García Collection related to the area of liberal reform and French intervention in Mexico (1855-72). This will help us further highlight the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection's foundational Genaro García Collection ahead of the Benson's centennial celebration in 2021 while creating a discrete, thematic set of documents for use by researchers, undergraduates, and digital scholarship. We request \$15,500 for an undergraduate digitization assistant, a graduate student to create metadata, and basic supplies related to scanning as well as transport and storage of materials between the Benson Latin American Collection and the Perry-Castañeda Library.

### *About the collection*

A bibliophile and avid collector, Genaro García (1867-1920) was a prominent Mexican lawyer, politician, and university professor. He was also a prolific translator, author, and publisher of historical works, focusing primarily upon the Mexican colonial and independence periods. His efforts to preserve Mexico's documentary history and his love of collecting resulted in the creation of a superb collection of materials relating to Mexico. Materials in the Genaro García Collection relate primarily to the history of Mexico from the sixteenth through the early twentieth centuries, and concern Mexico's politics, religion, culture, linguistics, religion, literature, and archeology.

Materials relating to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Mexico include manuscripts, broadsides, photographs, lithographs, ephemera, maps, and more. Of these, some items including photographs, oversized materials, and Antonio López de Santa Anna's manuscript memoirs (later edited and published by Genaro García) are already digitized and available or soon to be available through our institutional repository or recently-inaugurated Digital Asset Management System (DAMS). Additionally, the Lucas Alamán collection is digitized and available online or on CD-ROM and the Benito Juárez Papers are available on microfilm. This project will complement those pieces of the collection by bringing together a discrete, thematic collection of 19<sup>th</sup> century materials that are historically valuable but often not prioritized due to the quantity of colonial documents in the collection.

### *Work Plan*

The project described will run from September 1, 2019-December 31, 2020.

## Phase 1: Digitization and Metadata Creation (September 1, 2019-May 31, 2020)

Beginning September 1, 2019, a 20 hour per week undergraduate student assistant in Digital Stewardship at the Perry-Castañeda Library will scan documents using existing flatbed and overhead scanners. This work will last 15 weeks.

At the same time, a graduate research assistant (GRA) will be hired to create metadata in Special Collections at the Benson. This person will be a specialist in Mexican history, preferably 19th century. Using the MODS schema, they will follow the template and protocols created for a previous GRA working on the oversized García materials that were photographed between January 2018 and June 2019. This GRA will work 20 hours/week from September 1, 2019-May 31, 2020. Metadata for all files digitized under this grant will credit LAMP using a MetaTag.

Along the way, we will assess and reevaluate workflows, as this will be the first major digitization project of this kind undertaken by Benson Special Collections and Digital Stewardship. We intend to tweak workflows along the way in preparation for a larger project that we hope to undertake beginning in 2021.

## Phase 2: Review, Ingest, Publication, Promotion (June 1-December 31, 2020)

Dylan Joy, Latin American Archivist at the Benson, will review metadata periodically as it is created and fully review descriptive metadata and perform basic cleanup and normalization steps to ensure internal consistency before ingest into our Digital Asset Management System (DAMS) begins. Batch ingest of images and metadata into the DAMS will begin in July 2020, with images and metadata published in Open Access format by November 1, 2020.

During fall 2020, we will promote this collection as part of our centennial celebration, corresponding with an anticipate exhibition of materials from the García collection in fall 2020.

All digital objects in the collection will be preserved according to standards established by UT Libraries' Digital Stewardship team, in alignment with the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) framework. Once all files in the collection have been prepared, UT Libraries' Digital Archivist will write bags in duplicate to LTO-7 tape for long-term storage. Duplicate copies of each bag will be kept off site, as recommended by preservation best practices.

Copies of image files and metadata will be sent to CRL for archiving and potential hosting.

## Reasons for Consideration\*

Our first aim is to preserve these historically significant items, especially those written or printed on wood pulp paper and those that are unique or extremely rare. Among the manuscript correspondence and other documents, many documents exhibit tears, folds, wear, acid burn, stains and other damage. Digitization will preserve these materials that continue to degrade and potentially reduce handling (although increased visibility of digitization will bring increased use to some materials).

There is also evidence that some letters are missing. While those were likely never at the Benson, a full inventory with quality digital images and accompanying metadata, along with modern security standards in the rare book stacks and reading room, is the best way to document and

protect these invaluable documents that belonged to presidents, thinkers, military leaders, and others.

It will also allow for new uses of materials through crowdsourced transcription, text mining, GIS, social network analysis, and other forms of scholarship. Finally, it will help to make these materials available to anyone with an internet connection, including Mexicans who may not have access to these materials documenting their history.

