Atlanta University Center
Robert W. Woodruff Library

FY 2026 **IMPACT REPORT**



TRANSFORMING THE AUC WOODRUFF LIBRARY EXPERIENCE:

Where Innovation, Discovery, and Engagement Advance Excellence

CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY | MOREHOUSE COLLEGE | SPELMAN COLLEGE

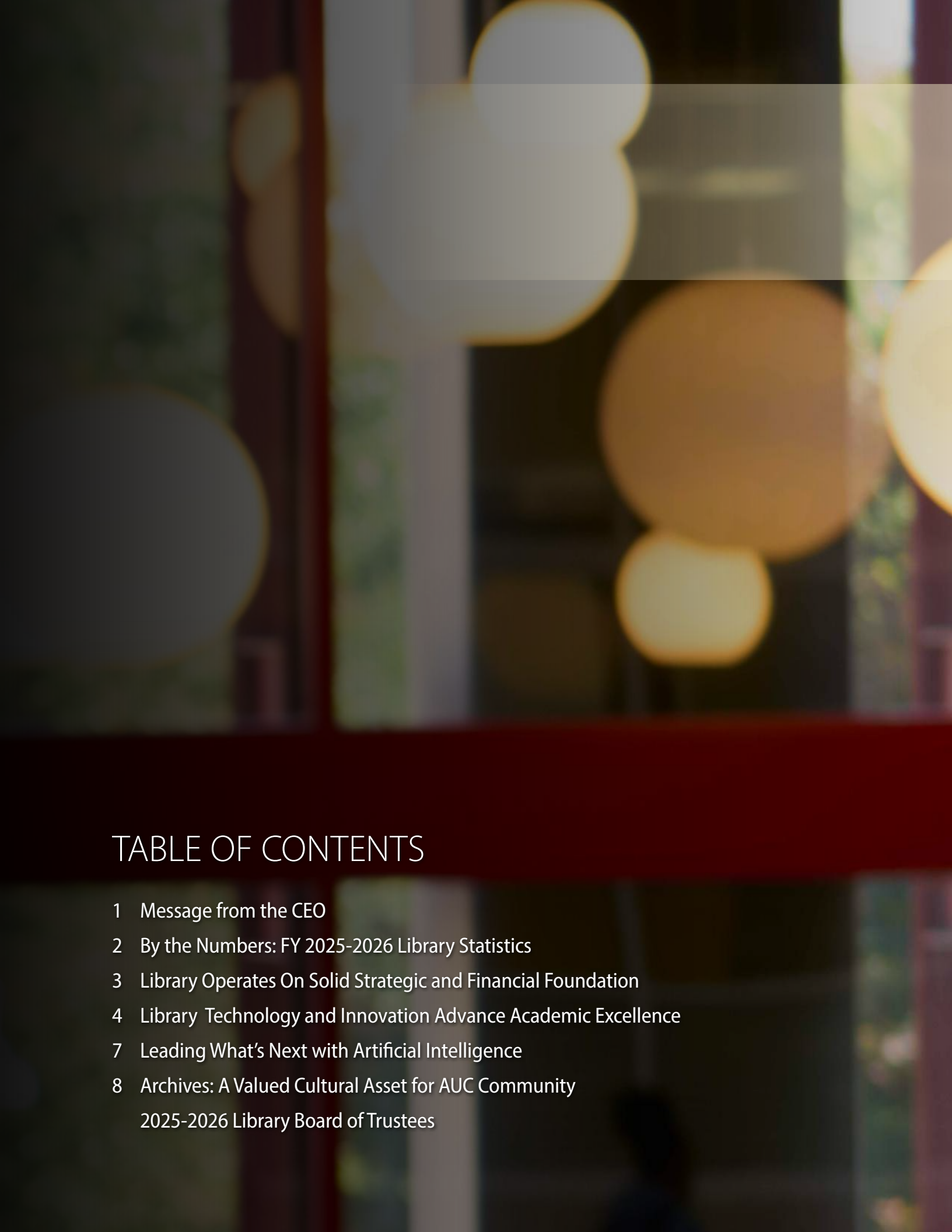


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2025-2026 Library Board of Trustees

