To improve research opportunities and accessibility, the J.D. Williams Library Department of Archives and Special Collections is working to digitize portions of its collections.

"Digitization will allow us to reach a much wider audience for our important and rare collections," said library Dean Julia Rholes. "This is an important goal for the Ole Miss library."

Digital archives began surfacing on the World Wide Web in the mid-1990s, with universities such as Cornell and Berkeley leading the way. After watching these trends and scanning small projects, UM is now working to digitize larger portions of its collection with the assistance of Special Collections Digital Initiatives Librarian Chatham Ewing.

Ewing joined the library staff in 2005 to help catalog and place archival materials, including correspondence, audio recordings and photographs, in digital form on the Internet. Future projects include Civil War collectoria, sheet music of various blues tunes and oral history projects. "What we have online is a beginning," Ewing said. "We want to go further and do more."

Prior to joining UM, Ewing worked several upgrades, including the Java City coffee shop, new projects with the University Writing Center and an online link that allows patrons to chat with a librarian.

The writing center, which is on the third floor of the main library, has teamed with the library to sponsor joint workshops throughout the academic year. Workshops cover a wide range of topics, from strategies for beginning a

Inside

Chancellor's Message ...... 2
UM, MSU, USM reach agreement .................. 2
UM showcases state's film history .................. 3
Sounds of yesteryear ...... 7
Message from the Chancellor

For me, the library has always been a sacred place. It can be overwhelming to realize that the cumulative knowledge of man can be housed under one roof and made easily accessible to anyone. Without libraries, universities probably would not exist, and, to a great extent, universities are measured by the quality of our libraries.

This university is built around and upon the J.D. Williams Library. Since 1848, our library has been challenged by inadequate state funding and has had to rely on efficient management and private support to maintain the level of excellence we enjoy.

Dean Julia Rholes and her able staff are dedicated to providing materials to students, faculty, staff and other users of the library. The interlibrary loan service, as well as more recently acquired electronic access, has enabled our library to provide users with virtually any existing resource. The atmosphere created by the library staff is conducive to maximum utilization of time and resources.

Through the years, thousands of friends have provided financial gifts, as well as valuable printed materials. Mrs. Chuck Noyes and John Pilkington have dedicated much of their time, energy and resources to Friends of the Library, and we are forever in their debt.

We invite you to visit the library, get to know members of our capable staff and fully utilize the wonderful resources of this Ole Miss treasure.

Warmest Regards,

Robert C. Khayat
Chancellor

Ole Miss, Mississippi State and USM team up to keep journals online

In sports, Ole Miss, Mississippi State and USM may be in-state rivals, but when it comes to seeing that journals are available to researchers and students, they’re all on the same team.

To combat years of operating without a budget increase, UM is partnering with Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi to provide electronic access to a seven-year archive of more than 800 research journals published by Elsevier, a multiple-media publisher of scientific, technical and health information products and services.

“The library is considered to be the research laboratory in the field of social sciences,” said Julia Rholes, UM’s dean of libraries. “With this agreement, we can better support the university’s research efforts.”

UM libraries haven’t seen a budget increase in several years, forcing officials to cut hundreds of journal offerings to researchers and students.

Richard Forgette, chair of the political science department, said research journals are the lifeblood of academic research and that the state could suffer if library funding remains stagnant.

“Mississippi will lose faculty and funded research by cutting library budgets,” Forgette said. “This cooperative agreement is a positive way of dealing with these challenges.”

Since the partnership began in January 2005, hundreds of additional online science and social science journals have been available to faculty and students. Users can access any journal published by Elsevier, to which at least one of the three libraries maintains a subscription.

“Elsevier publishes many of the world’s most prestigious and heavily cited journals in the sciences and social sciences,” Rholes said. “With the addition of more than 800 titles in all, the figure triples the number of Elsevier journals Ole Miss users will have access to.”
'Mississippi Matinee' debuts at library showcasing state's 90-year film history

In 1916, "The Crisis," with a budget of $75,000, became the first movie ever filmed in Mississippi. Extras in the film were paid a mere $1 per day.

The University of Mississippi Department of Archives and Special Collections showcases the state's film history with a new exhibit, "Mississippi Matinee: An Exhibition of the State and the Silver Screen." The show premiered on March 30 with an address by Ward Emling, director of the Mississippi Film Office.

"Mississippi has had a pretty good experience with Hollywood adaptations of our literature," said Emling. "William Faulkner's 'Intruder in the Dust' was adapted to the screen in 1949, making it one of the first notable films of Mississippi."

