

1999

## Reports

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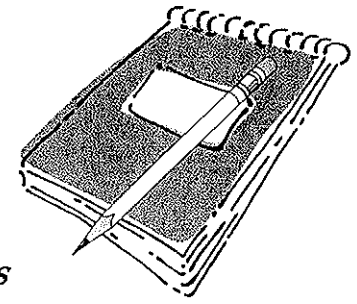
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# Reports



Observations from The Northeast Document Conservation Center sponsored conference *School for Scanning: Issues of Preservation and Access for Paper-Based Collections* held in New Orleans, December 7 through 9, 1998

Reported by Jennifer Ford, Special Collections Librarian, JD Williams Library, University of Mississippi.

"Why are we planning a digitization project?" Various presenters echoed this question first posed by Jan- Merrill Oldham of Harvard University on the first day of the conference. Of course the answer to this question can only be found within the confines of individual institutions. The answer depends on many unique factors; the reasoning behind the project, the needs of the patrons, and the structure of the organization. Although these factors are inherently unique, the need for some standardization did emerge as a pivotal feature of the conference.

Three themes seemed to dominate most every session, no matter how technical or theoretical; the need to plan for digitization, the need to maintain commitment to the program (which involves much more than one might imagine), and the need for collaboration within your own institution and among other organizations. Planning involves knowing the strengths and weaknesses of your collection. Making sure that you have adequate control over your collections is the first step in this process. Diane Vogt-O'Connor from the National Park Service emphatically stated, "digitization is not helpful if a collection is not organized." From this point planning requires many other steps; selection, indexing, quality control, conversion, just to name a few.

Commitment requires funding and attention to data migration. If the digital images cannot be accessed in the future because the software they were created with is obsolete, then what have you accomplished? The rate of changing technologies forces the need for attention to data migration.

Collaboration between departments and institutions is essential in the construction of a viable and durable digitization project. As we are ever more aware, we do not exist in a vacuum, and it is the sharing of information which will most benefit our own organizations and patrons.

Planning, commitment, and collaboration working simultaneously serve as the ideal foundation for a digitization project. These concepts become more valuable when placed in the context of key presentations.

## Individual Presentations

Dr. Howard Besser, Visiting Associate Professor at the School of Information Management and Systems at The University of California at Berkeley, began the conference with a session entitled "Project Planning for Digitization: Where Are We And Where Are We Going?" He pointed out that most of the costs of such projects are not incurred in the initial

expense for equipment but emerge over time in the cost of indexing and cataloging. According to Dr. Besser the long-term costs of digitization programs are really unknown. Standardization promoting the interoperability of various systems would provide a partial solution. If standards in image quality, indexing, and software could be maintained then migration might not be needed as frequently.

Diane Vogt-O'Connor, the Senior Archivist in the Museum Management Program at the National Park Service, provided a practical program for digitization of materials. As her earlier quote indicates she insists on well-maintained and organized collections as a prerequisite for any thoughts about digitization. Jumping into digitization simply because it is new, fun, or faddish is not going to provide any usable information for patrons. In terms of funding, she maintained that "money should not be taken from the preservation of originals to fund a digitization project."

Her system of image/object selection is quite practical. Weeding based on copyright concerns would be the first step. Then the process of selection of several images from the main collection or within one collection for possible digitization can begin. Looking at each image with respect to value, use, and preservation risk she rates each item numerically, one being the lowest value and 6 the highest. Value includes both monetary and artifactual value. Those items with the highest scores are candidates for immediate digitization.

Jan Merrill-Oldham, the Malloy-Rabinowitz Preservation Librarian in the Preservation Center at Harvard University, based her session entitled "Selection for Preservation and Access in the Digital Age" around the question previously cited, "Why are we doing this anyway?" Beyond the humorous implications this question is a valid one. As Merrill-Oldham pointed out there are several reasons behind digitization projects and each requires different controls. If preservation of the original item is your goal then a balance between image quality and access must be found. Patrons must be satisfied with reproductions and be able to retrieve them in a timely manner. On the other hand, if it is simply access your institution wants then image quality might be sacrificed for speed. Many institutions create archival quality digital images which require a great deal of disk storage space and attention to detail. One can see how easily this question can become complicated.

