Open Access Week 2012

Through October 22-25, 2012, the AUC Woodruff Library is celebrating the sixth annual Open Access Week, a worldwide awareness campaign. During this week, global conversations address the changing nature of scholarly communication (research output) and the evolution of publishing models for this output to ensure research is available in a free and unrestricted manner.

The open access initiative in the AUC community is being spearheaded by the Library and AUC faculty representatives serving on the Library Advisory Council. Why is open access important?

• The current business model for production and distribution of research is no longer affordable and requires libraries to be limited in their decisions about what to purchase for faculty and student use.
• Faculty and scholars can have greater access to intellectual property rights.
• The adoption of open access means institutions gain greater visibility of their research without impacting their working with publishers.

Throughout the 2012-2013 academic year, the Library will be sharing information on the initiative with AUC faculty and conducting other activities related to open access and scholarly communication. For more information about open access initiative at the AUC, contact Elizabeth McClenney, Deputy Director of the Library, at emcclenney@auctr.edu.

Students Help Preserve History

“Think this is someone important. I just don’t know who,” said Christopher Houchen as he held up a photo of a famous entertainer who participated in the civil rights movement. Houchen, an undergraduate at Clark Atlanta University, is one of two student assistants who worked on the HBCU Photograph Preservation Project II this past summer semester at the AUC Woodruff Library. Camille Vincent, a Spelman College student, is the other. She, too, felt she had an idea of who the person might be but could not quite place the face. Jada Harris, the photo preservation manager at the Library, gave them a few hints on the identity before realizing the person in the photo died before the two were born. The students are surprised to learn that it is Sammy Davis Jr.

The Library is one of several partner institutions participating in the Mellon Foundation-funded HBCU Photograph Preservation Project II to preserve the photographic collections documenting the rich legacies of historically black colleges and universities. Houchen and Vincent have been assisting Harris with the Mellon Foundation-funded preservation project, which involves assessing and surveying the photographic materials in ten collections housed in the Library’s Archives Research Center. Additionally, collections found at the Spelman College Archives – a sister institution – are also being preserved and made accessible through grant funds from this project.

The collections at Woodruff Library document three presidents from Morehouse College, Gammon Theological Seminary and the Interdenominational Theological Center, as well as several faculty members and alumni from Interdenominational Theological Center, Clark College, Atlanta University, Morris Brown College, and Morehouse College. Photographs of annual activities at Spelman College – such as commencement, Founders Day, and Class Day – are also being organized and preserved. Activities of the project include sleeving photographs in chemically inert polypropylene sleeves, re-housing, and describing identified photographic materials, as well as entering descriptive data for improved intellectual control and accessibility.

As part of their work on the project, Houchen and Vincent took part in a seven-day training workshop on photograph preservation held by the University of Delaware’s Art Conservation Department. They used their newly learned skills in processing photographs and also became well-versed in the history of the Atlanta University Center.

“What I helped them identify some of the more prominent figures in our photographic collection that over the years have taught or visited the campuses, such as W.E.B. DuBois, Eleanor Roosevelt, and President Jimmy Carter, the students made themselves into historians of Atlanta University Center,” said Harris. “There are dozens of iconic images of presidents and their families, staff, students, and faculty in our photographic preservation collections that we are cataloguing, describing and preserving. Christopher and Camille were soon able to identify them by sight and era. They knew who they were, their accomplishments, and their history.”

She added, “The students’ work has made it possible for researchers for years to come to have access to vital visual materials of important historical record.”

What is OPEN ACCESS?

Open Access is the practice of making scholarly research available online in digital format for free and immediate access with limited or no copyright restrictions. Anyone is able to copy, distribute, or use/ reuse the material with the appropriate citation of the author and original source. Learn more from the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition at www.arl.org/sparc.
AUC Woodruff Library staff share some of their favorite recent reads.

by Jordan Moore

With Malice Toward None: A Life of Abraham Lincoln
by Stephen B. Oates
“I return to this Lincoln biography because I find it encouraging. In this author’s portrayal of our sixteenth president, his character flaws, foibles, and human imperfections are described in as much detail as his strengths and leadership choices. The person that emerges in this biography is one that we can relate to and one that is very human.”
— Em Decker, E-Learning Technologies Unit Head

A Walk in the Woods
by Bill Bryson
“The book is a hysterical account of the author’s attempt to hike the full, 2,184 mile length of the Appalachian Trail, from North Georgia to Maine. Probably the funniest book I have ever read, and that is what keeps me coming back.”
— Michael Luther, Reference Librarian

The Jeeves & Wooster Collection
by P.G. Wodehouse
“This collection is body of stories surrounding a hapless British gentleman and his extraordinary valet, Jeeves. The stories were written in the 1920s and 30s, and they sometimes show outdated racism and sexism, but the stories have a lot of humor and heart.”
— Jordan Moore, Reference Librarian

