

CREATING A DATABASE TO CATALOG HISTORICAL PANAMANIAN RECORDS

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GOAL STATEMENT

The goal of this project was to develop a functional **prototype** for a **database** that **St. Mary's Parish** staff could use to **organize** the historic **documents** within the archives at St. Mary's Parish and to allow for the Parish staff to efficiently **retrieve** them.

BACKGROUND

- ❖ Catholicism introduced to Panama in the early 1500s and remains an important cultural pillar
- ❖ St. Mary's Parish is headquarters of the Catholic Archdiocese of Panama
- ❖ Footprint Possibilities provides extra resources for the team and St. Mary's



St. Mary's Cathedral

BACKGROUND: THE ARCHIVES AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

- ❖ Roughly 100,000 records in archives
- ❖ 48 ledgers hold the records
- ❖ Records on baptisms, first communions, confirmations, marriages, and deaths
- ❖ First-hand accounts and key life events within records



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Ledgers from St. Mary's
Archive

DESIGN PLAN: FEATURE SET

St. Mary's Parish specific requirements:

- ❖ **Submit records**
- ❖ **Search the database**
- ❖ **Create a backup**
- ❖ **Create a certificate**
- ❖ **Display instructions in Spanish and English**

METHODOLOGY: ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

- ❖ Interviews with archival experts
 - ✦ Inquired about general info on preserving and digitizing archives
- ❖ Interviews with parish staff
 - ✦ Inquired about church's documents
 - ✦ Inquired about product features needed
- ❖ Explored existing archival and database solutions on the Internet

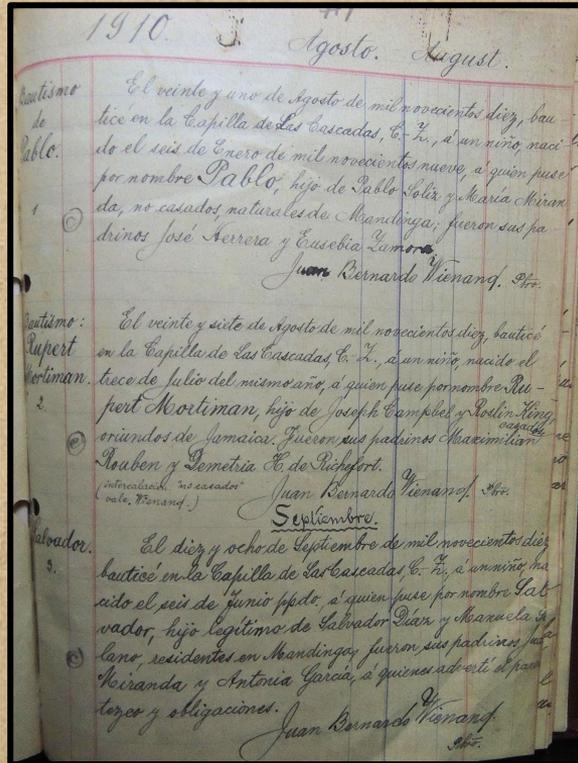
METHODOLOGY: HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE

- ❖ Low-cost computer with storage space for digitized records
- ❖ Open-source software for database management
 - ❖ MySQL an open source database language
 - ❖ PHP and HTML for interfacing
- ❖ Document digitization
 - ❖ Research scanner types
 - ❖ Overhead, flatbed, and digital camera



