



## ***ARL Bimonthly Report 217*** **August 2001**

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#### **ARL, CARL Assess the Digital Future**

One hundred and four member institutions were represented at ARL's 138th Membership Meeting, *Creating the Digital Future*, held in Toronto on May 23-25. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Canadian Association of Research Libraries and was hosted by the University of Toronto Libraries. Chaired by ARL President Shirley Baker (Washington University, St. Louis) the programs focused on how research institutions are developing the infrastructure and expertise necessary to support the processes of scholarly publishing and to operate programs that embrace access to born-digital and digitized primary source materials. Papers and presentations from the meeting are available on the ARL website at <http://www.arl.org/arl/proceedings/138/index.htm>.

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#### **Université de Montréal Joins ARL**

At its 2001 Spring Membership Meeting, the ARL membership voted to invite the Université de Montréal Library to join as the 123rd member. Located in Montréal, the university is one of the two premier French-language comprehensive research universities in Canada. Jean-Pierre Côté is the Library Director General and accepted ARL's invitation on behalf of the Library.

The Université de Montréal, founded in 1878, and its two affiliated schools of business and engineering today enroll approximately 48,400 students organized into 13 faculties, more than 60 departments, and four teaching hospitals. More information about the Université de Montréal may be found at <http://www.umontreal.ca/>.

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## **The Status & Future of Special Collections**

Building on Strength: Developing an ARL Agenda for Special Collections, a working symposium on the future of special collections in research libraries, was held at Brown University June 27-29, 2001.

This event was a unique opportunity for research library directors, heads of special collections, and invited scholars and guests to discuss timely issues concerning the potential of special collections. The goals were to call attention to the unique role of special collections within research institutions and to find ways to use information technology more effectively to explore and expand the value to research and teaching of these important resources. There was also a strong interest in identifying the factors that facilitate or impede the full realization of this potential in an electronic age.

In his keynote address "So What's so Special?" Syracuse Librarian Emeritus David Stam emphasized that "Our special collections must be democratized, must overcome their exclusionary origins in the monastery or aristocratic library, must shed their image of aloofness and preciousness, must get their precious treasures and scholarly ephemera into the sometimes dirty hands of potential users, must place a higher priority on access to unprocessed material, and must build a wider audience."

Presentations were also made by William Crowe (Kansas), Sarah Thomas (Cornell), Shirley Baker (Washington in St. Louis), and Robert Byrd (Duke). Merrily Taylor (Brown) and Joe Hewitt (UNC-CH), co-organizers of the symposium and current and past chairs of the ARL Research Collections Committee, respectively, also delivered comments and encouraged participant discussion. Break-out sessions then focused discussion on issues to form the basis of a proposed ARL action agenda for special collections. The draft agenda, along with the presentations from the symposium, is available on the ARL website <<http://www.arl.org/special/index.html>>.

The symposium was supported with grants from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

### **Special Collections in ARL Libraries: Results of the 1998 Survey**

Sponsored by the ARL Research Collections Committee  
by Judith M. Panitch, Research and Special Projects  
Librarian,

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

*Washington, D.C.: ARL, 2001. 123 pp.*

Until this survey, no systematic data had been collected on special collections in ARL libraries for nearly 20 years. The results provide a snapshot of special collections at the end of the twentieth century. The data from this survey not only supply information for local decisions about special collections, but also identify areas for further investigation. Special collections constitute a vast and varied resource, and the overall trend is one of growth. However, some areas of concern remain. This unique volume not only provides the survey results (including 45 tables of data), but also explores these concerns.

The book is available from [ARL Publications](#)  
<[arlpubs@arl.org](mailto:arlpubs@arl.org)>.  
The price for ARL members is \$44 per copy;  
the nonmember price is \$100 per copy.

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## **New Media Relations Handbook Available**

Have you ever wondered how to work with the media to bring recognition to the important services and projects in which your library is engaged? ARL and SPARC have created a guide for libraries and library organizations that want to create a successful media relations plan. Media Map: Charting a Media Relations Strategy is available as a PDF file at <<http://www.arl.org/mediamap.pdf>>. It is of use to directors of libraries and library organizations; public information officers and public affairs/communication officers; and anyone who is interested in what it takes for a worthy story to see the light of day.

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