The C. Edgar and Julie Grissom Collection of Ernest Hemingway

PHYSICIAN DONATES UNPARALLELED COLLECTION OF PRINT MATERIALS

EDGAR GRISOM’S DEDICATION TO THE HUNT brought a remarkable collection of Ernest Hemingway print materials to the USC Libraries this fall.

“I wanted to find and catalog everything,” said the now retired physician who began to amass his collection in the late 1960s. “It was like an Easter egg hunt, and you never knew what would lie in the bush. You just had to keep on keeping on.”

That persistence paid off. The C. Edgar and Julie Grissom Collection of Ernest Hemingway is a unique and comprehensive collection of more than 1,200 rare print Hemingway items, most of which are in fine or near fine condition. Items include editions, printings and issues of books, as well as periodical appearances, galleys, keepsakes, translations and anthologies. The collection was built over the course of 40 years and includes some of the rarest print Hemingway titles, such as the first and second editions of Three Stories and Ten Poems; the first and second printings of the American edition of In Our Time, as well as the British edition and other scarce early editions; the three early printings of The Torrents of Spring all in dust jacket; and the first edition of The Sun Also Rises. It also includes numerous sets of advance uncorrected proofs and salesman’s dummies.

“Combined with its existing Hemingway holdings, the University of South Carolina will now have the best Hemingway collection that I know of in the world, a Hemingway collection that is the most complete and most oriented to scholarly work,” Grissom said.

Indeed, the addition of the Grissom collection establishes USC as the premiere research center for the study of Hemingway’s print works.

“These are research collections that we acquire because they are valuable to our faculty and our students for their research,” said Tom McNally, dean of University Libraries. “We don’t buy these collections to put them on the shelf. We specifically select items that are going to enhance research at the university.”
New Faces

Colin Wilder, Associate Director, Center for Digital Humanities

Colin Wilder is the new Associate Director of the Center for Digital Humanities (CDH), which is now part of the USC Libraries. He holds a B.A. in philosophy from Yale University and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago. Before joining the CDH, he was Solmsen Research Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Brown University. His historical research focuses on networks analysis of large groups of readers, writers and texts in early modern Europe.

Emily Doyle, Business Librarian, Springs Business Library

Emily Doyle, a new business librarian at the Springs Business Library, gained experience in library science while working in Lauinger Library’s Special Collections Research Center at Georgetown University; in the World Bank’s Library and Archives of Development; as a regional manager for Opinion Archives in Boston; and at The MIT Press. She has an MLIS and a Certificate in Advanced Study in Digital Libraries from Syracuse University. She also has a master’s of accountancy as well as bachelor’s degrees in business administration and animal science from Auburn University.

Emily Doyle

Jessica Harvey, Music Cataloger, Music Library

Jessica Harvey has recently transitioned from temporary to full-time Music Cataloger at USC. Prior to that, she worked as a cataloger at Georgia Perimeter College, and as a temporary research assistant in the music cataloging division at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has a long history at the USC Music Library, beginning with employment as a student worker in 2003. She received bachelor’s degrees from USC in English and psychology. She received her master of library science from UNC Chapel Hill.

Jessica Harvey

People News

Kathy Snediker, Interim Head, Springs Business Library

Kathy Snediker is the new interim head of the Springs Business Library. She has been a librarian in the Reference Department of Thomas Cooper Library since 2011. Before coming to USC, Kathy served as the Associate Director of Library and Instructional Technology Services at Newberry College, Newberry, S.C. Prior to studying library science, Kathy worked in corporate environments as an operations manager and team leader. Kathy received her MLIS from the University of South Carolina in 2007, and she received her B.A. in history from the University of Virginia.

