The Survey of Small Historical Societies, Libraries and Museums for Hispanic Materials and Their Management identified and developed institution-level descriptions for small cultural heritage repositories in the southern states that during colonial times were part of Spanish Florida (East and West Florida under the British) and the Spanish Louisiana Territory, in order to assess their Hispanic/Latino holdings and the conditions in which they are held, as well as to inform the scholarly community of the existence of these holdings. The project grew out of Recovering the US Hispanic Literary Heritage program at the University of Houston and constituted Phase 2, adding surveys of collections and archives across the Southwest.

The major problem we encountered was that many of the directors and personnel of the historical societies and small museums were not available due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many surveys were not immediately returned and many phone calls were not answered. Because of this lack of response or delays in response, we had to request a no-cost extension from the NEH, which was granted so that we could conduct the necessary research and follow-up to accrue accurate data and subsequent analysis thereof.

Because of the disruption due to the pandemic, we had to conduct more, extensive research through e-mail and snail-mail correspondence, phone, and other means. We consequently had to spend much more time and effort to achieve our goals. And, finally, we were able to prevail with accurate and substantive data that we were able to analyze and visualize through Digital Humanities techniques and upload the results to our web site. See https://recoveryapp.github.io/NEHmap/index.html

Our survey has identified, systematized information and made it available about this Latino/Hispanic legacy by administering the survey, analyzing it and making it available to our target audiences through our website https://artepublicopress.com/recovery-project/neh-survey/ and promoted through various advertising practices; the web pages describe all phases of the project, lists the holdings of institutions that went through the whole process and analyzes the results visually with a map and a pie chart. In effect, the web page is a guide to the Hispanic holdings of small institutions in the Southeast.