

Summer 2006

State News

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Recommended Citation

(2006) "State News," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 54 : Iss. 2 , Article 11.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol54/iss2/11>

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STATE NEWS

ALABAMA

To honor the memory of her husband Hibbert Masters Weathers, Jr, Mrs. Jewell Ammon Weathers stipulated in her will that the Birmingham Public Library receive a \$100,000 gift. BPL will establish a fund in the name of Mr. Hibbert Masters Weathers, Jr., an inquisitive mind and avid reader, who was a frequent patron of the Birmingham Public Library. The library humbly accepts this gracious gift and will use these funds to further its mission statement of offering life-long learning, cultural enrichment, and enjoyment to all the citizens of Birmingham, as well as honoring the name and memory of Hibbert Masters Weathers, Jr. For additional information, contact Barbara Sirmans, Director.

ARKANSAS

Mark your calendars for the 2007 Alabama Library Association Convention! April 17-20, 2007 in Mobile, Alabama.

The Arkansas Literary Festival was celebrated April 21-26 in the River Market District of Little Rock. The festival is an annual event that is free to the public and celebrates literacy, language, and the written word. The festival includes author readings and discussion, autograph sessions, children's activities, musical entertainment, outdoor exhibits, and special fundraising activities. Proceeds from the festival benefit Arkansas Literacy Councils, Inc., and fifty volunteer adult literacy councils across Arkansas.

The *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture* went online amid much fanfare on

those records to searchers on the open Web. Libraries can access the eSerials Holdings Web site at www.oclc.org/eserialsholdings to pre-register for the service. Orders can be made from the site beginning July 9.

the second of May. Launch activities included a preview party the evening before the unveiling, a press conference the morning of May 2, and celebrations around the state. The encyclopedia is an ongoing project of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies of the Central Arkansas Library System. The project's goal is "to provide a reliable resource for students, teachers, historians, and the general public." The encyclopedia may be accessed at www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net.

The William F. Laman Public Library of North Little Rock held the grand opening of its Argenta Branch on June 22, 2006. A ribbon cutting ceremony and reception were held that morning, and an Argenta Branch Fun Family Fest took place that evening. The building, newly refurbished and remodeled, was built in 1895, and has housed City Hall, the Central Fire Station, and several private businesses. The library shares the building with the North Little Rock History Commission, which is located on the second floor.

FLORIDA

The University of South Florida Libraries' Special Collections Department released *Collecting Florida: The Hampton Dunn Collection and Other Floridiana*. Authored by University Librarian **Paul Camp**, this full-color book tells Florida's rich history using images and materials from the Libraries' Floridiana collections.

Collecting Florida is dedicated to Hampton Dunn, a man known for his vast knowledge, zeal and love for Florida history. Author and journalist Hampton Dunn began donating his collection of notes, interviews, papers, photographs, manuscripts and other research material to the USF Tampa Library in 1982. The publication of *Collecting*

Florida was made possible by a generous donation from the Dunn family.

In addition to telling the story of Dunn and his collection, Camp uses each chapter to illustrate a different aspect of Florida and USF Libraries' Special Collections using beautiful images, and colorful foldouts. The book's thirteen chapter themes include Tampa immigrant and mutual aid societies, African American collections, cigar industry and art, the Tony Pizzo Collection, Florida sheet music, and the Seminole Wars. Paul Camp has spent more than 30 years at the USF Tampa Library. His familiarity with the collection and Florida history in general is incomparable. Camp has published numerous articles on Florida history.

Collecting Florida: The Hampton Dunn Collection and Other Floridiana is available for \$25 at the USF Bookstore. The 140-plus page soft-cover book is available can also be purchased by contacting Special Collections at (813) 974-2731.

GEORGIA

Trans-Atlantic Slave Voyages Data to Go Online



Scholars at Emory University have been awarded grants to revise and expand a renowned database of slave trade voyages—fully 82 percent of the entire history of the slave trade—and make the material available for free on the Internet for the first time.