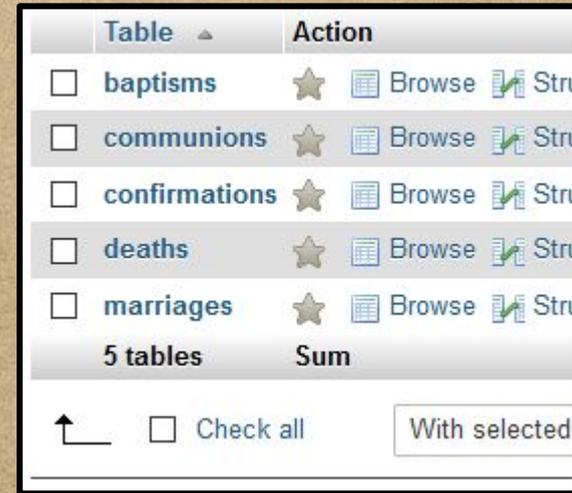
Hard Disk Drive vs.
Solid State Drive

IMAGE TAKEN BY CURRENT IMAGING SETUP



IMPLEMENTATION: DATABASE

- ❖ MySQL database associates all information in the records together and to an image
- ❖ Databases contain individual tables, tables used on a per sacrament basis
- ❖ Fields chosen according to available records
- ❖ XAMPP is an administrative tool the team used to manage the database



A screenshot of a database management interface showing a list of tables. The interface has a light gray header with 'Table' and 'Action' columns. Below the header, there are five rows of tables: baptisms, communions, confirmations, deaths, and marriages. Each row has a checkbox on the left, a star icon, and three icons (a grid, a magnifying glass, and a document) followed by the text 'Browse' and 'Str'. At the bottom of the list, there is a summary row with '5 tables' and 'Sum'. Below the summary row, there is a checkbox labeled 'Check all' and a button labeled 'With selected'.

Table	Action
<input type="checkbox"/> baptisms	★ [Grid] Browse [Magnifying Glass] Str
<input type="checkbox"/> communions	★ [Grid] Browse [Magnifying Glass] Str
<input type="checkbox"/> confirmations	★ [Grid] Browse [Magnifying Glass] Str
<input type="checkbox"/> deaths	★ [Grid] Browse [Magnifying Glass] Str
<input type="checkbox"/> marriages	★ [Grid] Browse [Magnifying Glass] Str
5 tables	Sum
<input type="checkbox"/> Check all	With selected

Tables within Database

IMPLEMENTATION: DIGITIZATION METHOD

Solution:

- ❖ Nikon CoolPix P510 digital camera used in conjunction with a tripod, music stand, and photo light.
 - ❖ Affordable solution
 - ❖ Able to scan large documents
- [10] ❖ Digitization Software
 - ❖ Adobe Photoshop 2020 is being used to make images more readable



Nikon CoolPix P510



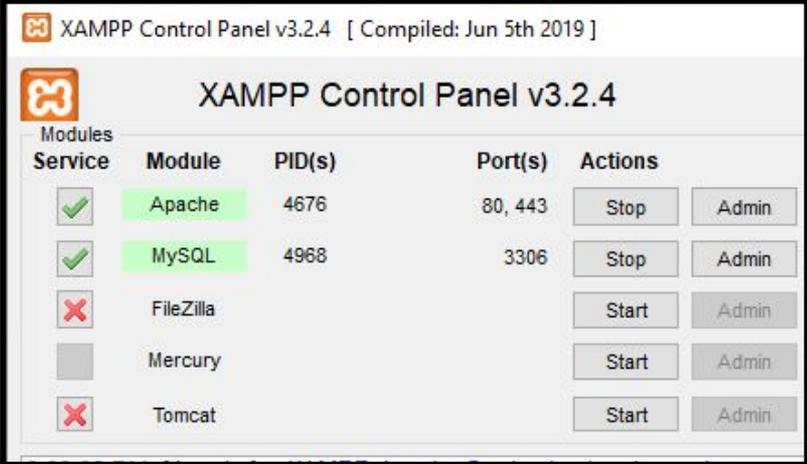
Digitization Setup
at St. Mary's Parish

IMPLEMENTATION: EASE-OF-USE

- ❖ Self explanatory fields and buttons means that the user-interface is intuitive for anyone to use
- ❖ Simple user-interface design with a nice aesthetic
- ❖ Spanish/English displayed side-by-side for bilingual capability
- ❖ Straightforward manual to guide users through database processes

