

2015

Annual Report, 2014-2015

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Libraries. Special Collections Department

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Annual Report
Special Collections
University of Arkansas Libraries
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Submitted by **Tim Nutt, Head of Special Collections**

Looking Back: Highlights

Special Collections enjoyed another successful year in 2014-2015. 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

Megan Massanelli left Special Collections to attend graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh. Kasey Kelm was hired as the Reading Room Assistant and has quickly become integral to the operations of the department. University Archivist Amy Allen received her Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) certificate from the Society of American Archivists. Librarian-in-Residence Martha Parker continued to assist with digital projects in Special Collections. Parker pursued her DAS certificate, as did Assistant Head/Head of Manuscripts Angela Fritz. Special Collections was fortunate to have stellar hourly employees help the department achieve its goals. Without the assistance of Keleigh Hibbard, Heath Robinson, Cameron Henley, Ashley Cain, Cali Rios, Christopher Galindo, Kali Kaitshuck, and Abigail Schiedslag, the department would not be able to run as smoothly or efficiently.

Manuscripts Unit

Forty-eight manuscript collections, totaling approximately 400 linear feet were added to Special Collections' holdings. Ten manuscript collections totaling a nearly 300 linear feet were processed.

The Ray Thornton Papers were opened for researchers. 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. Senior Processing Archivist Todd Lewis led the Congressman Thornton papers project.

The Florence Price Papers Addendum, a internationally-significant collection of compositions and other materials of the African American composer, were organized and opened for research. These materials were feared lost, but were acquired by Special Collections in 2010 through the efforts of Tim Nutt and Tom Dillard, current and former heads of Special Collections, respectively. Dr. Barbara Jackson, a former faculty member with the University of Arkansas Department of Music and Price scholar, assisted in the organization of the papers project, which was ably led by Vera Ekechukwu (Fulbright Papers Archivist).

In addition to the two aforementioned collections, eight collections related to University history were organized through the efforts of University Archivist Amy Allen and her employees Heath Robinson and Kali Kaitschuck.

Catherine Wallack (Architectural Records Archivist) continued to work with current and new donors to Special Collections to acquire collections that document Arkansas's built environment.

Thirty-two finding aids to previously processed collections were also uploaded to the Special Collections' website, making more of the department's holdings accessible.

The Manuscripts Unit's employees worked diligently to organize our archival materials. In addition to the aforementioned unit employees, Ashley Cain, Christopher Galindo, Cali Rios, Cameron Henley, and Abigail Siedschlag provide invaluable service to the department. Angela Fritz, Assistant Head of Special Collections, also serves as Head of the Manuscripts Unit.

Research Services Unit

The Research Services Unit served 1,199 patrons, including 84 faculty and staff, 78 graduate students, and 201 undergraduate students from the university. University students, faculty, staff, and alumni comprised 33% of patrons served; business, media, government agencies, libraries, museums, etc. made up 7% of patrons; and 16% of patrons were from the general public. The unit conducted 121 research consultations. Staff made 9,416 photocopies and 3,176 scans for our patrons, for an average of 785 photocopies and 264 scans per month. Staff helped patrons scan or photograph 44,455 items with their own equipment.

Researchers accessed 2,192 archival boxes, 736 items from the Arkansas Collection, and 428 maps and photographs. Our patrons represented 30 of the 50 states and 14 different countries. The most heavily used collections by patrons visiting Special Collections this year were (MC MS R653 and MC 1091 were tied for number of patrons as were MC 735/1080 and MC 716):

1. Edward Durell Stone Papers (MC 340) – Ranked #2 last year
2. Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs (MC 468) – Ranked #1 last year
3. J. William Fulbright Papers (MC MS F956 144) – Ranked #8 last year
4. Florence Price Papers (MC 988) – Ranked #5 last year
5. E. Fay Jones Papers (MC 1373) – Ranked #3 last year
6. Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) (MC 703) – Ranked #4 last year
7. Diane Blair Papers (MC 1632) – Ranked #9 last year
8. Daisy Bates Papers (MC 582) – Unranked last year
9. Joseph T. Robinson Papers (MC MS R653) – Unranked last year
Neil Compton Papers (MC 1091) – Unranked last year
10. Aerial Photographs of Arkansas (MC 735/1080) – Unranked last year
John Edward Williams Papers (MC 716) – Unranked last year

The Daisy Bates, Neil Compton, and Aerial Photographs collections were largely used by students for class projects. The John Edward Williams Papers were largely used by faculty members and newspapers. Researchers used and cited Special Collections' materials in over 29 books, 28 periodical or journal articles, 7 presentations, 3 public events, 2 theses, 22 webpages, 10 exhibits, 2 television broadcasts, and 2 documentaries.