The grants include \$324,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and \$25,000 from Harvard University's W.E.B. DuBois Institute for African and African American Research. The expansion of the current database is based on the seminal 1999 work "The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade," a CD-ROM that includes more than 27,000 slave trade voyages and has been popular with scholars and genealogists alike.

"We're trying to do for African Americans what's been done for Euro-Americans already," says David Eltis, Robert W. Woodruff Professor of History at Emory and one of the scholars who published "The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade." Eltis and Martin Halbert, director of digital programs and systems for Emory's Libraries, are directing the project.

For the full press release see attached or go to

<http://news.emory.edu/Releases/SlaveVoyagesData1150901442.html>

KENTUCKY

The Kentucky Library Association (KLA) will be celebrating the 100th birthday of the association at the annual Association meeting, September 27-29, 2006 at the new Marriott downtown Louisville, KY. The following paragraphs are excerpts from an article that will be appear in the Fall issue of "Kentucky Libraries". The Past Is Prelude; K.L.A.'s First Forty Years By Mrs. Hammond Dugan, *Archives Department, University of Kentucky*

"...On June 26 and 27 the first state-wide meeting of librarians was held in Louisville and 52 members laid the foundations of the Kentucky Library Association. The librarian who signed the invitation and who became the association's first president was the state's first professionally trained librarian, William F. Yust, head of Louisville's recently organized Free Public Library. The

meeting was held in its imposing new building, partly built with money given by Andrew Carnegie."

" ...The birth of K.L.A. in 1907 was certainly the result of strong private leadership and intelligent, if intermittent, planning for a richer life. Louisville supported not only a large central library, but several branch buildings as well; Lexington's new classical building was supplemented by three little stations in a store and two homes: some fifteen towns had public libraries or were preparing to establish them. And in 1910 the dream of the K.L.A. and club women seemed to be fulfilled by the legislature's passage of legislation which created a Kentucky Library Commission. Its first executive officer was the popular Fannie C. Rawson, who had promoted the traveling libraries of the federation of Women's Clubs. It should be noted, too, that before she took up her new duties, Miss Rawson spent a year in the New York State Library School."

" ... The objects of the new association were as follows: (1) to arouse interest in libraries throughout the state, (2) to promote good fellowship among librarians and others interested, (3) to promote inter-library loans and exchanges, (4) to spread knowledge of the educational system of the state and encourage co-operation with the schools, (5) to collect library statistics for the state and assist other organizations aiming at state development" (Kentucky Library Association, *Bulletin*, II pp. 6,7, October 1934).

The 40 year history, *The Past Is Prelude*;..... appeared in Vol. 12 #2 June, 1948 *Bulletin of the Kentucky Library Association*. This and another article of the 25 year history of KLA will both be reprinted in the next issue of "*Kentucky Libraries*", Vol. 70 #3, Summer, 2006, due out mid-August.

NORTH CAROLINA

UNC Library Digital Collections

Three new online collections herald an expansion of the digital library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's University Library. The projects—which cover Civil War maps, the activity of tobacco bag stringing in the Depression-stricken Southeast, and the anti-poverty activities of the North Carolina Fund—bring unique research materials to the online environment, said Pat Mullin, Associate University Librarian for Access Services and Systems. Mullin headed the group that developed the projects and that currently oversees digital initiatives at the library. "With today's technology, the library can deliver remarkable collections directly to the people who need to use them," said Mullin. "It also means that people who might not visit Chapel Hill or another large library have the opportunity to delve into our shared heritage in a way that they never could before."

