

2014

## Annual Report, 2013-2014

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Libraries. Special Collections Department

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**Annual Report**  
**Special Collections**  
**University of Arkansas Libraries**  
**July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014**

**Looking Back: Highlights**

Special Collections enjoyed another successful year in 2013-2014. The faculty and staff of Special Collections continued to provide excellent service to hundreds of researchers and supporters through programming, research assistance, instruction, exhibits, digital projects, online research tools, and publications.

**Personnel**

Dr. Angela Fritz was hired as Assistant Head of Special Collections/Head of Manuscripts after a national search. Dr. Diane Worrell retired as Special Projects Librarian, and Krista Oldham, Senior Archives Manager, was hired as the College Archivist/Records Manager at Haverford College in Pennsylvania. Additionally, Karsten Powers, Lauren Hayes, and Stewart Pence, the department's three Honors College Interns, completed their internships in Special Collections. Laura Smith was hired as an hourly employee to organize manuscript collections, and Anne Marie Martin joined the department as a graduate assistant working on a Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grant to help document the Rohwer WWII internment camp in Southeast Arkansas, under the supervision of Research and Outreach Services Librarian Joshua Youngblood. University Archivist Amy Allen received certification as a Certified Archivist from the Academy of Certified Archivists and continued to pursue a Digital Archives Specialist certificate through the Society of American Archivists. Department Head Tim Nutt received a seed grant from the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Economic Development to support his research on the history of the Catholic Churches around the state. Martha Parker, Librarian-in-Residence, continued her rotation in Special Collections.

**Manuscripts Unit**

Twenty-three manuscript collections, totaling approximately 150 linear feet were added to Special Collections' holdings. Twenty-five manuscript collections were processed, totaling a little over 80 linear feet. Our newest archival holdings include medieval folios, including a small calendar leaf from a ca. 1480 *Book of Hours*. The collection of Roy Reed, a former journalist with the *Arkansas Gazette* and *New York Times*, was opened for researchers. Reed also wrote the definitive biography of Gov. Orval Faubus and those research materials are included in the collection.

The Dale Bumpers Senatorial Papers were opened for researchers during an event held in March. The papers, totaling over 1,107 linear feet, is one of the largest collections held by Special Collections and documents the personal and senatorial career of the Charleston, Arkansas native. Bumpers served in the U.S. Senate from 1975 through 1999.

Valerie Robertson completed an inventory of the manuscripts held by Special Collections. This project, sometimes tedious, was monumental and its completion is due to Valerie's diligence.

Todd Lewis, Vera Ekechukwu, Catherine Wallack, and Krista Oldham, along Amy Allen and the student employees, worked diligently to organize our archival materials. The Honors College once again generously funded three intern positions that allowed those students to work closely with archival materials.

## **Research Services Unit**

The Research Services Unit served 2,585 researchers, including 118 faculty members, 87 graduate students, and 189 undergraduate students from the University. University students, faculty, staff, and alumni comprised 41% of patrons served; 13% were from businesses, media, government agencies, libraries, museums, etc.; and 26% were from the general public. The unit conducted 646 research consultations. Staff made 11,000 photocopies and prepared 200 digital scans for patrons. These averaged 1,000 photocopies and 18 scans per month. Additionally, staff helped patrons scan or photograph 45,214 items with their own equipment.

Researchers accessed more than 3,179 archival boxes, 1,675 items in the Arkansas Collection, and 82 maps and photographs. Our patrons represented 34 out of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, as well as 13 other countries. The most heavily used manuscript collections by patrons visiting Special Collections this year were (in rank order):

1. Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (MC 468)—Rank last year #1
2. Edward Durrell Stone Papers (MS St71/236 Stone and MC 340)—Rank last year #5
3. Fay Jones Papers (MC 1373)—Rank last year #3
4. Council for International Exchange of Scholars, CIES Records (MC 703)—Rank last year # 2
5. Florence Price Papers (MC 988)—New on list
6. Orval E. Faubus Papers (MC MS/F27/301/FAUBUS)—Rank last year #6
7. William Grant Still and Verna Arvey Papers (MC 1125)—Rank last year #6
8. J. William Fulbright Papers (MC MS/F956/144/Fulbright)—Rank last year #4
9. Diane Blair Papers (MC 1632)—New on list
10. WPA (Works Progress Administration) Historical Records Survey (MSH 62)—Rank last year #10

