The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library has received a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant for $499,582 from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The agreement is one component of the new Partnership for Cultural Exchange established by IMLS and the Ministry of Culture of the People’s Republic of China. The Ministry of Culture provides additional funding for the program. The “Think Globally, Act Globally” agreement establishes a cooperative and cultural exchange between American and Chinese librarians. Under the agreement, the Asian Library and the Mortenson Center from the University of Illinois will partner with the Chinese American Librarians Association and the Library Society of China. These organizations will work together on implementing a two-year pilot project to enhance communication and relations between American and Chinese librarians and to enrich the variety of information and services that U.S. librarians can offer their users. Activities will include training in the United States and the People’s Republic of China, and the development of a Web site for publically available Chinese information resources for use in U.S. libraries.

The Carnegie Institution has been awarded a $9,400 grant from the Center for History of Physics, American Institute of Physics, to preserve and enhance access to a collection of historic photographs of scientific instruments and apparatus in the archives of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism (DTM). The collection spans five decades from 1904 to the 1950s and includes thousands of images important to the history of geophysics, atomic physics, and astronomy. During the first two decades of the 20th century, DTM played a world-leading role in developing geomagnetic survey instrumentation, including specialized instruments for geomagnetic observations at sea. In a second burst of innovation in the 1920s and 1930s, DTM’s scientists built a path-breaking atomic physics program based on particle accelerators. A series of high-voltage apparatus beginning with Tesla coils and progressing to increasingly powerful Van de Graaff generators culminated in a 3-million volt pressure-tank machine that was used in 1939 for the confirmation of the fission of uranium. During this time, DTM was also home to key investigations of radio propagation and the ionosphere, auroras, and atmospheric physics. In the post-War era, these studies shifted to seismology, isotope geochemistry, and radio and optical astronomy.

The G. William Jones Film and Video Collection at Southern Methodist University’s Hamon Arts Library has been awarded a National Film Preservation Foundation grant for $27,270 in cash and lab services to be used in the preservation of Spencer Williams’ 1941 film, The Blood of Jesus, the popular...
African American salvation drama. These funds will allow the library to use the 35mm print of the film to create a new negative, prints, and videos. These new materials will be available for teaching and research, and the library will make them available to the public through a number of screenings. The debut screening of the new print is planned for February 2009 in conjunction with an Oscar Micheaux conference at Columbia University. “The Blood of Jesus, shot in Texas on a shoestring budget, is probably the most popular movie made for African American audiences before World War II,” said Jacqueline Stewart, professor of film at Northwestern University and National Film Preservation Board member. “It is the first feature by writer-director Spencer Williams, later a star of TV’s Amos ‘n’ Andy, whose films have been vastly underappreciated despite his unique ability to capture Black religious and cultural practices while experimenting with film style.” The Blood of Jesus was named by the Library of Congress to the National Film Registry in 1991.

**Acquisitions**

The collection and papers of Don Etherington, president of Etherington Conservation Services have been acquired by the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. Etherington, who has served as a consultant to the National Archives on the display of the Declaration of Independence, among other projects, is internationally recognized for his binding design and the implementation of state-of-the-art conservation procedures, including phased preservation programs for libraries and institutions. In the aggregate, the Etherington Collection provides a premier reference collection in the subjects of conservation, bookbinding, and the book arts.