Kathy Snediker

UPCOMING EXHIBITS

HOLLINGS LIBRARY

IRVIN DEPARTMENT OF RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS GALLERY

“A Sort of Brilliance in the Room: Two Centuries of Charles Dickens”

November - January 2013

SOUTH CAROLINA POLITICAL COLLECTIONS GALLERY

“The Best Circus: Campaigning for President, 1952 to 2000,” featuring campaign memorabilia from SCPC collections, through November


SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY

LUMPKIN FOYER

“Seventieth Anniversary of the Formation of the 345th Bomber Group,” through December 20

“South Carolina Composer and Librettist Carlisle Floyd,” January 10 – March 9, 2013
A new USC Libraries’ collection chronicles the extraordinary careers of father-and-son cameramen Harry and Bill Birch. Harry was behind a camera during the infancy of film; Bill was a cameraman during the infancy of television. Together they left a legacy that has become the **Harry and William Birch Collection** at Moving Image Research Collections (MIRC).

“Harry and Bill saved everything: cameras, film, paperwork, still photographs, scrapbooks, awards,” said Marjorie Fritz-Birch, who was married to Chicago native Bill Birch for nearly 30 years before his death in November 2011. “The collection is a complete photographic history dating back to 1915.”

Highlights of the Birch Collection include 1933 films of the Chicago World’s Fair by Harry, a comprehensive scrapbook of Bill’s wartime service in the Signal Corps, and early television news by Bill. Other items include Harry’s Debrie Parvo “Model K” 35 mm silent camera, and Bill’s 1979 Ikegami camera, one of the first professional video cameras. Comprised of more than 40 hours of motion picture film and video, photographs, paper records and equipment, the collection compliments MIRC’s world-class newsreel and television news film.

“Bill loved the business – he worked well into his 80s – and he had such an amazing career,” Fritz-Birch said. “His father began as a silent newsreel cameraman, so Bill was raised in the business. When he was still in his teens he went to work for Fox Movietone News as a newsreel cameraman, and when war broke out he joined the military and got in to Hollywood director Frank Capra’s Signal Corps Unit.

“After the war, newsreels were going out of style and television was new,” she said. “Bill started and ran the NBC network news bureau in Chicago, and he was one of three NBC cameramen. He was with NBC for 15 years. He covered a lot of presidential campaigns, including Harry Truman’s, who was a personal friend of his. Bill covered the 1957 race riots in Little Rock, Arkansas, and he was even riding on Fidel Castro’s Jeep when Castro rode into Havana in 1959.

“Bill opened his own company, like his father had done, doing documentaries, and then he had a successful career in movies. In 1980, he was the Second Unit Director of Photography on Coal Miner’s Daughter, and he was the Chicago Director of Photography on The Blues Brothers. He shot the opening scenes and stunts on that film.

“Bill won awards for his work all his life, including Silver Screen Awards for documentaries and commercials. One year, he won five awards in the News Pictures of the Year competition for excellence in photo journalism from the National Press Photographers Association. There were five categories and he won all five. Last year, he was inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.”

Once the collection is cataloged and made available, students will be able to peer into Harry’s silent camera and see Bill’s candid interviews with Harry Truman.

“The University of South Carolina is an educational institution with a strong undergraduate focus, and the Birch Collection will be an enormous instructional resource,” said Greg Wilsbacher, MIRC’s newsfilm curator. “Many of the items, including the cameras, will be used to show how films were made.”

The Birch Collection came to the University through a years-long friendship between MIRC and Bill and Marjorie.

“Bill contacted us a number of years ago,” Wilsbacher said. “He had heard that we had some newsfilm that had been taken by his father Harry. In fact, MIRC has more than 100 of his father’s nitrate films. Bill had never seen them, and asked if he could see one or two that may have survived the years. We made transfers of almost all of his dad’s films onto VHS. As they were ready, we would ship them to him so he could enjoy them.

“Bill had expressed a longstanding wish that the collection come to MIRC,” Wilsbacher said. “We are quite honored to be given the collection.”

Since USC already had the newsreels shot by Harry, Bill wanted all of the collection to go to USC, his wife said.