The three projects, all available through the library's digital collections page (<http://www.lib.unc.edu/digitalprojects.html>) are as follows:

- **The Gilmer Civil War Maps Collection.** When the library began considering items to digitize, Laura Clark Brown, head of public services in the Manuscripts Department at UNC's Louis Round Wilson Library, knew right away that the Jeremy Francis Gilmer Collection of Civil War maps and drawings was a prime candidate. Digitizing the maps not only brings them to the researcher's computer, but provides new tools for study. The online collection incorporates JPEG2000 technology which allows the reader to zoom in on any portion of the image and magnify it. "The access can actually be better online than with the originals," said

Brown. Jeremy Francis Gilmer was a United States Army engineer and Confederate chief of engineers. The 131 maps and engineer's drawings that make up the online collection are part of the larger Jeremy Gilmer Papers, held in the Manuscripts Department. Items on the site represent the entire southern region, with a particular emphasis on North Carolina and Virginia.

- **Tobacco Bag Stringing.** A second online collection explores tobacco bag stringing, a piecework activity that helped sustain families in the tobacco-growing regions of North Carolina and Virginia during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Following imposition of a federal minimum wage in 1938, the Virginia-Carolina Service Corporation, based in Richmond, Va., prepared a report as part of its lobbying campaign to exempt home workers in order to protect their livelihood. The North Carolina Collection at UNC's Wilson Library holds the only known copy of this report, said Jill Wagyu, reference assistant in the collection. The report contains 145 glued-in photographs of bag stringers and their families, along with brief biographical information about the subjects. The online site presents both the text of the report and the annotated photos. Wagyu said that this project highlights the potential for library resources to be used in new ways. "It's a report about a very specific activity, but it really opens so many windows." Among potential users of the site, she listed those interested in social and economic history, the tobacco industry, women's work, and the often undocumented lives of the rural poor.

- **The Billy E. Barnes Collection.** The enduring problem of poverty also forms the basis for the library's third new digital collection. As public relations director for the North Carolina Fund from 1964 through 1969, photographer Billy Ebert Barnes documented poverty in North Carolina and the fund's anti-poverty programs and activities. The Barnes Collection, also part of the North Carolina Collection, holds thousands of negatives, from which the 422 images now online are drawn. Requests for the Barnes photos have increased in recent years, said Stephen Fletcher, the library's photographic archivist, and that was part of the rationale for making some of the images available digitally. Fletcher expects scholars, public policy researchers, documentary historians and others to find value in the images which include searing photographs of workers, children, and the elderly, as well as the activities meant to improve lives.

All three projects are part of a larger UNC library initiative to develop the Carolina Digital Library, said Mullin. "We have extensive experience with scholarly digital publishing," Mullin noted, referring to the library's ten-year-old Documenting the American South program (<http://docsouth.unc.edu>) which brings carefully selected and edited full-text publications, manuscripts, and other materials to the Web. "It was time for us to build on that experience and to experiment with complementary digitization models."

In these three most recent projects, the library piloted the use of CONTENTdm, a commercial digital collection management software which Mullin believes will eventually make it easier for UNC's librarians to develop and maintain online collections. The library also announced in February that it was joining the Open

Content Alliance, a group of organizations seeking to build a permanent archive of digitized text and multimedia materials on the World Wide Web. And recruitment is currently under way for a head of the Carolina Digital Library program.

“This is an exciting time for the library,” said Mullin. “The most rewarding part is knowing that we are making it easier for people everywhere to discover and learn from the extraordinary collections in our care.”



Mrs. Cora Wingler, a tobacco bag stringer in Reddies River, North Carolina, was photographed in 1939 by the Virginia-Carolina Service Corporation.

First Two Moreland Library Faculty Fellows Tapped at the NCSU Libraries

The NCSU Libraries is pleased to announce the establishment of the Donald E. and Verdie S. Moreland Library Faculty Fellowship, founded to support the recruitment and retention of the most scholarly, dedicated, and creative members of the library profession. The Moreland Library Faculty Fellowship provides funds to help offset the cost of relocating, which helps the NCSU Libraries recruit the best library professionals throughout the country. Through this generous gift, the Morelands take an important step to assure the best library service for NC State students and faculty today and in the future.