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS: ADMINISTRATIVE CHOICES

- ❖ Utilized XAMPP to bundle Apache, MySQL, and PHP and connect them
- ❖ Utilized phpMyAdmin to manipulate and test the database
- ❖ Installed the software so that no user intervention is required to start it

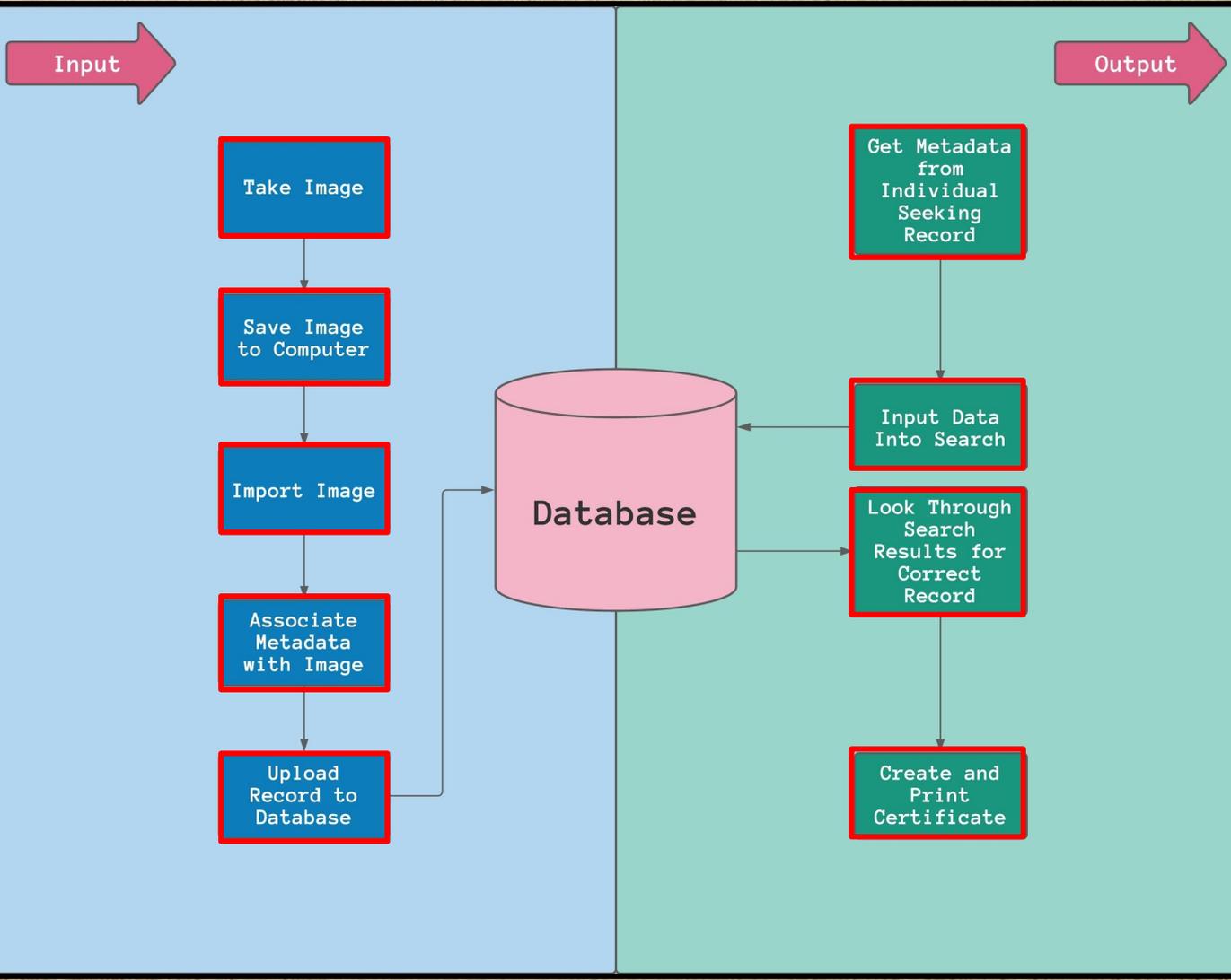


XAMPP Control Panel v3.2.4 [Compiled: Jun 5th 2019]