“He liked that it would be open to the public, and that anyone could look at it and learn from it,” she said. “Bill trained and taught so many cameramen, so it is fitting that his collection will continue to teach.”
With notebook in hand and reference books at the ready, Laura Hughes spent hours in South Caroliniana Library face-to-face with some of the state’s best-known faces. She was studying the library’s 18th- and 19th-century portraits, looking for clues that would help her add information to the library’s files. There are 52 portraits in the collection, and Hughes knows them all.

“It is a great collection and a really fun project,” said Hughes, a USC graduate who completed the project as part of her museum curator certificate. “I’m involved now in the lives of these people.

“This is Jonathan Maxcy, first president of South Carolina College,” she said as she walked, pointing to the portraits on view in the first-floor Manuscripts Room and the second-floor Kendall Room. “Here’s USC President James Rion McKissick. General Andrew Pickens. Governor John Hugh Means. Governor David Rogerson Williams. Mrs. Robert Woodward Barnwell, or Eliza Barnwell. Anna Jane White. James Woodrow, who was Woodrow Wilson’s uncle and one-time president of USC. And James Hopkins Adams, a Lower Richland County planter.

“My job was to research and expand the information about all of the portraits,” she said. “The information had last been updated in the 1940s, and some of the portraits were lacking important information, such as the artist’s name.”

A large part of the portrait project was building a database, said Beth Bilderback, Head of Visual Materials Collections and supervisor of the portrait project.

“This project has taken us from information on loose paper to a computerized database,” Bilderback said. “Laura’s first task was to take the information she had collected and create adequate, uniform labeling for all of the portraits: subject’s name, who they were, and the artist. That information went into a database, along with information about each portrait’s condition and conservation needs, and that will be a great help to us in-house.”

Hughes is now developing a brochure and a print catalog, which will be important resources for library visitors.

“We know we have a nice collection of artwork, but nothing had really been done in terms of research until now, and most of the time the focus is on the sitter rather than on the artist,” said Henry Fulmer, Head of the Manuscripts Division. “This project has provided us with a lot of information on our collection, and we feel it will greatly enhance future research into art in South Carolina. When we have people come into the library to see the portraits, we’ll be able to give them information and hand them a brochure or catalog with details.”

Not everyone looking at the collection is looking at it for sort of the “who’s who” of state history, Fulmer said. Many people have an interest in art collections or portraiture by specific artists.

“The portrait of President Maxcy was painted by John Trumball, who also painted a famous George Washington portrait,” Fulmer said. “Among the most famous portraits we have are those painted by William Harrison Scarborough. A native of Tennessee, Scarborough’s career escalated once he moved to Columbia in 1843. He painted the most prominent members of South Carolina society, including governors and high ranking military officials. He is considered one of the most prolific and accomplished American portrait painters of the 19th century. No one paints eyes and hands like Scarborough; he was a master. And eleven of his portraits hang in the South Caroliniana Library.”
**INTERN’S SUMMER FOCUS YIELDS THE WALKER PROJECT**

*By Herbert Hartsook, Director, South Carolina Political Collections*

“You have turned quiet diplomacy into an art form, and your actions have improved bilateral relations by serving the interests of both the U.S. and ROK,” – Letter from President Ronald Reagan complimenting his ambassador to South Korea, Richard “Dixie” Walker, dated November 7, 1983

South Carolina Political Collections (SCPC) will soon open for study the papers of diplomat and USC political scientist Richard Louis “Dixie” Walker (1922-2003). The collection documents Walker’s long academic career, including the founding of USC’s Walker Institute in 1961, as well as his lengthy service as ambassador. The arrangement and description of the collection was completed by Heather Adkins, SCPC’s Moore Intern. Each summer, the Schuyler L. and Yvonne Moore Endowment funds a summer internship at SCPC. Chosen from applicants from leading archival education programs around the country, Adkins came to SCPC from Middle Tennessee State University and spent the bulk of her 300-hour internship processing the Walker Collection.

