

Editing the Eartha M.M. White Archives: Project Update and Future Possibilities

Faculty Presenters:

Aisha Johnson-Jones, Head of Special Collections and Archives
Clayton McCarl, Associate Professor of Spanish

Student Presenters:

Chad Germany, History undergraduate
Aislinn Kelly, English undergraduate
Dean Rice, English graduate student
Lauren Winters, History undergraduate

Editing the Eartha M.M. White Archives is an ongoing project in which students work hands-on in the transcription and electronic edition of documents, held in UNF's Special Collections, related to the life and work of Eartha M. M. White (1876–1974). As founder of the Clara White Mission and a leader of Jacksonville's African American community, Eartha M. M. White is a vital figure in Jacksonville's history, and the personal papers involved in this project hold relevance for scholars both locally and nationally. This project began within the experimental course Introduction to Electronic Textual Editing, first taught in Summer A 2016. Dr. Aisha Johnson-Jones helped students to understand the biographical and social context in which these documents were produced, and trained them on archival methods and procedures. Dr. McCarl led the students in the transcription, regularization and annotation of the documents, as well as their encoding in TEI–XML, the standard today for creating digital texts in the Humanities. In this presentation, Dr. Johnson-Jones and Dr. McCarl will be accompanied by students who participated in the course, to discuss their experiences over the summer, share the work that was produced, and reflect on the future direction of the project.