

ALABAMA AUTHORS:

MANAGING OLD DATA WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY

T H O M A S C . W I L S O N

A S S O C I A T E D E A N F O R L I B R A R Y T E C H N O L O G Y
U N I V E R S I T Y O F A L A B A M A

THE CONTEXT

- ✻ **Effort of Alabama Library Association, Bibliographic Committee.**
- ✻ **Began in 1982 as a compiled manuscript.**
- ✻ **Converted to computer file at some point.**
- ✻ **Hosted as a web site by Auburn University.**



THE CONTEXT

☼ Effort of Auburn
Committee

☼ Began in 1996

☼ Converted

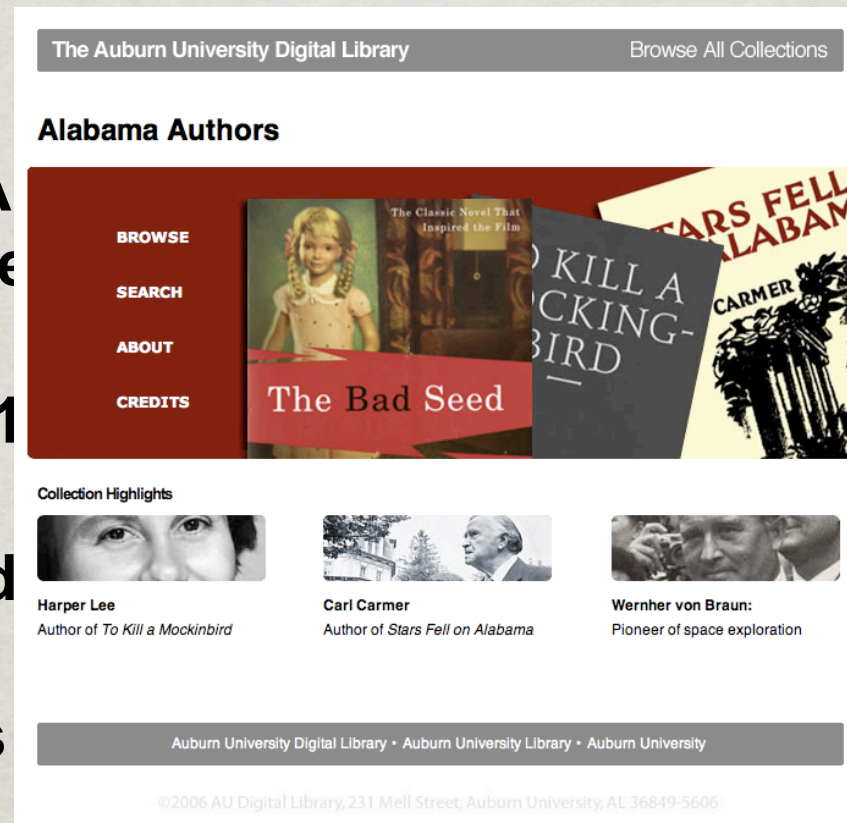
☼ Hosted as

Bibliographic

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THE CONTEXT

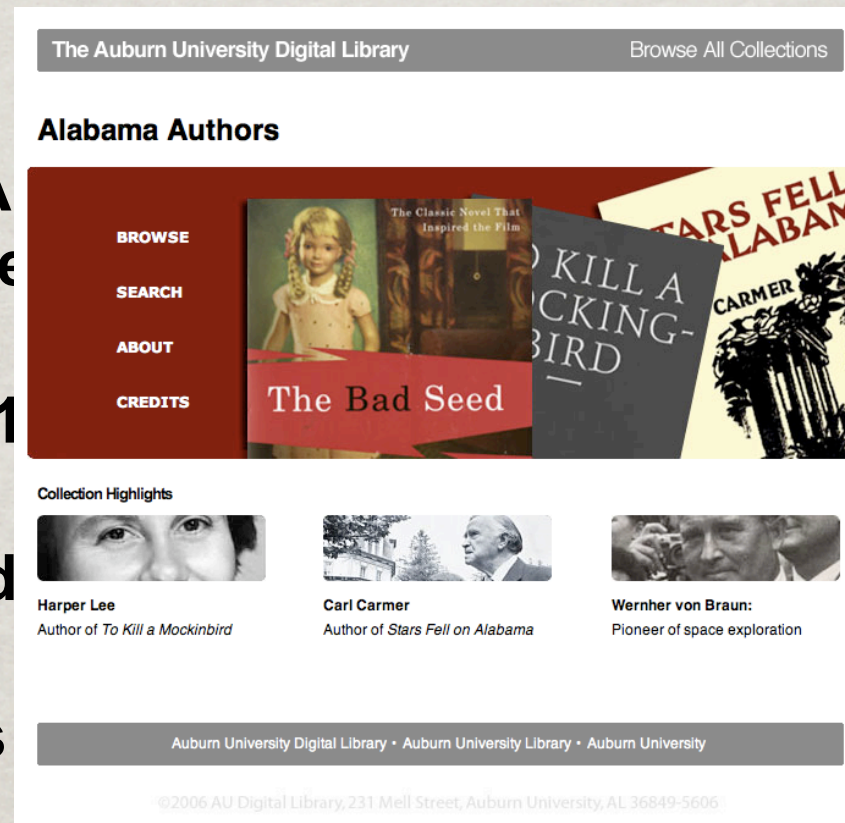
- ✻ Effort of Auburn University Library Committee

