



Robert W. WOODRUFF LIBRARY

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Woodruff Library of the AUC Awarded \$400,000 to Create King Collection Digital Finding Aid *Project to Create Collaborative Catalogs for Morehouse and Boston U. King Collections*

The Robert W. Woodruff Library (RWWL) of the Atlanta University Center (AUC), Inc., has been awarded a \$400,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to complete processing of and develop a digital finding aid for the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection housed within the Library's Archives & Special Collections Department.

The work, which includes collaboration with separately funded Mellon projects at Boston University's Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center (HGARC) and Stanford University's Martin Luther King, Jr., Research & Education Institute, will allow researchers to benefit from scholarly work associated with the King Papers Project at Stanford, and to electronically search finding aids for the papers, writings and other items representing the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. housed at both the Woodruff Library of the AUC and Boston University.

The Archives & Special Collections Department of the Woodruff Library of the AUC began housing the 10,000 items within the Morehouse King Collection in September 2006, following their rescue from auction the previous June. The Morehouse King Collection, which includes many of Dr. King's original manuscripts, writings and sermons and his personal library, was purchased on behalf of King's alma mater, Morehouse College, for which Woodruff serves as the sole academic library.

Loretta Parham, CEO and Director of the Woodruff Library of the AUC, said the grant will assist in the next phase of providing scholarly access to this very important collection.

"We understand that as custodian of the Morehouse King Collection, Woodruff is charged with safeguarding a portion of Dr. King's legacy," said Parham. "Our academic mission as a gateway to information and learning makes it imperative that we also provide access to that legacy in a meaningful and efficient way. The digital finding aid resulting from this Mellon-funded work will allow researchers around the world to identify and locate the existence of primary King resources with only a few keystrokes."

The Mellon grant will support staffing, training and equipment needs associated with Phase II of the MLK Jr. Archival Collaborative, a two-phase project focusing on collaborative development of digital finding aids for the Morehouse King Collection and the King Collection housed within the HGARC at Boston University. The project will also be strengthened and scholarship enriched by merging selected data that was created by Stanford's King Papers Project.

For Phase I of the project, completed during the spring and summer of 2007, Woodruff and HGARC staff mapped out implementation strategies and completed training in the use of the "Archivists' Toolkit" software, an open-source data management system that provides integrated support for arrangement, description and location of

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RWWL-AUC and HGRAC Mellon Grant – pg. 2

archival materials. Now in Phase II, the archivists will use the software to create common subject terms and names for the Morehouse and Boston University King Collections. Efforts will also be undertaken to make the description of the collection consistent with those used for King materials described as part of the King Papers Project at Stanford.

Through the collaborative, a Web page will be created to mount the resulting Morehouse and HGARC finding aids. The goal of the interface is to enable simultaneous, electronic search of both King collections. The page also will chronicle the progress of the MLK Jr. Archival Collaborative project.

Woodruff Library has closed the King Collection so that archivists can complete the arrangement and description process necessary for scholarly access. It is not expected to be open for research before fall 2008. For more information on the MLK Jr. Archival Collaborative, contact the Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center at 404-978-2114.

The Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center is an independent entity organized and operated for the exclusive benefit of its member institutions—Clark Atlanta University, the Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse College and Spelman College. With a combined enrollment of nearly 10,000 students, these colleges and university represent the world’s largest consortium of historically black institutions of higher learning. The Woodruff Library Archives & Special Collections, most noted for its extensive materials documenting the African American experience and the rich history of the AUC schools, includes more than 7,000 linear feet of archival holdings. For more information, please visit <http://www.auctr.edu/collections/archives-collections.asp>.

Morehouse College, ranked three times as the number one college in the nation for educating African American students by Black Enterprise magazine and recognized by The Wall Street Journal as one of the top feeder schools for the 15 most prominent graduate and professional schools in the country, is the nation’s largest, private liberal arts college for men. Founded in 1867, the College enrolls approximately 3,000 students. Morehouse is one of only two Historically Black Colleges or Universities (HBCU) to produce three (3) Rhodes Scholars. Prominent alumni include Martin Luther King Jr., Nobel Peace Prize laureate and civil rights leader; Dr. David Satcher, former U.S. Surgeon General and director of the National Center for Primary Care at the Morehouse School of Medicine; Shelton “Spike” Lee, filmmaker and president of 40 Acres & A Mule Productions; Samuel L. Jackson, Academy Award nominated actor; Maynard H. Jackson, founder of Jackson Securities and the first African-American mayor of Atlanta; and Nima A. Warfield, the first African-American Rhodes Scholar from an HBCU. Learn more about the Morehouse College and the King Collection at: <http://www.morehouse.edu/kingcollection/index.html>.

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