Copyright and other legal issues were the focus of the lecture by Melissa Smith Levine, of the National Digital Library Project at the Library of Congress. As she pointed out, librarians and archivists are increasingly forced to become legal experts about this difficult issue. Although the topic is complex her basic instructions were straightforward. First determine if the item is in the public domain or who has copyright. This can be the most difficult part of the process, but projects sponsored by various institutions (like the WATCH project sponsored by the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at The University of Texas at Austin and the University of Reading Library, Reading, England) make the issue of locating copyright holders increasingly less difficult. Then, either get permission, with the possibility of permission fees, or do not make the item available digitally for public access. Another important piece of advice is that you must document everything and maintain good record files.

Stephen Chapman, Preservation Librarian for Digital Projects in the Preservation Center at Harvard University, provided an outline for an ideal project in his lecture entitled "Textual Scanning: Quality Control and Costs." First of all he stated that, "you must be able to answer why digitization is better for your particular project, why is digitization better in this case than photocopying or microfilming?" The issue of starting a digitization project with an eye to its end

result also emerged as an interesting part of the lecture. Mr. Chapman did provide a somewhat daunting list of individuals needed for a viable digitization project; a project manager, systems analyst, selector, legal counsel, conservator, catalogers, scanning technicians, and an interface designer.

One of the most personally encouraging and informative sessions was that of Roy Tennant, Project Manager for Digital Library Research and Development at the University of California, Berkeley. His session entitled, "Web Applications: Berkeley Digital Library SunSITE" in fact turned into a "how to" session for what he termed "the least you can get by with." His point, that most institutions do not have the fairly enormous financial and staff resources of the larger universities, was quite valid. He explained a plan that was viable for many smaller organizations.

First, the decision to provide a system characterized by collection level or item level access must be made. The schematics for access in each case are quite different and will affect many parts of your digitization project (indexing, user interface, systems design). His list of the hardware and software for "the least you can get by with" was practical. First he started with the basics, a computer and a decent flat bed scanner (approximate cost of the scanner \$200-\$500). Adobe Photoshop software is necessary for any scanning program (cost approximately \$300 +/-). "About twice as much RAM as you think" is also a necessity, according to Tennant (approximate cost \$200 +/-). Greyscale targets can be purchased for about \$20.00 and are invaluable in the data they help provide about the shading and color of a digital image. Two optional time saving items he listed are OCR (Optical Character Recognition) software (approximate cost \$200) and a sheet feeder (approximate cost \$200).

The standards Tennant listed for item capture were also very specific and practical. Item capture in the 600 dpi range at 24-36 bit saved as an uncompressed TIFF Group 4 file provides an acceptable image for the archival purposes of a small institution. In terms of image quality, again it is up to the institution to decide if their goals are access preservation, or a combination of the two.

His discussion of the least metadata an institution could get by with was a bit more vague because this depends on the institution, and the national standards (or lack thereof) for metadata are nebulous. He cited an example of a project he conducted at Berkeley called the Cataloging Enrichment Project. Students scanned the table of contents and indexes of categories of works. Then OCR software "read" the document, but it was not hand corrected because of time constraints. Only the title was embedded in the image, and, in terms of metadata, a unique identification number and the indicator were the only items listed.

Tennant listed several database software brand names which translate well for a small institution. SPRITE, SWISH -Enhanced, MYSQL, Ms. Access or Filemaker Pro, Oracle or Sybase were among those listed. He did not endorse one in particular but stated that "often the right database solution is the easiest one."