XAMPP Control Panel v3.2.4

Service	Module	PID(s)	Port(s)	Actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Apache	4676	80, 443	Stop Admin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MySQL	4968	3306	Stop Admin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FileZilla			Start Admin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mercury			Start Admin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tomcat			Start Admin

Screenshot of XAMPP Control Panel



2 Niños de Primera Comunion
21 de noviembre 1993 ~~(Español)~~
(Español)

1 Rosa Naranjo

2 Adili Rivera

3 Marilyn Maylin

4 Dania Cabal

2 Niños de Primera Comunion
21 de noviembre 1993 ~~(Español)~~
(Español)

1 Rosa Naranjo

11 Juan Castellón

12 Jesus Acosta

13 Kenneth Parsons III

Parroquia Santa Maria, Balboa

Por: Moseñor Oscar Brown



Página de inicio de los archivos digitales de Santa María/Start page for the St. Mary's Digital Archives

¿Le gustaría crear un nuevo registro o buscar un existente?/Would you like to create a new record or search for an existing one?

[Crear/Create](#)

[Buscar/Search](#)

[Administración/Admin](#)

[Agradecimientos/Acknowledgements](#)

Open

This PC > Storage space (E:) > XAMPP > htdocs > stmdbase > records > 002

Organize ▾ New folder

Downloads

Inicio/Home

Tipo de Sacramento/Sacrament Type: **Bautismos/Baptisms** ▾

La imagen/Image: **Choose File** No file chosen

Enviar/Submit

Storage space (E:)

Network

File name: 002-002-First_Communion-ced7242f7dd323bddce8a608aa0bfe9f

All Files

Open Cancel

Campos de entrada/Input Fields

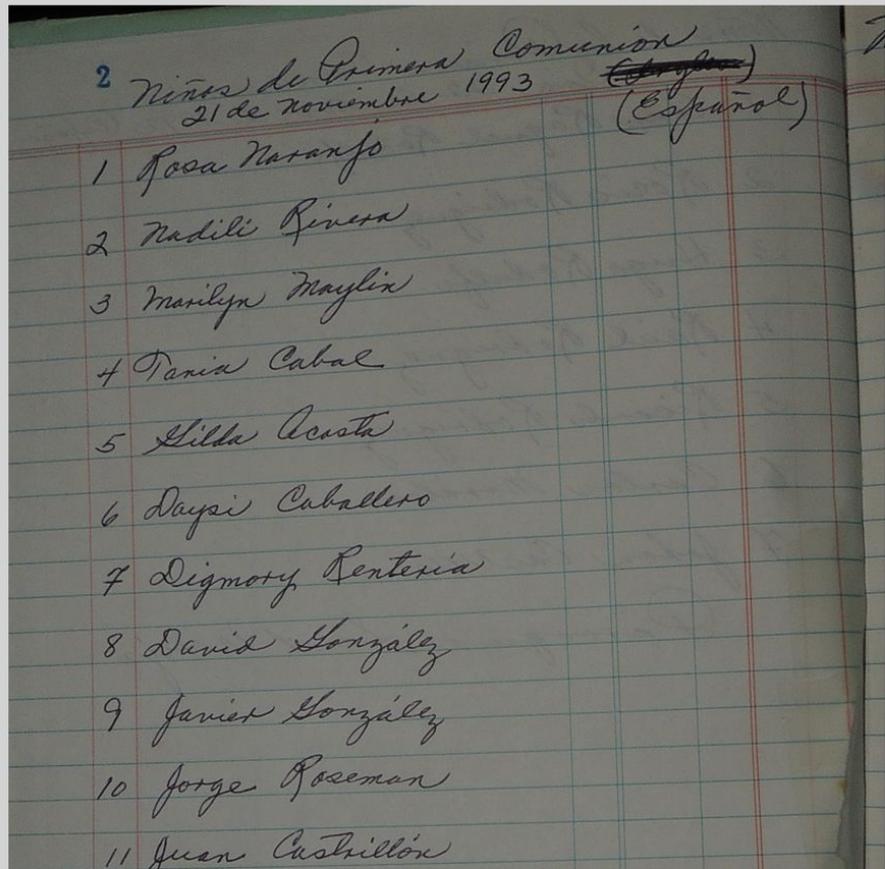
Num Libro/Book No.:	<input type="text" value="2"/>
Num Página/Page No.:	<input type="text" value="2"/>
Num Record/Record No.:	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Primer Nomb/First Name:	<input type="text" value="Rosa"/>
Segundo Nomb/Second Name:	<input type="text"/>
Premier Apellido/First Surname:	<input type="text" value="Naranjo"/>
Segundo Apellido/Second Surname:	<input type="text"/>
Sufijo/Suffix:	<input type="text" value="None"/>
Cédula/Identification Card:	<input type="text"/>
Fecha Comunión/Date of Communion:	<input type="text" value="11 / 21 / 1993"/>
Lugar Comunión/Place of Communion:	<input type="text" value="Parroquia Santa Maria"/>
Nomb Sacerdote/Priest's Name:	<input type="text" value="Oscar Brown"/>
Notas/Notes:	<input type="text"/>
Repuesto 1/Spare 1:	<input type="text"/>
Repuesto 2/Spare 2:	<input type="text"/>
Repuesto 3/Spare 3:	<input type="text"/>