- ✻ Began in 1996

- ✻ Converted from print to digital

- ✻ Hosted as Auburn University Digital Library

- ✻ Migrated to blog architecture in 2007, hosted by UA.



Bibliographic

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THE CONTENT

- ✻ **> 1,700 entries.**
- ✻ **Structured data (e.g., name, brief bio, bibliography).**



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☼ Structured data (e.g., name, brie

ALDRICH, TRUMAN HEMINWAY, 1848-1932

Biography:

Engineer, banker. Born- October 17, 1848, Palmyra, N.Y. Parents- William Farrington and Louisa Maria (Klapp) Aldrich. Married- Anna Morrison of Newark, N.J. Children- Three. Education- Attended military academy in West Chester, Pa.; master's degree in engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 1869. Practiced engineering in New York for two years then moved to Selma. Engaged in banking and coal mining business in Selma; Republican candidate for the U.S. Congress in 1894; seated near the end of the first session of the 54th Congress; postmaster of Birmingham, 1911-1915.

Source:

Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1971.

Publication(s):

Alabama Museum of Natural History. University, Ala.; Geological Survey of Alabama, 1931.

Contested Election Case of T. H. Aldrich v. Oscar W. Underwood, from the Ninth Congressional District of the State of Alabama. University, Ala.; Geological Survey of Alabama, 1895.

THE CONTENT

- ✻ > 1,700 entries.
- ✻ Structured data (e.g., name, brief biography, etc.)
- ✻ Flat html files.
- ✻ Indirect updating/one person managing html.

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THE CHALLENGE

- ✻ **Migrate data from individual files into a database that was easily update-able by several people.**
- ✻ **Provide a public interface that was functional to start and expandable in the future.**
- ✻ **Do it with little to no impact on budget or staffing.**



WHY A BLOG?

- ✱ **Handles structured data well in a database backend with little overhead.**
- ✱ **Designed to be a multi-user environment with layers of authorization.**
- ✱ **Flexible, familiar interface.**
- ✱ **Existing technology that is easily modified.**



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plus RSS!



THE PROCESS

- ✱ Submitted a proposal to the Committee.
- ✱ Installed WordPress and modified themes, css, and php scripts to create two prototypes.
- ✱ Manually converted narrative items to blog pages and a handful of html files to blog posts for proof of concept.
- ✱ The Committee reviewed the prototypes.
- ✱ Used php scripts to extract data from the AU site and load into MySQL database.
- ✱ Performed automated and manual clean-up.



Alabama Authors



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Alabama Authors

The [Alabama Library Association](#), through its [Bibliographic Committee](#), provides this resource to those interested in authors who have some connection to Alabama. It has been compiled over a number of years.

Corrections and additions should be reported to [Heather Martin](#) (hmartin@uab.edu), Chair of the Bibliographic Committee.

THE FUTURE

- ✻ **Author images.**
- ✻ **Links to works where possible.**
- ✻ **User-generated input.**
- ✻ **It's up to the Committee.**



THANK YOU!

Questions?

THOMAS C. WILSON
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

tcwilson@ua.edu