The AUC Woodruff's Library's impact has extended beyond the classroom and into my own scholarly work. Staff expertise, responsiveness, and genuine commitment to supporting learning exemplify the mission of the library. It represents the best of what academic support can be: a trusted partner who not only helps students navigate their educational journeys but also empowers faculty in their pursuit of teaching, research, and discovery. —Kimberly Purifoy, professor of English, Morehouse College

Greetings Atlanta University Center Community:



As CEO and director of the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library, I am always gratified to hear positive feedback on the impact the library is making across our academic community. This response lets me know that we are on track with our mission to support outstanding teaching, learning and scholarship at our member institutions.

Our 2025-2026 library annual impact report, *Transforming the AUC Woodruff Library Experience: Where Innovation, Discovery, and Engagement Advance Excellence*, highlights some of the many ways we are meeting the current needs of our community even as we are transforming ourselves to meet its future needs.

This transformation began with our expanded view of what the library is and how it operates. We see this institution as more than just a building. It is also a vibrant community hub for our AUC students and faculty. Moreover, we believe the library is a catalyst for innovation. Through the expertise of our staff, our expansive collections, and our commitment to access, we have strengthened our resolve to ensure that every student, faculty and collaborative partner has the resources they need to learn, create and lead in an impactful way.

As you will see in this report, digitization is a key strategy for our goal to expand the library's reach. By making our collections and resources available beyond our physical walls, we are creating new opportunities for collaboration, scholarship, exploration and discovery. We are also taking the lead on creating a culture for the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence by providing learning opportunities for our students and faculty. And because our archives are an intellectual and cultural asset to the AUC as well as the larger community, we are committed to careful stewardship and growth of our collections with an eye to becoming an even greater repository for valuable and unique documents, photographs, recordings and artifacts that help tell the story of the African American experience.

I am extremely proud of the library's accomplishments this year. They are testament to the dedication of my talented staff and Board who join me every day in carrying out this important work. Thank you, my valued team, for your commitment and continued support.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Bugg, Ph.D.
CEO & Director

FY 2025-2026 BY THE NUMBERS

STUDENT POPULATION
9,650

ENGAGEMENT: 192 Class Instruction Sessions Impacting **2,789** Students, and **4,459** Student Research Consultations.

INSTITUTION	SESSIONS	STUDENTS IMPACTED	RESEARCH CONSULTATIONS *(Reference, On-Call & Virtual)*
Clark Atlanta University	59	902	1,739
Morehouse College	71	946	1,517
Spelman College	62	941	1,203

RESERVATION REQUESTS	BOOKS CHECKED OUT	NEW WEBSITE USERS	E-BOOKS USED
14,832	**3,828**	**85,578**	**54,257**

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS	TOTAL E-RESOURCES	AUC SHUTTLE RIDERSHIP	AUC BUILDING ACCESS
8,795	**5,731,053**	**76,122**	**153,827**

RADAR REPOSITORY RECORDS: **108,000**

FY 2026 TOTAL LIBRARY BUDGET
$13,574,296

STUDENT RESEARCH/ COLLECTIONS/ACQUISITIONS	STAFFING	OPERATIONS
$3,990,995	**$5,570,594**	**$4,012,707**

LIBRARY OPERATES ON SOLID STRATEGIC AND FINANCIAL FOUNDATION



New strategic plan establishes five priority areas

The 2026-2029 Library Strategic Plan, *Illuminating the AUC Woodruff Library Experience: A Framework for Innovation, Engagement, and Academic Excellence*, was developed through a structured and inclusive planning process coordinated by the library's Strategic Planning Committee. The process engaged the library Board of Trustees and emphasized alignment with the AUC member institutions' priorities, as well as the evolving needs of the AUC community and the library.