I Am One of You Forever
by Fred Chappell
“This humorous coming-of-age story about a young boy in the South relates the visitations of many and assorted weird and wonderful relatives to the rural homestead. Chappell mixes tragedy in with his comedy but never heavy handedly.”
— Brad Ost, Theology Librarian

The House on Sugar Beach:
In Search of a Lost African Childhood
by Helene Cooper
“It’s a great non-fiction story that reads like fiction, erasing misperceptions of growing up in Africa and presenting a whole new understanding of existence in 20th century Liberia. When I finished reading, I felt so passionate about the book that I wanted to hop on a plane to visit it!”
— Loretta Parham, CEO & Library Director

I’m not saying I’m gonna change the world, but I guarantee that I will spark the brain that will change the world.”
— Tupac Shakur

On September 28-29, 2012, a spark most certainly was ignited when Hip Hop scholars, educators, students and artists from around the country convened at the AUC Woodruff Library for the Tupac Amaru Shakur Collection Conference. The academic conference, “Hip Hop, Education, and Expanding the Archival Imagination,” explored the life and work of Tupac Shakur and Hip Hop archives and studies.

Speakers include Dr. Mark Anthony Neal, professor of Black Popular Culture at Duke University; Jeffrey O. G. Ogbar, Vice Provost for Diversity and professor of History at the University of Connecticut; Kevin Powell, author and political activist; and Dr. Akinyele K. Umoja, associate professor and chair of the Department of African American Studies at Georgia State University.

“This academic conference was a significant and historical event. Exploring artists like Tupac Shakur within a scholarly context acknowledges the importance of the growing field of Hip Hop studies in academia,” said Loretta Parham, CEO & Library Director of the AUC Woodruff Library. “The conference also highlighted the responsibility of libraries and archives to provide access to primary resource materials as well as to promote the research and teaching of these treasured original documents.”

“The Shakur Collection Conference was a milestone towards the advancement of Tupac Amaru Shakur’s work for use in research and academic endeavors,” said Vernal Cambridge III, Executive Director of the Tupac Amaru Shakur Foundation and the Center for the Arts. “I was amazed by the analysis and intellectual perspectives of Tupac’s words and how they can be used in education. We hope the conference serves to further encourage Hip Hop curriculum development.”

Panelists presented papers on topics from diverse disciplines. Examples of presentations include “Hip Hop and Its Contribution to African American Literature,” “Changing the Game: How Tupac’s Legacy and Hip Hop Culture Have Found Their Place in College Classrooms across Disciplines,” “Collecting the Underground: Archiving Hip Hop,” and “Better Dayz: Tupac’s Critical Call for a Better Legal System.”

The two-day conference commemorated the Tupac Amaru Shakur Collection, which opened to the public for research at the AUC Woodruff Library’s Archives Research Center last year on the fifteenth anniversary of the artist’s death. Spanning a period from 1969 to 2008, the Shakur Collection includes items such as handwritten song lyrics and poems, memorabilia, correspondence, press clippings and publicity materials. The Shakur Collection represents a partnership between the AUC Woodruff Library, Amaru Entertainment, Inc. and the Tupac Amaru Shakur Foundation to make available these original documents.

For inquiries about the Shakur Collection, contact 404.978.2052 or archives@auctr.edu.
Search Smarter, Not Harder

by Phyllis McElroy

The AUC Woodruff Library has upgraded the Smart Search tool. Originally implemented to simplify the online search process for library resources, the web-based tool makes it even easier for students and faculty to locate what they are looking for. Smart Search users can now personalize results, limit results by date range, refine search results using multiple options, save entire pages of search results, share their favorite books and articles with Facebook friends, and “tag” results for colleagues and other patrons.

The Smart Search tool is located on the Library’s homepage at www.auctr.edu.

Library Wins Interior Design Award

The AUC Woodruff Library and Boston-based architectural firm Shepley Bulfinch won the “Single Space” category in the 2012 Library Interior Design Competition for the Learning Commons. The biennial design award is jointly sponsored by the International Interior Design Association and the American Library Association.

“We’re excited about this award as it endorses our concept of a flexible and attractive space and one that is owned by the students and faculty of the Atlanta University Center,” said Loretta Parham, CEO & Library Director. “Shepley Bulfinch did an exceptional job in creating a dynamic environment in the phase one renovation of our Library, as did project managers Silverman Construction Program Management and the construction team Turner Construction Special Projects. The value in their work is recognized every day when we see how much our patrons enjoy the Learning Commons area.”

The 2010 interior renovation transformed the Library into a dynamic gathering place and center of teaching, learning, and scholarship. Central to Shepley Bulfinch’s design response was the creation of a learning commons, which serves as the Library’s welcoming “front door” and provides primary services and a variety of settings for learning, working, and collaborating.

Dr. C. Eric Lincoln Exhibit Celebrates Lecture Series

by Allison Galloup

This month Clark Atlanta University celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the C. Eric Lincoln Lecture Series. Over the past 30 years, this lecture series has featured scholars in religion and sociology, such as Dr. Robert Franklin, Dr. James Cone, Dr. Alton Pollard, and Alex Haley. This year’s speaker, Rev. Dr. William B. McClain, is a professor at Wesley Theological Seminary and was one of Dr. Lincoln’s students.

