

# Improving Metadata of Mormon Missionary Diaries

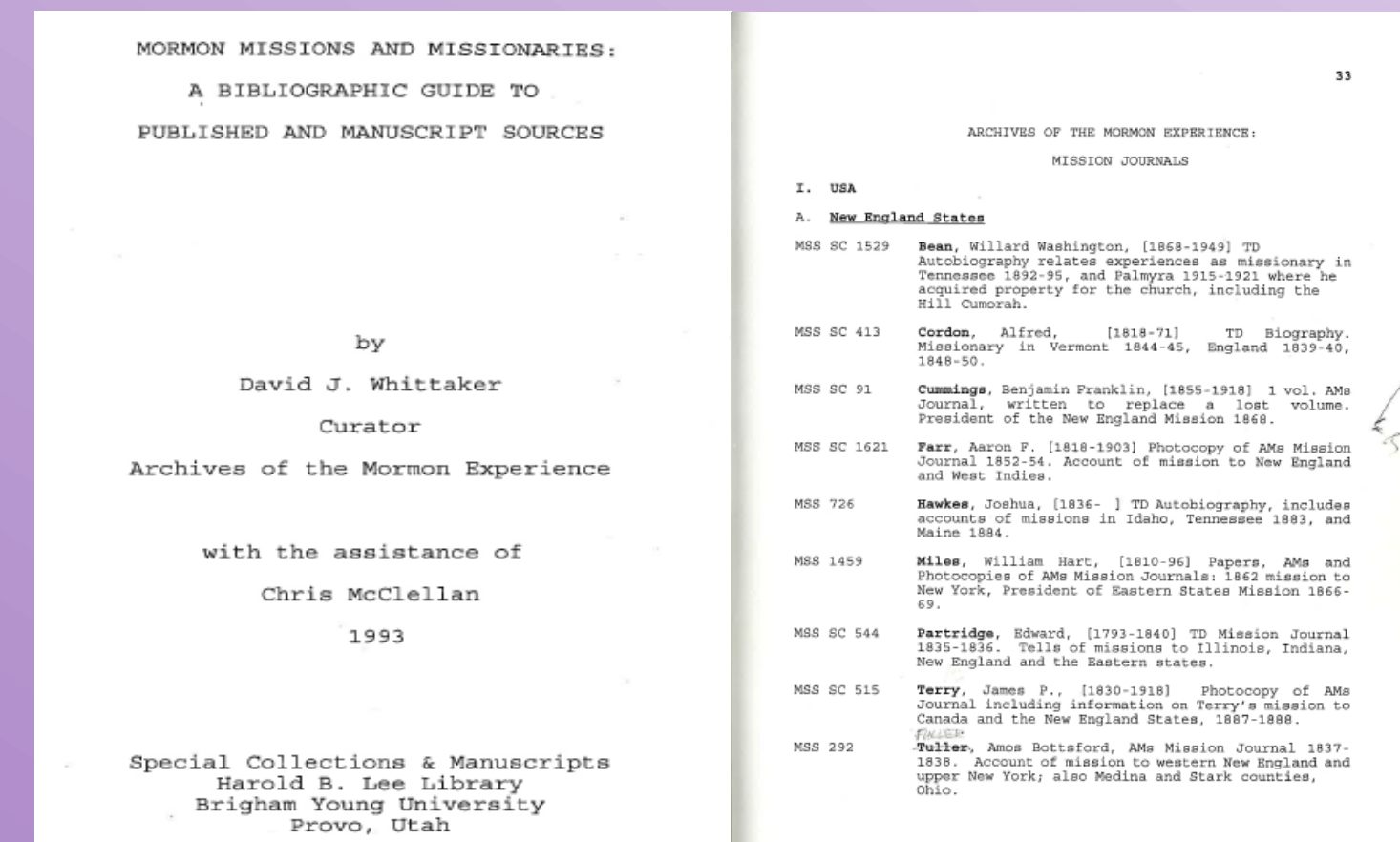
*Nathanael Burroughs, Masters in Library and Information Science Capstone 2017*

The collection of Mormon Missionary Diaries at the L Tom Perry Special Collections at Brigham Young University is a very difficult collection to search and find materials as there are three different databases that each have different information. My project was bringing these three different databases together and transferring the metadata into a one new database.