The Special Collections website continues to be a popular resource for our researchers, but the promotion of our holdings on social media has provided additional avenues to connect. Special Collections' photos were used numerous times on the library's Facebook page, and University Relations began using images from our holdings in a "Throwback Thursday" feature on Newswire. Additionally, the Research Services unit uploaded a number of images on Flickr, which has resulted in greater visibility for the department.

The number of bibliographic instructional sessions for campus members increased from 24 to 33 with a total of 701 in attendance. As in previous years, the faculty and staff continued to present at conferences and meetings around the state and country reaching hundreds of people.

Krista Casada continued to provide excellent leadership with *Index Arkansas*, an online index of Arkansas publications sponsored by Special Collections, was brought online in 2004-2005 and is continually updated. Her duties during this fiscal year included indexing current issues of periodicals, thus keeping the index current. *Index Arkansas* remains a valuable resource and one of great importance to scholars and researchers.

Joshua Youngblood leads the Research Services unit, with the able assistance of Geoffery Stark as Reading Room Supervisor, Kasey Kelm as the Reading Room Assistant, along with our hourly employees Keleigh Hibbard and Heath Robinson. The Research Services unit continues to provide excellent service to our patrons around the world.

Digitization Projects

Special Collections continued to lead the library's digitization projects. Those completed in 2014-2015 include:

A major digital collection documenting the relationship between architects Fay Jones and Frank Lloyd Wright was completed this fiscal year. The project titled "Fay Jones and Frank Lloyd Wright – Organic Architecture Comes to Arkansas" was a collaborative one between Special Collections and the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art Library and Archives. The 137-image exhibit highlights early correspondence between Jones and Wright, photographs, and other materials that illustrate the close personal relationship between the two and their families. The exhibit received international publicity and was featured, among others, in *Hyperallergic* and *ArchDaily*. The latter is a weblog highlighting architectural news and projects. The website is one of the most visited architecture sites on the internet. This project was the second collaborative project with Crystal Bridges. The first—"Fruitfull Arkansas"—focused on botanical prints in the museums holdings and Special Collections' materials on the apple industry in Northwest Arkansas. Special Collections Librarian Janet Parsch led this digital project, while Catherine Wallack helped immensely in selecting the images and provided

guidance throughout. Other employees who worked on the project include: Deb Kulczak and Jason Dean from the University Libraries' Technical Services Department; Martha Parker, Librarian-in-Residence; and, Angela Fritz of Special Collections.

Special Collections worked with the U.S. State Department and the International Institute of Education to digitize selected images and documents from the Fulbright Papers. These scanned items were uploaded to a digital asset management system to be used internally by Fulbright Program offices around the world as a way to easily access images for promotional activities. Vera Ekechukwu led this project.

Progress continued to be made with the digitization of the Ozark folksongs collected by Mary Parler and her students from 1949 to the 1960s (*Ozark Folksong Collection* (MS F 1-30 University Folklore Collection). These items, including audio recordings 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. The project will be completed in the next fiscal year, and a day-long event will celebrate the collection's availability. The project was led by Lora Lennertz with assistance from Deb Kulczak and the Libraries' Technical Services Department.

Programming and Outreach

Special Collections celebrated American Archives Month with an open house and program featured Mark Christ and Patrick G. Williams, editors of the book *I Do Wish This Cruel War Was Over: First Person Account of Civil War Arkansas from the Arkansas Historical Quarterly* (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2014). The compilation volume includes documents from the holdings of Special Collections and the editors spoke about the importance of archives in historical research. As in previous years, the University of Arkansas Press participated in the event by selling books, with a portion of the profits going to Special Collections. 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.

