The University of Tennessee (UT) Libraries has received $325,165 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to digitize historical Tennessee newspapers. The UT Libraries will digitize 100,000 pages of Tennessee’s microfilmed newspapers dating from 1836 to 1922, an era of Tennessee history that witnessed the rise of Jacksonian democracy, the Trail of Tears, the bloody Civil War battle at Shiloh, and Tennessee’s deciding vote in the ratification of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. As part of NEH’s National Digital Newspaper Program, the newspapers will be permanently available on the Library of Congress’ Chronicling America Web site. JoAnne Deeken, head of technical services and digital access at UT, is directing the project. Two newspaper historians from UT will chair an advisory group that will select newspapers to be included in the digitization effort.

The Biology Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has been awarded a competitive 2009 collection enhancement grant from the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) in partnership with three other state libraries: Chicago State University Library, Columbia College Chicago Library, and Northern Illinois University’s Founders Memorial Library. The grant application theme was “Impact of the Environment in Health and Wellness.” The Biology Library will use the grant funds to support education and research in the subject area, “Medicinal Plants and Indigenous Medicinal Plant Knowledge: Implications for Human Health.”

Columbia College Chicago Library has received a $17,050 grant from National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) under its initiative The Big Read, a literacy focused program now in its fifth year. Columbia College Library received this year’s grant in support of developing programs around Tim O’Brien’s award winning novel, The Things They Carried, his semi-autobiographical account of one platoon’s experiences during the Vietnam War. This is the second time that the library has received an award from The Big Read. It used last year’s grant to celebrate the classic work Fahrenheit 451 by Illinois native Ray Bradbury.

Texas Tech University Architecture Library has been awarded a grant of $45,000 from the Helen Jones Foundation Inc. to purchase the Inter-American Institute digital image collection of architecture, art, and culture of non-Western origin. This international collection will assist the university libraries in targeting excellence in the instruction, research, and study of architecture, art, design, history, landscape architecture, and archaeology for the Texas Tech community by improving the coverage of Asian, African, and Mesoamerican subjects. In addition to architecture, the Inter-American Institute collection includes sculpture and other cultural artifacts, which would be broadly applicable to other departments at Texas Tech, including the School of Art and the Departments of Design, Landscape Architecture, English, Philosophy, and History. Funds will be used to purchase a permanent license for the Inter-American Institute digital image archive, a collection of 13,000 high-quality digital images of the architecture and culture of Spain, Mexico, Northern Africa, Middle America, and Turkey, with upcoming additions from Asia and the Middle East. The new image collection should be available in January 2011.

The College Library Directors’ Mentor Program has received a $137,854 grant from
the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) 2010 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant award program to support the transition to new leadership. The College Library Directors’ Mentor Program has been in existence since 1992 and to-date has served 271 first-year college library directors representing 244 small colleges from 43 states and Canada. As the current leadership (Mignon Adams, Larry Hardesty, and Tom Kirk) prepares to retire, this project will assess the strengths and areas of needed improvement of the program; improve guidance to mentors; identify and integrate new leaders; and facilitate wider participation. The grant is for a three-year period, with plans by the third year that new leadership will be in place with the goal that the program will serve at least another generation of first-year college library directors. IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The IMLS mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas.

Acquisitions

The papers of author Denis Johnson have been acquired by the Harry Ransom Center, at the University of Texas-Austin. Johnson, a National Book Award winner, is the author of Jesus’ Son and Tree of Smoke. Johnson published his first novel, Angels, in 1983. Prior to that, he had published three volumes of poetry, including The Man Among the Seals (1969), Inner Weather (1976), and The Incognito Lounge (1982). In 1992, Johnson received critical acclaim for his short story collection, Jesus’ Son, which included 11 interconnected stories narrated by an unnamed young man addicted to drugs and alcohol. Jesus’ Son was adapted into a film starring Billy Crudup in 1999. The collection includes manuscripts, typescripts, research materials, journals, correspondence, family photos and juvenilia, press clippings, books, and other items. Many of Johnson’s pre-1992 works exist only in digital form, and bundles of floppy disks with manuscript drafts are part of the archive.

The papers of George Huntington (1850-1916), the physician who described the degenerative nervous disease that now bears his name, have been acquired by the Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library at Columbia University. Huntington received his medical degree in 1871 from Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons. This is Huntington’s only claim to medical fame; because of ill health, he spent his career as a general practitioner in rural Dutchess County, New York. The papers of George Huntington and his family include correspondence, photographs, drawings—Huntington was evidently a talented amateur artist—and biographical materials such as obituaries, memorial tributes, reminiscences, and his marriage certificate.

The personal archive of d.a. levy (1942–1968), a Cleveland-based poet, artist, and alternative press publisher whose work is considered to be significant in 20th-century poetry and printing history, has been acquired by the Kent State University Libraries’ Department of Special Collections and Archives. levy was one of the founders of the “mimograph revolution” of printing and distributing poetry and other publications during the second half of the 20th century. The d.a. levy archive, acquired from the James Levey family through Jeff Maser, Bookseller of Berkeley, California, is comprised of materials such as levy’s manuscripts, letters, paintings, collages, and books with special features, such as handwritten notations by levy and inscriptions to his family and friends. The archive includes numerous examples of letter-press, ditto, and mimeographed publications, many of them printed by levy himself under various imprints. Also included are publications and ephemera from d.a. levy’s personal collection.