

# **NUCMC PROGRAM**

## **ANNUAL REPORT, FY09**

### **MISSION**

The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) is a distinctive cooperative program that provides and promotes bibliographic access to the nation's documentary heritage. The NUCMC program produces archival cataloging in the OCLC bibliographic utility for archival repositories that are not members of OCLC. The program also provides free searching access to the OCLC archival cataloging file via a Z39.50 gateway available at the NUCMC program's Web site.

### **OUTREACH**

Accessions of cataloging data totaled 5,400. Staff worked with sixty repositories located in Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington (State), and Wisconsin. Twelve of the repositories (20%) were new participants to the NUCMC program. Since the NUCMC program's inception in 1959 it has worked with 1,768 repositories.

### **CATALOGING ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

NUCMC staff produced 3,168 OCLC bibliographic records during the fiscal year. Cataloging production in FY09 represented a decrease from that produced in FY08 by 2%. However, cataloging production exceeded the FY09 production target (3,299) established by the ABA director by 319 bibliographic records. Since the NUCMC program's inception in 1959 it has produced approximately 118,231 catalog records.

Auxiliary statistics for the fiscal year are as follows: name authorities made (5,256), name authorities modified (629), subject authorities made (61), subject authorities modified (2), and bibliographic records changed (658).

In addition to local, regional, and state historical societies, NUCMC staff members also produced cataloging for a variety of special focus repositories. Special topics addressed during the reporting period included architecture (Ball State University, College of Architecture and Planning), art (Delaware Art Museum), ethnic groups (Japanese American National Museum), Jews (American Jewish Archives, Holocaust Center of Northern California, Jewish Museum Milwaukee, Jewish Museum of Maryland, Judah L. Magnes Museum), maritime history (New Bedford Whaling Museum, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office, USS Constitution Museum), military (Library of the Marine Corps), municipal and county archives (Boston Archives and Records Management Division, Seattle Municipal Archives), oral history (Idaho Oral History Center), photography (Museum of History & Industry (Seattle), Museum of the Great Plains), state archives (Arkansas History Commission), and U.S. presidents (Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center).

Finally, NUCMC staff provided new or improved access to papers of the following Members of Congress: Chester Ashley (Arkansas History Commission), Roger Sherman Baldwin (New Haven Museum & Historical Society Library), Simeon Baldwin (New Haven Museum & Historical Society Library), Nathaniel Prentiss Banks (Maine Historical Society), Judah P. Benjamin (American Jewish Archives), James Gillespie Blaine (Maine Historical Society), Hattie Wyatt Caraway (Arkansas History Commission), Shepard Cary (Maine Historical Society), James P. Clarke (Arkansas History Commission), Powell Clayton (Arkansas History Commission), Mike Crapo (Idaho Oral History Center), Jeff Davis (Arkansas History Commission), Nelson Dingley (Maine Historical Society), Edwin Einstein (American Jewish Archives), William Ellery (Maine Historical Society), Charles W. Fairbanks (Maine Historical Society), John Charles Floyd (Arkansas History Commission), J. William Fulbright (Arkansas History Commission), William Savin Fulton (Arkansas History Commission), A.H. Garland (Arkansas History Commission), Cordell Hull (Arkansas History Commission), Stephen Longfellow (Maine Historical Society), Frank O. Lowden (Arkansas History Commission), Thomas C. McRae (Arkansas History Commission), W.A. Oldfield (Arkansas History Commission), John Andrew Peters (Maine Historical Society), Leven Powell (Thomas Balch Library), David Pryor (Arkansas History Commission), James E. Risch (Idaho Oral History Center), Edward Robinson (Maine Historical Society), Wilbur Fisk Sanders (Montana State University—Bozeman), James A. Seddon (Arkansas History Commission), Ether Shepley (Maine Historical Society), William F. Slemons (Arkansas History Commission), Benjamin Stark (New London County Historical Society), Alexander Hamilton Stephens (Arkansas History Commission), David D. Terry (Arkansas History Commission), William L. Terry (Arkansas History Commission), George Thacher (Maine Historical Society), John Newton Tillman (Arkansas History Commission), Peleg Wadsworth (Maine Historical Society), Ezekiel Whitman (Maine Historical Society), Ralph Webster Yarborough (Arkansas History Commission), and Archibald Yell (Arkansas History Commission).

## **ONGOING PROJECTS**

**NUCMC Web site**    <http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc>

The Web counter recorded 53,350 "hits" for the fiscal year. Fiscal year searches on the OCLC gateway totaled 51,470, and searches on the OCLC gateway since 2001 total 341,896. OCLC staff estimate that over 1.5 million records for archival collections and individual manuscripts are now available through the NUCMC/OCLC gateway.

## **Maine Historical Collections Project (MHCP)**

Over the years the Maine Historical Records Advisory Board has gathered collection data sheets from final reports of grant projects that were funded through the state's Historical Collections Grant Program. The collections data up until FY05 had been entered into a database by the Maine State Archives, and that information is now being sent to NUCMC. New institutions participating in the Historical Collections Grant Program are now asked to send their collection descriptions directly to NUCMC. During FY09 six collections were cataloged. To date, 292 collections have been received and 292 records have been completed.