The plan established five strategic priority areas: Purposeful Stewardship and Financial Diversification; Amplified Awareness, Vibrant Campus Connection and Presence; Transforming the Library for the Future of Scholarship; Elevating Capacity for Innovation and Collaboration; and Cultivating Talent. Collectively, these priorities provide a framework for guiding the library's strategic focus, strengthening institutional partnerships, **unleashing innovation, and energizing the library experience for the AUC community.**

Track our strategic plan progress on our website: *https://performance.envisio.com/dashboard/auctr*

Increased funding supports new programming

The AUC Woodruff Library secured $1.2 million in programmatic grant funding to support new strategic partnerships and initiatives.

- HBCU Library Alliance Grant: A two-year subgrant to manage and coordinate the Student Activism Oral History Project.
- MacArthur Foundation Grant: Enables more institutions within the HBCU Library Alliance, in partnership with the HBCU Digital Library Trust, to access, deepen and sustain capacity to digitize, preserve and globally share collections integral to African American history and culture. The initiative emphasizes training, infrastructure, and support necessary for long-term digital stewardship.
- CLIR Grant: A one-year grant to digitize, describe and provide access to 1,500 Morehouse College recordings at risk of degrading.
- Lilly Endowment Planning Grant: Supports the Gulla-Geechee Spirituality Project with Morehouse College Professor Aaron Carter-Enyi and partners.
- John and Lillian Miles Lewis Foundation Grant: Supports efforts to digitize and provide access to the congressional papers of Congressman John Lewis.

Track record of clean financial audits continues

The 2025-2026 financial audit was completed in September. For the 25th consecutive year, the AUC Woodruff Library received an unqualified audit opinion with no management comments. These sustained results reflect our commitment to financial accountability, transparency, solid fiscal management, stewardship and leadership.



LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ADVANCE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Digitization is key driver of collaboration and expansion

As part of our commitment to transform the AUC Woodruff Library for the future, we champion an environment where technology connects people and ideas, enabling knowledge, creativity, and discovery to flow freely. Our digital environment brings this vision to life.

The library provides a rich and dynamic space for students and faculty and cultivates a culture of scholarly inquiry by providing specialized digital services and resources. We partner with AUC academic units to deepen understanding and promote effective resource use, and collaborate with external partners to expand access to unique and distinctive collections.

From left above: Christine Wiseman, Head, Digital Svcs.; Kendall Barksdale, HBCU Digital Trust Proj. Mgr.

Digital content accelerates access and discovery

NEW DIGITIZED COLLECTIONS EXPAND ACCESS

In FY 2026, the library digitized 15 new archival collections.



10 NEW ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS WERE DIGITIZED, INCLUDING:

- A Candle in the Dark Gala Collection
- Allen and Littlefield Collection
- Atlanta University Center Consortium, Inc.
- Atlanta University Center Scrapbooks
- John R. Lewis Congressional Papers
- Maud Cuney Hare Papers *(pictured above)*
- Morehouse Archives Vertical Files



5 COLLECTIONS RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL NEW DIGITIZED MATERIAL

- Clark Atlanta University Electronic Thesis and Dissertations – 2025
- Clark Atlanta University Student Publications
- Gullah Geechee Spiritual Project *(pictured above)*
- International Conference on Caribbean Literature
- Spelman College Student Publications



By the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, RADAR, the library's repository of AUC Digital Collections, Archives and Research, held 108,000 objects. The annual pageview count shows the high number of searches by students, faculty and researchers.

DIGITAL CONTENT PAGEVIEWS FY 2026

385,017: RADAR, Institutional Repository of AUC Digital Collections
185,726: HBCU Digital Collections
56,459: Digital Exhibits
22,805: Open Access Books (Pressbooks)
23,805: Open Access Journals

I worked on publishing in the Journal of Faculty and Student Undergraduate Research for about 18 months alone and was then introduced to the Open Journal platform for publishing and showcasing it. The library team was able to get it up and running for me in about two months.

Medha Talpade, professor of psychology, Clark Atlanta University



Library continues pivotal role in HBCU Digital Library Trust Collaboration

For the third consecutive year, the AUC Woodruff Library collaborated with the HBCU Library Alliance and Harvard Library to advance the HBCU Digital Library Trust. The goal of the initiative is to strengthen the digital preservation capacity of Historically Black Colleges and Universities by expanding global access to their archival collections while sustaining institutional, cultural, and community memory. Through this work, the HBCU Digital Library Trust helps ensure that the histories and stories preserved within HBCU collections are discovered, maintained, remembered, and shared for generations to come.

