

2008

Annual Report, 2007-2008

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Libraries. Special Collections Department

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University of Arkansas Libraries

Looking Back on a Successful Year

The Special Collections Department had a banner year in 2007-2008. The Department sponsored or assisted in the development of a record number of programming events. Special Collections assumed the administration of the former Arkansas Periodicals Index; under its leadership the index was enhanced and renamed Index Arkansas. An important local history book, *Once Upon Dickson: An Illustrated History, 1868-2000*, was developed by Special Collections, and sales have been brisk.



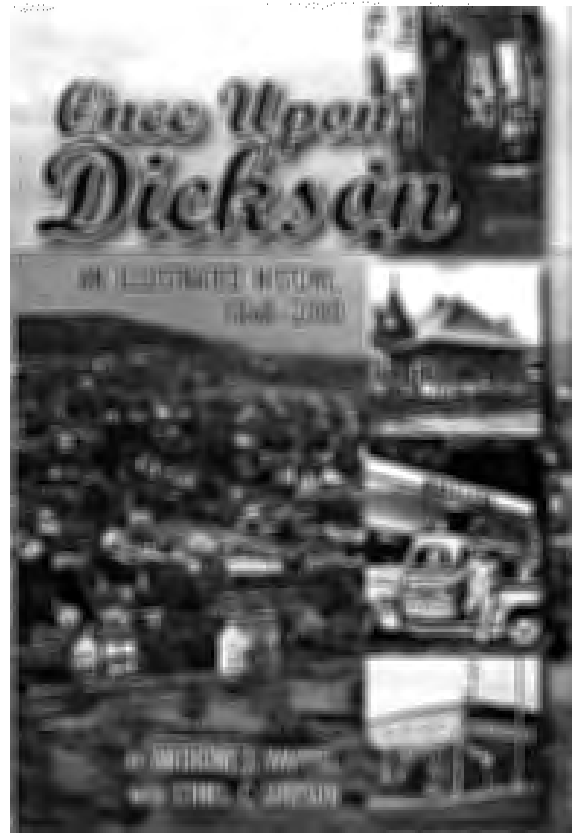
A major grant-funded digitization project of Arkansas civil rights materials, entitled "Land of (Unequal)

Opportunity: Documenting the Civil Rights Struggle in Arkansas," was completed. Many valuable books and manuscript collections were acquired; and progress was made on the manuscript processing backlog. The number of researchers using our collections increased dramatically; and the department launched a newsletter in conjunction with an increased public relations effort.

Manuscripts Unit

64 manuscript collections, totaling 154 linear feet, were added to our holdings, bringing the number of collections held to 1780. New collections included the papers of M.H. Russell, an educator and former president of Henderson State University in Arkadelphia.

Thirty-four manuscript collections, totaling 140 linear feet, were processed, including the papers of writer Douglas C. Jones and journalist Robert Douglas, as well as the family papers of the prominent Batesville-area Maxfield and Allen families. The finding aids to these collections will soon be online at the Department's Web site, but they are available for research use now. Honors College interns and student workers made major contributions in processing collections and in keeping the Manuscripts Unit operating smoothly.



Progress was made on two major ongoing processing projects – the remaining series of the Fulbright Papers and the John Paul Hammerschmidt Papers, which is the largest single collection in the department.

The Arkansas and rare book collections continued to expand; over 800 titles were added during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The Department's art collection was carefully documented and moved to the off-site storage facility, where it will be maintained in a more stable environment.

A Manuscripts Unit Plan was submitted to the library administration for approval. This document will guide the unit in improving its efficiency in the next five years. A new processing manual, nearing completion, will play a pivotal role in that improvement. The Manuscripts Unit continues to work toward the implementation of Encoded Archival Description (EAD), which will significantly improve the searchability of online finding aids.

Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History

The Pryor Center's operations were greatly enhanced due to a major equipment upgrade and improvements to its physical space in Mullins Library. An assistant director and associate producer were hired. The advisory board, which met in Fayetteville in October 2007 and in Little Rock in April 2008, helped the Pryor Center establish interviewing priorities and provided valuable assistance in planning the upcoming development campaign.

During the first half of the year, the Pryor Center focused on purchasing equipment and recording interviews. The focus during the second half of the year was on ingesting, logging, and archiving the recordings on the Pryor Center network server. After conducting research, the staff identified an effective method of indexing recordings that identifies every topic discussed during an interview. This will be an invaluable resource when the interviews are available for researchers on the Center's Web site.

