LYRASIS, the nation’s largest regional non-profit membership organization for libraries, has received a $670,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for initiatives that advance, use, and support of open source software and systems in libraries and archives. The grant focuses on LYRASIS open source initiatives to advance sustainability in three areas: 1) expansion of decision-support services that enable effective library decision-making and planning before, during, and after adoption; 2) fostering community discussion and planning to support sustainability of the software itself, and the libraries and communities that are developing it; and 3) raise awareness, provide information and education, and foster more rapid creation of best-of-breed open source software as strategies to expand library and archival adoption. The grant runs for two years.

Northern Kentucky University (NKU) has received a $50,000 National Endowment for the Humanities Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections planning grant to evaluate the environmental climate in which W. Frank Steely Library’s Eva G. Farris Special Collections and Schlachter University Archives stores its historical collections and permanent university records. The goal is to create a sustainable, energy efficient, preservation quality environment for the protection of these collections, which have regional and national significance. Only 18 of 80 applicants nationally received funding. University Archivist and Assistant Professor Lois Hamill is the principal investigator for the grant, which will bring consultants from the Image Permanence Institute of the Rochester Institute of Technology, and engineers from Staggs and Fisher of Lexington to work with NKU.

Acquisitions

A 1,200-volume collection of Ernest Hemingway’s published works has been acquired by the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at the University of South Carolina Libraries. The collection was put together by C. Edgar Grissom of Mississippi, who began collecting Hemingway items more than 50 years ago. Last year, Grissom published Ernest Hemingway: A Descriptive Bibliography (New Castle: Oak Knoll Press, 2011), the most comprehensive, and now definitive, Hemingway bibliography. In addition to first editions, the collection includes salesman’s dummies, uncorrected proofs, and many variant and heretofore unrecorded dust jackets of Hemingway’s works. The collection complements the Speiser and Easterling-Hallman Foundation Collection of Ernest Hemingway, also at the University of South Carolina, which contains the papers of Hemingway’s Philadelphia lawyer, Maurice Speiser, who worked for Hemingway and many other artists and writers from the late 1920s through the 1940s.

Works from the 1,200-volume Hemingway collection acquired by the University of South Carolina Libraries.