Other individuals lectured on various related topics, but within the limits of my own situation I felt that these six people provided an outline of what is required for a workable digitization project. "Workable" in this sense means a project where planning, commitment, and collaboration combine effectively.

**Apropos the 1999 Rare Books and Manuscripts Preconference in Montreal.**  
Reported by Jennifer Ford, Special Collections Librarian, JD Williams Library,  
University of Mississippi.

Montreal provided an appropriate backdrop for the 1999 RBMS Preconference and its theme, "Border Crossings: Exploring New Territories for Special Collections." The idea of physically crossing geographical borders coupled nicely with mentally crossing new borders in the profession. The Preconference began as a general introduction to this section of ALA. It turned into an intense three days of intellectual stimulation, leaving me with many more questions afterwards than before it began.

The Conference officially began on Monday, but for those who arrived early a tour to Ottawa had been planned. We visited the National Gallery of Canada, where a wonderful exhibit of Van Gogh and Honore Daumier provided quite a bit of visual enjoyment. Housed in the same building as the National Gallery is the Canadian Center for the Visual Arts, the Library and Archives for the National Gallery. We also visited the National Library of Canada, viewing a exhibit of Canadian imprints and the "ordinary" use of the book in Canada.

Looking back over the sessions of the conference, several seem especially vivid. Professor Jean-Claude Guedon of the University of Montreal, Kathy Henderson of the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, and H. Thomas Hickerson of Cornell each opened the conference proper with an eye-opening discussion of what working with information in special formats entails in the electronic age. Kathy Henderson's discussion seemed especially intriguing since she outlined the difficulties and the advantages of the changing "outreach" programs of archives, museums, and libraries. Her discussion of the dilemmas resulting from the clashes between the traditional "private face" versus the emerging "public face" of libraries and archives, was illuminating. The discussion was satisfying although she was not able to provide any answers, only examples of what other institutions had done. These examples emphasized that outreach programs must strike a balance between the planning and control aspects of the work and the desire to serve both the established and any emerging patron base.

Michel Brisebois' short paper entitled, "Going Back to Basics: New Approaches for the Exhibition Curator," provided the background behind the exhibit many of us had been able to view in Ottawa at the Bibliotheque Nationale du Canada. His idea was interesting: an exhibition consisting of ordinary books and materials used by ordinary people on a frequent basis instead of the more standard "treasures" theme of exhibiting. By placing the items thoroughly in their historical context, Brisebois felt that longer captions were necessary. The attention to provenance would emphasize the group of people using the material versus the individual use.

John Pull of the Library of Congress, presented an fascinating short paper entitled, "The 15-Inch Diagonal Reading Room: Selecting and Presenting Digital Collections." He began the discussion with a list of the limitations most institutions face; limited money, limited amounts of time, and the restrictions of the 15 inch diagonal computer monitor. Pull suggested beginning a trial digitization project with a physically small item. The size of the item will not provide as many problems as larger ones, and this would make the learning curve for an initial digitization attempt much easier. He outlined five steps in the digitization process; selection, development, production, presentation, and maintenance. Under the heading of "selection"

Mr. Pull offered several common-sense suggestions, "Pick an item you are proud of, pick an item that will benefit from the process, pick an item that is in the public domain, and pick an item that is not too fragile to withstand the process." Under the headings of "development, production, and presentation" Mr. Pull provided this advice which he pinpointed as the main point of his presentation, "Identify the limitations of the medium, determine those that will change and those that will not (in your informed estimation) and embrace the limits." The section on "maintenance" offered a much longer term challenge than the others. The key to maintenance, according to Pull, is to constantly plan for changes. A plan for digital conversion must be established along with a digitization project in order to ensure the preservation of the work. Pull stated that, "In the past maintenance has been historically passive but new transfer of electronic media forces a new approach."

