

2022

## Annual Report, 2021-2022

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Libraries. Special Collections Department

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# University of Arkansas Special Collections Annual Report 2021-2022

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*Change proved our constant companion in Special Collections during academic year 2021-2022. Over the course of the year, the Special Collections Division fully resumed in-person services following the Covid-19 pandemic, prepared for the migration of the Library catalog, experienced transitions in staffing, and began preparing for a complete renovation of our spaces. Despite these many changes, our faculty and staff remain committed to supporting research, teaching, and learning with the collections we steward. The stories in this report highlight the impact of our work over the past year.*

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## Preparing for Renovation

Over the course of the year, Special Collections began preparing for renovation. All of our spaces will be renewed, and we are excited that the renovation will bring a dedicated classroom for Special Collections instruction, improved environmental controls to help preserve collections materials, and new exhibition spaces. This year, we focused on preparing collections and spaces for the anticipated construction work. Thanks to the Library Annex, we are able to store our collections securely and in a way that will allow us to continue providing access to materials throughout the project. [Learn more about conducting research in our temporary reading room.](#)

Preparing for this large-scale renovation would not have been possible without the help of our superb student assistants: Zoe Bridgewater, Amber Cooper, Landon Grazer, Maggie Martin, Huong Nguyen, and Juliette Robinson.



1 - Before renovation: compact shelving in Special Collections prior to renovation



2 - During renovation: compact shelving in Special Collections after renovation prep was completed and collections moved to the Library Annex

## Research

Research Services, led by Emily Ward and Casiday Long, welcomed researchers from 18 countries to conduct research in Special Collections this year. Researchers used materials from 3,445 top containers in the reading room. The papers of J. William Fulbright remained the most frequently requested

collection from our holdings, followed by [the papers of Arkansas poet Edsel Ford \(MS F75\)](#), the [Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs Historical Collection \(MC 468\)](#), and the [Florence Price papers \(MC 988, MC 988a, and MC 988b\)](#).



3 - Map depicting the location of researchers during FY 2021-2022.

## Graduate Student Speaker Series

Now in its fourth year, the Graduate Student Speaker Series provides a professional development opportunity for graduate students who have done research using our collections. This year's featured speakers discussed their research on topics ranging from student activism to creating book arts.



4 - Whitney King, BAD: The history of Black Americans for Democracy at the University of Arkansas



5 - Rachel Whitaker, J.H. Phipps: Arkansas Timber Baron?

U OF A SPECIAL  
COLLECTIONS GRADUATE  
STUDENT SPEAKER:  
**PROXY  
RESEARCH  
PANEL**



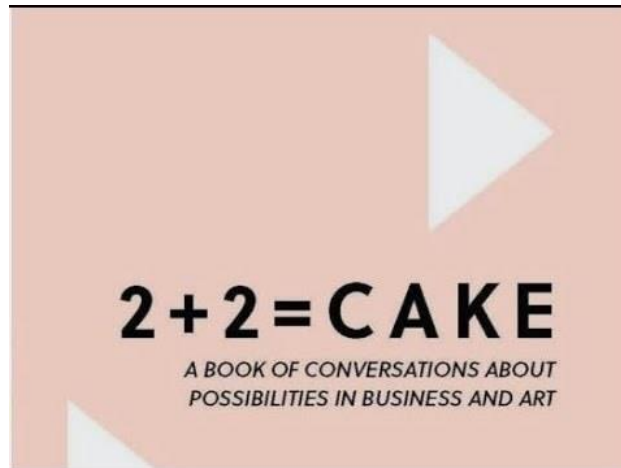
Graduate Student Panelists:  
Michael Anthony, Amanda McGee and Ryan Smith

October 6, 2021 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM via Zoom  
Register for the event at: <https://tinyurl.com/UAGradPoxyResearchPanel>

6 - Michael Anthony, Amanda McGee, Ryan Smith, Proxy Research Panel



7 - Neba Evans, A Song of the Bluff



8 - Liz Alspach, 2+2=Cake

## Archives Month Panel Discussion

In October of 2021, Special Collections celebrated American Archives month by hosting a virtual public event, "This Hill: An Archives Month Panel Discussion." The discussion focused on how various members of the U of A campus community have utilized historical documents from the University Libraries Special Collections in their research. The panel, moderated by Joshua Youngblood and Catherine Wallack, featured Lisha Estes, student engagement specialist for Teaching Innovation and Pedagogical Support; Laurel Lamb, curator of education and engagement for the U of A Museum; Jennifer Ogle, collections manager for the U of A Herbarium; Terrell Page, Honors College student; and Lesley Speller, student engagement specialist for the U of A Global Campus.

## Projects



9 - Exhibit in the Walton Reading Room celebrating the U of A's 150th anniversary

The Sesquicentennial University History Working Group planned an exhibit to highlight key people, places, and events spanning the University's 150 year history. The exhibit was curated by University

Archivist Amy Allen and featured aspects of teaching, research, and student life. It was on display in the Walton Reading Room for the 2021-2022 academic year.



