The University of Maryland’s Nonprint Media Services department has received a $100,000 grant to make 300 of the department’s most popular educational films available online to any university student, staff, or faculty member. Professors have used these films to show students what poverty looks like, to present theatrical performances or to immerse students in new cultures and illustrate history. While the films are valuable teaching tools, making them available online means professors can assign students to watch them on their own time and use class time for analysis and discussion. The department has a physical collection of about 36,000 items including VHS tapes, DVDs and audio recordings. About 750 of the tapes and DVDs have already been digitized and made available through Films@UM with the help of previous grants. About 300 titles are scheduled to be digitized and ready for online viewing by the fall 2010 semester.

The University of Akron’s (UA) Archival Services, a division of University Libraries, has received a two-year, $303,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to digitize a portion of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company’s approximately 250,000-item photo collection. The grant will fund the scanning and cataloging of about 22,500 Goodyear images—many of which are at risk of degrading over time. The grant also will fund inventorying the entire collection (1912–84) and the organization and preservation of the images from the earliest years of the collection (1912–51). The images from this time period will be digitized and made available online through OhioLINK’s Digital Resource Commons (DRC). Goodyear donated the collection, which is valued at more than $1.1 million, to UA in 2008. The full collection (1912-84) provides historic, social and industrial documentation, featuring images of products, workshop and factory scenes, facilities, company events, company-sponsored celebrities and the development of the Goodyear Blimp.

Acquisitions

The papers of former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins have been acquired by Columbia University Libraries and are now open for research in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library. The Finding Aid is available at www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/archival/collections/ldpd_6058659/index.html. The David N. Dinkins Papers contain documents from his 1985 campaign for Manhattan Borough president, as well as 1989 and 1993 campaigns for mayor. The bulk of material consists of campaign literature, fundraising events, and materials from volunteers for the Committee for David Dinkins; endorsements by constituency; speeches with drafts, candidate questionnaires with responses, and position papers. Also included is an extensive photograph collection that contains images of David Dinkins alongside many political figures. In 1965, Dinkins was elected a New York State assemblyman, serving one term. From 1972 to 1973, he served as president of the Board of Elections, and from 1975 to 1985 he served as city clerk. He went on to serve as Manhattan Borough President from 1986 to 1989. He ran for mayor of the City of New York in 1989, becoming the city’s 106th mayor and its first African American mayor (1990-93). Dinkins is a member of the faculty at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). In 2003, the David N. Dinkins Professorship in the Practice of Urban and Public Affairs was established at Columbia University.

The Norton Strange Townshend Family papers have been acquired by the William

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what we will be able to do with digital signage in the future convinces us that we made the right choice when we turned our backs on traditional signage and made digital signage an integral part of our mission of teaching, research, and service.

Notes
1. For a video gallery of current and past signs, visit ucmercedlibrary.info/digital-signage/digital-signage-gallery.html.
2. ucmercedlibrary.info/on-display/digital-signage.html.

The E.H. Duckworth Photographic Archive, containing more than 5,000 photos documenting Nigerian life in the decades just before independence, has been acquired by Northwestern University Library’s Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies. A British civil servant, Duckworth spent more than 20 years in Nigeria, where he was editor of and frequently a photographer for The Nigeria Magazine, which was founded to promote Nigerian national identity. His papers are now housed in the Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies at Rhodes House, Oxford, but the photographs—plus several hundred glass lantern slides and thousands of original negatives—have spent most of the past 40 years packed up in the travelling trunks in which Duckworth shipped them back to England. The archive complements other colonial African photo collections in the Herskovits Library—notably the Winterton Collection of East African Photographs—in that it records images intended for an African, rather than colonial, audience.

L. Clements Library in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This collection documents the political, educational, agricultural, and social activities of Norton Strange Townshend (1815–95), his wife (educator Margaret Bailey Townshend), and several generations of related families in northern Ohio and elsewhere. Townshend had a long and multifaceted career, which included antislavery activism, political involvement at the local level and in the U.S. House of Representatives, work on the Underground Railroad, a role as a medical inspector in the Civil War, and advocacy of scientific training for farmers. The latter earned him the nickname “the father of agricultural education in the United States” and allowed him to shape Ohio State University as a found and the institution’s first professor of agriculture. In addition to primary sources such as correspondence, diaries, published and unpublished writings, ephemera and photographs, the collection contains 34 letters from Townshend’s friend and mentor, Salmon P. Chase.

The E.H. Duckworth Photographic Archive

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