The NCSU Libraries is proud to introduce

the first two Donald E. and Verdie S. Moreland Library Faculty Fellows: Kevin Schlesier (2005/2006) and Janelle Joseph (2006/2007). Kevin Schlesier, Exhibits and Outreach Librarian for Special Collections, came to the NCSU Libraries from the National Library of Medicine, where he received the National Library of Medicine Special Act Award in 2004. He has an M.A. in museum studies from George Washington University, and a B.A. in history cum laude from SUNY-Binghamton. Most recently, he curated the photographic exhibit "Wolfpack Baseball: A History of Achievement", which will remain up at the D. H. Hill Library through August 1, 2006.

Janelle Joseph is one of the class of 2006-2008 NCSU Libraries Fellows. Joseph holds an M.A. in Information Resources and Library Science and a B.S. in agricultural economics from the University of Arizona. She is a graduate of the University of Arizona's Knowledge River, a center for the study of information resources and technology issues related to American Indians and Hispanics. Joseph will work in Collection Management in the NCSU Libraries and on a project to plan and deliver services in the new Learning Commons.



WolfBlogs Service for NC State Bloggers Launched

The NCSU Libraries has launched [WolfBlogs](#), a blog hosting service designed to support the personal, curricular and scholarly communication activities of students, faculty and staff at NC State. Blogs can be described as web pages that empower users to add content simply by filling in forms, without needing to know any HTML. The entries, or "posts," are easily sorted and searched.

[WolfBlogs](#) allows anyone with a Unity ID to create blogs, modify their look-and-feel, and invite other contributors.

To ensure that WolfBlogs would offer the features and flexibility demanded by a campus with thousands of potential bloggers, the NCSU Libraries evaluated various free, open-source blog software options. They selected and adapted the [Roller](#) application developed by NC State alumnus and Sun Microsystems staff engineer David M. Johnson together with a team of collaborators.

UNC to Host International Conference on Evidence-based Library and Information Practice

Library and Information Science professionals from around the world will come together in Chapel Hill-Durham for the 4th International Conference on Evidence Based Library and Information Practice (EBLIP4), hosted by the University of North Carolina on May 6-9, 2007. The conference will offer scholarly discussions about the future of evidence-based practice in the information professions and serve as a forum for current research taking place in the field. The conference will be followed by two days of continuing education opportunities on May 10-11.

"Evidence-based library and information practice is an exciting concept that promises to transform our profession," said Dr. Joanne Gard Marshall, organizer and alumni distinguished professor at the UNC School of Information and Library Science. "Following on successful conferences in the UK, Canada and Australia, 2007 is a perfect year to host this ground-breaking international conference in the U.S. We look forward to sharing ways of linking research to practice that will improve services in all types of libraries and information settings and assist in knowledge transfer and development during this time of demographic transition in our field."

The conference will address topics such as:

- Improving the quality of library and information services
- Building and accessing the knowledge base of the profession
- Defining and setting standards for evidence-based practice
- The role of library administrators, professional associations and other stakeholders in promoting evidence-based practice
- Identifying key practice areas requiring systematic review of the evidence
- What can we learn from other professions that have implemented evidence-based practice?

In addition, the conference will highlight papers and posters that present research based on the highest standards of evidence-based librarianship, as well as workshops on how to do evidence-based practice, how to assess the library and information science literature, and how to apply evidence-based practice in different kinds of library and information settings.

Evidence-based librarianship, as defined by Anne McKibbin, et al. at the 1996 ASIS meeting is "an approach to information science that promotes the collection, interpretation and integration of valid, important and applicable user-reported, librarian-observed, and research-derived evidence. The best available evidence, moderated by user needs and preferences, is applied to improve the quality of professional judgments."

The conference is held every two years and brings together participants from diverse branches of the library and information profession who are interested in using evidence-based practice to improve their information services and make better informed decisions. Previous conferences have been held in the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. The year 2007 will

mark the first time the meeting will be held in the United States.