A new collaborative venture was established with Tusk and Trotter American Brasserie at the beginning of 2015. Special Collections and the Bentonville restaurant sponsored a series of bi-monthly events focusing on Arkansas foodways and culture. The "Homestead Series: Celebrating and Preserving the Culinary History of the Natural State" featured a presentation on the extensive role food plays in shaping the state's culture, followed by a themed dinner prepared by Chef Rob Nelson. A portion of each event's proceeds benefitted the Special Collections' foodways journal *Arkansauce*. The events held in this fiscal year include:

- January 19: "Defining Arkansas Cuisine" (featuring Tom W. Dillard)
- March 30: "Food Culture of the Ozarks and River Valley" (featuring Susan Young)
- May 18: "Food Culture of the Delta" (featuring Rex Nelson)

The department published two issues 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 Arkansas History Discussion Group continues to be an important and well-received initiative of Special Collections. 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). Created in 2006, the online listserv is 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 354 subscribers (an increase of 17 members from last year) as of June 30, 2015. For the period of July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015, there were 18,369 postings and responses to the discussion group.

Acquisitions:

Special Collections continued to purchase volumes for the rare book and Arkansas collections. During the fiscal year, 535 titles were added to the Arkansas Collection, while the Rare Books Collection was enhanced through the addition of 186 titles, including a full-color facsimile of the *Bedford Hours*, a book of hours written and illuminated in Paris in several stages between ca. 1410-1415. Another significant addition was *Excursions* by Henry David Thoreau. This first edition, published by Ticknor and Fields in 1863, features the first the published portrait of Thoreau.

Exhibits:

The Special Collections' exhibits committee, under the expert leadership of Catherine Wallack, continued to install interesting, visually appealing installations around Mullins Library. The exhibits promoted Arkansas history while highlighting the department's unique collections. In addition to the scheduled exhibits, the committee is often called upon to install displays upon short notice so as to complement events around campus. These exhibits have increased Special Collections presence across campus and beyond the campus boundaries. In addition to Ms. Wallack, the exhibit committee includes Joshua Youngblood, Amy Allen, Valerie Robertson, and Kasey Kelm. Some of the exhibits this year included:

- “Artists Books: Reinventing the Ancient Art (Special Collections Entry)
- “Arkansas Landscapes: Lost and Imagined (Special Collections Entry)
- “Arkansas’s Black Women: Making a Difference” (Walton Reading Room)
- “Fayetteville’s Own: J.W. Fulbright” (Mullins Library Research Commons)
- ““A Tune Caused the Valley to Ring’: Remembering Arkansas Folksongs, Musicians, and Collectors” (Special Collections Hallway)

- “Serenade to the Mother Land” Arkansas’s Jazz Virtuoso John Stubblefield.” (Mullins Library Research Commons)
- “‘Everybody’s Daddy Was Gone’: Life on the World War II Homefront (Mullins Library Research Commons)
- “Politics Past in Arkansas” (Mullins Library Research Commons)
- Internment and Heroism: Images of Japanese Americans during World War II from Special Collections (Special Collections Hallway)

Looking to the Future

There are a number of unprocessed collections that are excellent candidates for processing including the papers of conservative author and scholar James D. Bales, Congressman Ed Bethune, and jazz musician John Stubblefield. Ray Thornton Papers processing project is in process and should be opened for research next year. Funding through grants and other avenues to make these—and other collections—available remain a priority. In addition, collaborative projects with archives around the state and country should be cultivated for Special Collections. The expansion of digital collections that make our holdings more accessible to a global audience remains a top goal.

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
2014-2015**

Refereed Publications

- Nutt, Timothy G. (Special Collections). "St. Boniface Colony (New Dixie)." *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. 29 April 2015. Online access:
<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=7974>
- Nutt, Timothy G. (Special Collections). "Perry County War of 1881." *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. 04 March 2015. Online access:
<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=3638>
- Nutt, Timothy G. (Special Collections). "Little Rock Censor Board," in Lancaster, Guy (editor) *Arkansas in Ink: Gunslingers, Ghosts, and Other Graphic Tales*. Little Rock: Butler Center Books, 42-43.
- Nutt, Timothy G. (Special Collections). "Bob Dorough," in Lancaster, Guy (editor) *Arkansas in Ink: Gunslingers, Ghosts, and Other Graphic Tales*. Little Rock: Butler Center Books, 164-165.
- Youngblood, Joshua (Special Collections). "John Stubblefield (1945-2005)." *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. 26 January 2015. Online access:
<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=8047>
- Youngblood, Joshua (Special Collections) and Amy Allen (Special Collections). "BAD Times and Good Stuff at the University of Arkansas: University Archives, Student Access, and Promoting Diversity in Special Collections." *Archival Practice*. October 2014.

