

Introductory Remarks, March 13, 2015

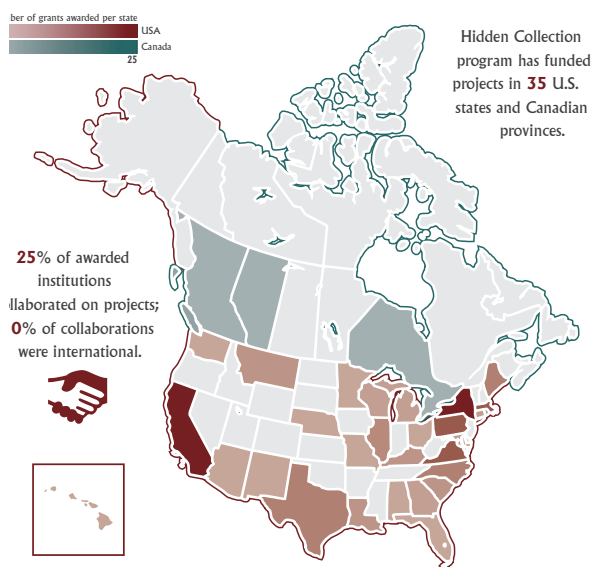
Charles Henry, President, Council on Library and Information Resources

Welcome to the Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives Symposium subtitled “Innovation, Collaboration, and Models.” You will be hearing, all day long, some very interesting examples of innovation and collaboration. As we get started, I’d like to thank the program officers and staff at CLIR, who have put together a vibrant agenda, and also thank the Kislak Center and the University of Pennsylvania Libraries for hosting this event.

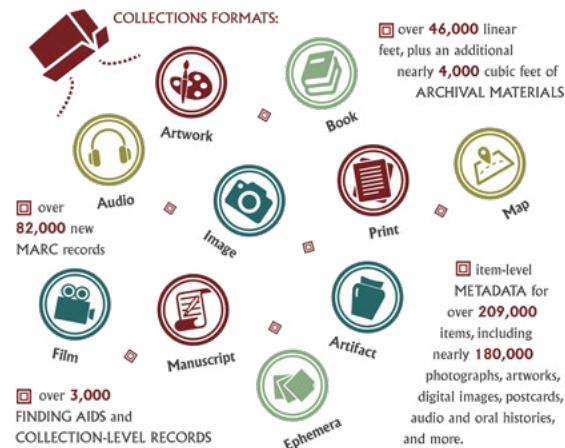
Very briefly this morning, I’m going to share some statistics and show you what you all have been doing for the last seven years. The Cataloging Hidden Collections program began in 2008 and ran until this year. We’ve given away 129 grants for a total of \$27.5 million. Most of the grants went to academic libraries, but there was a nice dispersal to other kinds of cultural organizations

including museums, public libraries, archives, and historical societies.

Through this grant program, 25 percent (33) of the funded projects were collaborative, involving at least two institutions. This is something we really had hoped to see in the beginning, and we encouraged collaboration throughout. One year, we had three wonderful proposals to catalog Civil Rights materials from four different institutions. The review panel got back to these institutions and said, “If you put this together, it’d be a tremendous proposal.” They did and it was. That got us moving on trying to encourage collaboration whenever we could. Three of the collaborative projects funded were international collaborations involving institutions in both the United States and Canada. You can see some remarkable statistics here describing funded projects’ collective achievements to date: metadata for over 209,000 items, including 180,000 photographs, art works, digital images, and postcards; 3,000 finding aids, and 82,000 MARC records. This is impressive: you all have been very busy.



To date, this program has funded the processing of :





What have we heard through interviews, surveys, and conversations with you all? What has come out of this, aside from the numbers and the statistics? To me, this is a marvelous catalog, if you will, of reactions and evidence of the importance of this program. First, jobs for new professionals came through these grants. Research guides were created. New courses came into being. There was a really strong pedagogical aspect to this project that we hadn't thought of much in the beginning, but grew over time. Many of you have participated in numerous presentations at symposiums and conferences. And, not least, the projects have led to abiding and binding institutional partnerships and collaboration.

Today, we have 172 people attending: 75 of you are contributing as presenters over the two-day event. Together, participants in this symposium represent 55 recipient institutions and consortia and 62 unique Hidden Collections projects. I am very grateful for all of your work.

Now I'd like to transition to our keynote speaker today, Professor Jacqueline Goldsby. Jackie is chair of the African American studies program at Yale University. My staff and I know Jackie best through her enormous, important contributions

to the Hidden Collections review panel, on which she has served for many years. To this day, we continue to talk about the remarkable insight and compassion that she evidenced for the value of our cultural heritage: not just the value of cultural heritage for teaching and research, but the value of our cultural heritage for a vibrant intellectual society.

When the staff and I sat down in 2008 to write the first proposal for the Mellon grant that gave rise to this program, we cited a remarkable effort that was under way at the University of Chicago. This effort entailed a collaboration of librarians, graduate students, and faculty who would go around to institutions in the Chicago area, uncover materials and collections pertinent to African studies, and then catalog them using acceptable standards. The goal of this activity was to make these wonderful materials that were heretofore hidden accessible to the public. That project was headed by Jackie at the time and we said in the grant proposal, "This is a beautiful piece of work and the model on which we want to build." Here we are today. It is a great pleasure to welcome Professor Jacqueline Goldsby.