The University of New Hampshire (UNH) Library and its partner, the UNH Earth Systems Research Center received a $474,156 three-year grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, National Leadership Grants for Libraries Program to build PLACE, the Position-based Location Archive Coordinate Explorer. PLACE will be a geospatial search interface that uses embedded geospatial coordinates and international geospatial metadata standards to provide an alternative means for discovery of geospatial and geographic information in the UNH collections. The project contributes to two open source communities: Open Geoportal (OGP) and FEDORA Commons. The PLACE project work group will build new tools not currently available in the OGP, such as a new geospatial gazetteer tool for improved searching and new time series capabilities to easily assess changes over time.

Acquisitions

The archive of the Funding Exchange (FEX), a national membership organization of regionally based community foundations dedicated to building a permanent institutional and financial base to support progressive social change through fundraising for local, national, and international grant-making programs, has been acquired by Columbia University Libraries/Information Services’ Rare Book and Manuscript Library. The organization was conceptualized in the late 1970s by young philanthropists armed with inheritances from the Pillsbury Baking Company, Sunbeam Bread, and DuPont. Contrary to common philanthropic practice at the time, they included grassroots activists in their grant-making decisions. They created six “alternative” foundations around the country: Bread and Roses Community Fund, Haymarket People’s Fund, Liberty Hill Foundation, McKenzie River Gathering Foundation, North Star Fund, and Vanguard Public Foundation. FEX and its member funds have provided lead funding for organizations in virtually every contemporary movement for progressive social change. FEX shaped a donor-advised program that helped people with wealth determine which organizations they want to support and administers those grants. The national office, based in New York City, ceased programmatic operations at the end of 2012. The FEX Records include more than 400 boxes of materials or roughly 600 linear feet.

The papers of Jonas Salk, noted physician, virologist, and humanitarian—best known for his development of the world’s first successful vaccine for the prevention of polio—has been acquired by the University of California-San Diego (UCSD) Library. The papers—which constitute almost 600 linear feet (or nearly 900 boxes)—were recently donated to the library’s Mandeville Special Collections by Salk’s sons. While recognized worldwide for his significant contributions, Salk is particularly noted locally for his founding of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, adjacent to UCSD, and the impact this had on the city’s metamorphosis into a major center for biomedical and scientific research and discovery. The Salk papers cover the period from the mid-1940s to his death in 1995; best documented are activities largely related to the development of the Salk polio vaccine in the mid-1950s to the early 1960s and the founding of the Salk Institute. The papers cover general correspondence, files relating to polio, Salk’s writings, photographs, artifacts (including two dictating machines), and various research materials.

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