Digitization is also an opportunity to engage a scholar with expertise in 19<sup>th</sup> century Mexican history to create metadata, thus making these materials much more findable than they are now. Currently, the documents are available to researchers in our rare books reading room, but they have no presence online or in any more research-friendly digital format. There is little documentation of their origin and scholarly significance and what exists is contained in older print bibliographies.

Finally, one of the goals for marking the centennial of the Benson Latin American Collection in 2021 is to preserve digitally and make accessible large sections Genaro García Collection. Over the years, we have digitized individual items and oversized materials, sometimes with assistance from LAMP and LARRP. Additionally, to support our Digital Scholarship program, we have digitized some boxes of photographs. This is our first opportunity, however, to curate a digital collection from the Garcia papers that broadly addresses a theme. In the process, we will undertake the first major digitization project that is a collaboration between the Benson and University of Texas Libraries Digital Preservation, using the Benson's know-how in metadata creation and Digital Preservation's expertise and equipment to facilitate digital imaging.

## Authors

Genaro García (compiler of collection)

## Publishers

Manuscript materials with a few broadsides and other independently printed ephemera

## Proposal Contributors

LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections and University of Texas Libraries

# Details and Sources

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## Resource Types\*

- Manuscripts
- Printed Ephemera

## Regions\*

- Latin America and Caribbean

## Countries of Origin\*

Mexico

## Major Languages

Spanish

## Source Format\*

Paper

## Target Format

Digital

## Identifiers

OCLC 29763288 (primary collection)

Note: the main García Manuscript collection (OCLC 29763288) contains some subcollections that have separate finding aids but no OCLC numbers.

## Links

<https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utlac/00022/lac-00022.html>

<http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utlac/00011/lac-00011.html>

<http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utlac/00068/lac-00068p6.html>

<http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utlac/00068/lac-00068p7.html>

<http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utlac/00025/lac-00025.html>

<http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utlac/00055/lac-00055.html>

## Source and Holdings

Location	Format	Holdings/Range	Notes
Benson Latin American Collection; Genaro García Collection (Ignacio Comonfort Papers)	Manuscripts and printed material	2.5 linear feet, all but a few inches of which is correspondence. Other FF include orders and appointments, inventories and lists, financial documents, literary productions, legal documents, printed material, and miscellanea from Comonfort's political and military career.	Some mss communiques are transcribed.  First box (.5 linear feet): Ff 1: 91 leaves/ 66 documents FF2: 127 leaves Ff3: 91 mss 4: 57 mss

			<p>5: 21 mss</p> <p>6: 83 leaves/54 docs</p> <p>7: 125 leaves/67 docs</p> <p>8: 87 mss</p> <p>9: 161 l</p> <p>10: 41 mss</p> <p>11: 64 mss</p> <p>12: 64 mss</p>
Benson Latin American Collection; Genaro García Collection (Valentín Gómez Farías Collection)	Manuscripts and printed material	Approximately 500 leaves of documents, papers, and correspondence relating to the history, politics, and government of Mexico during the nineteenth century	
Benson Latin American Collection; Genaro García Collection (Jesús González Ortega Collection)	Manuscripts and printed material	1421 leaves (14 inches) of documents pertaining chiefly to military and political affairs during the War of the Reform and the French Intervention.	
Benson Latin American Collection; Genaro García Collection (Juan Antonio de la Fuente)	Manuscripts	208 leaves of correspondence	
Benson Latin American Collection; Genaro García Collection (Documentos Relativos a la Reforma y a la Intervención)	Manuscripts	592 leaves	

Francesa en México)			
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## Source and Holdings Notes

All materials are from the Genaro García Collection, which is the historian Genaro García's collection of materials gathered for his scholarship as well as collections compiled by other scholars and collectors. The vast majority are unique manuscript materials while a limited number are printed government and church documents, some of which may be held elsewhere and some of which are unique to the Benson's holdings. We are choosing to scan entire folders and/or boxes in spite of the fact that there may be limited printed materials in some folders to minimize overall handling and simplify workflows.

## Physical Details

Recto and verso of each leaf or item will be scanned. In some cases, items will be photographed.

## Existing Reformatted Materials

We will not scan any items that we have already digitized and will attempt not to duplicate digitization of documents that may have been done elsewhere. That said, this will compliment other scanning projects from the García collection including scanning of the oversized materials and parts of the photograph collection.

Other related items from this collection have been reformatted:

- Lucas Alamán Collection: <http://lanic.utexas.edu/project/lucasalaman/>
- Benito Juárez Papers (microfilmed): <https://catalog.lib.utexas.edu/record=b4107287~S29>

Examples of printed materials in the Garcia collection that have been scanned or microfilmed by other institutions include the *Gaceta Imperial de México* (and other titles, such as *Gaceta del Gobierno Supremo*).

## Intellectual Property Considerations

All documents scanned were created before 1900 and are in the public domain. This group of documents do not document indigenous knowledge that could be considered collective knowledge that is property of those cultures.