In FY 2026, the library continued our role as the initiative's digital collection repository host and Digitization HUB site. During the year, 59,411 items – including archival documents, photographs, and audiovisual recordings – were digitized and enriched with robust descriptive metadata. New collections were added to the HBCU Digital Collection from 11 institutions:

- Alabama A&M University
- Allen University
- Benedict College
- Bowie State University
- Fayetteville State University
- Howard University
- Lawson State Community College
- Morehouse College
- Shaw University
- Shelton State Community College
- Tuskegee University

Image above: HBCU Digital Library Trust Traveling Archivist, Sasha Jelan (foreground), pictured working with Bowie State University Archives staff.

LEADING WHAT'S NEXT WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Artificial intelligence has rapidly emerged as a bold new technology that poses both challenges and benefits. The AUC Woodruff Library is taking the lead to help foster responsible AI adoption as part of its commitment to be a leader in emerging technologies and digital scholarship.

During the 2025-2026 academic year, the library established an AI (artificial intelligence) Task Force to develop a comprehensive strategy, deliverables, and implementation plan to promote responsible, ethical, and practical applications of artificial intelligence throughout the Atlanta University Center. Two outcomes of the Task Force are the development of an AI Literacy course and the creation of the Woodruff AI Sandbox.

Woodruff AI Sandbox helps faculty explore scholarly uses

To support faculty in learning about artificial intelligence, the library developed the Woodruff AI Sandbox, a secure research and experimentation environment that enables faculty to test leading generative AI platforms such as ChatGPT, Copilot, and Claude in a controlled setting. The AI Sandbox provides guided experimentation and opportunities to evaluate AI's potential to support teaching, research, and scholarly productivity. The sandbox lowers technical barriers for faculty who want to explore AI without building their own infrastructure.

The first Woodruff AI Sandbox faculty cohort was selected in Fall 2026 and includes two faculty members each from Clark Atlanta University and Morehouse College. They will explore AI platforms and develop innovative approaches to support their research and curriculum development.



AI Literacy course supports evolving needs of future learners

The library's self-paced AI Literacy course consists of three modules designed to help learners build foundational knowledge of artificial intelligence, develop practical skills for using AI tools effectively, and apply critical thinking to evaluate ethical implications, potential biases, and the responsible use of AI. Spelman College piloted the course and became the first institution to implement it as part of its First Year and New Student Orientation for Fall 2026. The course establishes a strong foundation for students to engage with AI thoughtfully, ethically, and effectively throughout their academic journey.

The staff really cares so much about this library and the entirety of the AUC…how we as students learn and are presented with the vast number of resources and information the library offers. The library really is an international resource. Absolutely!

Ellison Lord, intern and music scholar
Morehouse College



LIBRARY ARCHIVES: A VALUED CULTURAL ASSET FOR THE AUC COMMUNITY

The AUC Woodruff Library's Archives Research Center (ARC) remains actively engaged in its work to develop, preserve, and provide access to archival resources for AUC students and faculty and the larger community. During the 2025-2026 academic year, ARC held exhibitions, sponsored outreach programming, and acquired and processed new collections. The staff also collaborated with member intuitions to help them build their own archival capacity.

Archival exhibitions foster connection, engagement and discovery

The ARC hosted several distinctive exhibitions stemming from our unique archival collections. The exhibits presented materials in visually engaging and scholarly informed ways that encouraged interpretation and discovery through self-guided exploration or archivist-led assistance.