*campo requerido/required field

19931121 - 254 - COMUNION - 2 - U - 2 - 1 - NARANJO ROSA.JPG

Imagen cargada (hacer clic para abrir en una nueva pestaña o ventana)

Image uploaded (click to open in a new tab or window)



Información del Documento/Document Information:

Núm Único/Unique Identifier	Núm Libro/Book No.	Núm Pagin�/Page No.	Núm Record/Record No.	Ruta de la Imagen Cargada/Uploaded Image Path (Click para ver/Click to view)
P0020020001	002	002	0001	19931121 - 254 - COMUNION - 2 - U - 2 - 1 - NARANJO ROSA.JPG

Informaci n del Feligr s/Parishoner Information:

Primer Nomb/First Name	Segundo Nomb/Second Name	Premier Apellido/First Surname	Segundo Apellido/Second Surname	Sufijo/Suffix	C�dula/Identification Card
Rosa	None	Naranjo	None	None	None

Informaci n del Registro/Record Information:

Fecha Comuni�n/Date of Communion	Lugar Comuni�n/Place of Communion	Nomb Padre/Priest's Name
1993-11-21	Parroquia Santa Maria	Oscar Brown

Informaci n del Registro Terciario/Tertiary Record Information:

Notas/Notes	Repuesto 1/Spare 1	Repuesto 2/Spare 2	Repuesto 3/Spare 3
None	None	None	None

Id Number: P0020020001

La imagen ya existe/Image already exists

Enviado satisfactoriamente/Submitted successfully

[Inicio/Home](#)

[Nueva imagen/New Image](#)

[Imagen de rescate/Reuse Image](#)



Página de inicio de los archivos digitales de Santa María/Start page for the St. Mary's Digital Archives

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[Crear/Create](#)

[Buscar/Search](#)

[Administración/Admin](#)

[Agradecimientos/Acknowledgements](#)



Seleccionar Sacramento/Select Sacrament

Espalda/Back

Tipo de Sacramento/Sacrament Type

Bautismos/Baptisms



Enviar/Submit

Segundo Nomb/Second Name:

Premier Apellido/First Surname:

Gonzalez

Segundo Apellido/Second Surname:

Sufijo/Suffix:

None ▾

Fecha Crear/Date Created: Fin/End

mm / dd / yyyy

Ordenar por/Sort by:

Núm Único/Unique Identifier ▾

Enviar/Submit



Resultados de la Búsqueda del Primera Comunión/First C Results

[Espalda/Back](#) [Inicio/Home](#)

Seleccionar Documento/Select Document	Núm Único/Unique Identifier	Núm Libro/Book No.	Núm Paginá/Page No.	Núm Record/Record No.	Primer Nomb/First Name	Segundo Nomb/Second Name	Premier Apellido/First Surname	Segundo Apellido/Second Surname
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	P0020020008	2	2	8	David	None	Gonzalez	None
<input type="radio"/>	P0020020009	2	2	9	Javier	None	Gonzalez	None

Output Type

[Crear Certificado/Create Certificate](#)

[Mostrar Imagen de Documento/Display Document Image](#)

[Enviar/Submit](#)

Primer Comuni3n/Certificado/First Communion Certificate

Informaci3n del Documento/Document Information:

Núm Único/Unique Identifier	Núm Libro/Book No.	Núm Pagin3/Pages No.	Núm Record/Record No.
P0020020008	2	2	8

Informaci3n del Feligr3s/Parishoner Information:

Primer Nomb/First Name	Segundo Nomb/Second Name	Premier Apellido/First Surname	Segundo Apellido/Second Surname	Sufijo/Suffix	C3dula/Identification Card
David	None	Gonzalez	None	None	None

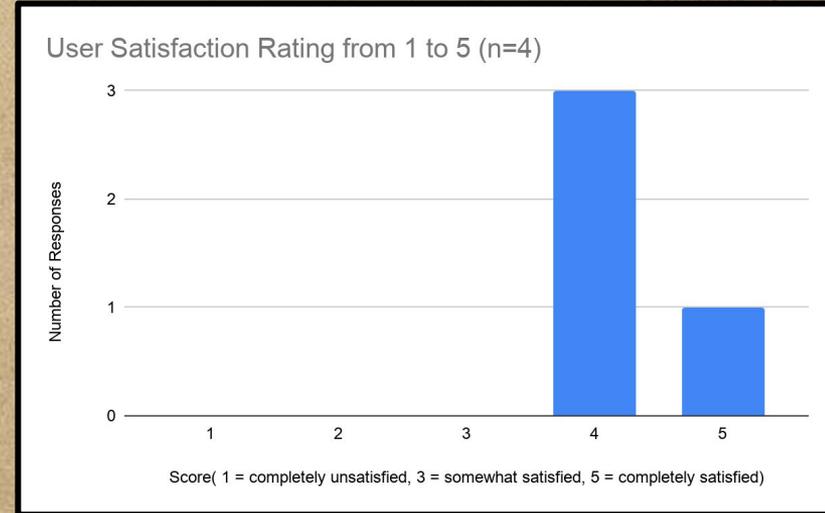
Informaci3n del Registro/Record Information:

Fecha Comuni3n/Date of Communion	Lugar Comuni3n/Place of Communion	Nomb Padre/Priest's Name
1993-11-21	Parroquia Santa Maria	Oscar Brown

Firma del Sacerdote/Priest Signature: _____

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS: USER FEEDBACK

- ✦ Conducted a small survey to assess if the software worked
- ✦ Polled the parish staff and anyone else who had access to the software in Panama
- ✦ Generally, the staff is happy with the software, although they made some suggestions



Parish Satisfaction Rating of Version
One of Software

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Team developed a working database solution, capable of querying and creating digitizations with a user-friendly interface.

Shortcomings of our solution:

- ❖ Single user setup
- ❖ No-internet connectivity



**Página de inicio de los archivos
digitales de Santa María/Start page
for the St. Mary's Digital Archives**

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QUESTIONS?



[11]