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UTA Photograph Collection, News Service Photograph Collection Now on Wikimedia Commons, Used in Wikipedia Articles

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All of the digitized photos in the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) Libraries Special Collections' [UTA Photograph Collection](#) and [UTA News Service Photograph Collection](#) are now on Wikimedia Commons and many of them have already been used to illustrate Wikipedia articles.

UTA Libraries has shared 426 individual photographs from these two collections that document university history from its foundation in 1895 to the 2010s with Wikimedia Commons, the image and media host site behind Wikipedia. Already, 94 of them have been used in Wikipedia articles in 19 different languages.

In preparation for this project, I worked with Jeff Downing and **Claudia Catanzaro Solis** in the Digital Creation department and Krystal Schenk in the Marketing and Communications department to

change the license used for all of these photographs on the [Digital Gallery](#) from the UTA Libraries' default [CC BY-NC](#) license to the [CC BY](#) license, as the latter is compatible with Wikimedia projects like Wikipedia while the former is not.

Then these photos were uploaded to Wikimedia Commons with full metadata as well as proper source, license, and category information. Most of the metadata used is taken directly from the metadata already on the Digital Gallery, namely the titles and descriptions of each photograph involved. The other fields on Wikimedia Commons include a date field where dates are formatted in the ISO standard (i.e., "2020-07-09" for July 9, 2020), a source field that universally includes the text "UTA



An example of a UTA News Service Photograph Collection image on Wikimedia Commons, in this case a photo of UTA wheelchair basketball player Abu Yiller (left) and UTA volleyball player Judith McGill. Screenshot from Wikimedia Commons ([CC BY-SA 3.0](#)), image itself from the UTA Libraries Digital Gallery ([CC BY 4.0](#)).

Libraries Digital Gallery" (which is linked to the exact page on the Digital Gallery that hosts each respective image), and an author field that includes the text "UTA Photograph Collection" or "UTA News Service Photograph Collection" (depending on which collection the image is from, although both link to the [UTA Libraries section of the Wikipedia article on UTA](#)).

Beneath this metadata in the "summary" section of the file page, there is a "licensing" section. For every image contributed in this project, there is a header identifying that this image is part of a cooperation project with the UTA

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UTA COLLECTIONS ON WIKIMEDIA

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Reby Cary (September 9, 1920 – December 7, 2018) was an American educator, politician, and historian in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. He was the first black school board member in Fort Worth and served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1979 to 1985. He was the author of numerous books about the history of African Americans in North Texas.

Contents (hide)

- Biography
 - Early life and education
 - Career
 - Personal life
- Publications
- References
- External links

Biography [edit]

Early life and education [edit]

Reby Cary was born September 9, 1920 in Fort Worth, Texas. His father was the Reverend Smith Cary (d. 1969), founder of the Rising Star Baptist Church and native of Jacksonville, Texas.^[1] Cary grew up in a strict, religious household and created his mother with his success, explaining that, "When my friends were out playing marbles, my mother would say, 'Get back in the house and study.' If she saw me with my head outside of a book, my behind would soon be on fire. It never changed."^[2] As a child during the Depression, Cary mowed yards to earn money.^[3] He graduated from Fort Worth's renowned I.M. Terrell High School in 1937. In 1941, he earned a bachelor's degree in history and political science from historically black Prairie View A&M University. When Cary was drafted into military service in 1942, he had completed coursework toward a master's degree at Prairie View.^[3]

Cary received his draft notice in 1942 and enlisted in the United States Coast Guard. He was one of the first African Americans to graduate from the Coast Guard's radioman school in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Cary was assigned to the USS *Cambria* and served the Pacific Theater of World War II, including the invasions of Japan and Okinawa.^[4] Cary completed his master's degree in history and political science at North Texas State University after his discharge and later undertook postgraduate coursework at North Texas State University and Texas Christian University.^[5]

Career [edit]

Reby Cary

Reby Cary, Associate Dean of Student Life at the University of Texas at Arlington, circa 1979

Member of the Texas House of Representatives

In office
1979–1985

Constituency
District 95

Personal details

Born
September 9, 1920
Fort Worth, Texas U.S.

Died
December 7, 2018 (aged 98)
Fort Worth, Texas U.S.

An example of a UTA-related Wikipedia article now illustrated by a UTA photo, in this case the article on Reby Cary, the first African American faculty member in UTA history. Screenshot from English Wikipedia ([CC BY-SA 3.0](#)).

Libraries, including the UTA logo and a brief explanation about the library and the university. Immediately below is the CC BY license itself, which states the freedoms allowed and the only required condition (attribution) while also providing a link to the full text of the license on the Creative Commons website.

At the bottom of the file page are relevant Wikimedia Commons categories, which conform to the hierarchical categorization norms of the site. These categories allow the images contributed to be found by browsing, much like effective description allows them to be found by searching. All images in this collaboration include the "History of the University of Texas at Arlington" category, followed by the main topical categories (such as people, buildings, or events depicted), and then by temporal/geographical categories (such as "1980 in Texas"). At the very bottom are "hidden categories," which are used for administrative purposes on Wikimedia Commons, such as tracking metrics for either the whole collaboration project or specific aspects of it.

