The University of Massachusetts-Amherst Libraries have received a $48,000 National Leadership Planning Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to investigate the development of a disciplinary repository for the Ethical, Legal and Social Implications of nanoscience and emerging technologies research. The libraries will partner with the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research and the Centers for Nanotechnology and Society at Arizona State University and at the University of California-Santa Barbara in a planning project to explore future integration of digital services for researchers studying ethical, legal, and social implications associated with the development of these technologies. The central activity of this project involves a spring 2013 workshop that will gather key researchers in the field and digital librarians together to plan the development of a disciplinary repository of data, curricula, and methodological tools.

The University of Washington Libraries have received a $1.25 million challenge grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to fund a new senior conservator position in the Preservation Services Division. The Mellon Foundation grant includes $1 million as a permanent endowment and $250,000 to establish the new position while the libraries raises $1 million over three years to match the award, which will generate funding to support the position permanently. The libraries have begun a nationwide search for the individual who will take on the role of senior conservator early this year.

Acquisitions

The Ira Wolff Photographic History Collection has been acquired by the University of Colorado-Boulder Libraries. Consisting of approximately 7,000 original photographs, in addition to approximately 7,000 publications, largely from the 19th and early-20th centuries, the collection offers a major scholarly resource for the study of the history of photography. The Wolff collection contains a wealth of primary source material offering insight into the invention of photography, the scientific and technical components of its development, the history of photomechanical printing, vernacular photographic practices, and the medium’s role in social and cultural documentation. Highlights from the collection of original photographs include an 1844 photograph by one of the inventors of photography, William Henry Fox Talbot. Publications in the collection trace the prehistory of photography in the 18th century and continue through the development of all stages and types of photomechanical printing in the 19th century. Ira Wolff acquired the collection over the course of several decades from bookstores and dealers throughout the United States and Europe. A former executive at NBC, his interest in photography stemmed from his involvement with the Grolier Club, the New York City bibliophile’s society.

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