Although Matthew Nickerson of Southern Utah University was not able to attend the conference, his paper on his institution's efforts in the combining of technologies for manuscript cataloging and display was read by the moderator. This paper chronicled Southern Utah's combination of existing hardware and software for an altogether new approach in cataloging, preservation, and display. They combined Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML), his library's Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC), the World Wide Web, and Digitization. The SGML and the web base access to the archives were available through the library's web site and the MARC records provided an integrated system with searching capabilities. This led to the last paper of this session which concerned encoded archival description.

Susan Hamburger of Pennsylvania State University presented a fascinating yet intricate paper entitled, "Controlled Vocabulary, Standardized Terminology, or Keyword Searching: Access to Archival and Manuscript Collections via EAD Finding Aids on the Web." In this presentation Ms. Hamburger reported on her study of the finding aids of forty institutions both in the United States, Canada, and England. Within that list she found twenty-five implementers of EAD finding aids and fifteen possible implementers. She then narrowed the search into a discussion of how the finding aids were delivered; via SGML or HTML. Most of the institutions favored straight HTML coding, but the use of conversion methods and viewers like "Panorama" and "DynaWeb" was growing. The results of the display of finding aids were also interesting. The majority of those studied favored an alphabetical list, then a topical list. Many incorporated both lists. Only one institution used a catalog record with an 856 link. One had an unordered list of finding aids.

Ms. Hamburger's final conclusions are illuminating for those interested in EAD. She found that the majority of institutions for subject headings and name authority relied heavily on the OPAC with inconsistent use of terms, terms omitted, and lack of coding for source of terms. She felt that within encoded finding aids archivists need to adopt cataloging principles for more standardization.

The 1999 RBMS Preconference combined the traditional concerns of Special Collection librarians with many untested and new concerns. This can be an uneasy combination, but it is also one which fosters the growth of the profession.



## Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists

Reported by Sandra Boyd, Paper Archives Branch Director, MDAH.

The 63rd annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at the Hilton and Towers from August 23-29, 1999. The theme of the conference was "Meeting the Challenge of Contemporary Records." This year's meeting included tours to Frank Lloyd Wright's house, "Fallingwater," to the National Underground Storage facility in Boyers, and to the WRS Motion Picture and Video Laboratory, as well as sessions on legal and copyright issues, new approaches to record scheduling, appraisal, and cataloging, and other "contemporary" topics. The exhibits area was moderate in size but well-attended during the two days it was open. For the first time, several exhibitors participated in a "Supplier Forum," which gave them an opportunity to focus on a single topic in a half-hour session with attendees. At the Business Meeting, SAA members voted to increase dues 7% and defeated a proposal for the SAA Council to raise dues in the future.

### Session Reports

"Administering Privacy and Confidentiality in Sensitive Records"

Ben Primer and Janet Linde discussed handling records of the American Civil Liberties Union and Sandra E. Boyd presented a paper on the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission records. [Note: most of Boyd's information was contained in the previous issue of *TPS* and will not be repeated here.]

From 1921-1950, "bound volumes" of records of ACLU records were sent to the New York Public Libraries. In 1950 NYPL decided not to keep originals but to microfilm and throw the originals away. The ACLU decided to ask Princeton about becoming their depository, and Princeton said they were interested. In 1960, ACLU began to send only press releases and minutes but not the correspondence or administrative memos. FBI files relating to ACLU cases were closed. In the 1980s the ASLU was asked to endorse the American Library Association Statement of Access to Original Records, but this was the first attention to the question of access. Meanwhile, records at the ACLU continued to increase, and in the early 1990s an NHPRC project was proposed to develop a new access policy to the records. The project was funded, and Janet Linde was hired as archivist in October 1993. She immediately began working on the access policy. Some of the issues involved legal case files, affiliate records, and administrative records. ACLU does not want donor records open, and personnel matters and internal policy matters were also of concern. The Organization of American Historians has looked at a policy of 50 years or death as a guide to access for lawyer's files but has taken no action on the policy. Linde, Primer, and the ACLU Board have worked out an access policy, but it has not been tested in court. Also, several recent cases have affected the existing policy, specifically the Vince Foster case which said that attorney-client privilege succeeded the life of the client, and the client should have access to all the files of their case, and the Alger Hiss case.

