The University of Cincinnati Libraries were awarded a $60,669 Library Services and Technology Act grant from the State Library of Ohio to digitize and make freely available on the Web the photographic collection of Cincinnati’s subway and street changes archive. The approximately 8,000 negatives and prints, which date from 1920 to 1956, include both interior and exterior shots of private residences and city scenes. They were taken as part of a failed subway development project in Cincinnati and also as documentation during various street projects. The interior images offer an in-depth look at how a typical Ohio family lived at this time, while the exterior shots show a changing, and bustling city. Some of the interior images show what kitchen products a family used and the furnishings in their living rooms, with such things as player pianos and photographs on the wall, are all captured in the negatives and prints. The exterior shots show the layout of city streets and neighborhoods, stores and businesses, as well as the traffic and bustle of everyday life, not to mention the damage done by subway construction. Beyond the years of the subway project, the images of street renovations into the ‘30s, ‘40s, and ‘50s eloquently illustrate the changing urban landscape.

The Case Western Reserve University Kelvin Library has received the single largest commitment in its history, a $5 million gift from a donor who wished to remain anonymous. The funds will be used to create an unrestricted endowment to support library services and the purchase of library materials. This gift will allow the library to improve its collaborative research and learning spaces, provide up-to-date print and electronic library collections, and incorporate state-of-the-art technology.

Acquisitions

A collection of oral history interviews with survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima (August 6, 1945) and Nagasaki (August 9, 1945), Japan, at the end of World War II has been acquired by the Vincent Voice Library at Michigan State University. The interviews were collected by filmmaker Shinpei Takeda, director of the documentary *Hiroshima Nagasaki Download*. Since 2005, Takeda has traveled throughout North and South America to interview survivors of the bombings who later emigrated to the West. Speaking with survivors and their families in Canada, the United States, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, and Peru, Takeda explored the complex journeys of people who crossed national and cultural boundaries in an era of grave geopolitical tension and mistrust. More than 60 hours of interview footage will be accessible to students and researchers in the Vincent Voice Library, part of the Michigan State University Libraries.

The Tuesday Academy Archive Special Collections has been donated to the Mason Library at Keene State College. The donation includes 1 linear foot of archival records, photographs, study material, and audiovisual material that document the 32-year history of this women’s study group. The Tuesday Academy was established in 1981 by Bonnie Riley, a retired high school teacher, who wanted to form a women’s study group in the Monadnock region. The academy, still active today, includes members from varied backgrounds—professionals to stay-at-home mothers—who all share an eagerness to learn. The group meets every Tuesday (hence its name) and covers a wide range of subjects from art to literature to science. Politics is an active concern of the group. It was through the Academy that Doris “Granny D” Haddock, a longtime member, was inspired to pursue her political activism.
The papers of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, scholar, writer, and theologian, have been acquired by Duke University. Heschel was a highly visible and charismatic leader in the civil rights and anti-Vietnam War movements. He cofounded Clergy Concerned About Vietnam and served as a Jewish liaison with the Vatican during the Second Vatican Council. The collection, which has never been available to scholars, consists of manuscripts, correspondence, publications, documents, and photographs spanning five decades and at least four languages. Included among the papers are notes and drafts for nearly all of Heschel’s published works, as well as intimate and extensive correspondence with some of the leading religious figures of his time, including Martin Buber, Thomas Merton, Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy, and Reinhold Niebuhr. The papers also contain extensive documentation on Heschel’s lifelong commitment to social justice, including planning documents, correspondence with organizers, speeches, and even hate mail. Born in 1907 in Poland, Heschel was descended from a long line of distinguished rabbis. Heschel believed that prayer and study could not be separated from public action. He famously marched side-by-side with the Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma, Alabama, and is credited with coining the civil rights slogan, “We pray with our legs.”

Watergate papers of Rufus Edmisten are now at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (UNC), thanks to a donation by alumnus and Raleigh attorney Edmisten, a deputy chief counsel to the Senate Watergate Committee chaired by Senator Sam Ervin (D-North Carolina), served President Richard Nixon with a subpoena on July 23, 1973. That original subpoena, along with Edmisten’s personal archive, will now be part of the Southern Historical Collection in the Wilson Special Collections Library, home of Ervin’s papers since 1975. The Edmisten papers arrived at UNC-Chapel Hill 40 years after the June 1972 break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters of the Watergate office complex that gave the scandal its name. The investigation of the break-in and the Nixon administration’s cover-up of its involvement—including the White House tapes that Edmisten subpoenaed but Nixon refused to release—eventually led to Nixon’s resignation. The papers also document Edmisten’s 30 years of public service in Washington and in North Carolina. After graduating from UNC in 1963 and from George Washington University law school, Edmisten served for ten years on Ervin’s staff. He later returned to North Carolina, where he was elected attorney general in 1974 and ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1984. Edmisten served from 1988 to 1996 as secretary of state, before retiring from public service to launch a private law career with the firm that is now Edmisten, Webb & Moore in Raleigh.