Washington University in St. Louis Libraries has received a four-year, $550,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to preserve Henry Hampton’s award-winning civil rights documentary “Eyes on the Prize: America’s Civil Rights Years, 1954–1965,” as well as Hampton’s complete, unedited interviews recorded on film for the documentary. The grant is the largest ever received by University Libraries. “Eyes on the Prize” is a six-episode documentary on the American civil rights movement. Originally broadcast in 1987 on Public Broadcasting Systems stations throughout the country, the documentary uses both archival footage of the events depicted and contemporary interviews. Among those interviewed for the documentary were Curtis Jones, cousin of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African-American boy murdered in Mississippi in 1955; Coretta Scott King, wife of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.; and Burke Marshall, head of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice during the Kennedy administration.

Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) has been awarded $117,567 by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation for research on how to build capacity for data curation within disciplines. The project will be managed by CLIR’s Digital Library Federation (DLF). The project will consist of three interrelated activities. The first will be an environmental scan of professional development needs and of education and training opportunities for digital curation in the academy. The second will be an anthropological study of five sites where digital curation activities are under way. The third will be a report that analyzes the results of the two research efforts and includes a proposal, informed by the findings, for amending the curriculum for CLIR’s Postdoctoral Fellowship in Academic Libraries program.

Acquisitions

A collection relating to Émile Zola and French theater, valued at more than $150,000, was donated to the John M. Kelly Library of the University of St. Michael’s College in the University of Toronto (http://stmikes.utoronto.ca). The James B. Sanders Collection includes 40 autographs letters from novelist Émile Zola, and as many first editions of his novels; papers from Denise and Maurice LeBlond, Zola’s daughter and son-in-law; correspondence from stage director André Antoine, who was one of the first directors to embrace cinema; more than 80 plays in their original wrappers, bearing dedications by the playwrights, approval stamps from the Censorship Bureau, or stage directions; photographs of actors and actresses from the turn of the century; correspondence from playwrights, journalists, and novelists; periodicals, playbills, and assorted ephemera. Following an extensive inventory completed by D. Speirs and Y. Portebois (professors from the Department of French Studies at the University of Toronto), the collection is now in the process of being fully cataloged and will become available to researchers by the end of 2011. Further information is available from the Kelly Library Special Collections and Archives (specialcollections.kellylibrary@utoronto.ca).