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News Reels

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News Reels

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) will build a new facility dubbed "Archives II." On 22 September 1988 President Reagan signed Public Law 100-440, the Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations Act, authorizing NARA to construct and finance Archives II. The new building will be built on a thirty-three-acre site on the northwest end of the University of Maryland campus at College Park. The federal government will receive usage of this land without charge. The design of Archives II will be completed in early 1990 and construction is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 1993. The National Archives plans to begin to move into Archives II in 1994.

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The Society of North Carolina Archivists (SNCA) is sponsoring a creative workshop on the conservation and preservation of library materials. Conducted by Thelma George, Conservation Technician at Perkins Library, Duke University, the workshop will consist of discussions of the enemies of library materials with demonstrations of restoration practices and book and paper repairs. This workshop will be held on 2 March 1989 in conjunction with the SNCA spring meeting at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Enrollment is limited to fifty. Registration information may by
obtained from the Society of North Carolina Archivists, P.O. Box 20448, Raleigh, NC 27619.

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The North Carolina Division of Archives and History has revised its guide to county records. The new tenth edition of Guide to Research Materials in the North Carolina State Archives, Section B: County Records is available from the archives for $10.00 plus $2.00 postage and handling. The 319 page guide contains a summary list of the records for each North Carolina county housed in the state archives. In all, the new edition of the county records guide lists more than 5,900 bound volumes and 10,000 cubic feet of loose records, as well as 22,000 reels of microfilmed records, that can be used by researchers interested in genealogy or local history.

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The South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH) has recently completed its long-range plan, which places heavy emphasis on new outreach activities to schools and the general public, planning for a new facility, and employee pay, training, and morale issues. The plan also moves the agency toward a unified archival/records management program and the concept of life-cycle tracking of records. The South Carolina Historical Records Advisory Board has completed the state’s records assessment report and released the publication in early September. Copies of the long-range plan and the assessment report are available upon request from the SCDAH, P.O. Box 11,699, Columbia, SC 29211.

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A former librarian at the University of Georgia, Robert M. Willingham, Jr., was found guilty of stealing manuscripts, rare books, and prints from the university library’s special collections department. He was sentenced to fifteen years in prison and ordered to pay $45,000 restitution. Willingham was convicted of
thirteen of fourteen counts and is appealing his sentence. The chief charge against him was the theft of Les Lilaceous, an eight-volume collection of flower prints by Redoute. Only two volumes of that work have been recovered and many of the prints in them were missing. It is, of course, more lucrative to sell such prints individually rather than in their original book form.

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The Society of American Archivists workshop, "Understanding the MARC Format for Archives and Manuscripts Control," will be held in Atlanta, Georgia in March 1989. For more information contact Ginger Cain, Special Collections, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322.

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This past summer the Georgia Department for Archives and History broke ground for a new state records center. The center will feature state-of-the-art materials handling, inventory controls, lighting, and ventilation. In the summer, the heat rising to the peaks of the sawtooth pattern of the clerestory roof will be exhausted through temperature-activated louvers. Other features include a high reference area, computerized location controls, a current systems microfilming operation, and a security vault for microfilm storage. The two-tier shelving system, each with its own loading dock, will reduce the need to move records vertically inside the building. The administration area will house offices, special audit rooms, staff lounge, and a locker room.

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The Athens (Georgia) Historical Society and the University of Georgia Foundation have entered into an agreement to establish the Susan Frances Barrow Tate Fund. This fund honors Mrs. Tate for her contributions to the study of Georgia history. A founding member of the Athens Historical Society, she was a
librarian in what is now the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library from 1954 to 1976. During this period of service, her unique knowledge of Georgians and their history provided a valuable resource for the hundreds of graduate students, professors, and other researchers, whom she willingly aided. The fund is established in her honor to benefit the Hargrett Library, the center of her professional life and a major repository of Georgiana, in its efforts to procure rare books, documents, and other materials. The Hargrett Library is located on the third floor of the University of Georgia Libraries main building. For more information contact Tom Camden, Hargrett Library, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens, GA 30602.

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The University Archives and the Richard B. Russell Memorial Library, departments within the University of Georgia Libraries, are cosponsoring an exhibit "All Blood Runs Red: The Life of Eugene Jacques Bullard." Bullard, a native of Columbus, Georgia, was the only black aviator in World War I. An expatriate, he flew with the French Air Corps and received the Croix de Guerre. The exhibit will run the month of February 1989 in the main library lobby.