Non-Refereed publications

- Fritz, Angela (Special Collections). Rev. of the *Lee Family Digital Archive* by Washington and Lee University. *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, 52.3 (Nov. 2014): 425-426 and online.
- Fritz, Angela (Special Collections). Rev. of *The American Vice-Presidency: From Irrelevance to Power* by Jules Witcover. *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, 52.5 (Jan. 2015): 788 and online.
- Fritz, Angela (Special Collections). Rev. of *Cultural Encyclopedia of the Breast* ed. by Merrill D. Smith. *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, 52.7 (March 2015): 1120 and online.
- Fritz, Angela (Special Collections). "Featured Collection: The Ray Thornton Papers." *The Arkansian: Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department*. V. 8 no. 1 (Spring 2015): 1,4-5.

Massanelli, Megan (Special Collections). "Featured Exhibit: Literary Lifelines: Arkansas Women and Library History." *The Arkansian: Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department*. V. 7 no. 2 (Fall 2014): 3.

Parsch, Janet (Special Collections). "Featured Exhibit: Fay Jones & Frank Lloyd Wright: Organic Architecture Comes to Arkansas." *The Arkansian: Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department*. V. 8 no. 1 (Spring 2015): 8, 10.

Parsch, Janet (Special Collections) and Linda C. Jones. "The Colonia Arkansas Post Ancestry Digitization Project." *The Arkansian: Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department*. V. 7 no. 2 (Fall 2014): 5, 9.

Youngblood, Joshua (Special Collections). "Images of Arkansas: Sumer Traditions, Celebrations, and Festivals." *The Arkansian: Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department*. V. 8 no. 1 (Spring 2015): 6-7. Curated photo spread.

Youngblood, Joshua (Special Collections). "Images of Arkansas: Musicians from the Arkansas Folklore Collections." *The Arkansian: Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department*. V. 7 no. 2 (Fall 2014): 6-7. Curated photo spread.

Vimir, Kalli and Joshua Youngblood (Special Collections). "Seamless Summers." *Edible Ozarkansas* (Summer 2014): 51-52.

Presentations

Allen, Amy Leigh (Special Collections) and Timothy G. Nutt (Special Collections). "Improving Lives of Women and Children: Extension Homemakers and 4-H Clubs in Arkansas, 1914-1964." Scholarly Symposium & Extension Exhibition on the Centennial of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, Morgantown, West Virginia. 25 September 2014. Presentation. [Note: Due to extenuating circumstances, Allen presented the paper solo.]

Fritz, Angela (Special Collections). *Out of the Shadows: Hattie Caraway and the Memorialization of a Southern Political Leader*. Conference of the Southern Association of Women Historians (SAWH), Charleston, South Carolina. 12 June 2015. Presentation.

Nutt, Timothy G. (Special Collections) and Tom W. Dillard. "Finding the Lost Papers of Florence Price." Dr. Eddie Wade Jones Black Music Symposium, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas. 31 January 2015. Presentation.

Nutt, Timothy G. (Special Collections). "History of Library Service in Perry County, Arkansas." Perry County Historical & Genealogical Society, Perryville, Arkansas. 10 March 2015. Presentation.

Nutt, Timothy G. (Special Collections). "Laying the Foundation for War: Washington County, Arkansas Before the Battle of Fayetteville on April 18, 1863." Battle of Fayetteville Annual Commemoration, Washington County Historical Society, Fayetteville, Arkansas. 18 April 2015. Presentation.

Nutt, Timothy G. (Special Collections). "The Trulock Family of Jefferson County, Arkansas." Jefferson County Historical Society, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. 26 April 2015. Presentation.

Youngblood, Joshua (Special Collections). "Surviving Confinement: Health Care and Community for Arkansas's Japanese-American Internees." Conference paper, Arkansas Historical Association Annual Meeting, West Memphis, Arkansas. April 11, 2015.

Youngblood, Joshua (Special Collections) and Ellen Compton. "Kingston Presbyterianism and the Community Church: Selection from Special Collections." Invited lecture at the First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, AR. 11 March 2015. Presentation.

Youngblood, Joshua (Special Collections). "Who are Your Folk? Arkansas Folklore and Folktales." Invited all-ages presentation. Springdale Public Library. 4 October 2014. Presentation.

Youngblood, Joshua (Special Collections). "Who are Your Folk? Genealogy with Archives and Folklore Collections." Invited lecture in conjunction with the Fayetteville Roots Festival. Fayetteville Public Library, Fayetteville, AR. 27 August 2014. Presentation.