"Who Has the Record: The Role of Descriptive Standards in Providing Access to Archival Information in Union Databases" Susie Bock, Steve Hensen, and Bill Landis.

Susie Bock described her study of 364 websites which have mounted finding aids. She

found that finding aids have not been created with standardized terms. Most finding aids are flat files, and many are being marked up in HTML so they can be searched. Her study indicates a need for standards in archival data.

Steve Hensen and Bill Landis both spoke about projects designed to develop standards. Hensen talked about AACR2 and APPM which were designed to support data standards. He also referred to EAD which has particular value in creating union databases. An international study committee is looking at the elements of the Canadian RAD as a possible data standard. Landis discussed standards developed in the Online Archives of California. Hensen and Landis both emphasized the need for content standards for finding aids.

#### "Records Schedules: They Aren't Just for Records Managers Anymore"

Weston Thompson, Richard Cox, and Rachel Van Wingen

Thompson began the session by pointing out that records scheduling supports the goals of most archival programs - the process identifies records, analyzes retention period and who will handle the records, and should include research potential and legal requirements. All of this should be looked at before records come to the archives. Records scheduling helps by doing much of the work at the appraisal level, by promoting transfers of records, by building alliances between records creators and archivists, and by distributing responsibility for the records. With the new formats for records, Thompson identified several new skill areas needed by records managers/archivists: functional decomposition, system metadata, data dictionaries, format requirements, and system migration.

Richard Cox began his session by stating that we all know what records schedules are and what they are supposed to do, then asking "but are they working?" There is a different perspective between the records managers and archivists. The records manager uses the schedule to inventory, identify, and dispose of records. Schedules do not lead to preservation of archival records and frequently do not enable record economy and efficiency.

Cox offered the following steps to rethink schedules:

1. Records are important for accountability, organizational memory, evidence, socio-cultural understanding. Therefore, schedules should be about more than disposal and potential litigation; there should be focus on historical research.
2. Records and organizations change. This change (for example, to electronic recordkeeping) should be reflected by the records preserved.
3. Records professionals change. The person may become more of a policy maker, with there being distributed custody for records. Archivists and records managers may become more similar in their work, more like "records professionals" and eventually "knowledge workers."
4. Appraisal approaches are key to good scheduling. This is a process that has been fluid in recent years. Previously, the records creator determined the appraisal. More recently, documentation strategies and evidential and informational values have been used in the appraisal process, along with functional analysis and macro-appraisal.

According to Cox, the foundation for a new approach to scheduling should be a records continuum which does not chase after records but develops with them. The records process should be documented with lists and explanations, with de-emphasis on surveying. The emphasis should be on the key functions of the organization and keeping records to support them.



Rachel Van Wingen, speaking from the perspective of the records creator, explained the pressures on Federal offices and their need to do business faster and smarter. Therefore, she emphasized that records schedules must work for people in the process of creating and receiving documents and data. She emphasized the need to document the function of the office and stressed that records managers and archivists must work together with practitioners to appraise and preserve records. Otherwise, there will be no "grist" for the archivists' mill.

# Legislative Reports

News from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
Elbert R. Hilliard November 8, 1999

Two major initiatives funded by the 1999 Mississippi Legislature will be of great benefit to the state's historical community. The Mississippi Landmark Grant Program establishes a new source of funds to help owners of Mississippi Landmark properties that need repair or restoration. And the Mississippi Oral History Project enables the Oral History Center at the University of Southern Mississippi to broaden its effort to collect and preserve the history and culture of the state.

