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Alice Walker Places Archives at Emory

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ASU's Reese Library news and notes

The Reese Library of Augusta State University is pleased to announce the receipt of three grants.

The first award is a grant from Nextbook and the American Library Association for a reading and discussion series titled: "Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature." This is the second time Reese Library has received this grant. The project director is Yadira Payne, interim Government Documents librarian. Dr. Robert Bledsoe, associate professor of English at ASU, will again act as the project scholar. He will be leading the discussions that delve into both contemporary and classic Jewish literature.

The second award is a National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Grant, which provides funding for training in the preservation and conservation of archival and related materials. The training will be provided by SOLINET, and the participants will receive SOLINET's Basic Archives Curriculum Certification. Participants are Yadira Payne, John O'Shea, Carol Waggoner-Angleton and Jennifer Boone from Reese Library; Janet Jordan, from the Department of History, Anthropology and Philosophy; and Judy McAlhany from the Augusta-Richmond County Historical Society.

Reese Library has also been selected to receive the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) *Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*, a core set of conservation books, DVDs and online resources. In addition to Reese Library, the Lucy Craft Laney Museum and the Morris Museum of Art Library, both in Augusta, have been selected to receive the *Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*. According to the IMLS, "These small libraries and museums are taking up the charge to care for America's heritage." ►►

Alice Walker places archives at Emory

Alice Walker, Pulitzer Prize-winner and internationally known Georgia-born novelist and poet, will place her archive with Emory University. "The acquisition of the Alice Walker Archive is a major addition to Emory's collection," said Provost Earl Lewis. "Scholars and students from around the world will find in these papers Alice Walker: her commitment to social activism, literary genesis, personal growth and development, spirituality and self. We are delighted that she has entrusted us to share this aspect of her with the world."

Walker has written most frequently about the struggle for survival among Southern blacks, particularly black women. She also has given literary voice to the struggle

for human rights, environmental issues, social movements and spirituality, as well as the quest for inner and world peace. Often considered controversial for her portrayals of racial, gender and sexual issues, Walker is widely recognized for her thoughtful weaving of realism with love for humanity and human potential. In 1983 Walker became the first African-American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, which honored her novel *The Color Purple*.

The completeness of Walker's archive makes it truly exceptional, says Rudolph Byrd, professor of American studies and a founding member of the Alice Walker Literary Society, an international organization of Walker scholars and enthusiasts. "The archive contains journals that she has been keeping since she was 14 or 15 years old," said Byrd, who also is a friend and colleague of Walker's. "There also are drafts of many of her early works of fiction, as well as the back and forth between Alice and the editors for each book. "Her papers give you a sense of the process for creating fiction and for creating poetry," Byrd said. "Everything that she's ever written, she has a record of — it's very exciting." ►►

UWG's Ingram Library news and notes

The University of West Georgia celebrated the centennial of its library's founding on Jan. 27. The library began with a book shower hosted by professor J.H. Melson, principal of the Fourth District Agricultural & Mechanical School, and his wife, Penelope Stevens Melson, who subsequently volunteered as the school's librarian. The centennial marked the formation of Ingram Library's Penelope Melson Society and the inauguration of the Second Century Collection. Members of the Melson and Ingram families attended the event, which included music by the Carrollton High School Show Choir and bluegrass band Bullsboro as well as historical exhibits.



Michelle Morgan, president of Ingram Library's Penelope Melson Society and Director of University Libraries Lorene Flanders

Suzanne K. Durham has been appointed head of Special Collections at Ingram Library, replacing Myron House, who retired. Jean Cook was appointed instructor and instructional services librarian, and Dean Sullivan has been appointed instructor and government documents librarian.