## **CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE**

May 2009 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NUCMC program, and some effort went into planning a celebration commensurate with the importance of the occasion.

The preceding October saw a resolution issued by the Society of American Archivists Council commending the NUCMC program and the Library for “providing exemplary service of the highest merit to archivists and repositories in the United States and its territories and to researchers and scholars everywhere.” <http://archivists.org/statements/res-NUCMC.asp>

At the direction of the COIN chief, new content was developed for the program’s Internet site, and the program coordinator enlisted the cooperation of Betsy Miller in the Network Development and MARC Standards Office in developing a revised version of the home page which was universally praised for its content and appearance.

The new content included a NUCMC program timeline (<http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/timeline.html>) and selected bibliography (<http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/bibliography.html>), both compiled by Peter Goodman, and a revised and updated list of participating repositories produced by the program coordinator, Victoria Behrens, Roberto Sicre, and Peter Goodman. Betsy Miller developed an ingenious interface to the repository list via a map of the United States. (<http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/repositorieslist.html>). Additional content featuring repository liaisons was produced by Mary Ann Habib, Peter Goodman, and the program coordinator, and all program staff were involved in selecting recent program-produced cataloging for display.

The centerpiece of the anniversary observance was a memorable celebration held on May 21 in the Madison Building’s West Dining Room. Attendees included current and former Library staff and invited guests, and featured speakers included Associate Librarian for Library Services Deanna Marcum, ABA director Beacher Wiggins, and Alan Virta, former NUCMC staffer and currently archivist and head of special collections at Boise State University. Many people were involved in making the celebration a resounding success, but Mary Ann Habib, David Maya-Hernandez, and the program coordinator were especially involved in the necessary planning and preparation. David Maya-Hernandez deserves special recognition for his many contributions, which included designing invitations and programs and developing an electronic “slide show” highlighting various aspects of the NUCMC program. This slide show was subsequently added to the home page (<http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/50thAnniversary/50th%20Anniversary%20Slide%20Show.ppt>) as was a selection of photographs taken during the celebration (<http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/50thAnniversary/NUCMC50thAnniPhotos.ppt>). Finally, an article describing the event was written by the program coordinator and printed in the LC Gazette issue of June 5 ([http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/50thAnniversary/gazette\\_article.html](http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/50thAnniversary/gazette_article.html)). Special thanks are due to COIN staffer Cheryl Graunke for successfully shepherding these Web site additions through the necessary quality assurance process.

Other NUCMC 50 celebration activities included Peter Goodman’s preparation of a folder listing

of the program's archives in order for them to be transferred to storage. In addition, the program coordinator drafted a press release, revised the program brochure, and produced an article on NUCMC for an upcoming issue of *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly*.

## **ARCHIVEGRID LINK**

One of the highlights of the May 21 celebration was that we were able to announce that the Library and OCLC had reached an agreement in principle to make ArchiveGrid available to researchers free of charge via a link on the NUCMC Web site. This link would make a more user friendly interface available to researchers as well as provide reliable information regarding the identity of the holding repository. The implementation of the first stages of making ArchiveGrid available through the WorldCat.org platform was completed in July. But the Secure Referring URL functionality that is needed to take the researcher from the NUCMC Web site directly to the ArchiveGrid database within WorldCat.org as an authenticated user with access to the database was not part of this initial software install. To date, we have been unsuccessful in getting a date as to when that functionality will be added.

## **NUCMC NECROLOGY**

Emily Zehmer, a former NUCMC cataloger, died on February 17. She began her career at the Library in 1972 in the Manuscript Section of the Special Materials Cataloging Division, which produced NUCMC. While specializing in collections dealing with the South, she was responsible for accessioning cataloging data from cooperating manuscript repositories from around the country. She served on the Library of Congress Editorial Committee that helped shape the second edition of *Archives, Personal Papers, and Manuscripts* compiled by Steven L. Hensen and published by the Society of American Archivists in 1989. In 1987, she joined the Manuscript Division as a senior manuscript cataloger, the position from which she retired in 2004. Her obituary appeared in the *LC Gazette* issue of March 20.

Harriet Ostroff Dicker, the longtime editor of NUCMC, died on April 12 at the age of seventy-nine. Through her work at the Library, several published articles, and active involvement in professional organizations and meetings, Ostroff proved an enthusiastic advocate for manuscript cataloging in general and for NUCMC in particular. At the time of her retirement from the Library, the NUCMC program had created some 72,300 bibliographic records describing manuscript collections located in more than 1,400 repositories throughout the United States and its territories. These bibliographic records generated over one million index references to topical subjects and to personal, family, corporate and geographic names. A resolution of the Council of the Society of American Archivists on the occasion of her retirement recognized her important role in widening bibliographic access to the nation's documentary heritage. She was an extraordinary woman and colleague. Her obituary appeared in the *LC Gazette* issue of May 1.

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