## Existing Databases

### Whittaker Bibliography

- The bibliography which was originally made in the 1970's.
- Incomplete record as it had very little metadata as it excluded information
- Very limited as it is not accessible to consumer
- Only one copy for Staff
- Not been updated in several years.



## Excel Sheet

- I collected the metadata on an Excel sheet in these categories : Call Number, Title Creator, Creation Dates, Description, Region, Mission Name, Mission Dates, Manuscript Collection Link, and Digital Collection Link.
- We decided collecting this metadata would be best when consumers search the database.
- We choose Excel as it would be the easiest to transfer over to a database.

Call Number	Title	Creator	Begin date	End Date	Description	Region	Mission Name
MSS SC 1529	Willard Washington Bean Autobiography	Bean, Willard Washington	1880	1978	Titled Autobiography relates experiences as missionary in Tennessee 1852-56 and Palmyra 1915-1921 where he acquired property for the church, including the Hill Cumorah.	Palmyra, New York, United States	New England States
MSS SC 413	Cordon Family Family Papers	Cordon, Alfred	1841	1861	Titled Biography Missionary in Vermont 1844-1845, Holograph journal, written to replace a previously lost volume, in which Cummings describes his assistance of Latter-day Saint Church members in New England in preparing to move west to Utah, and his work as president of	Vermont, United States	New England States
MSS SC 91	B. F. Cummings Journal	Cummings, Benjamin Franklin	1876	1876	Photograph of handwritten mission journal 1852-1854. Account of mission to New England and West Indies.	New England, United States	New England States
MSS SC 1621	Aaron F. Farr Journal	Farr, Aaron F.	1852	1854	Photograph of handwritten mission journal 1852-1854. Account of mission to New England and West Indies.	New England, United States	New England States

## End Result Mormon Missionary Database

- Attempts have been made to solve this problem unfortunately the results have been incomplete.
- I tried to bridge the whole gap and make the whole collection fully accessible.
- For the staff this will ease their burden of having to look at several finding aids in order to find a certain piece of material.
- This project will be a success when the staff use this database and then start recommending it to consumers
- In addition the project will be a success if the database is used as a template to solve similar problems.

