University of California (UC)-Santa Cruz has received two gifts valued at $350,000 to create a new social and educational center at the University Library. Stephen Silverstein, cofounder and former president of Innovative Interfaces (a library software company in Emeryville, California), has donated $250,000 to create a global cyber café in the campus’s newly expanded and renovated McHenry Library. Longtime Santa Cruz resident and library supporter William Ackerknecht has also pledged $100,000 to create an outdoor reading garden that will be located just outside the café. The new Global Village Café at UC-Santa Cruz will be modeled after the Free Speech Movement Café that was built at UC-Berkeley’s Moffitt Undergraduate Library, thanks to a 1998 gift Silverstein gave to that campus in honor of Free Speech Movement leader Mario Savio. Emphasizing environmental responsibility and agricultural sustainability, the café menu will feature fresh, healthy ingredients that are obtained and prepared locally, avoiding prepackaged and junk food. The café is scheduled to open in late 2008.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has been awarded a two-year $1 million grant by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for a humanities text-mining project called “Metadata Offer New Knowledge” (MONK). John Unsworth, dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS), is serving as the Illinois project lead for an international and multi-institutional research team that includes faculty, staff, and students from Northwestern University, McMaster University, the University of Nebraska, the University of Maryland, and the University of Alberta, as well as the National Center for Supercomputing Applications. The foundation for MONK is the work and progress of two existing research projects: the Nora Project, a multi-institutional endeavor for which Unsworth serves as project director, and WordHoard, directed by Martin Mueller and based at Northwestern University. Both Nora and WordHoard apply similar text-mining techniques to digital humanities collections, though the focus of Nora has been on 18th and 19th-century British and American literature, and WordHoard has concentrated on earlier texts, including Shakespeare, Chaucer, and early Greek epic literature. MONK will bring together these two projects to create an inclusive and comprehensive text-mining and text-analysis tool-kit for scholars in the humanities.

Acquisitions

Correspondence from Ted Hughes, the late poet laureate of Britain, to his lover Assia Wevill has been acquired by Emory University’s Woodruff Library. In one letter in the collection Hughes instructs Wevill to “please burn all my letters,” an instruction she obviously did not follow. The surviving correspondence begins in March 1963, continues until 1969, and “offers readers unprecedented access to Hughes’ state of mind at a time of crisis in his personal and professional life,” says Stephen Enniss, director of Emory’s Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library. The collection includes more than 60 letters from Hughes to Wevill, and six from her to him, as well as a number of notes, sketches, fragmentary diary entries, and a small number of photographs of Wevill. Wevill is remembered as the woman with whom Hughes began an affair in the summer of 1962, which led to Hughes and his wife, poet Sylvia Plath, separating. After Plath’s death in the winter of 1963, Hughes and Wevill struggled to establish a new basis for their life together. Wevill debated whether to leave her own husband, poet David Wevill, and in the years that followed she and Hughes tried a

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variety of living arrangements, at times living together, sometimes apart. In 1965 Weyill gave birth to a daughter, Shura. Although Weyill often was erroneously described as Hughes’ second wife, the couple never married, and in March 1969, Weyill tragically took her life and that of her young daughter in a manner that bore a resemblance to Plath’s death. The correspondence spans the period in Hughes’ life when he was writing “Gaudete,” editing Plath’s “Ariel” for publication, and writing the sequence of poems based on the life of a mythical crow figure. It was during this period that Weyill and Hughes also collaborated on the translation of Yehuda Amichai’s “Selected Poems” (1968). This intimate correspondence reveals Hughes’ struggle to find peace in the years after Plath’s death and his sometimes tortured relationship with Weyill.

The University of Notre Dame has acquired three new collections of books. Brigham Young University (BYU) has given the libraries a gift of 7,000 books on the Catholic Church. BYU had acquired them some 30 years ago from a Benedictine monastery in Nimes, France, and the publication dates of the predominantly French-language titles range from the 18th century to 1970. They concern Catholic Church history, biography, systematic theology, and liturgy. From the estate of the late Michael Pressley the libraries have received a collection of 15,000 volumes on educational psychology, educational sociology, educational spirituality, and educational theology. Pressley was a member of the Notre Dame psychology faculty from 1997 to 2001 and served as the first director of the Master of Arts in Teaching Program of Notre Dame’s Institute for Educational Initiatives. The libraries’ recent acquisition of a collection of books and journals on Peruvian archaeology and history will expand the already established José Durand Special Collection of rare books on Peru. The new collection includes 800 titles published between the 1960s and 1990s and is particularly devoted to studies on pre-Columbian sites where the Inca ruled.