The rankings bear out the increased interest and use of expanded of the Arkansas Architectural Archives. The expanded presence and notoriety of the collection was a result of the leadership of Cat Wallack, the Architectural Records Archivist. The appearance of the papers of Florence Price and Diane Blair on the list show how publicity and word-of-mouth can drive up research numbers. Researchers used and cited Special Collections' materials in at least 10 books, 11 papers and presentations, 23 journal and periodical articles, 5 websites, 2 public events, 6 television news broadcasts, 1 dissertation, and 4 exhibits outside of the library.

The Special Collections website was accessed more than 167,000 times, with 38,341 being unique visitors or machines. This number represents a 28% increase overall of researchers accessing the department's website. As last year, the Fay Jones project page and finding aid and

the Daisy Bates finding aids were the most heavily trafficked manuscript-related pages, in addition to the main page and manuscripts index page.

The number of classes for campus members increased from 21 to 24 with a total of 549 in attendance at the sessions. The faculty and staff continued to present at conferences and meetings around the state and country reaching hundreds of people.

*Index Arkansas*, an online index of Arkansas publications sponsored by the Special Collections Department, was brought online in 2004-2005 and is continually updated. A record number of researchers consulted *Index Arkansas* this year. Index searches totaled 46,862, a 44% increase over the previous year.

Geoffery Stark, Megan Massanelli, and Joshua Youngblood, along with the student employees, provided stellar service to our researchers.

## **Digitization Projects**

Special Collections continued to lead on digitization projects. Those completed in 2013-2014 include:

*Colonial Arkansas Post Ancestry (CAPA)* was a collaborative project between Special and the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. The project highlighted French language materials from the Core Family Papers (MC 1380) pertaining to Arkansas Post. Selected materials were translated, transcribed, and digitized. In addition to Special Collections employees Janet Parsch and Tim Nutt, University Libraries employees Deb Kulczak and Jason Dean from the Technical Services Department, as well as Martha Parker, Librarian-in-Residence, contributed greatly to the success of the project.

The *Fine Lines and Late Nights* digital exhibit includes 57 images documenting the history of Vol Walker Hall and the Fay Jones School of Architecture. Created in conjunction with the dedication of the Steven L. Andersen addition to Vol Walker Hall, the collection shows the re-use of the building from a library (its original purpose) to the architecture school home. Cat Wallack, the architectural records archivist, led this project.

*Ozark Folksong Collection* presents the materials in the collection of Mary Parler (MS F 1-30 University Folklore Collection) in a digitized format. These items, including audio recordings, were collected in the late 1940s through the mid-1960s and preserve the rich musical legacy of the Ozark Mountains. The project, funded from grants from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the Happy Hollow Foundation, along with support from the Mary Hudgins Music Endowment, will provide greater access to this rich trove of songs. The project was led by Lora Lennertz with assistance from Deb Kulczak and the Libraries' Technical Services Department.

Janet Parsch served as the lead for Special Collections digital projects. Martha Parker (Librarian-in-Residence) contributed greatly to the projects in Special Collections and contributed greatly to our successful digital projects, among her other duties.

## Programming and Outreach

As in previous years, Special Collections celebrated American Archives Month with an open house and program. The 2013 event featured Anthony Priest, editor of *Yonder Mountain: An Ozarks Anthology* (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2013). Included in the book are short stories, poetry, and other literary gleanings from Ozark writers, such as James Whitehead and Donald Harington. Special Collections holds the papers of a number of writers and this presentation highlighted our interest in preserving literary materials. American Archives Month, a collaborative effort by professional organizations to raise awareness of the value of archivists and archival materials, is celebrated nationally each October.

The department published an issue of its newsletter, *The Arkansian*, an Arkansas history publication launched in 2007. *The Arkansian* features Special Collections news, significant collections, interesting researchers, historic photographs, and an Arkansas history quiz. The newsletter continued to be well-received and is an excellent tool to highlight the work of Special Collections.