- **100 Years in the Making: Preserving the Black Experience at the Atlanta University Center:** In 1925, Atlanta University launched a pioneering initiative to collect and preserve stories of Black life. What began with 291 books in a small reading room grew into more than 30,000 rare books related to the Black experience and 450 archival collections that documented the triumphs, struggles, and brilliance of African Americans and the African diaspora.
- **The Library of the Atlanta University Center:** A Chronicle of Learning and Legacy, A Photographic Exhibit: The exhibit featured photos documenting the AUC libraries and the creation of the AUC Woodruff Library in the 1980s.
- **The Eternal Flame – The Games that Changed Atlanta:** Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Atlanta Centennial Olympic Games: The 1996 Olympic Games were a substantial undertaking that forever changed Atlanta's infrastructure and cultural landscape. The games helped cement the city as an international beacon and a destination for visitors worldwide. In reshaping Atlanta's identity, the games accelerated the city's growth and solidified its reputation as a global city.

Amber Moore, Head, Processing & Colls. Mgmt.

Outreach programming reimagines approaches to archival engagement

The ARC expanded awareness and accessibility of its unique archival collections through partnerships that provided opportunities for innovative engagement and reached new audiences. Outreach initiatives included:

- **The Association of Black Women Historians Luncheon:** The library hosted the event and collaborated on Archival Special Viewing, which highlighted women collections held in the archives.
- **Asa G. Hilliard Book Collection Opening Celebration:** A Special Viewing of the newly acquired book collection.
- **C. Eric Lincoln Lecture Series:** This marked the second year that photographs from the collection were featured during the lecture and CAU TV recording.
- **Atlanta Fashion Week: Originals Presented by Adidas:** Materials from the ARC's collection were featured in a pop-up exhibit for Atlanta Fashion Week at the Atlantic Station Adidas store. The installation included images from our member institutions and highlighted the city's influence on global fashion from streetwear to high design.
- **Spelman College First Year Experience Enrichment:** Black Interiors: Envisioning a Place of Our Own: A collaboration with Spelman College First Year Experience Professors Michelle Hite and Robert Edwards and Honors Program Director Ethel Waddel Githii. Students engaged with art physically and digitally in the archives and outside the library.
- **Community Oral History Day: Olympic Games Oral History:** A collaboration between Kiplyn Primus of WCLK, StoryCorps and the ARC documented the oral histories and lived experiences of individuals connected to the 1996 Olympic Games. Community members, politicians and city leaders shared their memories and views about the impact of the games on Atlanta, the Atlanta University Center community, and beyond.



Dr. Kimberley Bugg, Asa G. Hilliard Book Collection opening celebration

PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED:

- Shirley Franklin, former mayor of Atlanta
- Oscar Harris, master architect, artist and author
- Steve Allen, official artist of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committees
- Andrew Young, former mayor of Atlanta and former United States Ambassador to the United Nations
- Carolyn Young, educator and civic leader and wife of Andrew Young
- Susan Ross, photographer known as "PhotoGriot"

These oral stories were digitized and uploaded to RADAR to be deposited in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.





Members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

Stewardship and processing of Distinctive new collections

The Archives Research Center acquired 10 significant new collections that deepen and strengthen the library's resources. The 787 linear feet of materials include:

- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Collection
- John R. Lewis Congressional Papers
- Albert T. Wilson Photograph Collection
- Clark Atlanta University Office of University History, Traditions, and Ceremonials
- Clark Atlanta University Presidential Records
- Clark Atlanta University Office of History and Traditions
- CAU TV
- Michael Oliver African Art Book Collection
- Morehouse College Ralph Lauren Clothing Capsule and Nike High-Top Shoes
- Leah Creque Papers, a Morehouse College Professor
- Greater Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter of Jack and Jill of America

ARC completed processing 21 collections, representing almost 264 linear feet of documents, including 250 boxes of scholarly research material. Among the collections now accessible to the public for research are:

- Hattimarie Parks Davis Papers
- Clark College Archives (administrative files)
- Morehouse College Archives Benjamin E. Mays Papers
- Morehouse College Archives Hugh Gloster Papers
- Morehouse College Archives Howard Thurman Educational Trust Records
- Morehouse College Archives Vertical Files
- Clark Atlanta University Community, Family, and Oral History Course Collection
- Clark Atlanta University Office of University Relations



From left: Bro. Sean L. McCaskill, Executive Director, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; Dr. Jerome Offord, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; and Dr. Kimberley Bugg, CEO and Director, AUC Woodruff Library.