## Mississippi Landmark Grant Program

Since the passage of the State Antiquities Act in 1970, the Department of Archives and History has designated as Mississippi Landmarks hundreds of historically significant properties around the state, most of them publicly owned. Changes to these properties may not be made without the approval of the Department's permit committee. In the past the Department of Archives and History has been unable to offer state-funded grant assistance to local governments and organizations to help preserve endangered Mississippi Landmarks. Now for the first time, the state has established a source of funds that will help ensure the preservation of these historically significant properties.

House Bill No. 1082, signed into law March 29, 1999, provides that the interest earned on \$10,000,000 from the abandoned property fund in the state treasury will be earmarked for the Mississippi Landmark Grant Program. It is estimated that the annual interest will amount to approximately \$500,000. With a proposed four-year grant cycle, there would be at least two million dollars in the grant fund. A portion of this amount will be reserved for emergencies and to permit the fund to grow. The rest of the funds will be awarded as grants to assist owners of Mississippi Landmark properties in preserving these historic sites. For more information, please call (601) 359-6940.

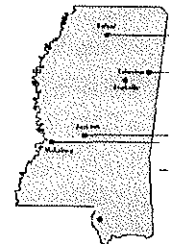
## Mississippi Oral History Project

This past June the Department of Archives and History, the Mississippi Humanities Council, and the University of Southern Mississippi joined forces to initiate the Mississippi Oral History Project. During the first phase of the project, staff members from the Oral History Center at USM will teach local people at each of five sites around the state how to set up oral history projects in their community. In the second year of the project, the interviews collected in each community will be transcribed and deposited in the archives at the University of Southern Mississippi.

The following institutions have been selected to participate in the pilot project: the Northeast Mississippi Historical & Genealogical Society in Tupelo, the Capps Archives at Delta State University in Cleveland, the Noxubee County Public Library in Macon, the Lauren Rogers Museum in Laurel, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and Community Bridges in Biloxi. Other nonprofit groups will participate in the oral history program through grants administered by the Mississippi Humanities Council.

The Mississippi Oral History Project is funded by the Mississippi Legislature through the Department of Archives and History, sponsored by the Mississippi Humanities Council, and coordinated by the University of Southern Mississippi Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage. For more information, please call (601) 266-4574.

# The Year in Mississippi



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI:

THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF FREEDOM SUMMER, JUNE 4-7, 1999

The University of Southern Mississippi commemorated the 35th anniversary of Mississippi Freedom Summer 1964 with an extended week-end of special activities on the Hattiesburg campus on June 4-7, 1999.

The Mississippi Summer Project was the brainchild of legendary Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Field Secretary Robert Moses, who hoped to garner the grass-roots support of Americans for voting rights for Black Mississippians. He did. It worked. Freedom Summer was the turning-point of the Civil Rights Movement in the South.

Under the administration of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), led by Dr. Aaron Henry, president of the conference of Mississippi NAACP chapters, and with the participation of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and Dr. Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Robert Moses and CORE's Dave Dennis organized

the arrival, physical safety, and activities in some 50 Mississippi towns and cities of approximately 1,000 volunteers from outside the state.

The segregationists called them "outside agitators" and the summer began with the disappearance of civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman outside Philadelphia. Their murdered bodies would not be located until August.

The volunteers came anyway. They came from all over the United States and several foreign countries. They were mostly white, mostly college-age, and sufficiently well-funded not to have to earn a living during the summer and to provide bail money in case they were arrested by local police. They first attended one of several SNCC orientation sessions held in late June and then drove into Mississippi to work all of July and August, carrying out COFO's four objectives: doing voter registration canvassing, teaching in the Freedom Schools, working in community centers which they established, and assisting with musical and theatrical performances and art instruction programs.

They were housed, fed, and protected by local African Americans, in whose communities COFO established their headquarters or Freedom Houses and whose churches were the focal points of mass meetings, voter registration workshops, Freedom Schools, and Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) meetings. The local Black activists knew what they wanted — the effective implementation of their right to vote — and the college-age Black and White SNCC Field Secretaries were gifted facilitators of their efforts and those of the volunteers.