One hundred fifteen oral history interviews and 168 visual history interviews were processed during 2007-2008. The Center has ten ongoing oral history projects, including projects involving the Arkansas Democrat, the Arkansas State Police, Arkansas governors, Bumpers College Centennial, and others. Ongoing visual history projects totaled ten as well, including projects involving Bob Lamb (former director of the State Chamber of Commerce), the "Before Little Rock" integration commemoration, women legislators, and others.



Before Little Rock Pioneers

The Pryor Center has partnerships with the William J. Clinton Foundation and the University of Virginia Miller Center for Public Affairs (Clinton History Project), the University of Arkansas Departments of Sociology (Iraq veterans project) and Broadcast Journalism (Buffalo River Project), the University of Arkansas School of Architecture (Eisenman Lectures), historian and author John P. Gill (history of the governor's mansion project), State Representative Lindsley Smith (women legislators) and the South Arkansas Historical Foundation.

Research Services Unit

Research services assisted 3,034 researchers in 2007-2008, a 34% increase over the previous year. Instruction sessions and follow-up consultations were conducted for 15 university courses. Approximately 40% of the researchers assisted were students, faculty, staff or alumni of the university; 13 % were affiliated with other universities and colleges; 14% were from businesses, media, government agencies, libraries, and museums; and 33% were from the general public. New presentations and handouts were developed for courses in Honors History Methods, Medieval Spanish Literature, Documentary Photography, Introduction to Graduate Studies in English, and Rhetoric of American Women.

Twenty-six percent of research requests come through e-mail and postal mail; much of this use comes from patrons contacting us after seeing information on the department web pages. Research Services made 32,741 photocopies and 1,663 digital scans for patrons, which averages 2,736 photocopies and 138 scans per month. Patrons may now arrange to use their own flatbed scanners and/or digital cameras to duplicate materials in the department. This year we helped patrons scan or photograph 8,154 items.

Special Collections materials were cited in at least 14 books, 4 theses and dissertations, 12 papers and presentations, 1 book chapter, 22 journal and periodical articles, 24 web sites, 7 exhibits outside the library, 2 library exhibits, and one departmental exhibit. The most heavily used collections were the

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Historical Collection, the Fay Jones Collection, the J. William Fulbright Papers, the Orval E. Faubus Papers, the Margaret Smith Ross Papers, the Daisy Bates Papers, the Washington County Historical Society Papers, the W.P.A. Historical Records Survey, the Edward Durrell Stone Papers, and the Otto Rayburn Collection.

Programming and Outreach Activities

Special Collections celebrated its 40th anniversary and Archives Month 2007 with a series of events. Staff members conducted a day of workshops on October 20, 2007 on preserving family history and conducting oral histories. Reminiscences about the early days of Special Collections were the focus of an open house held on October 25. The highlight of the open house was a spirited game of "Arkansas Jeopardy," in which nine contestants competed in a game based on the television game show "Jeopardy" that used Arkansas-related subjects and clues.



Arkansas Jeopardy

The Department had a major role in developing three programs in September to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1957 Little Rock integration crisis. Sponsored by the University Libraries, "Before Little Rock: Successful Arkansas School Integration" highlighted a number of successful integration efforts in Arkansas. A September 12 event, co-sponsored by the University of Arkansas School of Law, was entitled "Pioneering in the Professions: Integrating the University of Arkansas Schools of Law and

Medicine." Speakers George W.B. Haley (School of Law, 1952 and brother of novelist Alex Haley), Christopher C. Mercer (School of Law, 1955), and Dr. Edith Irby Jones (School of Medicine, 1952) described their experiences to a large audience gathered in the E.J. Ball Courtroom of the Leflar Law Center.

The second event, held on September 13, highlighted the integration of the Hoxie and Charleston schools and consisted of a screening of the documentary films *Hoxie: The First Stand* (David Appleby, producer, PBS Documentary, 2003), and *Doing What Was Right* (Jack Hill, producer, TeleVision of Arkansas, 2004). A third event on September 15 commemorated the integration of Fayetteville High School in 1954. Historian Andrew Brill led a panel discussion of participants including Feriba McNair, a Fayetteville High School physical education teacher in 1954; Harry Vandergriff, the Fayetteville High School football coach in 1954; Peggy Taylor Lewis and Roberta Lackey Morgan, two of the seven African American students to integrate the school in 1954; and Nancy Cole Mays, Glenn Sowder and Jerry Van Hoose, members of the first integrated class.