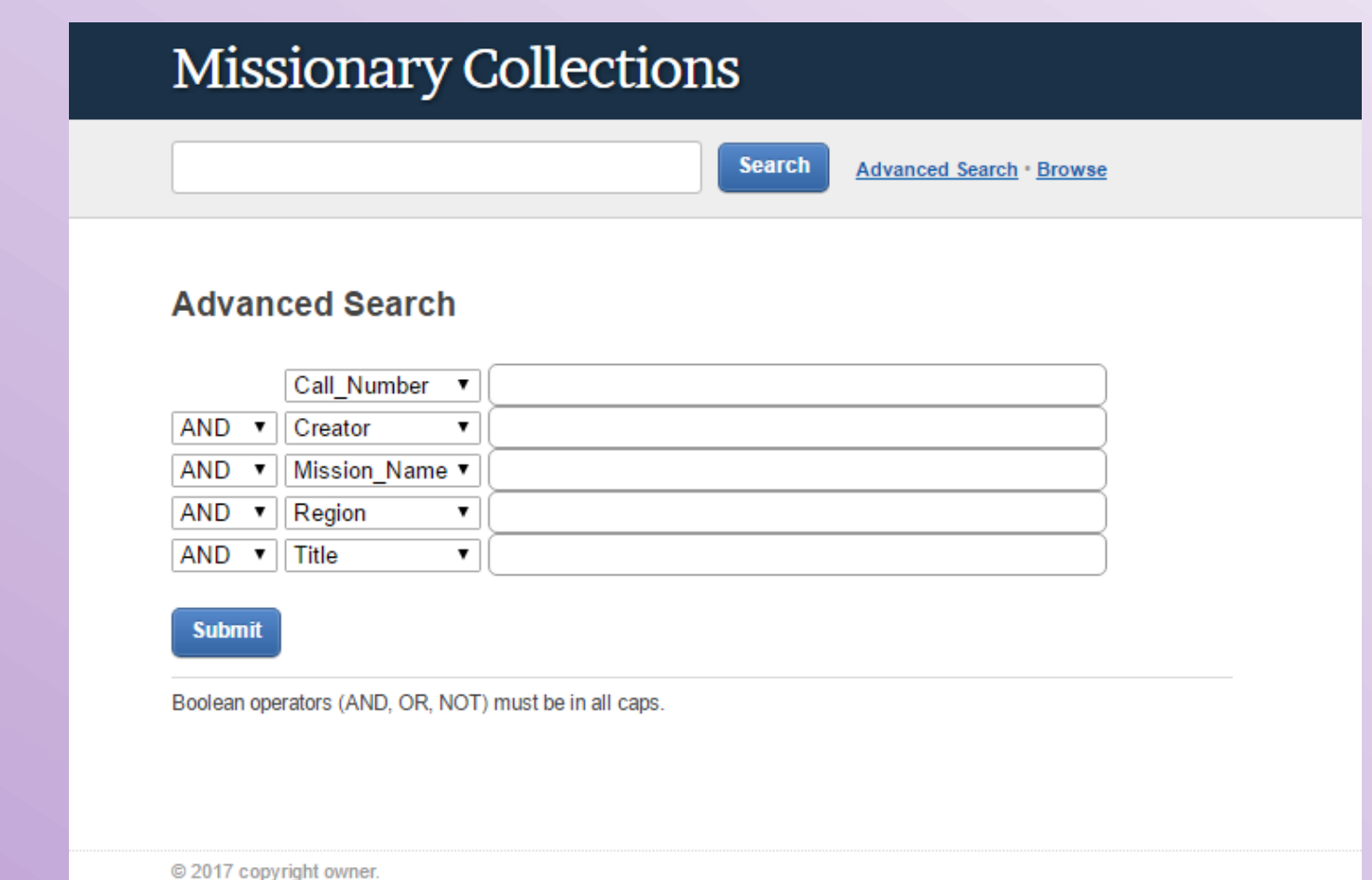
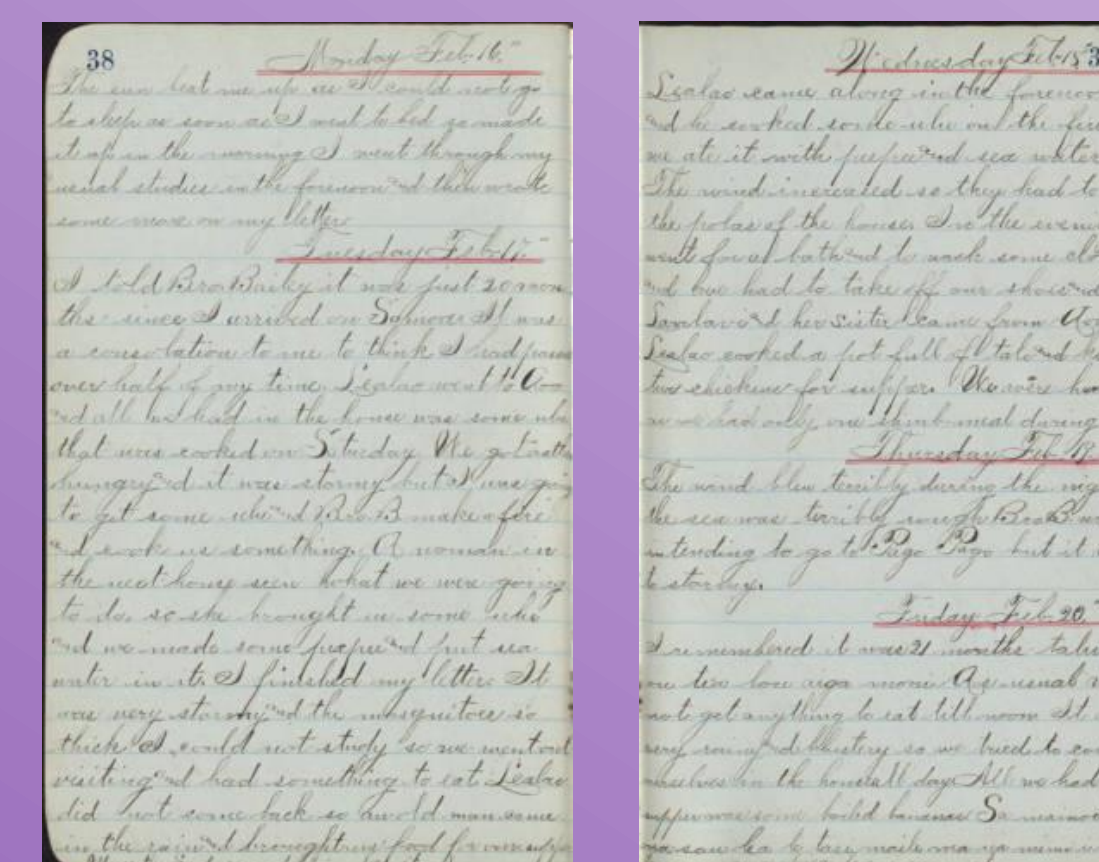