Adkins came to admire Walker greatly during her project. She wrote, “Dixie Walker dedicated his life and career to intercultural understanding. A man of academics, Walker utilized his knowledge of East Asia in his work at home and abroad. He taught in numerous prestigious institutions as a professor of international studies before joining the faculty of the University of South Carolina in 1957. He founded the Institute of International Studies at USC in 1961 and received USC’s first endowed professorship, the James F. Byrnes Professor of International Relations. Walker participated in several Far East advocacy groups and worked on several political campaigns, such as John West’s 1970 gubernatorial race and Ronald Reagan’s 1980 presidential run. His service as an ambassador was not without challenges, but Walker’s quiet style of diplomacy strengthened U.S.-Korea relations. He retired in 1986 and returned to USC, having served longer than any other U.S. ambassador.”

“Processing this collection gave me fundamental skills needed for a career in archives,” Adkins said. “It reinforced the importance of intellectual control for archive staff and access for researchers — concepts I learned in the classroom and have now applied in the workplace. The internship as a whole was a wonderful experience and a great stepping stone towards my future in the archival profession.”

**UPCOMING EVENT**

On January 23, 2013, SCPC will host a panel on The Art of Political Biography. The panel will feature veteran journalist and historian Jack Bass, author of Ol’ Strom, An Unauthorized Biography of Strom Thurmond; Emory and Henry College history professor Jack Roper, currently at work on a biography of Bryan Dorn and whose biography of Benjamin Mays has recently been published by USC Press; and Cambridge University doctoral student David Ballantyne, who has used SCPC’s collections while at work on a biography of Fritz Hollings.
Woman gets to see father on film

When Benjamin Singleton, Moving Image Research Collections, received a request to look for a “possible” film clip of a woman’s father in Fox Movietone newsfilm, he didn’t hold out much hope of finding one.

“Ms. Christine Rebelo recently learned that her father worked on a tuna boat in 1934, and she learned that the boat had discovered the scandalous events surrounding Austrian Baroness Eloise Wehrborn de Warner-Bosquet in the Galapagos,” Singleton said. “Because of this connection, she thought to ask me if there was news footage of the tuna boat Santo Amaro. The chances that MIRC would have footage of the boat -- and that her father would be present and visible in the footage -- were very unlikely.

Turns out, there was footage of her father. Singleton found it, and Rebelo was thrilled and wrote:

“I fell off the chair when I saw my father standing behind the boat owner talking; of all the crew members on the boat he’s standing in the camera view! Way to go Dad! I’m just blown away by this footage, this time and of the story. I can’t stop watching it. My family thinks I’m some super sleuth and when I shared with them this film they were speechless! It’s the only video/film I have of my Dad…”

MIRC presents at Indie Grits and Orphan symposium

Curators Heather Heckman, Lydia Pappas and Greg Wilsbacher made presentations at the 8th Orphan Film Symposium at the Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria, New York, in April. Heckman introduced the international audience to the science education film The Worlds of Dr. Vishniac and related materials from the Roman Vishniac Collection; Pappas and Yongli Li, a cataloguer from The Confucius Institute, introduced Light Calvary Girl, an homage to women motorcyclists in the Chinese Army from the Chinese Film Collection; and Wilsbacher shared gems from the recently acquired Harry and William Birch Collection.

Also in April, the three curators made presentations during the 2012 Indie Grits Festival in Columbia. Each made a 20-minute presentation using film clips from the MIRC collections.

‘Inspection and projection’ event held Oct. 20

Members of the community were invited to bring their home movies to an “inspection and projection” event to celebrate Home Movie Day on October 20. The free, family-friendly event was co-sponsored by MIRC.

Home Movie Day is a national event founded by the Center for Home Movies. In Columbia, the event featured area film professionals, all volunteering their time, who inspected the film and talked to film owners about ways to preserve their home movies. If the movie was in good condition, it was projected onto a large screen. Volunteers from MIRC included Heather Heckman, Lydia Pappas, Stan Lollis, Brittany Braddock and Ashley Blewer.

MIRC has unveiled a new digital repository at http://mirc.sc.edu that lets the public stream MIRC film and video collections quickly, easily and at no cost to the user. The site is a rich resource for students, scholars, historians, filmmakers, and anyone interested in viewing vintage film.

