Emory University has been awarded grants to revise and expand a database of slave trade voyages—fully 82 percent of the entire history of the slave trade—and make the material available for free on the Internet. The grants include $324,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities and $25,000 from Harvard University’s W.E.B. DuBois Institute for African and African American Research. The expansion of the current database is based on the seminal 1999 work The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, a CD-ROM that includes more than 27,000 slave trade voyages and has been popular with scholars and genealogists. In addition to increasing the number of slave trade voyages from the original work by nearly 30 percent, the grant will allow the addition of new information to more than one-third of the voyages already included in the CD-ROM. The database will include auxiliary materials, such as maps, ship logs, and manifests. It also will be presented in a two-tier format: one for professional researchers, another for K-12 students and general audiences.

University of California-Los Angeles Library has received $100,000 from Ken Karmiole, owner of Kenneth Karmiole, Bookseller Inc., to establish the Kenneth Karmiole Endowment for Rare Books and Manuscripts, which will support the acquisition of special collections materials throughout the library. Karmiole is the first member of the library’s recently established Board of Visitors to make a major gift in support of the library. The endowment will be used to acquire materials for the Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library History and Special Collections, Performing Arts Special Collections, and the Charles E. Young Research Library Department of Special Collections. Holdings in these departments encompass artists’ books, business archives, drawings and prints, literary manuscripts, maps, museum objects, personal papers, photographs, rare books, printed and manuscript music scores, and scripts.

The University Libraries of the University of Memphis (UM) was primary beneficiary of a bequest of Lawrence and Sarah J. Wynn. The bequest included a collection of romantic and Victorian literature and a monetary gift of more than $300,000 to endow the collection. Lawrence Wynn (1919–95) was a distinguished member of UM’s English Department faculty from 1950 to 1981. He received the University’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 1981 and was the first faculty member to receive the W. Russell Smith Award for Teaching Excellence. For many years Wynn was the English department coordinator of graduate studies. From 1994 to 1995, Wynn served on the steering committee that was instrumental in creating the Friends of the University Libraries. Sarah J. Wynn (1912–2006) was, for many years, a noted pianist and piano teacher. Her grand piano was also donated to the University Libraries. In addition to her musical talents, Wynn was also interested in pursuing scholarly research. She authored the volume, The Emergence of the Music Critic in Late 18th Century London: Composers, Performers, Reporters (Langford and Associates, 2001).

Acquisitions

A collection of books and manuscripts related to William Blake have been donated to Victoria University Library in Toronto by G. E. Bently Jr. and Anne Elizabeth Kathryne Louise Budd Bentley. G. E. Bentley, emeritus, University of Toronto, is the author of numerous books and articles about Blake and his contemporaries. Central to the gift of approximately 2,400 items are writings and illustrations by Blake, including Marriage of Heaven and
Hell (Copy M): A Song of Liberty (c. 1790), the Riddle Manuscript, Blake’s commercial engravings for such works as Young’s Night Thoughts (1797), Thornton’s Virgil (1821), and proof copies of illustrations for Job (1826). Also included are modern reproductions and facsimiles and Blake scholarship and criticism from 1806 to date (especially works with reference to Blake before 1863); the manuscripts of George Cumberland (1754–1849); books by John Flaxman; and books before 1835, especially illustrated books.

Woodlawn Cemetery has donated a vast archive of architectural designs, maps, photographs, mausoleum blueprints, correspondence, maintenance records, and other historical documents spanning 140 years of the cemetery’s operations to Columbia University’s Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library. The collection includes documentation on mausoleums and memorials designed by John Russell Pope; McKim, Mead, & White; Tiffany Studios, and other accomplished artists and architects. It also features documents related to memorials for many of the prominent figures in jazz, theater, literature, business, and politics who are buried on the cemetery’s 400 acres, which include Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, Coleman Hawkins, W. C. Handy, Milt Jackson, Joseph Pulitzer, William Whitney, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the Woolworths, the Belmonts, and the Juilliards. Lot owners at Woodlawn have always been required to provide designs for memorials in advance, so the cemetery can assess their appropriateness and maintenance feasibility. These designs, records, and other materials were kept in the cemetery’s downtown office until it was closed in 1982; for more than 20 years, the records were kept in boxes and file cabinets located in various storage areas on the cemetery grounds. Because of the volume of documents, it will take approximately five years for the collection to be completely processed and cataloged.

The personal papers of former New Jersey Governor Brendan T. Byrne have been donated to Rutgers University Libraries’ Special Collections and University Archives. The archive spans Byrne’s life, including his eight years as governor. From service as a B-17 navigator in the European Theater of World War II to the halls of Harvard Law; from one side of the bench as prosecutor to the other as judge; from the statehouse as governor to the courthouse as private lawyer, every stage of Brendan Byrne’s career is represented. Correspondence, news clippings, photographs, and other documents shed light not only on New Jersey, but issues facing the entire nation. Memoranda speak of the vulgarity of Lenny Bruce, news clippings tell of the Newark riots, and the striking down of New Jersey’s death penalty. Campaign literature extols candidate Byrne as the “Man Who Couldn’t Be Bought.” Editorial cartoons by Bill Canfield tell of Byrne’s battle for an income tax and the Meadowlands sports complex. The collection includes a rich photograph collection that weaves together a story of Byrne’s life. Beginning from early childhood, the photographs most aptly highlight the triumphs of Byrne’s time in the statehouse, including his two inaugurals, the defeat of the proposed dam at Tocks Island, the legalization of casino gambling, and the preservation of the Pinelands.

Robert DeNiro has donated his collection of film-related materials to the Harry Ransom Center. With materials from the late 1960s to the present, the archive includes annotated scripts, notes, research materials, and an extensive collection of the costumes De Niro wore in his films. The paper portion of the collection, more than 100 boxes, has considerable research value. It includes scripts and books with handwritten notations, correspondence with film notables such as Martin Scorsese and Elia Kazan, background research and the notebooks De Niro kept of his films, all showing the evolution from text to moving image. The costume portion of the collection also includes more than 3,000 individual costume items, props from many of De Niro’s films, and a full body cast used in the 1994 production of Frankenstein.