The fourth issue of *Arkansauce: The Journal of Arkansas Foodways* was published in March 2014 with Kat Robinson, of Little Rock, serving as guest editor. The theme for this year's issue was the introduction and establishment of food culture through transportation and immigration. This publication continues to be extremely popular with people submitting popularity of this publication continues to grow.

One of the most important initiatives of Special Collections has been the 2006 establishment and continued sponsorship of the Arkansas History Discussion group (ARHIST-L) an online listserv devoted to Arkansas history topics, announcements, news, and events. The listserv generates much discussion among Arkansas history buffs, both professional and amateur, as well as other researchers seeking information about Arkansas. An excellent avenue for public relations, ARHIST-L had 337 subscribers (an increase of 31 members from last year) as of June 30, 2014. For the period of July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014, there were 12,096 postings and responses to the discussion group.

### Acquisitions:

The Rare Books collection was greatly enhanced this year with the purchase of a number of significant titles, including *Description de la Louisiane: Nouvellement decouverte au sudoüest de la Nouvelle France, par Ordre du Roy : Avec la carte du pays, les moeurs & la maniere de Vivre des Sauvages* written by Louis Hennepin and published in 1603. Hennepin, an early explorer, documented the Mississippi River area. In total, 67 rare books were added to our collection. Books from the library of William H. Porter were also added to the Rare Books collection. Porter, who lived in Johnson County, Arkansas, collected the books in the early 20th century. His books were eventually sold to the Pathfinder Club in Morrilton, Arkansas, to build the Conway County library. The books were donated to Special Collections by the Pathfinder club in order to preserve the titles. Porter collected on a number of subjects, and his books, along with purchases, will raise the profile of the University of Arkansas's collection.

The Arkansas Collection also continued to increase through the purchase and donation of new titles. During the fiscal year, 432 titles were added to the collection. The Arkansas Cookbook Collection, especially, benefitted greatly from a number of donations. That collection, devoted to the culinary history of the state, now has over 1,300 titles and remains a popular resource.

### **Exhibits:**

The Special Collections' exhibit committee has done an extraordinary job of creating exhibits and changing them on a regular basis. These exhibits showcase the holdings of Special Collections and increase our visibility across campus and the state. The exhibit committee includes Catherine Wallack, Joshua Youngblood, Krista Oldham, Valerie Robertson, and Megan Massanelli. Some of the exhibits this year included:

- **Internment and Heroism: Images of Japanese Americans during World War II from Special Collections (Special Collections Hallway, 5/15/2014 — 5/15/2016)**

During World War II, more than 20,000 Japanese Americans were involuntarily interned in camps in Arkansas under the War Relocation Authority. The exhibit includes images, government documents, camp newsletters, school yearbooks, and more.

- **Greek Life: Historical Perspectives on our Fraternities and Sororities (Walton Reading Room, October-December 2013)**

In commemoration of the centennial of the Delta Iota chapter of Delta Delta Delta on the University of Arkansas campus, Special Collections installed this exhibit of photographs, correspondence, and other memorabilia highlighting the history of fraternities and sororities at UA.

- **CURE: Healing, Health and Medicine in Arkansas (Special Collections Entry, April-August 2013)**

This exhibit explores the ways attitudes toward medicine have evolved in Arkansas over the last two centuries and presents an assortment of documents, photographs, and rare books.

- **Collection Curiosities: Strange and Unlikely Items in the Archives (Special Collections Hallway, February-October 2013)**

This selection of curiosities and odd holdings from Special Collections highlights the variety of materials available in the archives.

- **Celebrating the University of Arkansas Press (Special Collections Reading Room, (6/15/2005 —Present)**

Titles published by the Press from its establishment in 1980 to the present were highlighted in this exhibit.

- **Janis Kearney Exhibit (Walton Reading Room, February 6, 2014-March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014)**

This exhibit highlighted the life and career of Kearney from her childhood in Gould, Arkansas to her position as presidential diarist for President Bill Clinton and a successful writer.

