Indiana University (IU) and two partner university libraries have received two grants totaling $931,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support further development of the Avalon Media System and a study of new business models for scholarly publishing. The first of these grants provides $750,000 to the IU Libraries and The Northwestern University Library to support continuing development of the Avalon Media System, an open-source software product designed to help libraries and archives provide long-term online access to audio and video collections for primarily academic audiences. IU and Northwestern have successfully collaborated to release three major versions of Avalon since the development project began in October 2011 with funding from a three-year National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The second of these grants, providing $181,000 to the IU Libraries and the University of Michigan Library, is a key component in a range of investigations underway to analyze the viability of alternative sustainable financial models for university presses and other nonprofit book publishers. This model has the potential to broaden the reach of scholarly research, increase the speed with which scholars learn about new developments in their fields, and support the public universities’ mission to disseminate their faculty’s research findings. The research will be accomplished through a mix of interviews with key faculty and administration stakeholders and financial analyses.

Acquisitions

A collection relating to William Wordsworth has been acquired by the Georgetown University Library. Professor Emeritus Paul F. Betz donated the collection of books, manuscripts, and art relating to William Wordsworth, associated writers of the British Romantic Period, and other figures in English literary history. Betz taught in Georgetown’s Department of English until 2007 and remains active as a Wordsworth scholar and in university affairs. The inaugural installment of Betz’s gift includes a sampling from the full collection: Wordsworth first editions, books from the libraries of Wordsworth and his friend Robert Southey, a collection of manuscripts by 57 lesser-known 19th-century British poets, a run of The European Magazine that includes Wordsworth’s first published poem (1787, attributed to “AXIOLOGUS”—“Wordsworth” in Greek), a special copy (one of only ten) of William Knight’s edition of Wordsworth’s Poetical Works, and many others. Other highlights of the Betz collection include the rare first edition of Lyrical Ballads (London issue, 1798), one of the first major works of the British Romantic era; the second edition of Lyrical Ballads, whose preface set forth Wordsworth’s manifesto for Romantic poetry; first and early editions of the rest of Wordsworth’s works, many of them presentation or association copies; a large number of books from Wordsworth’s, Southey’s, and Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s libraries (many of them annotated by their owners); a substantial number of letters and manuscripts by or relating to Wordsworth and by a wide array of his contemporaries; and associated prints and drawings. In addition to his gift of the books and manuscripts themselves, Betz has funded an endowment to support the collection.

Ed. note: Send your news to: Grants & Acquisitions, C&RL News, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611-2795; email: agalloway@ala.org.