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Short Subjects: News Reels

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NEWS REELS

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has been awarded a $5,000 grant from the Unitarian Universalist Association for the conservation of the papers of Judith Sargent Murray, an early advocate of female rights. The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is funding both the microfilming of the Murray papers and microfilming of selected Mississippi newspapers that are in danger of deterioration. The newspaper portion of the grant is $26,317.

Preservation Day was held 26 April 1988 on the steps of the Old Capitol in Tallahassee, Florida. Highlights of the day's activities included a legislative briefing session and a reception honoring F. Blair Reeves of the University of Florida for his years of service to the cause of historic preservation.
The South Carolina Department of Archives and History was awarded $2,976 to support printing of the state's historical records assessment report and a summary brochure.

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On 17 November 1987, the Alabama State Records Commission recognized the Alabama Department of Revenue as the first micrographics lab certified under the state's new program. Several other labs have since become certified.

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The University of Louisville (Kentucky) has been awarded a grant of $22,775 to create or improve finding aids for six of the university's recent accessions relating to women's history. Collections for which finding aids will result include the papers of Gerta Bendl, a Louisville alderwoman in the early 1970s, and of Sara Landau, an economist, teacher, world traveler, and social reformer. New or improved finding aids will also be developed for the records of the Business and Professional Women of Kentucky, 1921-1985; the local chapter of Professional Secretaries International, 1943-1983; the League of Women Voters of Louisville, 1920-1980; and the Louisville Young Women's Christian Association, 1912-1979.

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Guide to Kentucky Archival and Manuscript Collections, Volume One will be published in the fall of 1988. An introductory volume, The Guide to Kentucky Archival and Manuscript Repositories, which gives a brief overview of two hundred eighty-five repositories, is still available for $12. For copies of either publication, contact: Barbara Teague,
The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives awarded grants totaling $430,599 to local governments during the 1987–1988 fiscal year. The local records program is designed to improve the management and protection of the vital records of Kentucky’s local governments. Governments receiving funds to date have undertaken projects for security microfilming, restoring damaged or deteriorated records, converting heavily used records to alternative formats, codifying original ordinances, and purchasing equipment and supplies.

The Tennessee State Archives will have a remote access terminal to an experimental database of one million digitized pages from the Military Service Record files for the Confederate army from the state of Tennessee. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has created the database to test the capabilities of enhancing the image of documents that are deteriorating badly as part of its Optical Digital Image Storage System (ODISS). The digitized technology will then be compared to microfilm copies of the same records. Access to the database, which is also available from NARA, is by name, rank, or regiment.

The Society of American Archivists received a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for $56,400 ($5,000 of it matching) to publish a series of seven new manuals entitled Archival Fundamentals.
The National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA) was awarded a grant of $106,450 to develop an archival preservation planning tool for use in state and local government archives and other archival institutions. Products will include self-survey materials for repositories and a preservation planning resource notebook.

"Microenvironmental Research and New Directions in the Care of Collections" was the topic of the third annual preservation conference that was held on 12 April 1988 in the National Archives Theater. The conference addressed issues related to the microenvironments in which archival and library materials are stored and displayed. Speakers discussed research relating to the effect of temperature, relative humidity, and air quality on record materials in various enclosure formats and settings. Practical applications for such data also were covered in the context of preservation decision making, environmental controls, and storage enclosures. For more information, contact the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) recently sponsored a conference on electronic records. The conferees included the archivist and deputy archivist as well as the representatives of the National Archives of Canada, the United Nations, the World Bank, the General Services Administration, the National Aeronautical and Space Administration, and the Office of Management and Budget.
Charles Dollar, assistant director of the Archival Research and Evaluation Staff (NSZ), was moderator of a panel composed of three speakers from NBS. The conferees were briefed on the work to be undertaken jointly by NARA and NBS, which will establish a policy on the preservation of electronic records and will develop standards for the transfer, storage, and accessioning of these records.

The Archives and Museum of LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City, New York, has created a computerized information retrieval system to manage collection holdings of three thousand photographs. The project, funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant of $25,000, will create a machine-readable index (subjects, people, and places) to photographs of Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia, as well as develop a model computer system. For more information about the computer system, contact: Richard K. Lieberman, Archives and Museum, La Guardia Community College, 31-10 Thompson Avenue, Long Island City, New York 11101; or telephone (718) 626-5078.

The New York State Archives and Records Administration has issued a new brochure designed to promote better management of historical records programs. Entitled "Ensuring a Usable Past for Your Community: The New York Citizen's Guide to Evaluating and Improving Historical Records Programs," it provides information to strengthen the identification, collection, access, and administration of historical records programs. For more information or to request copies, contact: Ms. Terri Sewell, Education Program Aide, State Archives and Records Administration, 10A63 Cultural Education Center, Albany, New York 12230; or telephone (518) 474-6926.
The University of Alaska-Fairbanks has published a guide to the personal and official papers of the state’s first elected governor. The *Guide to the William Egan Papers, 1940-1984* is now available for $12 including postage and handling from the Alaska and Polar Regions Department, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-1005; or telephone (907) 474-7261.

North Carolina State Archives has received an endowed internship from Dr. Lenox D. Baker, a prominent Durham physician and the state’s first Secretary of Human Resources. The endowment, which accompanies the donation of Dr. Baker’s papers to the archives, is handled by the Friends of the Archives, Inc.

The Florida State Archives research room, office, and staff areas will be renovated beginning in August 1988 and will take from ninety to one hundred twenty days to complete. Reference service during this time will be limited. Please contact the archives after 1 August for more information.

The Florida State Archives has published the *Guide to the Records of the Florida State Archives*—a 327 page document which details the public records, manuscripts, and local government records maintained by the archives. Its compre-
hensive index will enable researchers to access the collections by name, corporate title, subject, and geographic location to a degree not previously available.

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The Alabama Department of Archives and History has produced a listing of Alabama newspapers on microfilm. This listing contains purchase information on approximately 4,500 reels containing 262 Alabama titles. Copies of the listing are available for $8 each. To obtain a copy, contact: Clara Jehle, Alabama Department of Archives and History, 624 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama 36130; or telephone (205) 261-4361.

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The Society of Georgia Archivists (SGA) will assist the Society of American Archivists (SAA) in holding the 1988 SAA annual meeting in Atlanta from 26 September through 2 October 1988. Volunteers from the SGA are helping the local arrangements committee arrange tours and publicize the city's many attractions.

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