Spring 2015

University Libraries - Spring 2015

University Libraries--University of South Carolina

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DO YOU NEED ITEMS FROM SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY?

South Caroliniana Library on the university’s historic Horseshoe is preparing for renovations. Materials have been moved offsite, and the process for requesting research materials has changed. Please request materials before your visit by contacting the reference staff at 803-777-3132 or sclref@mailbox.sc.edu.

The library is open 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.
In the past year, you may have read stories about the University Libraries acquiring the archives of Pat Conroy and Elmore Leonard. In reality, we acquire collections almost on a weekly basis. In some cases it might be a home movie collection given to our Moving Image Research Collections or the papers of a person prominent in politics to our South Carolina Political Collections.

Over the years, the South Caroliniana Library has amassed more than ten million letters, diaries and other manuscripts from South Carolinians in all walks of life.

We are proud that individuals want to have their most precious materials preserved as part of our collections. Our philosophy is to acquire collections that will be used by generations to come and never to allow them to remain on a shelf unused. It is a responsibility and a solemn trust to our donors that we will promote our collections by incorporating them into the teaching and learning of our university and to make these materials available to the citizens of our state, our nation and the world.

Equally important is our responsibility to provide a proper environment to maintain and preserve the items in our collections. We are very blessed to have our Hollings Library, which remains one of the finest special collections libraries anywhere. Even so, our Moving Image Research Collections and South Caroliniana Library are housed in less than appropriate environments.

In the coming months, you will have the opportunity to help us as we attempt to secure funding from the state legislature for infrastructure upgrades for the South Caroliniana Library. This library houses a unique collection of materials related to the history of our state in a nearly two-century-old building. We need to provide security for a legacy that belongs to every citizen of our state by improving the fire suppression and humidity and climate control where these collections are housed.

I ask you to stand with me as we ask for financial assistance to protect our state’s most precious documents.
NEW ONLINE ORAL HISTORY EXHIBIT

A new online exhibit, “Rosenwald Schools of South Carolina: An Oral History Exhibit,” features 43 oral history interviews, a timeline, maps and more, all detailing the experiences of African-American students who attended Rosenwald schools from the 1920s to the 1970s. Rosenwald schools were founded by Julius Rosenwald, who was president of Sears, Roebuck and Co. There were more than 5,000 such schools, shop buildings and teachers’ houses — including 500 facilities in South Carolina — across the South. Site visitors can read full transcripts, listen to audio recordings and share their memories at http://library.sc.edu/digital/collections/scrosenwald/index.html.

The Elmore Leonard Collection

The archive of American crime fiction writer Elmore Leonard is now at home at University Libraries. Leonard (1925-2013) was the author of numerous novels, including Get Shorty, Out of Sight, Hombre and Freaky Deaky, many of which were made into films. With the addition of Leonard’s complete archive — which includes 450 drafts of manuscripts, short stories and screenplays, as well as awards, typewriters and even a desk — University Libraries is now among the premier research centers for crime fiction worldwide. The libraries are also home to the collections of detective heavyweights George V. Higgins and James Ellroy. An additional collection acquisition is set to be announced later this spring.

HAVE YOU MET...

PAUL CAMMARATA
ASSISTANT COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT LIBRARIAN
THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY

“We are a member of PASCAL, the Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries, a consortium of the state’s academic libraries. PASCAL is a good example of how we’re efficiently using university resources by joining the consortium.

“PASCAL allows a lot of libraries, us included, to share thousands of e-books through subscription to certain databases. This gives our patrons access to a lot of material, and it gives us the kind of data we are always seeking. Knowing how often a book is used or an article is downloaded helps us answer questions such as, ‘Should we own this book or just buy access to it?’ Items that have been used again and again over a span of time by our patrons would be candidates for purchase.

“Most of the e-books are scholarly, and all are full-text searchable. To see the 180,000 unique titles available through PASCAL, simply search the libraries’ catalog at libcat.csd.sc.edu. Faculty, staff and students can access the e-books remotely, but they must first login to their university account.”
Libraries chosen for national traveling exhibit

The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., has announced that the University Libraries will be the only South Carolina venue for its 2016 national traveling exhibit of “First Folio: The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare.” Published seven years after his death, “Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies” is now known as the “First Folio” and was the first folio book ever published in England that was devoted exclusively to plays. Of the plays written by Shakespeare, 18 have survived only because they were published in the First Folio. USC’s exhibit is scheduled for April 11 – May 1, 2016.