These photos have also been added,

where appropriate, into Wikipedia articles. Most of these uses have been to articles directly related to the university and its history. For example, the Wikipedia articles on the [University of Texas at Arlington](#) itself, its [history from 1917 to 1965](#), university presidents such as [Jack Woolf](#) and [Wendell Nedderman](#), and UTA faculty such as [Reby Cary](#) and [Sandra Myres](#) have all been enhanced with photos from these two collections.

A substantial number of photos have also been added to Wikipedia articles on more general topics or topics not obviously related to UTA. Some of these topics are unsurprising, such as prominent Texas political figures such as former governor [John Connally](#) and former Arlington mayor [Tom Vandergriff](#), the [Reserve Officers' Training Corps](#), and [library circulation](#). Others are much more surprising, such as [apple bobbing](#), [pesticide application](#), and [egg drop competition](#). While the UTA Libraries Special Collections department did not set out trying to document apple bobbing or egg drop competitions in its collections, it has high-quality images of these events and Wikipedia has articles about them but previously insufficient

illustration, which created an opportunity to fill gaps in Wikipedia's content while also providing a broader audience for our images.

Many photos have also been added to Wikipedia articles in languages other than English. For example, portraits from these two collections have been used to illustrate the [French-language article on Liz Carpenter](#), the [German-language article on James A. Michener](#), the [Portuguese-language article on Tom Vandergriff](#), and the [Arabic-language article on Scott Cross](#). Photos of the UTA campus have also been used in the [Chinese-language](#) and [Japanese-language articles about UTA itself](#).

One of the principle advantages of uploading photographs to Wikimedia Commons is that it allows all its files to be used on every language Wikipedia as if they were uploaded locally. This greatly facilitates the ability to use photographs on multiple projects in multiple languages, while also helping all Wikipedias (especially the smaller ones) obtain quality illustrations for their articles.

Related to this is the development of

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UTA COLLECTIONS ON WIKIMEDIA



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Summary [\[edit \]](#)

Description	English: Rodney Lewis and Wanda Jo Holiday, University of Texas at Arlington Homecoming King and Queen, 1980. Holiday became the first black student to be elected Homecoming Queen at U. T. A. and Lewis, also a black student, became the first U. T. A. Homecoming King in the school's history.
Date	1980
Source	UTA Libraries Digital Gallery ²
Author	University of Texas at Arlington News Service Photograph Collection

Licensing [\[edit \]](#)

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"Summary" and "Licensing" information from an example image. Screenshot from Wikimedia Commons ([CC BY-SA 3.0](#)).

Wikidata, another Wikimedia project that serves as a central repository for information such as statistics while also linking together articles about the same subject in different languages. Some UTA images are of sufficiently high quality that they have been added to the Wikidata "image" parameter, which essentially designates them as a preferred image across projects and languages. While not implemented by every Wikipedia, some Wikipedias are already taking these preferred images from Wikidata and inserting them automatically into articles, especially biographies. For example, the Wikidata pages on [Emerson Emory](#) and [Scott Cross](#) feature UTA photographs, and in the latter case Cross's portrait is now used automatically on [his Arabic Wikipedia article](#), without the image ever being added to the article code itself.

In total, there are 426 photographs from these two collections that have been digitized and uploaded to Wikimedia Commons. Of these, 94 individual images have been used in Wikipedia articles in total, and the total number of uses is 158 (note that a single image can be used more than once). English Wikipedia is the clear leader in terms of use, as 104 different English Wikipedia articles

are illustrated by photos from one of these two collections. Other Wikipedias with substantial use of these photos include Spanish (8 uses), German (7), and Arabic, French, and Welsh (3 each).

Viewership of these articles has helped increase the [total page views of all Wikipedia articles with UTA Libraries Special Collections images](#), which includes other collections, most notably maps that were shared with Wikimedia Commons last summer. Before the UTA Photograph Collection or UTA News Service Photograph Collection began being uploaded, as recently as March 2020, total page views for Wikipedia articles with UTA images were consistently between 710,000 and 860,000 every month between November 2019 and March 2020. Then, in April 2020, this number climbed to over 1.2 million page views, and by May 2020, it reached over 1.6 million. In June 2020, total page views fell to just over 1.1 million, although this is still substantially higher than pre-April totals.

An analysis of the most-viewed pages in April revealed that approximately two-thirds of this increase was due to adding

photographs from these two collections into Wikipedia articles, while the other one-third of the increase was caused by an essentially across-the-board increase in viewership of Wikipedia articles due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because anything contributed to Wikimedia Commons will continue to be discovered by other Wikipedians and used in other Wikipedia articles (often in ways not anticipated by the uploader), the total viewership of entire collections generally increases as time progresses. However, articles do routinely see drops in their page views, not just increases, as was the case in June.

UTA Libraries Special Collections looks forward to many more future contributions to Wikipedia and Wikimedia Commons. These 426 photographs from two UTA history-related photo collections are only the tip of the iceberg!

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