In conjunction with the exhibit, University of Georgia professor of history John Morrow will give a presentation on Bullard and his activities. Dr. Morrow is currently the Charles A. Lindbergh Professor at the Smithsonian. His appearance is sponsored by University Archives, Russell Library, the Department of History, the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, and Afro-American Studies. For more information contact Sheryl Vogt, Russell Library, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens, GA 30602; 404-542-5788.

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In September the Mississippi State Historical Museum opened seven permanent exhibits interpreting Reconstruction in the state
from 1865 to 1900. The exhibits are entitled "Aftermath of the War," "Reconstructing Politics," "Responses to Freedom," "Cotton Stranglehold," "At Home," "Solid South," and "Women's Education." About three hundred artifacts are featured in the exhibit and include such unique items as a handpainted ceiling from a rural house in Kempe County, a Washington hand press, the interior of a sharecropper's cabin, and original constitutions of 1868 and 1890.

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The Department of History at Mississippi State University, with the aid of the Mississippi Humanities Council, sponsored its eighth annual Presidential Forum on Turning Points in History, 1 and 2 November 1988. The topic this year was "Emancipation in the United States, Russia, and Brazil." Speakers included John Blassingame, Yale University; Peter Kolchin, University of Delaware; and Robert Brent Toplin, University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

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The University of Kentucky's Division of Special Collections announced publication of A Guide to Selected Manuscripts Housed in the Division of Special Collections and Archives, M.I. King Library, University of Kentucky. The guide represents the final phase of a project begun in 1985 to improve bibliographic access to the university's Kentuckiana manuscript holdings. Funded by a grant from the United States Department of Education, Title II C Program, the project included on-line cataloging of the manuscript collections at the record level and the preserving of many of the division's most prized and historically significant primary source materials.

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Cost of Preservation Microfilming at Research Libraries: A Study of Four Year Institutions by Paul B. Kantor has been published by the Council on Library Resources. The study's goal was to
identify the range of variability for cost associated with selecting and preparing books for microfilm preservation, filming, and maintaining quality control and adequate records. The report analyzes the data supplied and information obtained from site visits to four libraries: the University of Chicago Library, Columbia University Libraries, the New York Public Library Research Libraries, and the Library of Congress.

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The Archives of American Art, part of Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and the major center for original source materials on the lives of American artists and craftsmen, has just released its award-winning video, "From Reliable Sources." The twenty-five minute video takes a behind-the-scenes look at the archives and goes beyond the priceless collection of documents to reveal a fascinating world of collectors, dealers, and artists not otherwise seen in a visit to the archives. To order the video, write to the Office of Telecommunications, Smithsonian Institution, American History Building, Room BB40, Washington, D.C. 20560.

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The Jackson Barricks Military Library in New Orleans recently became fully operational. A computer has been loaded to provide rosters listing only Confederate States of America (CSA) soldiers from all Louisiana units. The library houses a large manuscript collection pertaining to the Trans-Mississippi Department, CSA.

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The Research Library Information Network (RLIN), with the aid of a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), will expand its seven state archives project to include the states archives of nine other states including Georgia, Virginia, and Kentucky. The new project, which is scheduled to begin 1 March 1989, will encompass description of
state governmental archival record series and agency histories as well as appraisals of some current records.

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MicroMarc: AMC, a microcomputer software produced by Michigan State University under the direction of Fred Honhart, received the Society of American Archivists's C.F.W. Coker Prize for outstanding finding aids and innovative development in archival descriptive tools. Version 2.0 of the software, released in 1988, has improved speed in updating of indexes and a more flexible search module, allowing the user to redefine the fields on which the search indexes will be created. For more information contact Fred Honhart, University Archives and Historical Collections, EG-13 Library Building, MSU, East Lansing Michigan, MI 48824-1048 or call (517) 355-2330.

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New York State Archives and Records Administration (SARA) has announced that three Reference and Research Library Resources Systems (3R's) have received a total of $104,860 under the new Documentary Heritage Program to provide advice and assistance to the historical records programs in their regions. The New York Metropolitan Reference and Research Library Agency (METRO) in New York City has received $35,000; the South Central Research Library Council headquartered in Ithaca has also been awarded $35,000; and the Western New York Library Resources Council, whose office is in Buffalo, has received $34,860.

Each of the regional sponsors will hire an experienced archivist, establish a regional advisory committee, draft a preliminary statement of needs, hold regional workshops, and provide direct services to selected historical records repositories. This first year of the Documentary Heritage Program initiates the development of a regional advisory system that is expected to expand to all nine 3R's in the state as funding becomes available in subsequent years.
For more information contact Larry Hackman, Director of SARA, Office of Cultural Education, New York State Education Department, 10A46 Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230 or call (518)474-1195.