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Ghosts in the IR: Integrating Student folklore into our online Collections

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For decades, student folklorists at Utah State University have been collecting stories, jokes, and tall tales from their neighbors in our community. This is an integral part of research lives of students as well as an essential collection for those interested in American folk lives. This project explores the design of an online database and preservation process for this collection as well as ongoing digitization efforts to make this work available to larger scholarly communities.

**USU STUDENT FOLKLORE**

The Utah State University Student Folklore Genre Collection represents 50 years of folklore collecting by students in USU’s world renown folklore program. The collection, consisting of nearly 3,000 individual legends, folkways, jokes, or tales, is an integral part of folklore research on and off campus.

**ARCHIVING PROCESS**

William A. Wilson and Barbara Garrett Walker Lloyd designed the classification system which divides the folkways into 10 distinct genres, customs (foodways), belief, speech, tales and jokes, songs, games and pranks, legends, material culture, and e-lore. Prior to the born digital material, this work was submitted directly in paper to archivists to place into these classifications.

**DESIGNING FOR DIGITAL PRESERVATION & ACCESS**

**Problem:** Balancing the needs of archivists and instructors while ensuring ease-of-use for student folklorists.

**Users:** Student folklorists, Instructors, Archivists, Collection Users

**REFERENCES**

