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## Special Collections reaches out through digitization

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## Special Collections Reaches Out through Digitization



Did you know that Cook Library's Special Collections and Archives has expanded their electronic offerings for ease of use in the library and at home? Libraries with unique collections across the globe are rapidly digitizing them in order to reach more communities and Cook Library has been an active participant in this endeavor since 2008. Led by Nadia Nasr, University Archivist and Digital Collections Librarian, the Special

Collections and Archives (SCA) department has been steadily increasing online access to its collections and extending its reach beyond the campus community.

The effort has been undertaken through outsourcing to vendors and in-house production. A partnership with the [Lyris Mass Digitization Program](#) in 2010 provided for the digitization of almost 70,000 pages of student newspapers from 1921-1948, course catalogs from 1866-1994, and a selection of yearbooks. Currently, the remainder of the student newspapers is being digitized by the Crowley Company in Bethesda and SCA hopes to have them online by spring 2012.

In-house digitization has produced fewer results, but has chipped away at providing access to a photograph collection numbering in the tens of thousands. To date over 900 photographs are available online and constitute but a small sampling of the wealth of the collection as a whole. In addition, these items have gained new popularity in the online realms of the Special Collections and Archives [Facebook](#) page and its blog, [Acid Free](#).

For more information about SCA's digital collections please visit <http://cooklibrary.towson.edu/spcoll/>.

Written by Shannon Simpson and Nadia Nasr