10 - The Digital Buffalo celebrates the 50th anniversary of the National Park Service's first National River.

Joshua Youngblood and Dr. Trish Starks, Director of the Humanities Program, were awarded a Chancellor's Innovation grant to bring together interdisciplinary scholars from across Arkansas to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the first National River within the National Park Service. The project includes six public programs and the creation of content for digital archives; learn more at the project website, [digitalbuffalo.uark.edu](http://digitalbuffalo.uark.edu).

A working group of four members undertook a pilot project to review and revise language in our finding aids related to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. As a related project to increase access to these collection materials, we updated our finding aids with links to digital images of items that were digitized as part of the [Rising Above](#) digital project. We built upon work done by [Yale University Library's Reparative Archival Description Working Group](#) and others to apply a community-informed approach to updating and contextualizing euphemistic or harmful description. In some of our finding aids, you will now see notes that we have updated our description as part of this project; in the coming years, more such notes will appear as we continue to work to make our description more accurate and inclusive—but also to ensure that we are transparent about such interventions, which are focused on finding aid language, and do not involve any changes to collection materials themselves. We also invite researchers and community members to let us know as they encounter language in our finding aids that merits further review.

## Instruction

Kara Flynn and Joshua Youngblood collaborated with Dr. Daniela D'Eugenio, Assistant Professor of Italian, to facilitate a student-curated exhibit of materials related to Italian poet Dante Alighieri. Flynn and Youngblood taught multiple class sessions to help students prepare for the exhibit, including sessions on curation and writing exhibit text.





11 - Students in the Honors College Signature Seminar EUCLID explore rare books from Special Collections.

In Spring semester 2022, Joshua Youngblood co-taught an Honors College Signature Seminar, “EUCLID,” with Dr. Edmund Harriss of the Department of Mathematics. Fifteen honors students engaged with rare books and editions of Euclid’s *Elements* over centuries in an interdisciplinary study of geometry, history, and culture, deconstructing and interrogating the foundational role of *Elements* in the development of modern education and its intersection with imperialism, colonialism, and the history of the book.



12 - Catherine Wallack and students explore architectural drawings.

With in-person activities resuming on campus, campers from this summer’s Design Camps returned to Special Collections. Architectural Records Archivist Catherine Wallack explored drawings with over 75 campers this June.

## Now Available for Research

[University of Arkansas Reports of the Board of Trustees and President \(MC 2586.UA\)](#)

Sam Ownbey completed processing this collection of reports, including financial information, building proposals, enrollment numbers, and research developments for the University of Arkansas.



### [Jack Hill Papers \(MC 1968\)](#)

Adam Heien completed processing of the papers of journalist and documentarian Jack Hill. A selection of films from the collection are [hosted on the Center for Arkansas and Regional Studies' website](#) as part of Dale Carpenter and Robert Cochran's 2022 project, [Reporting for Arkansas: The Documentary Films of Jack Hill](#).

### [Laurence G. Luckinbill Papers \(MC 137\)](#)

Todd Lewis completed processing of the papers of playwright and actor Laurence Luckinbill. Thanks to a generous gift from Luckinbill, a number of audiovisual materials, including recordings of performances by Luckinbill, were digitized by a vendor as part of processing.

### [TheatreSquared Records \(MC 2358\)](#)

Sam Ownbey completed processing of the records of Fayetteville, Arkansas-based TheatreSquared, including organizational records and records related to the theatre's productions.

### [Carrie Vee Wilson Collection of Quapaw Recordings \(MC 415\)](#)

This small but significant collection of recordings of members of the Quapaw Tribe was processed in 2021, making available the voices and stories of tribal members. Thanks to the Libraries Multimedia Services Unit, all tapes in the collection were digitized at the time they were processed, helping to ensure these materials are accessible.

### [Ernie Jacks Papers \(MC 1265\)](#)

Catherine Wallack completed processing this collection of architectural drawings, academic materials, planning commission records, and manuscripts created by Ernie Jacks, a member of the University of Arkansas' Department of Architecture's first graduating class. In addition to his career teaching at the University of Arkansas, Jacks practiced architecture with noted case study architect Craig Ellwood and internationally recognized architect Edward Durell Stone before starting his independent practice.

### [University of Arkansas Campus Governance Records \(MC 2110.UA\)](#)

Amy Allen completed processing these records that document governance on campus from 1874-1993.

## New Acquisitions

### [Lawrence Sumulong Photographs of the Marshallese Diaspora \(MC 2557\)](#)

This acquisition, funded in part by the Honors College and the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, as well as through Special Collections endowed funds, includes 86 photographic prints by Lawrence Sumulong documenting the Marshallese community in Springdale, Arkansas. This acquisition was the focus of an [August 2022 campus Newswire article](#), and a translation of the finding aid into Marshallese is currently underway. In addition, Sumulong co-presented with Division members Lori Birrell, Joshua Youngblood, Katrina Windon, and Kara Flynn, as well as collection donor Jan Gosnell, on a panel at the 2022 Art Libraries Society of North America annual conference.