The conference will be held at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Conference Center in Durham, NC, which is a 10 minute ride from the Raleigh Durham International Airport.

For more information, please visit the conference website at www.eblip4.unc.edu.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held May 10 for the South Carolina Political Collections (SCPC) wing which is being added to the University of South Carolina's Thomas Cooper Library. A similar wing will be added to the opposite side of the library to house the University's rare books and special collections holdings with a groundbreaking on June 14.

Featured speakers for the SCPC event were the Hon. James B. Edwards, former governor of S.C. and the Hon. Ernest F. Hollings, former U.S. Senator from S.C. Remarks were also offered by Paul Willis, Dean of Libraries; Andrew Sorensen, President of the University; Herb Hartsook, Director of SCPC; and Trip King, Director of Development for SCPC.

The James B. Edwards Collection held by South Carolina Political Collections documents Dr. Edwards' life and career in public service. With the 1991 announcement that Senator Hollings would donate his papers to the University of South Carolina, University Libraries created a political collections division, now called South Carolina Political Collections, to manage the Hollings Collection as well as other collections held or acquired by USC.

South Carolina Political Collections was created to document South Carolina government and political activities at the local, state and national levels in the post-World War II era. SCPC collects, arranges and preserves the papers of individuals and

organizations playing key roles in government and politics. Collection donors include members of Congress, governors, leaders in the General Assembly, political parties, party activists, journalists, and others.

The SCPC wing will consist of three floors and contain public spaces such as a multi-function lecture hall and auditorium, a reading room, exhibition galleries, a conference room, and a mini-theater. South Carolina Political Collections currently holds more than seventy collections including the papers of contemporary politicians. South Carolina Political Collections has received national recognition for its superior role in documenting contemporary government, politics and society.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held June 14 for the Rare Books & Special Collections wing. Speakers included President Andrew Sorensen, Dean Paul Willis, representatives from the library's donors and the Class of 1956, and Dr. Patrick Scott, Director of Special Collections. Construction is being funded with a combination of private gifts, federal monies secured by former Senator Ernest F. Hollings, grants, and donations to the George Terry Memorial Fund.

After years of planning, construction will begin shortly on the new home for Rare Books & Special Collections (RBSC). A 40,000 square foot wing will be added to the west side of Thomas Cooper Library as part of a multi-stage plan to modernize and upgrade physical facilities for all USC libraries, and, when complete, will provide RBSC with attractive space for all these activities-exhibits, teaching, public programs, and digital projects, as well as expanded and up-to-date study space for researchers. Both wings will feature environmentally friendly "green" elements, spurred by a planning grant from the Kresge Foundation. The RBSC wing will consist of four floors and contain public spaces such as orientation and exhibition galleries, a multi-

use meeting room and visual materials display gallery, a reading room and a reference area, and teaching rooms with "smart classroom" technology. In addition, up-to-date stack areas will provide space for expansion, as well as enhanced environmental conditions, fire prevention, and security to ensure the long-term availability of these extraordinary collections.

VIRGINIA

VCU Libraries Receives Eisner Awards Archives

The Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards, the premier comic awards known as the "Oscars" of the comic industry, has announced that the Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards Archives will become part of the Comic Arts Collection of the VCU Libraries.

The Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards are awarded every July at Comic-Con International in San Diego, the world's largest gathering on comics and comic art. The awards archives consist of books, comics, and other materials that have been nominated for or have won Eisner awards since 1992. The items have previously been kept in storage by Comic-Con International but will now be available for use of researchers as part of the James Branch Cabell Library's Comic Arts Collection.

"The James Branch Cabell Library was chosen for the archives because it already houses one of the largest collections of materials related to the study of comic arts in the United States," said Eisner Awards Administrator Jackie Estrada. The Comic Arts Collection consists of a wide range of over 100,000 items, including over 30,000 traditional comic books along with graphic novels, memorabilia, collectors' items, comic journals, fanzines and broad array of reference materials to support the entire collection. With the addition of the Eisner Archives, the rapidly growing collection will

provide one of the most comprehensive collections for the study of comic arts in North America.

