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Short Subjects: News Reels

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A task force designated by the National Archives and Records Service has recommended the establishment of an Archival Research and Evaluation Unit to report to the Archivist of the United States on current technology that could be applied to storage, retrieval, and preservation problems. The task force wants the unit to draw on the expertise of the business and research community in an effort to set goals and to find technologies for meeting the goals during a period of budget cutbacks.

Recommendations from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) needs assessment grants in Mississippi and Georgia contain similarities. Both recognize the need for attention to local governmental records, machine-readable records, conservation, cooperation among archival agencies, and archival education. While both reports place responsibility for promoting archival education and distributing information with the state archival organization, Georgia envisions an even larger role for its society. A guide to the holdings of archival repositories, which was recommended in both states, was produced with grant money in Georgia. Though Georgia desires a review of the legislative mandate of its state archives, Mississippi wants additional storage space and improved micrographics in its state archives.

NHPRC has more money than expected for 1983. The next deadline for applications is 1 September. For more information contact Edie Hedlin, NHPRC, National Archives Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20408 or call (202) 724-1616. Grants in the Southeast announced at the end of 1982 included $37,561 to the Alabama Department of Archives and History to improve the records management program and $23,616 to Mississippi Valley State
University, Itta Bena, Miss., for arrangement and description of university records.

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A new system for protecting color photographs is available from Permacolor Corporation, 701 Parkway, Broomall, Pa. 19008. The life of a color photo on display under fluorescent light can be greatly increased by Permacolor's process of matting and hermetically sealing the photo. For the same price as a frame and glass, a photo can have the advantage of a procedure which filters out damaging wavelengths of light.

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There has been recent increased use of computers, both micro and mini, by archives and related organizations in the state of Georgia. The Society of Georgia Archivists has computerized its mailing list. The Russell Library, University of Georgia Libraries, has applied an Apple computer to processing of manuscript collections. Atenco Business Archives in Atlanta uses a computer to manage a records retention service for private businesses. Troup County Archives acquired a minicomputer for word processing and other applications. A survey of the nationwide use of computers in archives is being conducted by Peter Schinkel for an SAA presentation. To participate in the survey contact Schinkel at Georgia Department of Archives and History, 330 Capitol Ave., S.E., Atlanta, GA 30334.

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U.S. Representative Thomas I. Downey (D-NY) introduced legislation early in 1983 to restore the tax deduction of fair market value for donations to archives and museums of literary, musical, or artistic compositions by their creators. Similar legislation has also been introduced in the Senate after being passed by the Senate Finance Committee in the last Congress. Due to
present tax law many writers and artists have deferred donation of their records in hopes of gaining more favorable tax incentives for themselves or their heirs. The U.S. Copyright Office is seeking changes in the law to exempt unpublished works from consideration in section 108 of the 1978 law. Several other proposals that have been made will be of concern to archivists.

★★★★

Georgia's 250th birthday is being celebrated through the coordination of more than four hundred local events throughout the state. Gardening, travel, communications, transportation, agriculture, religion and the military are some of the themes scheduled for displays and events in the latter part of 1983. The Georgia Department of Archives and History plans to aid the retention of local governmental records with the program theme "A Year for the Record." Many repositories in the state have erected displays and given support to local activities. For further information write to the Georgia Semiquincentenary Commission, P.O. Box 2139, Savannah, GA 31498.

★★★★

A new state archival group, the Society of Florida Archivists, held an organizational meeting in Daytona, 5 May 1983. A constitution for the group has been drafted. Those organizing the society include Ed Tribble, State Archivist of Florida; Carla Kemp, Florida Division of Archives, History, and Records Management; Dean Debolt, University of West Florida; and Caroline Mattern, University of Florida.

★★★★

North Carolina State University is offering a Master of Arts in Applied History. Half of the thirty-six-hour course falls in historical studies with the rest in archival management, including classes in iconographic materials and archival conservation. Two three-hour
practicums, which can be substituted for a thesis, involve supervision by the state archivist of North Carolina and a project in the student's area of interest. The University of South Carolina has started a similar program. For more information about the North Carolina program, write: Director of Graduate Studies, Department of History, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27650.

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The Duke University Manuscript Department has received approval from their university librarian to initiate OCLC cataloging of manuscript collections. OCLC cataloging will supplement the more detailed indexing of manuscript collections provided by the department's card catalogs and will provide collection-level access to the department's holdings by subject and main entry in the library's primary public catalog or any online replacement thereof. All collections cataloged since the publication of the manuscript department's printed guide in 1980 will be entered in OCLC.

Staff of the library's cataloging department will work with the manuscript department to provide further training and to develop manuscript workforms and workflow procedures. It is expected that catalogers in the manuscript department will fill out an OCLC manuscript workform when they complete the cataloging of a collection, and this workform will be submitted to the cataloging department for review by a professional cataloger to see that all information conforms to AACR2 standards before the record is entered in OCLC.

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The Kentucky Historical Records Needs Assessment Project, a one-year grant funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, recently compiled its final report for distribution to interested parties. Some of the short-term recommendations coming out of the project for Kentucky historical records
repositories included: workshops on archival and records preservation topics, institutional loan of microfilm equipment for records preservation, establishment of an archival information clearinghouse, and a reporting mechanism for statewide historical records accessioning. Long-term recommendations focused on expanded institutional interdependence, adequate staffing for archival programs, a state-supported technical assistance program, and more clarity as to the appropriate repository or repositories for historic records in special subject areas.

Copies of the final report are available from Dr. Lewis Bellardo, Director, Public Records Division, Department for Libraries and Archives, Box 537, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.