



Cultural Heritage Digitization Award

Winner Profiles

Contents

I. 2018: Alcorn State University	1
II. 2017: Carnegie Public Library	2
III. 2016: Catholic Diocese of Jackson	3
IV. 2015: The Mississippi University for Women Archive	4

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2018: Alcorn State University

Institution: Alcorn State University

Proposed Collection: Forever Alcorn: Stories to Be Told

Collection Significance: Alcorn State University, the oldest public black land-grant institution in the United States, was founded in 1871; and has educated many descendants of formally enslaved Africans. Therefore, this historical legacy has created a collection of documents that portrays the activities of the facts and figures of the historical development. This collection consists of yearbooks, college catalogs, history books, alumni publications and civil rights events.

Community Significance: This history should be preserved and accessible to the local, state, and national communities. This project will promote the history of black land grant education in the South, both successes and oppositions that students faced while attending school. Originally, Alcorn only admitted males in 1878, but later admitted women. Therefore, it is imperative that the millennium students understand the transition of the education in the state of Mississippi even through the civil rights era. Civil rights also existed on the campus of Alcorn State.

Benefit to Institution: This project will broaden the scope of the university and expand the visibility of the University by promoting access to digital resources online for researchers. This collection will highlight items that have been long forgotten or rarely discussed and provide the millennial students a historical review of the origin of the university, including a unique look at the campus from the perspective of current or former faculty, staff and students, and those who helped make the university what it is today.

Collection Format: Materials include college catalogs and yearbooks; which sizes range from 10 x 12.5 and 13 x 10 respectively.

Copyright: No permissions necessary; materials are public domain materials.

Timeline: Metadata and project timeline includes all activities and milestones with appropriate personnel assigned for project completion.

Notes: Well thought out reasons for digitizing particular items including historical significance and research interest. Long-term strategic preparation for the growth and development of the archival collection, including securing funds to continue the digitization process. Alcorn has a rich history that is beyond words and expression and it has a story that needs to be told through the life and times of those who have walked the path that led to its great success.

2017: Carnegie Public Library

Institution: Carnegie Public Library of Clarksdale and Coahoma County

Proposed Collection: Coahoma County Cultural Heritage Digital Collection

Collection Significance: The collection consists of photographs, manuscripts, postcards, maps, historic and original letters, slave letters, documentations and papers, numerous and valuable family collections of genealogies and histories, and library records spanning from the early 1800s to the current decade.

Community Significance: Local, state, and national appeal. Materials receive consistent use. The collection highlights the history of Coahoma County, including the pioneers' county settlement, the library's initial century, and citizens' involvement in international and national wars, natural disasters and social movements.

Benefit to Institution: Address funding and preservation concerns; provide a systemized digital file management and retrieval solution to library staff and patrons; greater online accessibility of cultural heritage materials; remove age and economic barriers to broaden audience; enhance library's online presence

Collection Format: Mostly photographs that are 4" x 6" and smaller to 8" x 10", and negatives and 35mm film; some documents, scrapbooks and oversized items.

Copyright: No known copyright restrictions for the majority of the collection. Most of the photographs and documents owned by Carnegie by way of donations or library creation. Additional research scheduled regarding some collection papers. Any items without proper copyright permissions will be replaced with other materials.

Timeline: Metadata and project timeline includes all activities and milestones with appropriate personnel assigned for project completion.

Notes: Well thought out reasons for digitizing particular items including research interest and condition of physical materials. Long-term collection divided into mini-projects. Immediate digitization project focused on fragile, damaged, rare, highly used, and/or frequently requested materials.

2016: Catholic Diocese of Jackson

Institution: Catholic Diocese of Jackson

Proposed Collection: The Bishop Richard Oliver Gerow Photograph Collection

Collection Significance: The collection holds documents, artifacts, and photographs dating back to early Spanish Colonial Mississippi. The photographs are dated as early as 1860 and feature important events; structures such as churches, schools, and orphanages; Native Americans; African Americans; immigrant communities; priests; religious men and women (brothers and sisters); and bishops.

Community Significance: Local, state, and national appeal. Materials are requested but there is little to no space to allow access to them. The collection reflects the development of the Catholic Church, its people, and institutions as the State of Mississippi developed. It also provides the unique view of Mississippi's cultural development through the lens of a religious leader.

Benefit to Institution: Increased access and visibility of Gerow collection, generation of research interest, and the first step in a digitization program.

Collection Format: Mostly 3" x 5", 2.5" x 3", and 8" x 10" black and white photographs. A few 14" x 16" and 20" x 20" photographs.

Copyright: No known copyright restrictions for the majority of the collection. Most of the photographs were taken by Bishop Gerow in service to the diocese. In house legal counsel is available for advisement on other materials. Permission for one item will be requested from a local studio. If permission cannot be secured for this photograph, it will not be featured online.

Timeline: Request for metadata training. Ample manpower will be dedicated to the project.

Notes: Well thought out reasons for digitizing particular items including research interest and condition of physical materials. Underrepresented subject area in the current MDL collections. Good grasp on what researchers are interested in from their collections and what materials they should focus on.

2015: The Mississippi University for Women Archive

Institution: The Mississippi University for Women (MUW) Archive

Proposed Collection: The MUW Archive Photograph Collection

Collection Significance: Possibly one of the most complete pictorial histories of women in higher education. Touches on nationally known figures in Mississippi history.

Community Significance: Local, state, and national appeal. Materials receive consistent use. History of higher education for women, architectural trends, cultural changes, racial/gender integration, and the history of Columbus & Lowndes Counties.

Benefit to Institution: Increased visibility of MUW collections, generation of research interest, greater access to materials, and the first step in a digitization program.

Collection Format: Mostly 8" x 10" and smaller; a few 9" x 12"; single pages

Copyright: No known copyright restrictions for the majority of the collection. Most of the photographs were taken by the MUW Public Relations department. Permissions have been requested from a local photographer whose work is in the collection. If permissions cannot be secured for these photographs, they will be replaced with items without restrictions.

Timeline: Clear timeline. Includes who will create metadata and how many records they will need to create per month until digitization week.

Notes: Well thought out reasons for digitizing particular items including research interest and condition of physical materials. Metadata already created for the bulk of the collection. It will need to be transferred to MDL formatting, but the work has been addressed in the timeline.