EXHIBITS AT HOLLINGS LIBRARY

“Governors at Work and Play: National and Regional Governors’ Conferences”
South Carolina Political Collections, through May

In 1956, meeting a legendary comedy duo was one of the activities for lawmakers who attended the 48th annual Governors’ Conference in Atlantic City. Here, S.C. Governor George Bell Timmerman Jr. talks with Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis during a screening of their new picture Pardners.

“HIV/AIDS in America: The First Decade”
Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, through May 1

“League of Women Voters of South Carolina”
South Carolina Political Collections, through April

Learn more at library.sc.edu.
Frankenstein is never a dull read, but when Jeanne Britton unrolls enormous 18th- and 19th-century maps for her English 419 class, Mary Shelley’s novel really springs to life.

“Maps help us to understand the spaces in literature. In one course I’m teaching, ‘Reorienting Plot: Maps and Fiction,’ I use rare maps to get students to think about perspective and plot and how they relate to space,” said Britton, curator of Rare Books and Special Collections. “When we read fiction, it is good to think about narrative perspective. Taking Frankenstein and combining it with study of original maps of the Alps, the Arctic and Great Britain, a few of the locations in the novel, is one effective way to do this.

“And when we study Joseph Conrad’s Heart of Darkness, we look at maps with ‘blank spaces’ and ‘white patches’ like those that inspired the novel’s main character,” said Britton, a USC graduate who has a background in comparative literature. “When I saw all those 19th-century travel narratives from the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, and especially the elaborate fold-out maps they include, I thought, ‘We have to read Heart of Darkness and use these.’ I’m using a lot of Arader items, including heavy use of the natural history engravings in an English 288 Romanticism course.”

The W. Graham Arader III Collection is a teaching collection of approximately 15,000 natural history watercolors, woodcuts, engravings, lithographs, chromolithographs and maps from the 16th to 20th centuries. A world-renowned dealer in maps and engravings, Arader has made it clear the items should be used to educate. Libraries Dean Tom McNally and College of Arts and Sciences Dean Mary Anne Fitzpatrick worked together to plan how the Arader items would be integrated into the curriculum and to create the dual faculty position that Britton now holds. There are only a handful of such posts in the nation, and it is a first for USC.

And while she frequently borrows from the Arader Collection, Britton has all of the University Libraries’ collections at her fingertips.

“I’m assisting a Latin professor whose class is reading an epic poem by Virgil. ‘The Aeneid’ is about the founding of Rome, and the libraries have hand-colored Renaissance maps in the John and Mary Osman Braun and Hogenberg Collection that we’re using to show how narratives rely on movement,” she said.

Britton’s classes meet in the Hollings Library, where the items are housed.

“This allows us to have something from the collections for every class meeting, which greatly amplifies what students learn in the classroom.”
DEDICATED TO DIGITIZING, ONE PAGE AT A TIME

Digital Collections at the University Libraries is celebrating 10 years of sharing USC’s unique collection materials online.

“Ten years ago, the libraries made available their first digital collection: the Otto F. Ege Manuscripts,” said Kate Boyd, digital initiatives coordinator. “Today the libraries have more than 150 digital collections with more than half a million images available online.”

Digital collections provide free and open access to print, pictorial and audio-visual collections that reside in library and archive special collections. The national move to create digital collections began in the early 1990s.

The digital collections department at USC doesn’t have its own collections. Instead, it works closely with special collections areas to digitize and make available their materials. A strong team of library faculty and staff have dedicated themselves to making this happen.

“Ten years ago, the digital initiatives team was pulled together with representatives from all of the special collections, and that group is still with us today,” said Elizabeth Sudduth, director of the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. “We work together very well, and we still meet on a regular basis. We also have Digital Preservation and Digital Oversight Committees, which foster conversation about digital collections and collaboration across library units.”

From the beginning, students have been instrumental in the growth of the department.

“Library science and public history students play a big role in what we are able to accomplish, because they do a lot of the scanning of materials and data entry,” Boyd said. “Working with us also gives them the chance to learn the technology, to learn how to create metadata, and to practice project management skills. And many of our former student workers are now in digital collections departments across the country.”

If you would like to support Digital Collections at USC, please contact Carol Benfield at 803.777.1278 or benfield@sc.edu.

OUR NEWEST DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Angelica Singleton Van Buren Collection
Berkeley County Photograph Collection
Charleston Earthquake, 1886
Henry William Ravenel’s Private Journal
Joseph M. Brucoli Great War Collection
Rosenwald Schools of South Carolina: An Oral History Exhibit
Tin Pan Alley
The Gamecock newspaper
The William Gilmore Simms Digital Edition
The South Caroliniana Library Map Collection

Enjoy free access to all of the libraries’ Digital Collections at library.sc.edu/p/Collections/Digital/Browse.

