

Harry Ransom/Humanities Research Center Skill Module Please Read the Entire Skill Module
BEFORE you go to the HRC

The HRC is one of the jewels of humanities research on campus. It is a working research center, and in order not to disturb the working scholars, **for this skill module you will be using the public and online spaces only. You will NOT visit the Reading Room.** If you want to use the HRC for the archival research required for the Humanities Inquiry please see the separate document with guidelines to using the HRC Reading Room. The HRC is located on the northeast corner of Guadalupe and 21st streets. The exhibit space is open from 10am-5pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 10am-7pm on Thursday, and Noon-5pm on Saturday and Sunday. (Note the Reading Room hours are different.)

Skill Module Requirement

- 1) Walk over to the HRC itself. First, stand in front of the building and take a tour of the glass etchings on the outside. Each pair of glass signifies an important collection. You will find a guide to the glass etching just inside the door in the grand foyer, please put it back when you're done. Take note of any collection that stirs your interest.
- 2) Take a gander at the Gutenberg Bible in the foyer, the first photograph, and then wander through the exhibit on the first floor. The current exhibition is *Discovering the Language of Photography: The Germshine Collection*.
- 3) **Write a descriptive paragraph about two items in the current exhibit and note why you consider these items to be important archival materials.**
- 4) After your physical visit, begin your familiarization with the HRC online.
<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/collections/guide/>
Spend some time looking through the *Guide to the Collections of the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center* (link above). You should also spend some time surfing through the HRC's website more generally: <http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/> look through the research and collection links in particular. Take a gander at what has recently been added to the collections
<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/research/fa/new/>
- 5) Follow the instructions online about how to find the materials in the HRC. There are many different paths you can take, and while some of them require physically going into the Reading Room, for this assignment please restrict yourself to the online Finding Aids. **Using the search options available find the citation information for one interesting artifact from one of the collections represented by the etchings on the glass of the building. Please write down all of the information provided (such as the call number, collection name etc) to show that you have found an individual item. Then write a paragraph explaining why this item is an important archival item. (Note, you won't actually be able to examine the item without physically going to the Reading Room, which for this task you WILL NOT be doing).**