A Digital Quandary: Limited vs Broadly Accessible Collections

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A Digital Quandary: Limited vs. Broadly Accessible Collections

Andrea Jackson & Christine Wiseman
Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library

Oberlin Digital Scholarship Conference
June 11, 2016
The AUC Woodruff Library serves as the center of the academic village for Clark Atlanta University, the Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse College and Spelman College, providing the highest level of information resources and services in support of teaching learning, scholarship, and cultural preservation of the Atlanta University Center.
“Premier Destination Archives”
ARC is a cultural asset and active participant in teaching and scholarship, providing collaborative leadership in the preservation, access, and collection development of archival resources.

- Nearly 8,000 linear feet of archival materials and rare books
- Collections document Atlanta University Center institutions and the African American experience primarily in Atlanta and Southern United States
- Digital collections include Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. and Tupac Amaru Shakur Collections, photographs, audio and moving image materials
Digital Services Department

- Digitization Services
  Patron requests
  Projects
  Exhibits
- Repository Management
- Archival Systems Support
  ArchivesSpace
  XTF
- Library ILS
- Digital Preservation
Digital Initiatives and Archival Collections

- Archival Systems Support
- Digital Humanities Projects
- Mass Digitization Projects
- Digital Exhibits
- Grants
- Born Digital Workflows

Digital Preservation Planning
Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection — *limited accessibility*

- Approximately 13,000 items (over 50,000 pages)
- Over 1100 books
- Fifteen series, including:
  - Writings by MLK
  - Writings by others
  - Correspondence
  - Educational Materials
  - Southern Christian Leadership Conference
  - Montgomery Improvement Association
  - Dexter Avenue Baptist Church
  - Ebenezer Baptist Church
  - Photographs

March on Washington, 1963, Courtesy of Associated Press
Tupac Amaru Shakur Collection – limited accessibility

• 11.5 linear feet (28 boxes)

• Nine series:

  Writings by Tupac Amaru Shakur
  Writings by Others
  Correspondence
  Media and Publicity
  Clinton Correctional Facility Records
  Euphanasia Organizational Records
  Legal Records
  Photographs
  Memorabilia

• Digital AND physical collection
Finding Aids — external and internal
Finding Aids — external and internal
Digital Collections

- HBCU Library Alliance, http://hbcudigitallibrary.auctr.edu/cdm/
- Digital Commons @ AUC Woodruff Library, e-Scholarship IR, http://digitalcommons.auctr.edu/
- Digital Exhibits, http://digitalexhibits.auctr.edu/
HBCU Library Alliance Digital Collection

http://hbcudigitallibrary.auctr.edu/cdm/

- Collaborative digital initiative funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation starting in 2005
- Subject focus: founding documents
- Role of HBCUs in the history of African American higher education
- Early 1800s – present
- Photographs, publications, letters, programs, memorabilia
- Platform: CONTENTdm; harvested by Digital Library Georgia
Digital Commons@AUC Woodruff Library

- [http://digitalcommons.auctr.edu/](http://digitalcommons.auctr.edu/)
- Hosted open access institutional repository software from bepress
- Over 3,700 digital items accessible
- Total downloads: 396,695
- Downloads this year: 179,574
- Metadata harvested by DLG, DPLA, GKR, Global ETD Search
Digital Exhibits

• Seeking to Tell A Story: Political Action from Slavery to Civil Rights
  focus on Atlanta Student Movement
  OMEKA
  http://digitalexhibits.auctr.edu/

• Finding A Way: The Black Family’s Struggle for an Education
  HTML web exhibit
  Needs updating
  http://findingaway.auctr.edu/

"Don't Buy Here," 1960, Mary Ann Smith Wilson – Ruby Doris Smith Robinson Collection on Student Activism, featured in Seeking to Tell a Story: Political Action from Slavery to Civil Rights exhibit,
  http://digitalexhibits.auctr.edu/items/show/169.
Grants — *broad accessibility*

HBCU Photograph Preservation Project, Round III

- Mellon funding via LYRASIS
- Conservation treatment of Class Composites
- Digitized audio, video and photographs identified as priorities in prior grants
- Mentoring and training interns
- Career Roundtable Event
- Staff training and consulting
- Outreach to faculty

Clark College Commencement, ca 1970, Vivian Wilson Henderson Papers, Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library.
Grants — *broad accessibility*

**Knight Foundation & Digital Library of Georgia**

- Collaboration with Digital Library of Georgia
- Digitization of 350 pre-1925 photographs from Atlanta University Photographs and Clark College Photographs
- Images posted on DLG portal, [http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/Institutions/auu.html](http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/Institutions/auu.html)
- Metadata harvested by DPLA

Atlanta University Track Team, 1903, Atlanta University Photographs, Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library, Presented in the Digital Library of Georgia.
Grants — *broad accessibility*

**Spreading the Word: Expanding Access to African American Religious Archival Collections**

- NEH Preservation and Access, July 2015-June 2018
- Fully process 14 archival collections
- Digitize and provide access to 1,100 audio and video assets, and 2,100 photographs
- Incorporate resources into training and outreach
- Project blog: [https://aucwoodruffarchives.wordpress.com/](https://aucwoodruffarchives.wordpress.com/)

Anna E. Hall, ca. 1925, Anna E. Hall Collection, Photographs, Image16, Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library.
Outreach: Course Integration

10 Greatest Men of Century, ca. 1960-1965, Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection, Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library.

- Partner with Director of Office of Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection
- Interdisciplinary Approaches
  - **Humanities:**
    - Primary Document Analysis
    - King’s research on philosophers
  - **STEM:**
    - Calculation of March on Washington distance and mileage
- Challenges with assignments using technology

[Image Extracted]
Outreach: Faculty and Student Engagement

- Partnered with Innovative Learning Institutes and Faculty
- Faculty served on conference planning committee
- Other outreach activities:
  - Block Party
  - Exhibits
- Challenges with remote instruction and presentations

Remote Use of Openly Accessible Digital Collections

• Grant Outcomes
• Distance Learning
  Religion and Philosophy
• Thematic Course Integration
  Pan Africanism
  Civil Rights
  Black Arts/Aesthetics
• E-Learning Technologies
  Social Media

Video from Asa G. Hilliard, III Papers, 1996, Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library.

Photograph from Interdenominational Theological Center Photographs, Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library.
Digital Collections Quandary

Limited Accessibility Issues

• Social Media
• Course Management Systems
• Distance Learning
• Remote Access
• Permissions
• Collaborative Initiatives

Broad Accessibility Issues

• Selective Digitization
• Copyright Restrictions
• Loss of Content Control
THANK YOU!

Questions?

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