NCPC Presents Preservation Award to Hunter Library

Hunter Library’s Digital Collections at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee was honored with the North Carolina Preservation Consortium (NCPC) Award for Preservation Excellence at the 2015 NCPC Annual Conference.

This award recognizes institutions in North Carolina that have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the preservation of tangible and intangible heritage of enduring value. The NCPC Board of Directors selected Hunter Library’s Digital Collections for preserving the history and culture of our state’s western region. These collections support education, research, and humanities programs.

Anna Fariello, Associate Professor for Digital Initiatives, accepted the award on behalf of Hunter Library at the NCPC annual conference held at the William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education at UNC Chapel Hill on November 20, 2015. She remarked that, “Hunter now has 15 collections archived online. These range from small, library-held collections, like the Civil War, to large partnered collections, like Great Smoky Mountains: A Park for America. We created new positions; a head of technology, a digital initiatives librarian, and several digital production technicians. Hunter Library has gone from case-by-case digital projects to a truly sustainable digital preservation program.”

“Much of our local history is not housed in large institutions with institutional capacity; instead, many of western North Carolina’s historical treasures are located in small archives. While these are doing a great job in terms of holding items for the future, for the most part, before working

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with Hunter Library, documents and photographs sat in storage with limited public access,” said Fariello.

Heather South, archivist at the Western Regional Archives, said, “The partnership established by the library with both the National Park Service and the State Archives of North Carolina Western Regional Archives, has now opened up research to thousands of previously locked away images and created digital preservation and access that would have never happened otherwise...For us, the project has opened up our collections to a wider audience as well as provided us with much needed preservation scanning of records and images that we just were unable to do on our own.”

Robert James, NCPC Executive Director, invites nominations for this year’s award. To submit a nomination, go to the NCPC Awards website. Letters must be received by September 1, 2016.

**FY2015 Preservation Statistics Now Open—**

The FY2015 Preservation Statistics Survey, a project to document and analyze the preservation activities of cultural heritage institutions in the United States, is now open. Any library or archives in the United States conducting preservation activities is encouraged to participate in this survey which will be open from Tuesday, January 19 through Friday, March 4, 2016.

The goal of the Preservation Statistics Survey, now in its fourth year, is to document the state of preservation activities in this digital era via quantitative data that facilitates peer comparison and tracks changes in the preservation and conservation fields over time. The Survey, a project of the Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS) of the Association of Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), is based on the Preservation Statistics survey program coordinated by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) from 1984 through 2008. Learn more about the history of the project in their recent LRTS paper “Do You Count? The Revitalization of a National Preservation Statistics Program.”

**Why should your institution participate in the FY2015 Preservation Statistics Survey?**

- The FY2015 survey is short and asks only for **production data** — information you already have for annual reporting or internal planning and evaluation.
- Preservation Statistics data helps you — and the wider preservation community — advocate for preservation programming and activities, demonstrating how programs compare to peers as well as areas of strength and need.
- Your participation can help us achieve a representative body of preservation programs, which means better analysis and examination of trends in preservation programming. To continue the Preservation Statistics Project, they need seventy-five institutions to respond to this FY15 survey.

For more information, visit the Preservation Statistics website [http://www.ala.org/alcts/resources/preservation/presstats](http://www.ala.org/alcts/resources/preservation/presstats). Contact the Preservation Statistics Survey team with any questions or feedback: preservationstatistics@gmail.com.
NEH FilmCare Resource

FilmCare.org, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, is a central resource for best practices in film preservation that provides guidelines for dealing with the preservation of all types and formats of film materials.

FilmCare addresses the requirements for preserving black-and-white and color film and nitrate, acetate, and polyester-based film. It also addresses specific issues for motion-picture film, sheet film, still roll film, microfilm, and aerial film, as well as the management of collections containing a variety of media types (certainly the most common real-life situations encountered in the field).

This approach focuses primarily on storage, condition surveys, and the development and implementation of best-fit environment-based strategies. Users can create a free account to evaluate their own collections and get specific guidance on next steps for best practices for film preservation.

Sign up today at http://www.filmcare.org to get a free account and learn more about film.

AIC-CERT is now NHR

The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation is pleased to announce that the American Institute for Conservation – Collections Emergency Response Team (AIC-CERT) will now be known as the National Heritage Responders (NHR).

The NHR will operate within the Foundation’s new Heritage Emergency Programs. These programs include many initiatives formerly run by Heritage Preservation, such as Alliance for Response and the Risk Evaluation and Planning Program. The services previously offered by AIC-CERT will continue to be offered by the NHR including a 24-hour hotline for free advice by phone. Volunteer teams may come to the site at no cost to complete a damage assessment and help organize salvage operations. Call (202) 661-8068 for advice or to arrange a site visit. Online and print resources are also available.

Resources and information on disaster recovery and salvage can be found on the AIC website at www.conservation-us.org/disaster.

LC: Be Kind To Books

The Library of Congress has developed new educational resources on library preservation that are available free to download and print. Included are a poster series for children, a reading room Care and Handling card, and a preservation advocacy poster.