The exhibit offers an overview of Mississippi-related cinema from 1916 through the present, featuring Faulkner, Willie Morris, Stark Young, John Grisham, Tennessee Williams and more. "The exhibit contains movie items that were filmed in Mississippi, written by authors from Mississippi or set in Mississippi," said Jeffrey Boyce, UM library specialist.

A portion of the exhibit contains material from the new Matthew Bouchard Collection, which contains 71 film posters from 17 different countries, lobby cards, press books and other movie memorabilia related to Mississippi.

"We had an extensive number of movie items, but we now have much more," said Boyce. "Thanks to Mr. Bouchard and his donation, the exhibit is now a much more diverse, dynamic collection."

UM's Department of Archives and Special Collections has continued to collect and receive donations of Mississippi related movie ephemera over the years.

"All of our film materials—lobby cards, posters, scripts, soundtracks, movie treatments, etc.—reveal Mississippi's lasting and important connection with the film industry," said UM Archives and Special Collections Director Jennifer Ford. "Our staff is very excited to be able to feature this side of Mississippi's past, and we are looking forward to the opening of this new exhibition."

Located in the Faulkner Room of the Department of Archives and Special Collections on the third floor of the J.D. Williams Library at UM, the exhibition is available for viewing Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information or for assistance related to a disability, call 662-915-7408.
Ole Miss Parents Association grant provides $15,000 to upgrade library computer classroom

Ole Miss students can find major upgrades to a computer education classroom in the J.D. Williams Library thanks to a $15,000 grant from the Ole Miss Parents Association.

"With computers in the library [for instructional use], students can take advantage of the technology on campus."

Rebecca Bertrand,
ASB president
2005-06

Serving 6,500 students enrolled in more than 255 courses annually, the classroom simply didn't have enough computers to accommodate the average class size of about 20 students, said librarian Amy E. Mark.

"Because the library offers 50-minute workshops to classes at all levels and across the curriculum, librarians end up speaking to a tremendous number of students on how to use library resources," Mark said. "The ideal learning situation for students is to be able to work at a modern workstation with up-to-date computers in an interactive environment. The Ole Miss Parents Association grant enables us to meet those needs."

The grant also provided enough funds to equip the classroom with new chairs to match the desks purchased last year through another OMPA grant.

"With computers in the library [for instructional use], students can take better advantage of the technology on campus," said Rebecca Bertrand, UM student body president in 2005-06. "We're always appreciative of gifts from the Ole Miss Parents Association."

Funding for the new computers was generated by the annual Parents Campaign phone-a-thon. Past OMPA grants have provided scholarships, exercise equipment and student programming opportunities.
Emeritus professors still digging up treasures for library

A set of Spanish encyclopedias, a collection of American fiction on microform and a volume of books about North American birds are among the many items John Pilkington and Charles Noyes have help place in the J.D. Williams Library.

Investing funds given by the Friends of the Library support group, Pilkington and Noyes, both professors emeritus of English, have spent many hours over the past 50 years matching books and other resources with the library’s needs.

“Without Dr. Pilkington and Dr. Noyes we would be a poorer institution,” said library Dean Jula Rholes. “The steady purchase of books and research materials they are responsible for has greatly added to the quality and quantity of the university library.”

Born in Jacksonville, Fla., Pilkington received his undergraduate degree with honors in 1940 at Centre College in Kentucky. While attending graduate school at Johns Hopkins University, he received a commission in the Naval Reserve and served throughout World War II. After retiring from the service as a lieutenant commander, he went on to earn both his master’s and doctoral degrees from Harvard University. He joined the UM faculty in 1952.

A scholar of William Faulkner and Southern literature, Pilkington is one of only two Distinguished Professors in UM’s history. He earned numerous awards for his teaching, scholarship and writing. When he retired in 1985, friends and former students established a library endowment in his name.

Born in Natchez, Noyes received both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Missouri. After four years in the Army Air Corps, he retired as a major in 1946 and went on to earn his doctoral degree from the University of Texas. Noyes joined the Ole Miss faculty in 1953.

Friends of the Library group. One of their finest acquisitions was the purchase of obscure British journals on microform, establishing Ole Miss as the “American source” for such materials.

The 60-year-old organization was restructured in 1983 with dues-paying membership, and today there are about 500 members. Managed by the University Foundation, the Friends of the Library Endowment stands at approximately $500,000. An 18th Century British literature scholar, Noyes also served as provost, acting vice chancellor, associate vice chancellor and director of summer session. He retired in 1982 and in 1992 was also honored with a library endowment in his name.