The Department initiated a major grant-funded digitization project entitled "Land of (Unequal) Opportunity: Documenting the Civil Rights Struggle in Arkansas." The project provides free online access to documents and images tracing the history of civil rights in the state. The Web site, launched on February 1, 2008, contains more than 2,000 pages of documents, photographs, broadsides, pamphlets, drawings, cartoons and other images. While the project emphasizes the 1957 Little Rock Central High School integration crisis and the rights of African American Arkansans, it covers all time periods and includes civil rights issues pertaining to women, homosexuals and the Japanese Americans held in Arkansas relocation camps during World War II. In addition to the documents and images, the Web site offers a detailed bibliography and timeline, ten lesson plans for junior high school students, and five digital posters, all free of charge.

The Web site server is named Scipio A. Jones, in honor of Arkansas's premier black attorney, and can be found online at: <http://Scipio.uark.edu>. As of the end of June, the Web site had been visited 2,542 times by 2,231 unique visitors from 50 countries who had logged 9,995 page views (almost 4 pages per visit).



Special Collections held a screening of the film *Take A Giant Step* on November 13, 2007 at the Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. The event was attended by approximately 150 people. Mrs. Billye Stockton donated the 1960 film, which was produced to promote Little Rock and to counter the negative publicity following the 1957 Central High School integration crisis. Stockton was the principal producer of the film, which was a project of the Greater Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs. Used to promote the city, *Take A Giant Step* is a valuable record of Little Rock as it recovered from the Central High integration crisis.

Index Arkansas, a valuable research tool available on the library's Web site, was recently placed under the administration of the Special Collections Department. Formerly called the Arkansas Periodicals Index, this index to Arkansas publications has been in development for many years within the University Libraries. Special Collections renamed the project Index Arkansas and hired a manager to revive and refine the index. One of the first enhancements made was the addition of newspaper indexing.

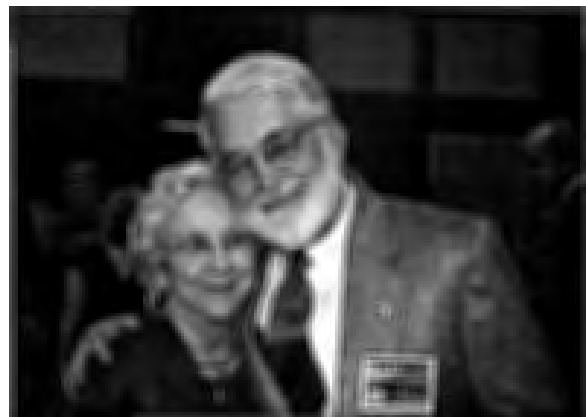
The Special Collections Department recently developed a local history book called *Once Upon*

Dickson: An Illustrated History, 1868-2000 by Anthony J. Wappel and Ethel C. Simpson, The department provided partial funding, research, and administrative support for the book and is receiving proceeds from its sales. *Once Upon Dickson* describes the evolution of Fayetteville's Dickson Street, an eclectic, historic Fayetteville thoroughfare near campus and downtown Fayetteville often compared to Austin's 6th Street.

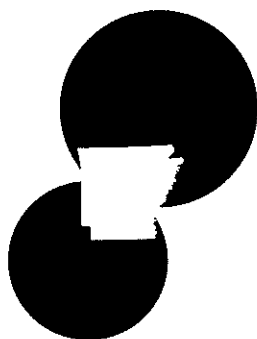
During 2007-2008 the Special Collections Department increased its efforts in public relations. A public relations plan for the Department is nearing completion, and we launched a newsletter, called *The Arkansian*. The first issue of *The Arkansian* came out in October of 2007; the second issue was published in May 2008. The Pryor Center for Arkansas Visual and Oral History published a six page color brochure, "Welcome to the Pryor Center: Connecting the World to Arkansas History." Departmental personnel gave 27 presentations; published 58 articles or papers; and held positions in 13 different professional organizations.

Looking to the Future

Fiscal year 2007-2008 was a time of activity and accomplishment for the Special Collections Department. The Department has also done a better job of sharing its story with the public and that, in turn, has resulted in improved programming, better service to students and other researchers, and more donations of materials and financial support. Our goal for the next fiscal year is to build on our successes while stretching to continue improvements.



Billye Stockton and Tom Dillard



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