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Research Process Paper

Like all great things, my project started with an idea. I was going to devote a thorough history project like this to a family member. However, in the early stages of research trying to find online sources on relatives was troublesome and futile. This taught me a very valuable lesson: not all people who make history make it into the history books, webpages, or even into their local news circulation (assuming it was available). Even though family members did not have enough information to be my topic, I still wanted to devote this portfolio to something related to me. Then, the idea finally came to me. *I live in Hanszen College, let me check to see if he has a Wikipedia page.* After typing his name into the Google search bar in the Fondren Library basement computer lab, nothing came up for the man Harry Clay Hanszen. All results were about Rice University's Hanszen College, which is a completely different entity than Harry C. Hanszen, the person.

With the subject of my project in mind, I returned to the Fondren Library basement computer lab and used the Fondren Library page to open the OneSearch portal. I searched Hanszen's name and Rice University. The only result that was useful to my portfolio was the portrait of Hanszen. All other results referred me to the Woodson Research Center. I continued to search topics in relation to Hanszen (oil, Houston, Rice Institute, etc.) in OneSearch to fulfill secondary source requirements and went into the Woodson Research Center. It is a beautiful space in the corner of the Fondren Library basement that contains the archived materials of Rice University. I spoke to one of the people working in the research center and she went back into the archives and brought me a standard sized manila filling folder entitled Harry C. Hanszen. I immediately sat down and started fingering through these original documents from the 1940s and

1950s. I brought all the documents to the scanner in the corner of the Woodson Research Center and scanned every document, newspaper clipping, and picture in that file, one by one. I searched the archives for books about Hanszen and all that could be found were books about Hanszen College which has virtually no relation to Harry Clay Hanszen and a 1958 campanile with a passage about Hanszen College and the person the college is named after. I left the Woodson Research Center with electronic copies of all my new sources and created this compilation of information which includes annotations and images.

Fondren Library and its components—the Woodson Research Center, the computer lab, the Fondren Library website—were the most useful search tools. Each component enabled me to find credible sources and inspired new research strategies. The Woodson Center provided physical documents while the computer lab and library website assisted me in finding books and articles that were lateral to my topic and could help me better understand Hanszen. This portfolio could not exist without Fondren Library.