Pilkington and Noyes have worked diligently with the...
at libraries at Washington University in St. Louis and New York University, as well as the New York Public Library. He's also been an instructor at Yeshiva University and Fordham University. He earned his bachelor's degree in English literature at Johns Hopkins University, a master's in English literature at Georgetown University, and a master's in library science at Rutgers University. He currently is working on a Ph.D. in English literature at the University of Missouri.

"I wanted to be a librarian because it gave me the opportunity to explore the relationship between digital technology and the humanities," Ewing said.

Despite the advances, there are major challenges to expanding Ole Miss' digital archive. Funding for staff and equipment is inadequate, and it can be difficult to preserve hard copies before, during and after digitization, because often the materials are delicate. And then there are copyright issues.

"Balancing fair use and copyright can be extremely difficult because, as archivists, we want patrons to gain information quickly and easily," Ewing said. "However, we're obligated to abide by the law as it relates to copyright and libraries."

Despite the hurdles, Ewing is excited to be laying the foundation for UM's new digital archive. He hopes to create a structure to support additional scholarship and learning by attracting a broader audience. When more scholars can access good copies of primary source material over the Internet, it makes archives live more vibrantly in the scholarly life of universities across the world," he said.

"The university's collection is rich with items representing the cultural heritage of Mississippi," added Archives and Special Collections Director Jennifer Ford. "Papers of literary genius, letters written by former slaves, the hopeful diaries of civil rights leaders, documents representing the political life of Mississippi, the 'haunting notes of blues' music – these are all examples of what we have and what we hope to make available."
Donation of early music players, sound recordings allows new generations to experience sounds of yesteryear

In an age of iPods and MP3 music, there are generations of people who think a 78 rpm phonograph is just plain old. But if it’s a Victrola Victor Talking Machine from 1915, a better word comes to mind: classic. And thanks to library friend Ann Rayburn, the Victrola is now playing at the J.D. Williams Library.

The Victrola and an Edison cylinder player, along with hundreds of early 20th century movie soundtracks, jazz, spoken-word and comedy recordings, have found a home in the library’s Department of Archives and Special Collections. This is the library’s first-ever donation of early music players.

“These items were placed to be used forever by generations to come,” Rayburn said.

Displayed in the library’s Faulkner Room, the model XVIII Victor Talking Machine was manufactured as an exhibition item for the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition. UM Blues Curator Greg Johnson said it’s a rare model, and the donation includes the original instruction manual as well as interchangeable needles made of whalebone, bamboo and metal. (Needles made from whalebone were outlawed in 1915). Unlike earlier phonographs, the Victrola was designed to look less like machinery and more like furniture.

“The Victrolas were made to set up in the middle of the room to dance around and enjoy,” Johnson said.

Instead of playing the same kind of records as the Victrola, the Edison cylinder player uses a hardened wax cylinder approximately 4 inches long, though most only feature two minutes of audio. It too is a hand-cranked mechanical player, but its sound is amplified through a horn that extends three feet from the cylinder.

“These are both very beautiful, ornate music players, and they both still play perfectly,” said Johnson. “We will eventually place the Edison player on display, but we have to be careful; we can’t just run down to Radio Shack to buy replacement parts.”

Rayburn’s recent donation isn’t her first. A donor since 1980, her previous gifts include sheet music, books and pamphlets on early sound recordings, and postcards.

“She’s been very generous to us,” Johnson said. “She’s extremely nice and very knowledgeable of the early history of recorded music.”

A longtime Oxford resident, Rayburn said it’s a pleasure for her to pass her treasures to the university. “I love to give,” she said. “It’s lovely to know the university would want anything I have, and it warms my heart to know they care for these items as much as I do.”

---

Blues Curator Greg Johnson shows off the Edison cylinder player, which records music onto a hardened wax cylinder. Eventually the player will be on display, but he’s cautious about letting people play it: “We can’t just run down to Radio Shack to buy replacement parts.”
thesis to writing love letters.

Students can get a jolt of caffeine at Java City near the east entrance while searching events on the bulletin board or participating in various book swaps.

And in the spirit of customer service, the “Ask a Librarian” link on the library’s Web site provides real-time assistance from a professional librarian. Sponsored by the Ole Miss Parents Association, the service is available seven days a week at various times.

“We established the Ask a Librarian service to help our patrons when they cannot visit in person,” said library Dean Julia Rholes “We’ve basically enabled our patrons to ask us anything from anywhere.”

For more information, visit www.olemiss.edu/depts/general_library/index.html.

The University of Mississippi
Oxford • Jackson • Tupelo • Southaven

J. D. Williams Library
P.O. Box 1848
University, MS 38677-1848