MIRC is home to several film collections, including the Fox Movietone News Collection, Chinese Film Collection, Roman Vishniac Science Film Collection, Science and Nature Films, and Regional Film Collections.

The new site was designed to fulfill the preservation and access functions that are central to any moving image archive, said Heather Heckman, MIRC assistant director.

“Ease of access for users was foremost,” she said. “Our primary goal for Phase I of the Digital Video Repository project was to give people access to more videos in a faster, easier and more rational way. Every film added to the site is accompanied by a revised and expanded catalog record, designed to improve findability.”

Viewing Vintage Video is Easy on New Site

John Rebelo is the crewman on the left in this still image from the film.
Three Undergraduate Research Award Winners Named

Three graduating seniors won this year’s University Libraries Award for Undergraduate Research. Top prize winners Caroline Porter, above left, and Rebecca Krumel, right, received $500 each; honorable mention winner Sonja Berling, center, received $300.

The University Libraries Award for Undergraduate Research rewards excellence in undergraduate use of library resources and services, and demonstrates the contribution of the Libraries to student learning. It highlights the value of information literacy by requiring students to describe their research process as part of the application procedures, and encourages faculty to create assignments that engage students in the use of library resources.

Porter, who graduated with a BA in English, won for her senior thesis, entitled, “Clothing Swap: Cross-Dressing and Gender in Nineteenth-Century American Women’s Writing.”

“The work was for Dr. Katherine Adam’s English class on U.S. women writers, and I had never used so many sources,” Porter said. “I spent a good deal of time in the library. I used the Oxford English Dictionary a lot, and I worked extensively with the library’s article databases.”

Krumel, who graduated with a BA in dance performance and a BA in English, won for her project, “Roots of Flamenco: An Introduction to Flamenco Music and Culture, which was based on research she conducted for a paper in Dr. Mila Parrish’s Dance 310 course.

Berling, who graduated with a BA in anthropology, won for her senior thesis titled, “Discourse Practices in Chilean Cinema: The social and political functions of language in cinema regarding the 1973 d’état in Chile.”

“My thesis about Chilean cinema and collective memory combines insights from both visual and linguistic anthropology,” said Berling, whose project was overseen by Dr. Jennifer Reynolds, a faculty member in anthropology. “All the research I’ve done has been with materials from Thomas Cooper Library. Amy Trepal in Educational Films helped me search for films about Chile in Spanish, which was a very specific area.”

For more information, go to http://library.sc.edu/undergradaward.html.

MIRC helps SCETV catalog vintage video

This summer S.C. Educational Television and MIRC partnered to catalog more than 15,000 vintage videos in SCETV’s vaults. The national project, which catalogs film from Public Broadcasting Stations (PBS) in the country, was a great way for library students and library school graduates to learn film archival practices.

“The idea behind the American Archive Content Inventory Project was to inventory all the important stations in the country to create a national database of their holdings,” said Lydia Pappas, a MIRC assistant director. “SCETV is one of the last stations to be inventoried in phase I. The first phase of the project was to inventory everything; the second will be to see what is of importance and should be digitized.”

“SCETV received a grant to do a preliminary inventory, and they found that they had about 50,000 items already inventoried and about 135,700 that were not,” Pappas said. “Some of those items lacked important information such as air date and series title. SCETV came to us for help. MIRC supervised the project and provided inventory guidelines to make sure it fits in with archival guidelines. We gathered students, trained them and physically inventoried the remaining tapes that weren’t in an inventory. One student looked at tapes for Studio See, a children’s show. Another looked at the material for Jobman Caravan.

“We specifically sought library students and graduates to do the work because they have a good background in dealing with metadata,” she said. “We trained them to catalog videotapes. It was an enormous learning opportunity for them: working in a videotape vault is good experience, and it’s very different from working in a book archive.”

The final figures for the project far exceeded the original estimates. In all, the team updated 89,235 existing records and 15,552 newly inventoried items, giving the American Archive a total of 104,787 SCETV records.