Tin Pan Alley: Sheet music dated 1890-1922 from the Music Library collections
HAVE YOU MET...
KATE BOYD, DIGITAL INITIATIVES COORDINATOR
DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

“In 2004, USC Libraries made available their first digital collection: the Otto F. Ege Manuscripts. Today the libraries have more than 150 digital collections, with more than half a million images available online.

“My introduction to what a digital collection could be began in library school. I scanned spy letters at the Clements Library at the University of Michigan for a digital collection ‘Spy Letters of the American Revolution.’ I later worked at the Library of Congress on their ‘American Memory’ project and primarily on their first international digital library, ‘Meeting of Frontiers,’ a large collection of primary resources on the history of Alaska.

“I came to USC as a reference librarian in 2001. Our dean at the time, Paul Willis, was from the University of Kentucky where they had a robust digital collections department. In 2004 he asked if I would start a department here. Other institutions in South Carolina were thinking about digital collections at the time, so we started to get together to share ideas. We’ve now formed several partnerships, and one of those resulted in the S.C. Digital Library, one of the first service hubs for the Digital Public Library of America.”

NEW FACES AT UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

MIKE BERRY
Curator of Published Materials
South Caroliniana Library

JEAN CLENNEY
Business Librarian
Thomas Cooper Library

SHANNA SCHAFFER
New appointment:
Assistant Collection Development and Acquisitions Librarian
Thomas Cooper Library
In the Smith and Wunder families, generosity is a stalwart legacy passed from generation to generation. Their most recent gifts reside in the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections in the Hollings Library.

The Smiths’ generosity has brought the Pat Conroy Archive to the university. A comprehensive collection of the author’s manuscripts, scrapbooks, correspondence, screenplays and photographs includes 10,000 handwritten pages. The Prince of Tides author will add materials throughout his lifetime.

A community advocate and the matriarch of a family full of USC graduates, Dorothy Brown Smith shared her love of learning with her three sons.

“My mother believed in the value of education and the central role a library plays,” said son Richard Smith. “The Conroy Archive is a gift from the Smith family in honor of my mother, and I don’t think we could have done anything better to honor her. Everyone — my wife, Novelle, our daughters Lisa Attaway and Stella Ball, even our nieces — was involved in the decision to support the libraries this way.”

One of those nieces, Meredith Gary-Taylor, is a 2011 USC graduate and is the newest graduate to carry on her grandmother’s USC legacy.

Long-time USC employee Harriette Wunder and her family have made a monetary gift to help develop the children’s literature collection at the University Libraries. The gift honors her granddaughters, five-year-old twins Emily and Lucy Harling. Special items that have been purchased with the funds to date are an early work illustrated by Maurice Sendak, Seven Little Books on Big Subjects, and a group of 19th-century children’s books.

“I had an insurance policy that I wanted to cash in, and when we were talking about the amount and what it might purchase, we learned that the children’s literature collection at the libraries was growing and there was a need for funds there,” said Wunder, who retired from University Foundations in 2004.

“My husband, daughter and son-in-law are all graduates of USC, and involving family and the university seemed like a good thing for us to do. We visited the Irvin Department one day, and the girls were just fascinated by some of the things in the collection, especially the miniature books and the pop-ups. This has been a happy experience for us, and we plan to build on it over the years.”

For information on ways to support the libraries, visit library.sc.edu/develop/develop.html or call 803-777-1278.
Members of the Research, Instruction and Reference Department assisted thousands of faculty, staff, students and other researchers during fall 2014.

BY THE NUMBERS

| Taught 35 sections of LIBR 101 Online, reaching | 838 students |
| library instruction sessions, course-specific workshops and orientations, reaching 4,690 students and faculty |

| Help Desk answered | 18,308 |
| reference questions – face-to-face, online and by phone |

| Scheduled one-on-one research consultations through the Book-a-Librarian service | 64 |
| Learn more and schedule a class session or workshop at library.sc.edu/p/Services/Instruction. |
"As an academic, you live in a library," says Jessica Kross, and she would know. She was a Carolina history professor for 33 years and now volunteers in the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Her love of libraries goes back to childhood when she breathed her first whiff of the papery ambience of a Carnegie library in upstate New York.

Little wonder that she has designated a planned gift to underwrite the University Libraries' efforts to digitize and disseminate its materials. "I don't care about leaving something behind with my name on it," she says. "I am committed to higher education and supporting University Libraries is part of that."