The Comic Arts Collection began in the 1970s with the donation of a large comic book collection and the papers of noted editorial cartoonists Fred Seibel and Bill Sykes. Over the years, the collection has increased greatly with donation from across the nation including Dr. William Blake's collection of rare World War II era comics. The collection has benefited greatly from the expertise of Professors M. Thomas Inge and Tom De Haven, researchers in the fields of popular culture and the comic arts. It now includes tens of thousands of comic books dating primarily from the 1960s to the present; the papers and art of Seibel and Sykes; Billy DeBeck's personal library and the door to his studio apartment, featuring an original painting of Barney Google and Sparkplug; a number of set design paintings from the 1960s Batman television show and movie; an extensive collection of fanzines; and many other materials.

"The Eisner Award Archives is especially relevant to an institution like Virginia Commonwealth University," said John Ulmschneider, University Librarian for VCU. "With one of the nation's most prestigious art schools, the Archives will provide crucial insights to students and faculty studying the vast diversity of styles in drawing, painting, and visual storytelling. And historians, artists, and sociologists throughout the nation will benefit from easier access provided by the James Branch Cabell Library to such an important collection of comics and comic-related materials."

"I think it is quite fitting for the Eisner archives to go to the Cabell Library, considering who James Branch Cabell was," said Estrada. "His early 20th century satirical fantasies were highly influential not only on literary, science fiction, and fantasy authors but also on comics creators, including Neil Gaiman."

For additional information on the VCU Comic Art Collection, please visit <http://www.library.vcu.edu/jbc/speccoll/comicbkl.html> or contact Curtis Lyons, head of Special Collections and Archives at the James Branch Cabell Library, at ulsbsc@vcu.edu or by telephone at (804) 828-1108. For additional information on the Eisner Awards, please visit http://www.comic-con.org/cci/cci_eisners_main.shtml or contact Jackie Estrada at (619) 286-1591.

PEOPLE NEWS

ARKANSAS

The board of the Arkansas State Library has named **Dwain Gordon** as associate director. Gordon received master's degrees in Library Science and in Education, both from the University of Mississippi. Gordon has been a librarian with the Central Arkansas Library System (CALs) in Little Rock for the past eighteen years, and most recently has served as Manager of Youth Collections. Prior to working at CALs, Gordon held positions with the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library in Tennessee and with the First Regional Library System in Hernando, Mississippi.

GEORGIA



The Northwest Georgia Regional Library System is pleased to announce that **Erik Lewis** was recently named Assistant Director at the regional library system, which is headquartered in Dalton, GA. Mr. Lewis' primary assignment is to serve as Branch Manager for the Dalton-Whitfield Library.

As an Assistant Director, Mr. Lewis will also be managing regional technology services and assisting with regional administrative functions of personnel, finance, and collection development.

Mr. Lewis has 10 years of library-related experience, including service in and to public libraries, and at the state library level. He obtained his Masters in Library Science from Clarion University in Clarion, PA.

Dr. Gordon N. Baker has been appointed Director of Libraries at Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia effective July 1, 2006. Baker has served as Head of Public Services and Interim Library Director previously. Prior to his association with CSU, Baker was a Coordinator of Instructional Technology & Media Services and Library/Media Specialist with the Henry County (GA) Schools in McDonough for 15 years.

Emory University has named **Richard E. Luce** vice provost and director of the university libraries. Luce, who currently is research library director at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, will assume the post Aug. 14.

As research library director at Los Alamos since 1991, Luce has managed a world-class scientific research library with a \$12.5 million budget that supports information delivery in a high technology environment serving 4,000 Ph.D.s and 8,800 laboratory researchers. He has forged regional, national and international public information and communication technology collaborations