Working in the SCETV film vaults this summer, MLIS graduate student Samantha Hale inventoried Spoleto festival tapes from the 1970s to the present.
McNally said the collection will draw scholars to Carolina from all over the world.

“There has been anticipation in the research world about where this collection would settle,” McNally said. “We have already heard from several scholars who want to know how soon the collection will be available for use.”

This is USC’s second major acquisition made possible by the Donald C. Easterling-Edward S. Hallman Foundation. In 2001, the university acquired the Hemingway collection belonging to the late Maurice Speiser, a Philadelphia lawyer who had represented Hemingway and became an adviser to many of the world’s leading arts and literary figures in the first half of the 20th century. A gift from USC alumnus Edward Hallman was instrumental in purchasing the Speiser collection.

Like a generation of readers before him, Edgar Grissom enjoyed the work of Ernest Hemingway, one of the most important and influential writers of the 20th century.

“I began as a fan of Hemingway, just on the level of his artistic ability,” Grissom said. “Then I began to collect some Hemingway books and other print materials simply to enjoy them. That is, until I bought a friend’s small Hemingway collection in the early 1990s and my focus completely changed.”

Eager to learn about the items he had just purchased, Grissom was surprised when he couldn’t find them listed in what was considered the definitive Hemingway scholarly bibliography.

“A two-volume bibliography had been published in the late 1960s,” Grissom said. “When I tried to discover what I had in my collection I was unable to do so, so I began to talk to book dealers and Hemingway scholars. All the book dealers knew of the omissions in the existing bibliography, but all the scholars thought the work was complete. That puzzled me. So I wondered, ‘What would happen if you really brought together in a single collection as many of Hemingway’s works as you could, and then you began to compare them?’.

So I set out to compile a Hemingway bibliography, only I was having trouble finding these items because they were in museums, libraries or private hands, and no one wanted to let go of the material. It was an uphill battle. I traveled around to all the rare books libraries that held substantial collections of Hemingway, including the British Museum and Cambridge University’s rare books area. In this country, I went to just about all of them.”

And then a friend told him about USC.

“Noel Polk was a (William) Faulkner scholar and a USC graduate. He told me I had to talk with Matthew Bruccoli at USC….Matt was very helpful,” Grissom said. “What I encountered from everyone at Carolina was an attitude that, even though I didn’t have the credentials that many would expect in someone who was doing what I was attempting to do, they respected me and what I was doing. They helped me and they were kind. I could give you story after story of Hemingway scholars who told me to get lost. They didn’t think an amateur had any business doing this. But Matthew got it; he understood. And Patrick Scott and Elizabeth Sudduth got it, and they were extremely kind to me and were interested in what I was attempting. I had a special relationship with the University of South Carolina that I didn’t have with anyone else.”

That special relationship helped to convince Grissom he could compile a definitive Hemingway bibliography (Ernest Hemingway: A Descriptive Bibliography, 2011), and convinced him that USC would take good care of his Hemingway collection.

“Most of the primary work of Ernest Hemingway is available if you are willing to pay enough money for it. The fun I had was discovering the undiscovered,” Grissom said. “In that sense, I would say that my greatest contribution in the collecting world was to identify a lot of items that were unknown to the scholastic world. There are still a lot of those out there in the world of Hemingway; I still discover something almost weekly.”

**COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS**

The Grissom collection includes rare periodical appearances, multiple jacket designs, continental printings, proofs, dummy copies, advance presentation copies, pirated printings, very uncommon copies, keepsakes and overseas copies.

Collection highlights include:

- Three Stories and Ten Poems, first and second editions
- In Our Time, first and second printings of the American edition, British edition and other scarce early editions
- The Torrents of Spring, three early printings, all in dust jacket
- The Sun Also Rises, first edition
- Numerous sets of advance uncorrected proofs and salesman’s dummies
Libraries Team Up to Put State Registers Online

Back issues of the South Carolina State Register are being digitized and made available online, thanks to a partnership between USC Libraries Digital Collections and the School of Law’s Coleman Karesh Law Library. The South Carolina State Library is also lending a hand.