- **Dale Bumpers Exhibit (Walton Reading Room, March 4, 2014-July 3, 2014)**

Installed in conjunction with the opening of the papers of Senator Dale Bumpers, this exhibit highlighted the legislative accomplishments of the Charleston, Arkansas native and his wife Betty.

- **Literary Lifelines (Special Collections Hallway, March 6, 2014-Present)**

Many of the public libraries around the state were established through the efforts of women. Installed in honor of Women's History Month (March), this exhibit highlighted a few of Arkansas's public libraries which owe their existence to the leadership of women.

- **What Makes a Book Rare? (Special Collections Entry, February 20, 2014-Present)**

In conjunction with the Remnant Trust exhibit, Special Collections exhibited seven books from our Rare Books collection. Using the seven criteria utilized in determining whether or not a book is rare, the exhibit sought to educate our patrons on the selection process as well as highlighting our collection.

- **Who's Who in the Archives? (Special Collections Entry, December 15, 2013-May 16, 2014)**

This exhibit paired the employees of Special collections with their favorite items from our holdings.

- **William Grant Still (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Vitrine, January 31, 2014-April 1, 2014)**

William Grant Still, considered one of the premier composers of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century and the first African American to have his work performed by a major symphony

orchestra, moved to Little Rock, Arkansas at an early age. This exhibit highlighted his extraordinary career as a composer.

- **Documenting the Civil War (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Vitrine, April 4, 2014-Present)**

In honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War, Special Collections installed this exhibit featuring documents from the conflict.

- **What's Cooking in the Archives (Special Collections Entry, May 21, 2014-Present)**

Arkansas's culinary history defies stereotypes. This exhibit explores the rich and distinctive aspect of the state's culture through photographs, cookbooks, and recipes.

### **Looking to the Future**

The Ray Thornton Papers processing project is in process and should be opened for research next year. Special Collections continues to look for funding to make its holdings more accessible. One priority remains the Geleve Grice Photograph Collection, one of the largest African American photograph collections in the nation, containing more than 60,000 images.

The expansion of the Rare Books collection will continue to be one of Special Collections' goals. The department also seeks to acquire additional manuscript collections of national significance.

The past year was a busy and rewarding one for the Special Collections Department. Our goal for next year is to continue to expand our holdings and our presence in the historical and archival realms.



**Personnel Accomplishments  
Special Collections  
2013-2014**

**Refereed Publications**

Fritz, Angela, I. (Special Collections). "The Women Who Danced For a Living: Exploring Taxi Dancers' Childhood in Chicago's Polish-American Communities, 1920-1926." *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, Vol. 23. No. 2 (May, 2014): 247-271. Print. Online article available via Project MUSE.

Lewis, Todd (Special Collections). "Blossom, Virgil Tracy." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. (2014). Online.  
<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=5610>

Lewis, Todd (Special Collections). "Grey, William Henry." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. (2014). Online.  
<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=5696>

Lewis, Todd (Special Collections). "Tebbetts, Jonas March." *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. (2014). Online. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=2818>

Wallack, Catherine (Special Collections). "John Gilbert Williams." *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. (2013). Online. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=7598>

Youngblood, Joshua (Special Collections). "Arthur Brann Caldwell (1906-1987)." *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. (2013). Online:  
<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=2578>

**Non-Refereed publications**

Parsch, Janet (Special Collections), Joshua Youngblood (Special Collections), and Jennifer Rae Hartman (University Libraries Public Relations). "Digital Exhibit Documents Arkansas Apples." *The Arkansian: Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department*. (Spring 2014): 4.

Oldham, Krista (Special Collections). "Trulock Collection Documents Antebellum Plantation Life." *The Arkansian: Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department*. (Spring 2014): 1+.

Oldham, Krista (Special Collections). "George D. Walker Papers Now Available." *The Arkansian: Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department*. (Spring 2014): 3.

Youngblood, Joshua (Special Collections). "Family Discovers Father's Letters." *The Arkansian: Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department*. (Spring 2014): 8.