The largest Freedom Summer site was Hattiesburg, with over 90 volunteers, 3,000 local participants, and 650-675 Freedom School students — so many that Freedom School Director Dr. Staughton Lynd of Yale University called Hattiesburg "the Mecca of the Freedom School world."

In the thirty-five years since Freedom Summer, several reunions of volunteers and local activists have been held. In Mississippi, Tougaloo College and Jackson State University have been the sites of commemorative celebrations and symposia. In June 1999, the University of Southern Mississippi, whose main campus is located in Hattiesburg, sponsored and coordinated with two local African American churches a week-end of celebrations honoring the local activists and volunteers of Mississippi Freedom Summer.

The catalyst was the donation to the USM Archives in 1998 of 1,759 negatives of photographs taken of Freedom Summer activities by New Yorker Herbert Randall, who spent his 1964 John Hay Whitney Foundation fellowship in creative photography in Hattiesburg at the invitation of SNCC Field Secretary and COFO-Hattiesburg Project Director Sandy Leigh. The Archives printed over 800 8"x10" prints, which, with the negatives, comprise the Herbert Randall Freedom Summer Photograph Collection in the USM Archives. Other examples of Randall's work are in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and other prominent American museums. Most of his Freedom Summer photographs have never been seen before.

The extended week-end of Freedom Summer celebrations began on Friday, June 4, as USM's honored guests and visitors began arriving at area airports. They were Herbert Randall and his wife Rosalind from Long Island, New York, and their son Dana from Worcester, Massachusetts; Mississippi civil rights leader Victoria Gray-Adams, a native of Hattiesburg, coming from her home in Virginia; former COFO-Hattiesburg staff SNCC Field Secretaries Sandy Leigh and Sheila Michaels from Alabama and New York; and Dr. John Dittmer, De Pauw

University historian and author of the classic 1994 study of the civil rights movement in Mississippi *Local People*. Some came early to do oral history interviews with Dr. Charles Bolton and the staff of USM's Oral History Department; others to have plenty of time to visit the people and places they had known during Freedom Summer. Many had not returned to Hattiesburg or the South since 1964.

On Saturday USM President Horace Fleming and Mrs. Fleming hosted a dinner for our guests, which included participants in a Freedom Summer symposium to take place on Monday. Moderated by Dr. Dittmer, the symposium featured Hattiesburg activists — sixties Forrest County NAACP President and Secretary J.C. Fairley and Daisy Harris Wade, MFDP Secretary-Treasurer Peggy Jean Connor, Youth Coordinator of the Hattiesburg and Palmer's Crossing Freedom Schools Doug Smith, and MFDP candidate for the U.S. Senate Victoria Gray-Adams — and former SNCC Field Secretaries Sheila Michaels and Curtis Hayes Muhammad, CORE's man in Mississippi Dave Dennis, and Rev. Bob Beech, Director of the Hattiesburg Ministers Project.

Visitors to USM — former SNCC staff, Freedom School teachers, community center and voter registration workers — came from as far away as Minnesota, California, New York, and London, England. Some had revisited Hattiesburg periodically over the years; some had not been back since 1964; most had remained in touch with their African American hosts. Some stayed in local motels, rooming with the same roommates SNCC had assigned them for Freedom Summer; some stayed with the same African American families who had housed and fed them during the summer of 1964.

Sunday belonged to the churches. St. John's United Methodist Church in Palmer's Crossing, whose pastors and congregations have long played a prominent role in the civil rights movement, hosted everyone for a memorable morning church service and luncheon. That evening Mt. Zion Baptist Church, site of Freedom Schools and mass meetings, hosted a reception at which Dr. Cecil Gray, chairman of the African American Studies Department at Gettysburg College, spoke of the work of his mother Victoria Gray-Adams and others in the movement.

