

## Documenting Indigenous Peoples at the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library

As an archive of the American Southwest, West, and parts of Mexico, the Southwest Collection (SWC) has long documented the history and culture of the regions' indigenous peoples. The records of Native American business and service organizations, extensive photographic collections, literary collections, and maps are just a sample of what we make available to visiting researchers and among our [online digital collections](#).

One of the most frequently-used archival collections are the records of the [West Texas Native American Association \(WTNAA\)](#). Though they span only 1992 to 2006, the correspondence, journals, meeting minutes, photographs, and event programs created by the WTNAA provide a thorough accounting of the organization's efforts to preserve and educate about Native American culture. WTNAA records are sometimes used in tandem with our [Mescalero Apache Cattle Raisers Association Records](#). Documenting nearly forty years of Association operations, the collection's cattle record ledgers and financial records are stored alongside its more personal items, such as correspondence and journals.



The SWC is fortunate to preserve [thousands of photographs of the Tarahumara](#), a people living in the Sierra Madre Mountains of Chihuahua, Mexico. The photographs were taken by Father Luis Verplancken, a Mexican Jesuit who lived among the Tarahumara for decades. His [story is chronicled in more depth here](#). Mexico's Yaqui people are well-documented in other collections, particularly in the papers of Dr. William Curry Holden. Holden was a professor of history and archeology, as well as a museum director, who kept [diaries during his 1934 expedition](#) to the Yaqui's region. Holden also wrote *Hill of the Rooster*, a novel of historical fiction about the Yaqui, several copies of which are available to researchers. In 1959 he gave plenary talk at the Annual Meeting of the West Texas Historical Association describing the research and creative effort that went into composing *Hill of the Rooster*. The SWC possesses an audio recording and transcriptions of the talk.



Many items that touch on indigenous history predate the twentieth century. Many can be found in the SWC's extensive cartographical collection, including [Carte contenant le Royaume du Mexique et la Floride](#). This map dates from 1719 and identifies not only English, French, and Spanish colonial settlements speckled across the North American continent, but also the locations of contemporary native groups. These include the aforementioned "Tarrahumares" (Tarahumara) and "Hiaquis" (Yaqui), both found in the southwest along the border between "Mexique" and "Nouveau Mexique." Long before the Americas encountered European colonists, the Clovis and similar proto-historic peoples migrated across the continent. At times, they lingered at what is now known as the Lubbock Lake Landmark. The University Archives at the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Libraries houses several collections that document almost fifty years of archeological projects at the site, as well as exhibits and publications describing the result of that work.

The Southwest Collection has online finding aids for the collections described here, many others concerning indigenous peoples, and hundreds more that document dozens of other topics. These inventories may be found on [Texas Archival Resources Online](#), and researchers

can use them on-site on weekdays and Saturday mornings. In some instances these materials may also be found among our [digitized collections](#).

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