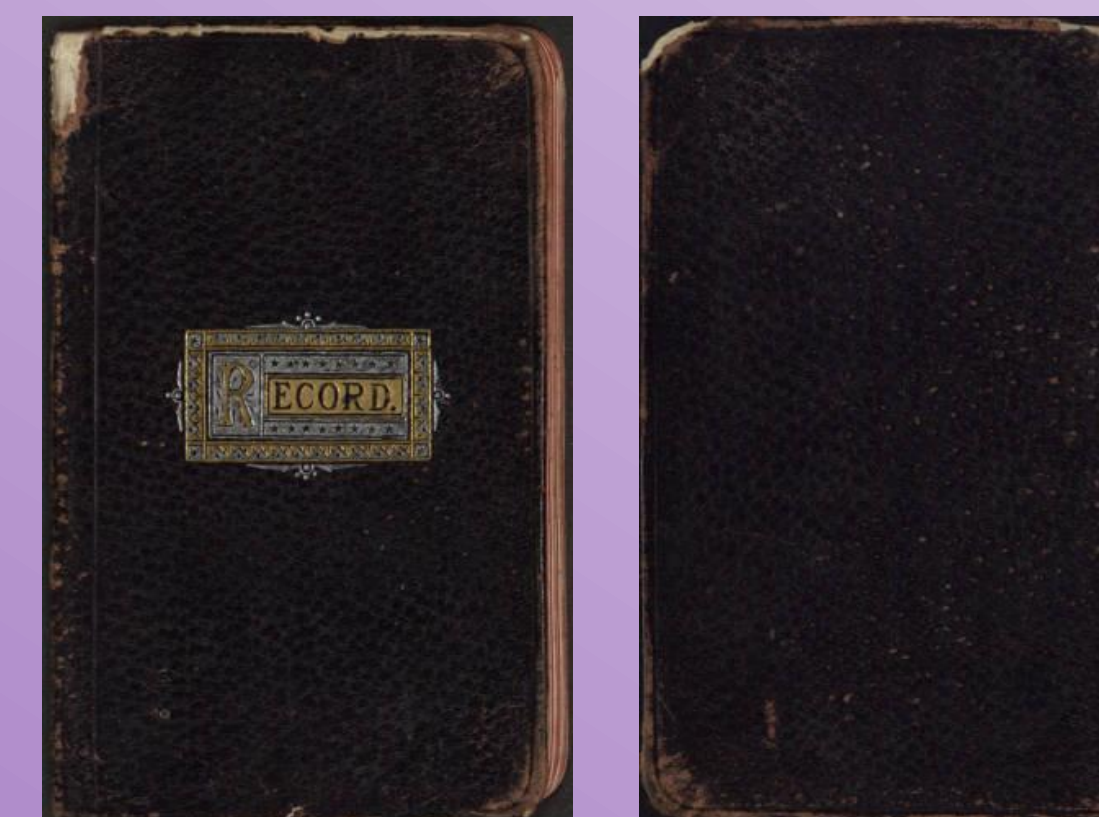
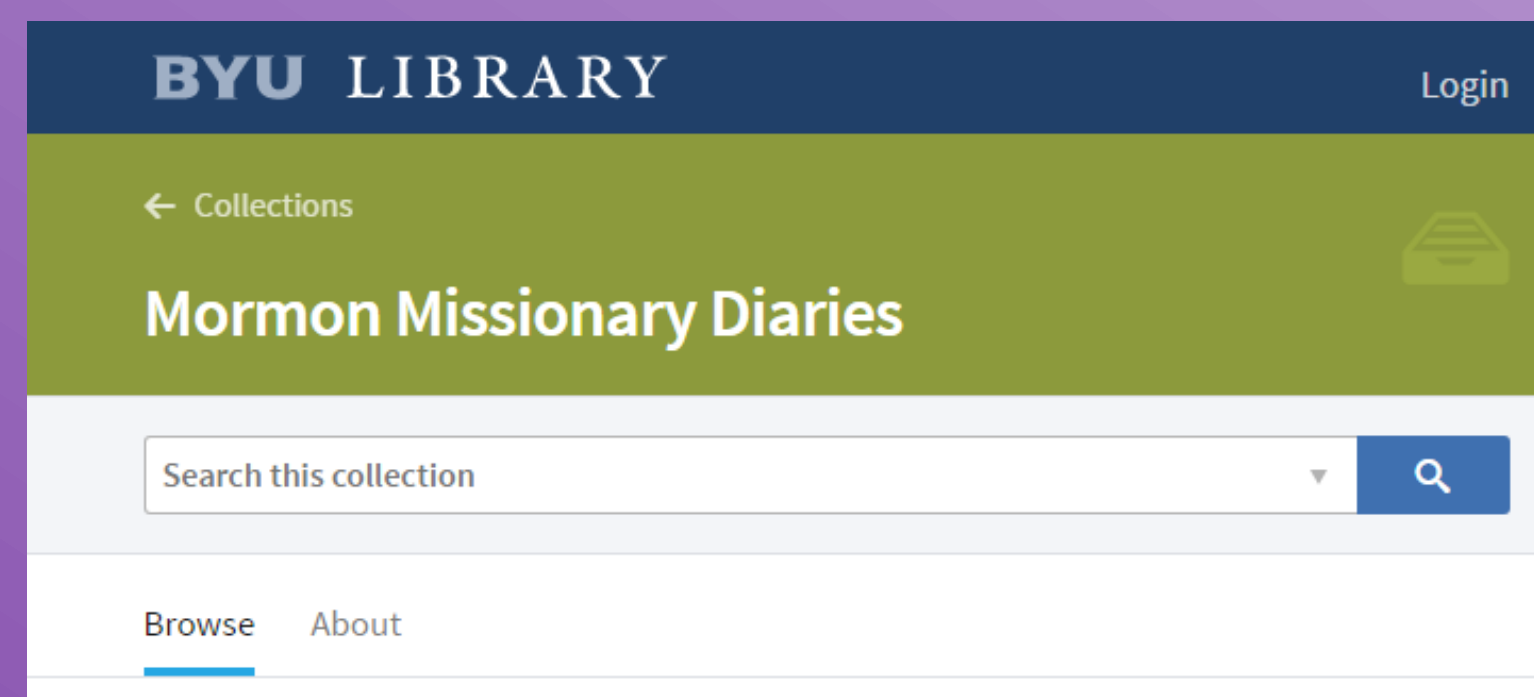
## Manuscript Collection

