Photographs workshops
The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) and the Intermuseum Conservation Association (ICA) will offer From Negative to Positive, a series of three daylong workshops about the preservation of photographic materials. The workshops will be held April 15-17, 2002, at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, Ohio. The first workshop will be “Identification and Care of Photographic Prints,” taught by Debbie Hess Norris of the University of Delaware; the second will be “Identification and Care of Photographic Negatives,” taught by Andrew Robb, photograph conservator; and the third will be “Planning Your Digital Imaging Project,” taught by Steve Puglia of Photo Conservation and Imaging and Albert Albano and Timothy Vitale of ICA.

Registration for the first two workshops is limited to 30 participants. The registration deadline is April 1, 2002. The fee for one workshop is $60, two workshops $120, and all three workshops $170. Reduced fees are available for CCAHA and ICA members. For more information, contact CCAHA, 264 South 23rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103; phone: (215) 545-0613; fax: (215) 735-9313; e-mail: ccaha@ccaha.org; Web: http://www.ccaha.org.

Mass deacidification at LC
The Library of Congress has awarded a third contract to Preservation Technologies L.P. (PTLP) of Cranberry, Pennsylvania, for mass deacidification services using its Bookkeeper process. The contract runs through FY2005, and calls for treatment of 1 million books and at least 5 million manuscript sheets. This represents a significant increase over previous contracts, up from 100,000 to more than 250,000 books annually by FY2005. LC staff members will provide training and oversight for PTLP staff members who do the selecting, processing, shipping, and reshelving of books that receive treatment.

PTLP has developed a new horizontal treatment cylinder for use on manuscripts and other unbound materials. They will install this new equipment, along with a spray booth, at the Library of Congress building on Capitol Hill so these items will not have to be shipped to Pennsylvania for treatment.

For additional information, contact Kenneth Harris, preservation projects director, Library of Congress Preservation Directorate, Washington, D.C. 20540-4500; phone: (202) 707-1054; e-mail: khar@loc.gov.

HUL digitizing guide
The Office for Information Systems (OIS) at the Harvard University Library (HUL) has developed a Guide to Image Digitization for Harvard organizations interested in using HUL systems and services for digitizing and delivering images. Although the systems and services described are institution specific, this guide illuminates the issues any institution should consider when creating digital objects of enduring value. It covers the components of an image digitization project, including technical infrastructure, metadata creation, image reformatting, depositing agent, and copyright. It also covers how to start, including selecting an online catalog, selecting cataloging support and storage systems, considering image reformatting needs, and determining funding options.

The guide is available free of charge at http://hul.harvard.edu/ois/systems/guide_images.html.

ArchitectureBoston
For anyone interested in renovating older library or archives buildings, the theme for the Spring 2002 (March) issue of ArchitectureBoston is preservation. This journal is published by the Boston Society of Architects to instill greater interest in the relationship between quality of life and the creation of built environments. This particular issue is devoted to the challenges of architectural design in a historic context.

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The University of Arizona Library has received $123,672 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for a two-year digital project that will create the Arizona Electronic Atlas. This Web-based interactive state atlas will be accessible to all levels of users. The project will develop a model workflow and methodology that other organizations can use to develop their own Web-based atlases and other products using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technologies.

The University of Michigan has been awarded a grant for $860,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support postdoctoral fellowships focusing on the use of the university’s research collections. With the grant, and $140,000 in matching funds from the Office of the University’s Provost, a public goods program that will offer both junior and senior postdoctoral fellowships will be instituted for a four-year term. The fellowships, which are intended for scholars in the fields of the humanities and related social sciences, are expected to attract scholars to the university whose work would be derived from the collections housed on campus. Further information about the application process may be found at http://www.umich.edu/provost/publicgoods/.

Cornell University Library (CUL) has received an $830,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to digitize the remaining records in its card catalog and add them to its online catalog. In the 1970s, CUL began converting records from card to machine-readable format, and, since 1983, all records for newly acquired materials have been added to the library’s online catalog. However, more than 276,000 bibliographic records for items in Cornell’s collections, including a large number of humanities and social science titles, exist only on paper cards filed in traditional, heavy wooden cabinets. This means that these titles also have no electronic bibliographic record in national or international databases. CUL will convert all of its card catalog records for titles classified according to the Library of Congress classification system. The project will be completed early in 2005.

Acquisitions

Emory University has acquired the papers of composer and choral director William Levi Dawson. Described as the “Dean of African American Choral Composers,” Dawson is world renowned for his arrangements of Negro spirituals and for his composition of the Negro Folk Symphony, premiered in 1934 by the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Leopold Stokowski. The collection includes the scores and sheet music of other African American composers, with correspondence from John W. Work, William Grant Still, George Washington Carver, Leontyne Price, and Fanny and Ralph Ellison. It also includes hundreds of recordings from African American church, high school, college, and university choirs and a wide array of classical, jazz, blues, and popular music on 78- and 33-rpm phonodisc, as well as reel-to-reel, cassette, and 8-track tape. Dawson’s library included books of music theory and history (most notably a first edition of the novel Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison) and hundreds of scores of classical music. The papers are expected to be open for research early in 2003.

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Free copies of this issue are available from ArchitectureBoston, 52 Broad St., Boston, MA 02109-4301; phone: (617) 951-1433; fax: (617) 951-0845; Web: http://www.architects.org.