ROBERT W. WOODRUFF LIBRARY ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER

JOSH HOGAN AND CHRISTINE WISEMAN

OVERVIEW

Established in 1982, the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library is unique on a number of fronts. It is an independent, non-profit academic library and research center providing information services to the world's largest consortium of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs): Clark Atlanta University, the Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse College and Spelman College. The Archives Research Center's (ARC) history dates back to the establishment of the Collection in 1925 under the auspices of Atlanta University's Trevor Arnett Library "Negro Collection." The AUC Woodruff Library has over 12 years of experience developing digital services, programs, and collections that expand access to hidden primary-resource collections.

Within the AUC Woodruff Library, the Digital Services Department (DSD) is responsible for managing and implementing digital curation and preservation activities including digital conversion projects, providing access to digital content, as well as library systems administration. DSD members work collaboratively with staff of the Archives Research Center since the bulk of the digital content originates from their collections, and with the Office of Computer and Information Technology (OCIT). In the DSD, the Department Head, Assistant Department Head, and Digital Initiatives Librarian all take active roles in ensuring that data curation tasks are carried out. OCIT staff provides expertise with helping set up and troubleshoot open source software platforms such as Omeka and BitCurator. ARC assists with setting policy and determining digitization and digital preservation priorities.   OCIT is the Library's primary source for technology support. They are a contract IT organization, based in Virginia. Three of their staff members have offices on site, mainly for day-to-day desktop support. The Virginia staff members, who come to Atlanta monthly, provide more in-depth assistance both on-site and over the phone.   OCIT provides server space both on-site and in Virginia and have assisted us in setting up storage with Amazon AWS. DSD also works with a contract developer on a project basis when needed. At this stage it would be difficult to determine an exact percentage of time for each individual involved, but that may be a fruitful exercise going forward.

DIGITAL CURATION ACTIVITIES

Currently at AUC Woodruff Library, our digital collections are made publically available via several platforms. The chief platform is our institutional repository, an instance of Bepress's Digital Commons. The amount of digital collections hosted on that platform has grown rapidly in the past two years, and includes Electronic Theses and Dissertations, the open access scholarly production of our member institutions, student work, and, increasingly, digitized archival collections from the Archives Research Center. Our fastest growing set of materials stems from an NEH grant received in 2015 entitled, Spreading the Word. Other digitized archival collections, including historic catalogs, yearbooks, photographs, audio files, and video files are also on Digital Commons. At present, Digital Commons hosts over 8,800 digital items, which have been downloaded more than 859,000 times. The AUC Woodruff Library also hosts two instances of CONTENTdm for digital collections material. One instance hosts the HBCU Library Alliance Digital Collection, a collection of primary resources from 23 HBCU libraries and archives that is comprised of over 16,000 images. The other CONTENTdm instance houses 60,000 digitized images from the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection, that are available only in the reading room of the Archives Research Center.

Our digital exhibits also include digitized archival materials, and these are hosted on an instance of Omeka. Currently, we have four digital exhibits drawing from multiple archival collections. We are also in the process of adding an exhibit based on digitized materials from the Spreading the Word grant to be published in Spring 2018.

In addition to these systems, AUC Woodruff Library uses ArchivesSpace to create and maintain all finding aids for archival collections. ArchivesSpace serves as the backend; the front end is provided by XTF, and many digital objects are linked within the finding aids.   AUC Woodruff is currently exploring adopting the ArchivesSpace public interface as updates make that more feasible.

Currently, our digital collections material exceeds 40 TB, including both master and derivative files. Large, digitized AV files and grant funded content are backed up in the cloud via an Amazon Snowball into Amazon Glacier. Our main categories of digital content are digitized archival materials, born-digital archival materials, digitized scholarly communication from member institutions, born-digital scholarly content from member institutions, and born-digital institutional records and photographs. The AUC Woodruff Library has been involved in digital preservation activities since 2010 when it joined the MetaArchive Cooperative on behalf of the HBCU Library Alliance. Since then, 17 collections from the HBCU LA Digital Collection have been ingested for long term preservation. In 2016 the library formed an interdepartmental Digital Preservation Working Group (DPWG) to address digital preservation in a more systematic manner.

The DPWG completed a digital preservation policy and three year plan, tested tools including BitCurator, established workflows for born digital content and set up cloud storage for master images with AWS.   In addition, digital objects are categorized into three tiers reflecting the priority in our Digital Preservation Policy. Content selected for ongoing preservation supports the teaching and scholarship of the Atlanta University Center and is evaluated based on funding, degradation and obsolescence risk factors, the collection development policy, and retention schedules. The Library was very pleased to be invited to participate in OSSArcFlow as it dovetailed nicely with our digital preservation plan.

GOALS FOR DIGITAL CURATION

- Create a Data Management Services plan and perform outreach to the member institutions about services we can offer.
- Consolidate content management systems. The AUC Woodruff Library is conducting an an evaluation of content management systems with the goal of migrating to a new platform in 2018-19.
- Begin a web archiving program. This program will initially harvest the websites of the Library, CAU and ITC with plans to expand to include Morehouse College and Spelman College as well as student groups and organization.