### [Russell Gayer Collection of Washington County Home Demonstration Club Records \(MC 2575\)](#)

Local historian Russell Gayer donated this collection of records representing the history of numerous Washington County home demonstration clubs, including the Baptist Ford Extension Homemakers Club and the Busy Bees Extension Homemakers Club. These records join [more than 30 other collections](#) representing the work and legacy of home demonstration clubs and extension agents in Arkansas.

Joe Nix Papers (MC 2542)

Chemist and environmentalist Joe Nix donated his professional papers, which include records related to his environmental conservation and water quality research work in Arkansas, including his political advocacy to save the Buffalo River. This collection is not yet processed but is open to research upon request.

Elliott West Papers (MC 2573)

Historian and professor Elliott West donated his papers, which include records relating to his research on the American West. This collection is not yet processed but is open to research upon request.

## Faculty and Staff Transitions

Casiday Long joined Special Collections as Research Services Specialist in October 2021.

Emily Ward began serving as Research Services Coordinator in January 2022.

Sam Ownbey joined Special Collections as the Assistant University Archivist in April 2022.

Associate Dean Lori Birrell departed the University of Arkansas in July 2022. We miss her leadership and look forward to working with her successor. Director of Special Collections Services Melanie Griffin will serve as Interim Associate Dean until a search for Dr. Birrell's replacement occurs.

## Presentations & Publications

- Anderson, Martha, Max Eckard, **Melanie Griffin**, Emiko Hastings, Deb Kulczak, Chris Powell, Olga Virakhovskaya, Caitlin Wells, and **Katrina Windon**. "Facilitating Seamless Access Through Collaborative Workflows, Advocacy, and Communication." *The Lighting the Way Handbook: Case Studies, Guidelines, and Emergent Futures for Archival Discovery and Delivery*. Edited by Mark A. Matienzo and Dinah Handel. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Libraries (2021): 39-52. <https://doi.org/10.25740/gg453cv6438>
- Fisher, Jeanie, **Melanie Griffin**, and Amanda Hawk. "Implementing the Standardized Statistical Measures and Metrics for Public Services in Archival Repositories and Special Collections Libraries." Workshop presented at the RBMS 2022 Virtual Conference, June 2022.
- **Flynn, Kara**. "'Slightly prepared: a survey of how archival professionals develop management skills." *Journal of Archival Organization* 18.1-2 (2022): 77-99. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15332748.2021.1992208>

- **Flynn, Kara** and **Lori Birrell**. "Fostering Graduate Student Research: Launching a Speaker Series." *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage* 22.2 (2021): 71-84. <https://doi.org/10.5860/rbm.22.2.71>
- Hawk, Amanda and **Melanie Griffin**. "Adherence to Standardized Measures and Metrics for Public Services in U.S.-Based Special Collections Libraries and Archival Institutions." *Journal of Library Administration* 62.5 (2022): 673-688. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01930826.2022.2083443>
- **Lewis, Todd E.** "'I am a homosexual': Dr. Ralph Hyman and the AIDS Epidemic, 1981-1990." Presentation at the Arkansas Historical Association Conference, April 2022.
- Pierce, Stephanie, **Melanie Griffin**, and Lora Lennertz. "Creating Community: Laying the Foundation for an Assessment Program." Presentation at the Southeast Library Assessment Virtual Conference, November 2021.
- **Wendon, Katrina**. "'Cut Off from Fair Play': Representing Labor Issues in the Context of the Elaine Massacre." *Where Are the Workers?: Labor's Stories at Museums and Historic Sites*. Edited by Robert Forrant and Mary Anne Trasciatti. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press (2022): 113-123.
- **Wendon, Katrina**, and **Amy L. Allen**. "Move to Improve: Increasing Intellectual Control During a Physical Move." *Archival Issues* 41.1 (2021): 29-43. <https://www.iastatedigitalpress.com/archivalissues/article/id/13205/>
- **Youngblood, Joshua**. "Pressing the Struggle: Lee Hays, the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, and the Popularization of Labor's Plight." Paper presented at session "Beyond the Union Rolls: the Interconnectedness of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union," American Historical Association Annual Meeting, 2022.
- **Youngblood, Joshua**. "The Ballad of Emma Dusenbery: The Intersection of Archives, Folklore, and Social Change." Folklore in the Archives Online Symposium, 2021.

## Service

- **Kara Flynn** served as Editor for the *Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies*.
- **Melanie Griffin** served as chair of the Budget & Development Committee for the Rare Books & Manuscripts Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries.
- **Katrina Wendon** served as the chair of the Society of American Archivists' Privacy and Confidentiality Section, a member of the National Best Practices for Archival Accessioning Working Group, and a grant reviewer for the National Historical Publications and Records Committee.
- **Joshua Youngblood** served as a grant reviewer for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and as a reviewer for the Society of American Archivists' Case Studies on Teaching with Primary Sources.