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Illinois Wesleyan granted \$250,000

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York awarded a grant of \$250,000 to Illinois Wesleyan University to support the development of the institution's archival and special library collections and to strengthen the humanities curriculum. This award further enhances the opening of The Ames Library and its notable blend of books, journals and other print materials, which includes space dedicated for archives and special collections as well as programs and materials that strengthen the humanities at Illinois Wesleyan.

In preparation for the occupation of this new library, IWU's Provost, Janet McNew and University Librarian, Sue Stroyan, worked hard to support the library staff's progressive programming plans. Among these plans has been the development of a strong special collections and archives area. To that end, IWU hired Anke Voss-Hubbard as the Assistant Professor and Archivist/Special Collections Librarian--the first person to hold such a position in the history of the university. Professor Voss-Hubbard is a native of Germany who brings broad experience with archival work, including analysis of the Margaret Sanger Papers Project at Smith College and a position as Archivist/ Preservation Officer for the Rockefeller Archive Center. She also has become expert with a host of innovative technologies that improve access to and assist in preservation planning.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation award of \$250,000 with \$100,000 dedicated to the development of the archival and special collections area in The Ames Library and \$150,000 dedicated to strengthening the humanities curriculum and support of a humanities lecture series is both timely and significant. While crucial to the Illinois Wesleyan community, these funds will make it possible for IWU to create access to both special collections and archival materials through state-of-the-art technology and share its humanities materials and special lectures with not only the local community of Bloomington/Normal, but everyone who can access The Ames Library through the Internet.