On Saturday and Sunday afternoons, guests and visitors gathered in the Cleanth Brooks Reading Room of the McCain Library and Archives to browse through Herbert Randall's photographs, enjoy the exhibit "Freedom Summer Revisited" curated by Archives Specialist Yvonne Arnold, and renew old acquaintances. Former SNCC staff Ira Grupper presented to the USM Archives the Ku Klux Klan warning sign posted on the property of Vernon Dahmer six months before the local African American civil rights leader was murdered by the Klan. Mr. Dahmer had given the sign to Mr. Grupper, who had preserved it since 1965. He very generously donated it to the Archives, which preserves the papers of the Vernon Dahmer family.

Sunday afternoon featured a walk down historic Mobile Street in the heart of Hattiesburg's formerly segregated Black community. Visitors gathered at the site of COFO's Freedom House at 507 Mobile Street and the headquarters of the Hattiesburg Ministers Project on the corner of 6th and Mobile Streets.

Monday June 7 was the culminating day of USM's commemoration of Freedom Summer. After a luncheon hosted by the USM Libraries, guests and visitors, faculty, students, the general public, and the media proceeded to the Mannoni Performing Arts Center for the Freedom Summer symposium. USM history professor Dr. Marjorie Wheeler, author of *One*

*Woman, One Vote*, served as emcee. After welcoming remarks by USM President Horace Fleming and Hattiesburg Mayor Ed Morgan, IHL Commissioner James Luvene presented a certificate of recognition of a life-time devoted to the cause of civil rights to Victoria Gray-Adams. Dr. Dittmer and the symposium participants discussed for the benefit of the audience, many of whom had not been born until after 1964, the background of Freedom Summer — why it had been necessary — and the success of the COFO-Hattiesburg project. The symposium, which was taped by USM's Oral History Department, was punctuated by repeated bursts of applause from the audience.

Toward the end of the symposium, actress Denise Nicholas, one of the original members of the civil rights repertory theater group the Free Southern Theater and familiar to television viewers from her work in the series *Room 222* and *In the Heat of the Night* was persuaded to come up on stage and share her perceptions.

Upon the conclusion of the symposium, everyone adjourned next door to the main gallery of the USM Museum of Art for the grand opening of the *Faces of Freedom Summer* exhibit, featuring 102 of Herbert Randall's photographs. The Museum is directed by Dr. Michael De Marsche, and the exhibit was partially funded by a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council. The exhibit will remain at the USM Museum of Art through the end of October, after which it will travel to museums around the United States. The USM Museum of Art is open to the public Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 to 4:00 p.m.

June 4-7, 1999 was a special time for everyone involved in USM's Freedom Summer week-end. Who will host the 40th anniversary reunion in 2004?

Bobs Tusa, University Archivist

## MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

This year the Archives has focused on preparing for the construction of the new building. In fall 1998, plans were first drawn for the five story building that will be located on the hill across Amite Street from the War Memorial Building. After these drawings were reviewed, William Lull, consultant on environmental issues, came to Jackson to meet with staff and architects; he also toured the existing building looking at collection needs.

Following Lull's visit and submission of a report, some portions of the new building plans were modified in early 1999. Later in the year, the front of the building was redesigned to orient it more closely with the buildings on Capitol Green (War Memorial, Old Capitol, and Capers Buildings). During the spring, summer, and fall, the staff has spent time studying catalogs and making lists of furniture and equipment needed in the new facility, assessing collections to get them ready to move, and processing and describing materials for improved access.

A set of "final" plans (prepared for the advertisement of the project) was made available to the staff in mid-November. Construction bids are scheduled to be opened on December 16, and at that time we will know the timetable for groundbreaking and construction.

The department is also working to make its web page more accessible, and after the new year several databases and other data files should be available for searching.

Sandra Boyd, MDAH