East Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina-Greensboro have received a grant from the State Library of North Carolina to reduce the cost of required textbooks. Including matching funds from both universities, the total cost of the two-year Alternative Textbooks Project is $184,332. Sharing best practices, procedures, and promotional materials, librarians at both institutions will work with departmental faculty to reduce students’ textbook costs and increase their academic engagement through two concurrent strategies. One strategy is to award departmental faculty mini-grants to adopt, adapt, or create Open Educational Resources as the basis for their syllabi. The second strategy is to identify required texts that either the library already owns or can purchase as ebooks that students may use in addition to or instead of a printed copy that they purchase.

The Luther Cressman Field Work Films, which document the influential anthropologist’s 1938 to 1954 discovery and excavation of important Paleo-Indian sites in eastern Oregon, have been slated for preservation through an annual grant program by the National Film Preservation Foundation. The films are part of Cressman’s personal papers, which are housed in the Special Collections and University Archives of the University of Oregon (UO) Libraries, and Cressman’s field notes are held by the UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History (MNCH). Luther Cressman (1897—1994) was an archaeologist whose work changed prevailing theories of ancient human civilization in North America. He helped to establish both the Department of Anthropology and the MNCH at the UO. The Field Work Films document Cressman’s work throughout Oregon: the first excavations at key sites on the Columbia River, the Northern Great Basin, the Oregon Coast, and the Klamath River. In the 1930s, at Fort Rock Cave and Paisley Caves, Cressman and his collaborators unearthed evidence that would significantly recalibrate the timescale for human habitation in our region. The 16mm original films are on acetate stock, in fair to poor condition. Laboratory work to preserve the films will include basic cleaning and restoration (including replasticizing when necessary), creation of new internegatives, and printing two new public access copies of each film. Estimated costs to be covered by the grant are $17,146.

Acquisitions

The archives of Barbara Morgan, the visionary photographer who passed away in 1992, have come home to UCLA, where Morgan studied art from 1919 to 1923 and subsequently taught design, painting, and printmaking. She began her career as a painter but embraced photography at the prompting of her husband, Willard, a photographer, writer, educator, and curator. Another major influence was Edward Weston, whom she met at UCLA when she was installing an exhibition of his work. The collection offers insight into Morgan’s artistic development and the concept that inspired all of her works: the visual expression of movement and living energy. Its contents also trace the development of the Modernist movement in the United States through the Morgans’ friendships with other photographers, dancers, architects, artists, and authors. The Barbara and Willard Morgan Photographs and Papers include several thousand vintage negatives and prints of Barbara’s dance photography. It also encompasses the couple’s diaries, manuscripts, lectures, essays, story books, original drawings, and prints, as well as extensive correspondence and ephemera.