“The state registers are published by the Legislative Council of the General Assembly and document the process of creating the regulations of all South Carolina administrative agencies,” said Pamela Melton, Associate Director for Administration at the law library. “Proposed regulations are published in the register, the final regulations are published in the register, and any amendments to current regulations are published in the register. If you wanted to trace the complete history of a regulation, the state register would be the only place to do that.”

While ten years of the registers are already available on the General Assembly’s website – from 1999 to 2009 – the registers date back to July 1977. And the most recent four years are available only by subscription, Melton said. “You can see how digitizing all of the state registers, having them located in one place online, and making them full text searchable is going to be a great resource. This is primary law that needs to be accessible to all citizens of South Carolina. It is part of our outreach and service to the state.”

The scanning was done during the summer by SLIS student Charlotte Seaman-Huynh, whose work was funded by the law library and supervised by Ashley Knox, Digital Collections Librarian.


“This project is another good example of how institutions that collaborate can accomplish large digitization projects,” said Kate Boyd, Digital Collections Librarian. “It is great to be able to help the law library and at the same time continue our strong relationship with the State Library coming to our aid with the scanner.”

The project is scheduled to be completed as funds allow. All the registers will be freely accessible at http://digital.tcl.sc.edu/cdm/search/collection/scsreg.

CITY DIRECTORIES ARE NOW ONLINE

The Columbia, S.C. City Directories website is up with 14 city directories available for full text searching. Dates will continue to be added and currently include 1859-1909. USC Libraries’ Digital Collections is scanning the directories in conjunction with Richland County Public Library. The directories will be added to the South Carolina Digital Library soon, but for now they can be found off the main Digital Collections page at http://library.sc.edu/digital/index.php and the South Caroliniana Library Published Materials website at http://library.sc.edu/socar/books.html.

USC is Depository for U.S. Education Department Materials

USC Libraries is now a federal depository for all U.S. Department of Education materials published since 1979, thanks to a new program begun by a USC librarian and his colleagues. The program is designed to transform federal depository library collections from general undefined and mostly un-cataloged collections into “centers of excellence” that focus services on a specific federal agency or topic.

“There is an assumption that there’s a complete collection of government publications distributed by every agency in all libraries, and that’s not the case,” said Bill Sudduth, head of Government, Information, Microforms and Newspapers at Thomas Cooper Library.

“The goal for the Collaborative Federal Depository Program (CFDP) is for libraries to create a center where they can collect and provide expertise on an agency or subject area. These days, libraries are looking at putting together unique collections that fit their teaching and learning missions. This program saves time and helps the libraries build the collections they want to build.”

The idea for CFDP was originally conceived in 2007 and awarded an IMLS National Leadership Grant for Libraries in September 2009. Part of the Association of Southeast Research Libraries (ASERL), the CFDP recently won the 2012 ProQuest/GODORT/ALA Documents to the People Award. USC Libraries is part of ASERL.

Two other institutions currently involved in the project are the University of Kentucky, which is collecting Works Progress Administration (WPA) documents, and the University of Florida, which has committed to collecting items about the Panama Canal Zone.
The University Libraries has acquired a late 15th-century prayer book that students and scholars will soon be able to touch, admire and study.

Still in its original binding, the Book of Hours is virtually flawless, just like the day it was painted 500 years ago. From Rouen, France, the book is “illuminated” with a dozen lush, full-page miniature paintings highlighted by liquid gold panels. The sumptuous artwork is securely ascribed to the 15th-century artist Robert Boyvin.

“The Book of Hours is an exceptionally fine acquisition for the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections’ teaching collection of manuscripts and a wonderful addition to the department’s program,” said Elizabeth Sudduth, department director. “We have photographed the Book of Hours and expect that it will be available as part of the Pages from the Past digital collection later this fall.”