## **Presentations**

Amy L. Allen (Special Collections) and Timothy G. Nutt (Special Collections). "Not Quite from Scratch: Starting a University Archives." Arkansas Library Association Annual Meeting, Hot Springs, Arkansas. 7 October 2013. Presentation.

Nutt, Timothy G. (Special Collections). "Preserving Arkansas History: Dorothy Jones Core." Grand Prairie Historical Society, Gillett, Arkansas. 18 April 2014. Presentation.

Nutt, Timothy G. (Special Collections). "A Brief History of Arkansas." Ozark Literacy Council, Fayetteville, Arkansas. 24 April 2014. Presentation.

Nutt, Timothy G. (Special Collections). "Foodways of the Germans and Italians of Perry County, Arkansas." Perry County Historical & Genealogical Society, Perryville, Arkansas. 13 May 2014. Presentation.

Nutt, Timothy G. (Special Collections). "Adding a Little Bit of Sauce to Arkansas: Creating a Foodways Journal (and Documenting our Culinary Traditions Too)." "Everything Old is New Again: The Arkansas Foodways Movement Workshop." Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas. 17 May 2014. Presentation.

Nutt, Timothy G. (Special Collections). "Take Arkansas and Add a Dash of Sauce: Creating a Foodways Journal at the University of Arkansas." Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana. 29 May 2014. Presentation.

Nutt, Timothy G. (Special Collections). "Researching & Accessing Civil War Collections at Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries," Twenty-fifth North Arkansas Ancestor Fair, Leslie, Arkansas. 6 June 2014. Presentation

Nutt, Timothy G. (Special Collections) and Krista Oldham (Special Collections). "Preserving Voices: Digitizing the Mid-Century Folk Collection of Mary Celestia Parler," Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS), Association of College Research Libraries Division, American Library Association, Preconference, Las Vegas, Nevada. 25 June 2014. Presentation.

Oldham, Krista. "Expanding Roles: Creating Authentic Intellectual Work While Building Archival Intelligence," Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana. 30 May 2014. Presentation.

Stark, Geoffery (Special Collections), Krista Oldham (Special Collections) and Timothy G. Nutt (Special Collections). "Walter Lemke and His Newsletter: Keeping Arkansas Informed at Home and Abroad," Arkansas Historical Association, Washington, Arkansas. 4 April 2014. Presentation.

Wallack, Catherine (Special Collections). "Architecture Students in the Archives: Reciprocal Rewards by Design. Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana. 30 May 2014. Presentation.

Youngblood, Joshua (Special Collections). "Dedicated and Rededicated: Architecture and the Archives at the University of Arkansas." Architectural Archives Roundtable, Archives, Joint Meeting of the Society of American Archivists and the Council of State Archives, New Orleans, Louisiana. 14 August 2013. Presentation.

Youngblood, Joshua (Special Collections). "True Grit: Fact, Fiction, and the Arkansas Frontier." Invited lecture presented to students, faculty and staff of Haas Hall, Fayetteville, Arkansas. 20 August 2013.

Youngblood, Joshua (Special Collections). "The Farm before the School: The Lighton Family and Happy Hollow Farm." Presentation to 500+ elementary students, school administrators, teachers and parents, at Happy Hollow School, Fayetteville, Arkansas. 4 October 2013.

Youngblood, Joshua (Special Collections). "The Religion of Racial Reconciliation: Nat Griswold and the "Fellowship of Damn Fools." Pulpit Guest, Universalist Unitarian Fellowship of Fayetteville, Fayetteville, Arkansas. 19 January 2014.

Youngblood, Joshua (Special Collections). "Beyond the Barbed Wire: Nat Griswold and the Community Activities Section at the Rohwer Japanese American Relocation Center." Conference presentation, Arkansas Historical Association, Washington, Arkansas. 4 April 2014.

Youngblood, Joshua (Special Collections). "Gleaning Clues from Old Photos," Northwest Arkansas Family History Conference, Springdale, Arkansas. Conference presentation and instruction session. 19 April 2014.

Youngblood, Joshua (Special Collections). "Getting Out of the Box and Off the Shelf: Special Collections Research Services as On-the-Job Training." Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana. 30 May 2014. Presentation.