- Database Includes descriptions of ALL manuscript collections in Special Collections,
- Is difficult to tell if you have found everything, and often you get false inaccurate results.
- Metadata here is also incomplete.as it does not match the whole collection



## Digital Collection

- In 2005 the Special Collections decided to digitize the collection.
- Allowed consumers to search by writer, mission name, and geographical area
- However only a select number of diaries from the collection were actually digitized
- Caused confusion for consumers as they didn't know the entirety of the diaries.



Call Number	Title	Creator	Begin Date	End Date	Mission Name
MSS SC 1529	Willard Washington Bean Autobiography	Bean, Willard Washington	1880	1978	New England States
MSS SC 413	Cordon Family Family Papers	Cordon, Alfred	1841	1861	New England States
MSS SC 91	B. F. Cummings Journal	Cummings, Benjamin Franklin	1876	1876	New England States
MSS SC 1621	Aaron F. Farr Journal	Farr, Aaron F.	1852	1854	New England States
MSS 726	Joshua Hawkes autobiography	Hawkes, Joshua	1883	1884	New England States
MSS 1459	William Hart Miles Papers	Miles, William Hart	1861	1936	Eastern States
MSS SC 544	The Journal of Bishop Edward Partridge	Partridge, Edward	1818	1836	New England States
MSS SC 515	James Parrshall Terry Journal	Terry, James Parrshall	1857	1890	Canada and United States