The Be Kind to Books Club posters, created especially for schools and public libraries, educate young readers on proper book handling.

The bold, colorful series evokes the WPA posters of the New Deal and specifically references the work of WPA artist Arlington Gregg who developed the Be Kind to Books Club motto in the 1930’s.

The Care and Handling card explains how to safely handle collections to help prevent damage. The card can be printed on a standard color office printer.

A general advocacy poster with the Preservation Week motto, Pass it on, summarizes why preservation matters.

The above resources can be downloaded from the Library’s Preservation website: http://www.loc.gov/preservation/resources/educational/index.html
Preservation Self-Assessment Program is Now Live

The University of Illinois and its project partners are proud to announce that after two years of development and testing, The Preservation Self-Assessment Program (PSAP) is available for use. The PSAP is a free online tool that helps collections managers prioritize efforts to improve conditions of collections materials. Through guided evaluation of items and collections, storage and exhibit environments, and institutional policies, the PSAP produces reports on the factors that impact the health of cultural heritage materials, and defines the points from which to begin care.

The PSAP was created to assist any organization that collects paper documents/books, photographic and image materials, and audiovisual media, including library special collections, archives, museums, and historical societies. Like the Audiovisual Self-Assessment Program (AvSAP) which preceded it, the PSAP is designed to assist organizations where little to no prior preservation training exists. Our goal is to help collections managers develop a prioritized preservation plan as well as to educate them on the “health risks” posed to their collections, and what they can do to mitigate them with the resources at hand.

In addition to the assessment functions, the PSAP also offers the Format ID Guide among other useful resources. The Format ID Guide is a stand-alone guide that can assist collections managers in identifying the formats of materials in their collections, ranging from matte collodion photographs to U-matic video recordings. Once identified, the Format ID Guide provides useful advice on that material type’s history, composition, preservation challenges, and optimal storage and display.

The University of Illinois Library partnered with Heritage Preservation, the Spurlock Museum, the Illinois State Library, the McLean County Museum of History, the Chicago History Museum, The Urbana Free Library, and the Illinois Heritage Association on this project. The PSAP was made possible with generous support through a National Leadership Grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS). For more information on the Preservation Self-Assessment Program visit the PSAP website at https://psap.library.illinois.edu/

Support NCPC by Shopping Amazon Smile

In November 2015 NCPC received its first AmazonSmile disbursement. Thanks to all of you who support us through this program. AmazonSmile makes it easy to support NCPC by shopping online. When you order items via AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to NCPC. By selecting NCPC as your designated charity, your purchases give back to NCPC at no additional cost to you. When you start your shopping with AmazonSmile you automatically support NCPC.

To sign up, log in to your Amazon account at http://smile.amazon.com. Search their database for North Carolina Preservation Consortium, and select NCPC as your charitable organization. When you are ready to shop, simply enter the Amazon website through the AmazonSmile URL.

More information on the AmazonSmile program can be found on their website. Please note that purchases made through AmazonSmile are not tax deductible. You may also change your designated charity at any time, but we hope that you stay with NCPC. AmazonSmile is an easy and cost effective way to help support NCPC and our programs.
NCPC Moves Website and Email Lists

At the August 2015 board meeting the NCPC Board of Directors approved the move of our website to Wordpress. Wordpress is a popular blogging platform that allows site administrators to quickly and easily update information in an intuitive and user-friendly format. Wordpress makes creating and updating a website easy for the average person.

Over the next few months we will complete the transfer of the information from our old site to the new one. This change will allow our web presence to be more flexible and the information to be kept more current. We hope you will find it more useful and engaging as well.

Another upcoming change will be to our listservs. We are transitioning these to Google Groups. This format will be slightly different from the old format, but it offers us more flexibility and easier administration of the lists. You do not need a Gmail account to sign up, but you do need one to take full advantage of Google Groups. Gmail accounts are free and easy to set up. Please sign up for the new NCPC-News list by going to: https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/ncpc-news

Thank you for your patience during these transitions. If you have any questions, or if you have difficulties signing up with the new lists, please contact Robert James, NCPC Executive Director.

NCPC Board Member to Present Paper at AIC 2016 Conference

David Goist, NCPC President and conservator in private practice, has had his paper selected to be part of the General Session for the 2016 Joint Annual Meeting and Conference of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works and the Canadian Association for Conservation. His talk titled, “Our Place in Line: Response Protocol for Conservators Following Major Disasters,” is based on his experiences during Hurricane Katrina, post-earthquake in Haiti, and post-Super Storm Sandy in New York.

Many conservators, upon hearing of a major disaster, imagine themselves being part the cavalry charge to save the day. While conservators are able to respond quickly to local building fires and floods, once cleared for safe access, providing aid to sites within a major disaster zone requires restraint. Goist will speak on ten key facts and guidelines for conservators to remember when responding to any disaster. The 2016 AIC Annual Meeting is in Montreal, Canada.