In conjunction with the anniversary, the Archives Research Center is exhibiting materials from the C. Eric Lincoln collection and the C. Eric Lincoln Lecture Series collection. The exhibit focuses on Rev. Dr. McClain and his relationship with Dr. Lincoln. The exhibit also includes a section on the history of the C. Eric Lincoln Lecture Series from its inception to last year’s lecture by Dr. Lawrence Mamiya.

“The Archives Research Center staff has done a tremendous job serving the community at Clark Atlanta University. Their expertise and tremendous service with the C. Eric Lincoln collection has allowed us to make the lectureship series one of the finest and most recognized in the United States,” said Dr. Philip Dunston, Department Chair of Clark Atlanta University’s Religion and Philosophy Department.

The C. Eric Lincoln exhibit will be on display through October 2012. Contact 404.978.2052 or archives@auc.tr.edu for more information.

New E-Learning Technologies Unit Now @ Library

The AUC Woodruff Library now has an E-Learning Technologies Unit focused on working with faculty, students, and staff to enhance the teaching and learning through the creative use of technology. The newly-formed unit monitors trends in emerging technologies and instructional design, with the objective of aiding the AUC community in implementing these new resources into traditional, online, and hybrid courses. Overseeing the Library’s Technology Design Studio, the unit also offers instruction on the software available in the audio-visual and production suites.

“The E-Learning Technologies Unit will provide instruction and training to AUC faculty, students, and staff in order to increase the effective use of emerging technologies in the library. We are looking forward to embarking on many projects to reach our technology-related goals,” said Emy Decker, unit head.

The E-Learning Technologies Unit offers workshops, interest groups, as well as one-on-one tutorials for members of the AUC community. To learn more, contact 404.978.2053.

Teenie Harris Exhibit

The Teenie Harris, Photographer: An American Story exhibit will have its premier showing in the southeastern United States at the AUC Woodruff Library throughout spring semester 2013. Charles “Teenie” Harris (1908-1998), a noted photographer for the Pittsburgh Courier, chronicled the Pittsburgh’s African American community over a period of 50 years from Jim Crow through the civil rights eras. The traveling exhibit is on loan from Carnegie Museum of Art and is sponsored by PNC Bank. More information on the official opening is forthcoming in January.
Karen Jefferson Appointed to NHPRC

Last spring, President Obama appointed Karen Jefferson, archivist and records manager at the AUC Woodruff Library, to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). She joined fourteen other appointees to the NHPRC.

“Being appointed by President Obama is a special honor. I’m pleased to be recognized as a leader in the archival profession and to assist the Commission with its work in support of archives and preservation,” said Jefferson. “It’s a privilege to represent the expertise found in the staff at the AUC Woodruff Library and the AUC institutions.”

The NHPRC is affiliated with the National Archives and Records Administration and serves as its grant making arm. Established in 1934, NHPRC supports a wide range of activities to preserve, publish, and encourage the use of documentary sources, created in every medium ranging from quill pen to computer, relating to the history of the United States.

Photo credit: Oscar Daniel

“Karen Jefferson’s appointment to the NHPRC is an outstanding recognition of her professional achievements,” said Loretta Parham, CEO & Library Director of the AUC Woodruff Library. “The work of the NHPRC is important to all of us because of its mission of preserving history. I’m pleased Karen has been selected to contribute.”

Jefferson has worked at the AUC Woodruff Library for 13 years of her more than 35 years of experience as an archivist. She previously worked at Howard University, Duke University, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She is an active member and Fellow of the Society of American Archivists and a founding member of the Academy of Certified Archivists. She received a B.A. in History from Howard University and an M.S. in Library Science from Clark Atlanta University.

We Have Gone Mobile!

The AUC Woodruff Library’s key resources are now available for the mobile devices of our on-the-go patrons!

The Library has new app, which is free and can be downloaded by searching for “AUC Woodruff Library” in the Android Market or the iTunes Apple Store. Users can view Library hours, directions, and parking information. They can search the Library’s catalog and beyond for books, articles, DVDs, and CDs. Current students and faculty can also access My Library Account to renew materials, check due dates, request items, and more. Tracking the shuttle routes is also available via the app.

Quiet Study Areas

Today’s academic libraries have become social hubs of campuses, and with that comes the soft buzz of conversation which may be disturbing to those seeking a quiet space to study. At the AUC Woodruff Library, there are designated areas in the building that are cell phone-free, quiet zones, offering a comfortable environment for studying and research. AUC graduate students and faculty can swipe their valid AUC ID cards for entry into the Graduate Study Suite located on the Library’s lower level. Also on this level, is the Quiet Study Suite for all patrons of the Library. On the upper level, there are other designated quiet areas for use. Free wireless access throughout the building provides easier use of the Library’s electronic resources.

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Located on the main level.
Hours
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