Morehouse College archives advisory board strengthens institutional archival capacity

In collaboration with AUC Woodruff Library, Morehouse College established the Morehouse College Archives (MCA) board to promote the college's valuable collections, raise awareness and funding to support preservation and access to those collections, and serve as a supportive body to Morehouse's lead archivist. As a shared commitment, the MCA board and the library seek to ensure that the college's archives remain a premier destination for researchers. The collaboration also aims to support faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the broader community in advancing teaching, scholarship, and the preservation of Morehouse's institutional and cultural history.

The seven-member inaugural advisory board is comprised of four permanent and three rotating seats including the following library and Morehouse College members:



Dr. Kimberley Bugg
CEO & Director,
AUC Robert Woodruff Library
ex-officio



Sarah Tanner
Director of Archives Research Center
AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library
ex-officio



Dr. Lawrence Carter
Founding Dean
College Archivist, & Professor
Morehouse College



Henry Goodgame '84
Vice President for External Relations & Alumni Engagement
Morehouse College

Dedicated Clark Atlanta University archivist joins ARC staff

The Archives Research Center strengthened the library's capacity to support the Clark Atlanta University archival collections by adding a lead archivist dedicated to the university. Christiana McClain, who joined the team in October 2025, works directly with CAU departments and programming staff to ensure the university's institutional history is preserved and accessible. Under her leadership, ARC has acquired four new collections. McClain led archival instruction sessions for CAU faculty and hosted a special archival viewing during CAU's convocation. That event reached more than 228 faculty, students, and staff and showcased important materials that reflect CAU's historical impact on the AUC.

The library allows students to be scholars, to connect and collaborate with their classmates and other students, and to become the best versions of themselves. You can grab archival information on activists like M. L. King, Malcolm X, and W. E. DuBois, who created the groundwork that influenced the culture for the illustrious Clark Atlanta University, and the entire AUC, including Morehouse and Spelman College.

Chase Carter, freshman, psychology scholar
Clark Atlanta University

ABOUT THE LIBRARY:

Established in 1982, the Atlanta University Center (AUC) Robert W. Woodruff Library is named in honor of the late Robert Winship Woodruff, a philanthropist and former CEO of The Coca-Cola Company. The Library serves three Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs): Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, and Spelman College. Beyond its aesthetic appeal, this state-of-the-art facility has become a leading repository of information resources and an innovator in the delivery of digital content.

In August 2024, Dr. Kimberley Bugg assumed the position of CEO and Library Director, bringing new leadership to the institution.

The AUC Woodruff Library received the 2016 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award in the university category from the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). In July 2022, the Library became the 127th member of the Association of Research Libraries, marking it as the second HBCU to achieve this distinction. The Library operates as a nonprofit corporation under the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code and is dedicated to educational and charitable purposes as defined by Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. It is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees.

The AUC Woodruff Library also houses the Archives Research Center, renowned for its extensive collection of materials related to the African American experience. This includes the John Henrik Clarke Africana and African American Collection, the Henry P. Slaughter and Countee Cullen Memorial Collection, and the Southern Education Foundation Collection. Additionally, at the request of Morehouse College, the Library serves as the custodian of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection, as well as the Joseph Echols Lowery and Evelyn Gibson Lowery Collection.

STAY IN TOUCH!

Follow us on social media.



I come to the library for inspiration, being around my fellow AUC students and seeing how hard they work always pushes me to work harder too. Everyone is focused and it's easier to get my own work done. The library gives me a space where I feel motivated, productive and part of a community working toward something together.

Junior, economics scholar
Spelman College

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

Join us in strengthening student success and preserving knowledge for generations to come.

PICTURED ON COVER LEFT TO RIGHT:

Stacy Bailey
Business administration/marketing scholar
Mister Junior Clark Atlanta University

Maxie C. Jackson, IV, senior
Communications studies scholar
Morehouse College

Clarke Chenevert
International business scholar
Miss Freshman Clark Atlanta University

Peyton Franks, freshman
Economics scholar
Spelman College

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