

2017

## Annual Report, 2016-2017

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Libraries. Special Collections Department

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**Annual Report**  
**Special Collections**  
**University of Arkansas Libraries**  
**2016-2017**

**Research services:**

Total Number of Patrons for the Year	2,058
Total Number of Reference Questions	1,939
Quantity of Material Used	4,120
Number of Bibliographic Instruction Sessions	43

**Processing Team:** 43 manuscript and university archives collections- up from 33 in FY16- were processed and made available for research. 100 new collections- up from 88 in FY16- were added to the department’s holdings.

Progress Made toward Achieving the Provost’s 8 Guiding Principles: Progress made as articulated in the Special Collections Department’s Strategic Plan [SCDSP]

**Priority 1. Advancing student success**

*1.2 Collaborate actively with instructors for classroom support and teaching graduate and undergraduate students how to conduct college-level research. Provide class tutorials on archival use, hold special topic lectures for advanced instruction on archival collections. Provide instruction and research consultations to every level of students across disciplines.*

During January 2017, the Research and Outreach Services Librarian collaborated with a History faculty member to integrate the department’s rare book collection into a History of the Book class. Part of each class session was held in Special Collections and taught by the Librarian.

**Building a collaborative and innovative campus**

*2.1 Collaborate with academic faculty on writing grant proposals and actively participating on grant projects.*

The department collaborated with both the Digital Services Unit and the Agriculture Librarian, to successfully pursue a CERES grant project. The funding enabled the Libraries to pursue a three-phase digitization project that began with making available the Arkansas Extension Circulars, which went live in 2017. The second phase will be to digitize the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin.

*2.3 Further develop partnerships with local campus units, and with universities, agencies, and organizations throughout the state, for example, Arkansas State Archives, Arkansas History Institute, Crystal Bridges, Delta Cultural Center, folklore centers (Batesville, Mountain View, Jonesboro, southern Missouri), film festivals (Hot Springs, Bentonville, Little Rock).*

The Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Conference was hosted in Fayetteville in May 2017; three Special Collections faculty members served on the Local Arrangements Committee, along with other archivists and librarians from around the region, which

strengthened ties with colleagues at the Shiloh Museum and the John Brown University Archives. In addition, the department invited local repositories to exhibit at the conference reception, hosted in the Libraries' Walton Reading Room, and featured exhibits from the Wal-Mart Museum, the Arkansas Country Doctor Museum, the Arkansas Air and Military Museum, Cane Hill College, and the Pryor Center. The University Libraries' role as both reception site, workshop site, and a repository tour site brought numerous archivists from across the southwest to campus and introduce them to the department's collections, possibly providing the groundwork for future collaborations.

*2.4 Pursue national and international collaborations, like the recently-released UMBRA project, to raise the profile of collections in Special Collections. Working with other library departments, seek partnerships to include additional collection resources in national databases, such as those in Reveal Digital (Independent Voices, civil rights, women's studies), civil rights projects, etc.*

With the invaluable contributions of the Digital Services Unit, Special Collections completed its contributions to REVEAL's Independent Voices project. 149 issues from four titles, drawn from both the Fayetteville Women's Library Feminist and LGBT Publications Collection (MC 2022) and from holdings in the Arkansas Collection, were digitized and will eventually be made available to the public through REVEAL.

### **Enhancing our research and discovery mission**

*3.10 Implement a digital preservation management system (e.g., Archives Direct, Preservica) for preservation of and access to born-digital archival materials.*

The Digital Storage Working Group (which includes the University Archivist, and included former Interim Head) hosted webinars on several digital preservation management systems that were open all library personnel. Preservica was selected as UA's digital preservation system. The system has been purchased and implementation will proceed in 2017-18.

*3.12 In planning for the University of Arkansas's sesquicentennial in 2021, identify essential materials to process and opportunities to enhance use, access, and visibility of the University Archives.*

Digitizing the *Razorback* yearbook and the *Arkansas Traveler* student newspaper are two significant projects to pursue before 2021. Special Collections and the Digital Services Unit have drafted initial project management and funding documents to better analyze the plausibility of pursuing one or both of these project within the 3 year timeframe.

*3.14 Celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Special Collections.*

The department worked on a collaborative exhibition showcasing select items that represent its 50 year history and contribution to scholarly endeavors. The exhibition was installed in the department's entryway.

### **Reaffirming our land-grant and flagship responsibilities**

*7.1 Be an advocate for archives in the state. Lead and participate actively in statewide organizations, including Arkansas Historical Association, the Council of University of Arkansas College and Research Libraries (CUACRL), Arkansas Society of Archivists, and ARKLink. Seek*

*opportunities for peer support and innovative collaboration in regional and national organizations, including the Society of Southwest Archivists and the Society of American Archivists.*

Amy Allen serves as co-chair of the CUACRL Digital Initiatives Committee, is on the Steering Committee of the Society of American Archivists College and University Archives Section, and served as vice chair of the Society of Southwest Archivists Professional Development Committee (will continue as chair for 2017-19). Joshua Youngblood served as chair of the Society of Southwest Archivists Local Arrangements Committee, and Amy Allen and Katrina Windon served as committee members, with Amy Allen chairing the subcommittees for catering, social events, and tours. Cat Wallack provided graphics for the conference program.

### **Departmental updates: new faculty, awards and honors**

New faculty: Katrina Windon, Accessioning and Processing Archivist

Awards: Geoffrey Stark, UA Libraries Extra Mile Award; Heath Robinson, UA Libraries Rookie of the Year

### **Publications and Presentations:**

Presentation. Parsch, Janet. "Opera in the Ozarks: Gems in the Archives." Presentation at the meeting of the National Federation of Music Clubs, South Central Region, and Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony / Opera in the Ozarks Membership, Eureka Springs, Arkansas, July 14, 2016.

Parsch, Janet, moderator. "The James D. Bales Papers: A Case Study of MPLP Applied to a Grant-funded Project." Todd E. Lewis and Heath Robinson, presenters at the Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Meeting, Fayetteville, Arkansas, May 27, 2017.

Poster Session: Allen, Amy Leigh, Mary A. Gilbertson, Deborah E. Kulczak. "Connecting Access from Metadata to MARC." Presented at the Society of American Archivists, Atlanta, GA, July 31-August 6, 2016.

Poster Session: Windon, Katrina. "All of the Above: Multi-purpose Donor Forms for Web Archives." Presented at the 2017 Digital Initiatives Symposium, San Diego, CA, February 5, 2017.