Project Title

History of Japanese farmers in Texas

Project Mentor(s)

Sidney Lu

Project Summary

This project aims to create an online exhibition on the history of Japanese farmers in Texas by using primary and secondary sources. It not only deepens our understanding of the contributions of Japanese immigrants to Texas but also enhances the public awareness of the Asian American experience in general.

Project Description

This project will create an online exhibition on the history of Japanese farmers in Texas. This Digital Humanities Project will be housed in the online domain of the Houston Asian American Archive (HAAA) as one of its permanent online exhibitions. The history of Japanese farmers in Texas is a critical part of the Asian American experience in Texas, but it has not been sufficiently researched and explained. By showcasing detailed stories of Japanese immigrant farmers in Texas, this project not only deepens our understanding of the contributions of Japanese immigrants to Texas but also enhances the public awareness of the Asian American experience in general. The project can be hopefully completed by April 2023 and become a part of the celebration for the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month on Rice campus in May 2023.

The project is based on the primary and secondary sources provided in the website of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Houston Chapter, as well as a few published books related to this topic. The main task of the project is to create new narratives of the Japanese immigrants' stories and design webpages to showcase these stories. In this process, students will be guided to work with primary and secondary sources, write and revise essays, and make convincing arguments by using texts and images. They will also gain the experience of creating webpages to effectively present the stories they write.

Key Tasks for Fellow(s)

The key tasks of the Fondren Fellows are the following
1, conducting research with primary and secondary sources;
2, writing and revising narratives
3, scanning and digitizing images if needed
4, receiving training from the library on using Omeka if needed
5, designing webpages by using Omeka to present the narratives they write.

Qualifications

Students should have received training on writing, and hopefully have completed a FWIS course. Preference will be given to those who can use Omeka or/and have the experience of webpage making.

Learning Outcomes

Student will learn how to work with primary and secondary sources, how to write a polished essay with a coherent and convincing argument, how to revise and polish their writings, how to create webpages to effectively present their arguments through texts and images