The book will be used in history, art history, French, religion and English classes and for research by students, faculty and visiting scholars, said Scott Gwara, a USC English professor and medievalist. This major acquisition completes the University Libraries’ medieval teaching collection, which already includes a Missal (book of the order of the Mass), a Psalter (book of Psalms), a Breviary (book of prayers and hymns) and a Bible.

“Books of Hours were the most prevalent manuscripts in the Middle Ages, more popular even than the Bible,” Gwara said.

With significant financial support from the B.H. Breslauer Foundation in New York, USC acquired the manuscript at auction in London. Established by the estate of the renowned book dealer Bernard H. Breslauer, the foundation supports acquisition of rare books and manuscripts by U.S. libraries and institutions. This is the third time the foundation has helped USC Libraries with a purchase to support the university’s teaching mission.
MORE DIGITAL PROJECTS COMPLETED

The 14th-century Missal for Dominican Use, acquired in 2011, has been digitized in full text by Jessica Dame, a graduate assistant in the Irvin Department. This project is part of the department’s continuing commitment to keep the Pages from the Past website up-to-date as part of the department’s ongoing collaboration with Scott Gwara, English. View the Missal at http://digital.tcl.sc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/pfp/id/3089.

NATURALIST SPEAKS AT EXHIBIT OPENING

USC naturalist-in-residence Rudy Mancke spoke at the exhibit opening for “Writing America: From Columbus to Wendell Berry” on August 15. The exhibit explored the role of the land and landscape of the Americas. The exhibit highlights the thoughts of explorers and soldiers, conquerors and indigenous voices, philosophers and poets, all describing what they have seen and encountered in the land and landscape of the Americas.

POET LAUREATE RECEIVES COOPER MEDAL

Poet W.S. Merwin receives the medal from USC Libraries Dean Tom McNally.

W.S. Merwin, named the U.S. poet laureate for 2010-2011, delivered the address at this year’s annual Thomas Cooper Society dinner and was awarded the Thomas Cooper Society Medal, the society’s highest literary honor, on April 20. Merwin has written more than 30 books of poetry, translation and prose. His literary awards are numerous, including two Pulitzer Prizes and a National Book Award. He is the 16th recipient of the medal. Previous recipients include Pat Conroy, Joseph Heller, John Updike, William Styron, Ray Bradbury, Joyce Carol Oates, Norman Mailer and Larry McMurtry. The Thomas Cooper Society is the community support organization for Thomas Cooper Library.

LIBRARIES SALUTE STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

Robert Smith

Master of library science student Robert Smith is the 2012 winner of the Thomas Cooper Library Student Book Collecting Award. He received the first-prize award of $250 at the Thomas Cooper Society’s Annual General Meeting and Banquet in April.

Third-year media arts major Nick Sullivan won the Moving Image Research Collections Award for Creative Editing (MIRC ACE) for his comedic short, “The Cold Milk Wars.” The film, a required project for Media Arts 317 The Moving Image, was put together using clips from the University’s Fox Movietone News Collection.

RECENT EXHIBITS

HOLLINGS LIBRARY

IRVIN DEPARTMENT OF RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS GALLERY

“Transit of Venus,” selected books from the 18th to 21st century

“Ernest Hemingway: The Next Chapter,” selected items from the Grissom Hemingway Collection

SOUTH CAROLINA POLITICAL COLLECTIONS GALLERY

“A Life in Service: Selections from the Papers of General William Childs Westmoreland”

SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY

LUMPKIN FOYER

“South Carolina and the War of 1812”

“Brick, Fire & Iron: The Highs and Lows of Carolina’s Historic Wall,” an historic look at the wall that surrounds the Horseshoe
COOPERpalooza

More than 300 freshmen toured Thomas Cooper Library during COOPERpalooza, an event that helped kick off the academic year on August 19. To begin the fun, students visited seven information stations in the library. At each station, they collected information from librarians to fill in a game card. With completed cards in hand, students registered for door prizes, played games and ate pizza. At the end of the night, the freshmen knew more about their campus library and Cocky had some new friends.