

SCAMeL Speedy Startup Report 2019

The Birgit Junfin Glass Dental Diagnostic Collection, Open Source Initiative

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Library would like to report on the completion of the 2019 SCAMeL Speedy Start-up grant project: The project titled, *The Birgit Junfin Glass Dental Diagnostic Collection, an Open Source Initiative* focuses on organizing, digitizing, and cataloging a faculty collection of teaching materials and incorporating the collection into an open education resource (OER) database. The Glass collection consists of thousands of individual images as well as numerous documents and case studies, but for the purposes of this project we chose to focus our efforts on the case studies since there was an emphasis on using them in the dental school curriculum.

Time

The timing of this project was heavily contingent upon the workflow model set in place before work on the project began. There was a slight delay in the beginning due to reorganizing of staff and the loss of some work study students. There was also some concern that the project would experience delays due to the impact of COVID-19 on library operations. Thankfully we were able to continue work on the project from home, and still accomplish our goals within our timeline.

Outcomes

Our focus for the SCAMeL Speedy Startup was to organize and digitize case studies that could be utilized in the School of Dentistry for teaching. We started out with a team of 7 individuals (4 library staff, 1 faculty member, and 2 work studies). Initial team meetings involved discussions about organizing the physical materials and identifying tools to document the process and record findings. This involved refoldering and relabeling images, slides, and documents. Next, we began to develop a project work form that would document the content processing from start to finish. Once our processing infrastructure was in place we moved forward with compiling the cases, digitizing content, applying metadata, expert review and editing, and uploading to our content management system.

A couple of months after the start of the project we lost both of our work studies due to graduation. We decided at that point not to hire new work studies since we had reached a good point of momentum and didn't want to stop to retrain new work studies. The team of 5 continued to work through the case studies and completed the targeted number of studies on time. Hardware purchased with SCAMeL Speedy Startup funds was very helpful in getting things done quickly. We decided not to purchase the x-ray software after all. After trialing the software for a couple of days we didn't find the functionality user-friendly and the scan quality was not as good as we hoped. We decided to use the scanning software that came with the new scanner instead. In the end, we were able to complete 8 case studies and 2 individual condition collections.

Our projected time frame to present to the School of Dentistry faculty was slightly delayed due to the impact of COVID-19 on university operations, however we were still able to share our progress with the dental school through a virtual meeting. The update about the new cases was very well received and has initiated a conversation concerning a future partnership with the School of Dentistry. Plans are currently in place to launch a promotion of the collection that will coincide with programming for the School of Dentistry's 50th Anniversary.

Lessons Learned

There were many lessons learned throughout this project. One of the greatest challenges was developing a digital structure that would effectively describe the distinct attributes of the physical materials. Having a plan early on for how the collection would look and function was critical to its development. Since this project had a lot of moving parts, roles were assigned to each team member along with a set of guidelines for each role. We learned early on that communication was essential so the team met on a weekly basis to ensure everyone was on track. Meetings gave us a chance to discuss issues and answer questions. Being selective and organized was also very important. With so much content it was easy to get overwhelmed, but setting guidelines in the early stages of the project helped us to stay organized and minimized frustration.

Establishing a workflow with tools for documenting work at various stages was also key. We learned early on that it was very easy to lose track of where a case was in the processing workflow. As a result, a work form was developed for each case and made accessible and editable by all team members. This proved to be very helpful for everyone working on the project because we could see what stage a case was in at any given time.

Finally, being open to feedback and suggestions from all team members helped us to understand the impact of individual roles and their contribution to the outcome of the project.

Moving Forward

Moving forward we would like to continue adding content to this educational resource in hopes that this collection will be the beginning of a larger initiative campus-wide. We still have a lot of content to add from the Glass collection, but we also hope to spur interest from other faculty on campus. We are currently in talks with one School of Dentistry faculty member who is interested in doing a pilot project next semester to add student case studies to the database. The ultimate goal of this project is to develop a useful collection of educational resources and to introduce Open Education Resources (OER) to our campus.

We believe that this project was very successful! A lot of planning, hard work, and dedication went into the development of this project. Thanks to the funding provided by the SCAMeL Speedy Startup committee we were able to successfully meet our project goals and pave the way for the future.

Access the Birgit Junfin Glass Dental Diagnostic Collection [here](#). An updated web interface is coming soon!