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Photographs by Sheri Thomas, NCSU, unless otherwise noted.

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DELTA & Distance Learning Services:

A Working Partnership in Distance Education

As developments in technology, particularly the Internet, have expanded the range of opportunities for distance education, the demand for education in North Carolina has also increased—in many cases, faster than physical facilities at most universities can be expanded to accommodate the additional students. Aware of these developments, the North Carolina General Assembly has provided funding since fiscal year 1997–1998 to the UNC system for “degree-related courses provided away from the campus sites of the constituent institutions.”

In response, NC State devised plans for the integration of distance learning into the mainstream instructional strategy of the university. In 1999 the NCSU Libraries formed the Distance Learning Services Department (DLS) to address library service issues for distance learners. The Office of the Provost established DELTA (Distance Education and Learning Technology Applications) in 2000 and named Tom Miller as its vice provost in early 2001. According to Miller, DELTA’s mission is “to build a tradition of excellence in technology-mediated teaching and learning for the NC State academic community, whether at a distance or on campus.”

Enrollment in distance education credit and degree programs neared 6,000 this year and is expected to continue growing at double-digit rates. Course delivery methods include both asynchronous,



[Left to right, seated] Members of the NC State DELTA Team are Tom Miller (Vice Provost, DELTA), Kay Zimmerman (Associate Vice Provost, Strategic Grants and Partnerships), Henry Schaffer (Interim Director, Learning Technology Service), and Michael Yoakam (Director, Distance Education).

NCSU Libraries staff members who work with DELTA are [left to right, standing] Kim Duckett (NCSU Libraries Fellow), David Goldsmith (Distance Learning Services and Collection Management), Rob Rucker (Distance Learning Services), Josh Boyer (Distance Learning Services), Joanna Duy (NCSU Libraries Fellow), and Eric Pauley (Distance Learning Services).

distributed formats (e.g., videotapes or the Web) and satellite campuses where students meet together with an instructor who may teach in person or via interactive video. DELTA includes the Distance Education Unit, directed by Michael Yoakam, and the Learning Technology Service (LTS), with Henry Schaffer serving as interim director through December 2001, and Sharon Pitt serving as its new director starting in January 2002. DELTA appointed Kay Zimmerman as associate vice provost for Strategic Grants and Partnerships, and Scott Cason as marketing director.

The NCSU Libraries has long grappled with the challenges of providing services to off-campus users. Its Distance Learning Services focuses on distance education library users and works in partnership with other library departments as well as with DELTA to achieve “equivalent” services. The DLS relies on a combination of traditional and high-tech tools to extend the library’s collections and services beyond the Raleigh area.

Print collections are made available through rapid shipping of books and Web delivery of articles—at no charge to distance education students. Delivery of material has increased sixfold in the last year, and it is expected to continue growing. The Libraries also purchases and leases vast electronic collections of journals, books, and research tools and offers electronic reserves. Recognizing that for many distance users the Web site *is* the library and that the presentation of its collections and services is key to successful distance teaching and learning, the DLS has created an online point-of-need tutorial, an electronic-journal finder, and other Web-based tools to ensure that distant users find the resources they need when they need them.

Equally important is the commitment to person-to-person support. Distance Learning Services librarians travel throughout the state to visit students and provide library instruction in remote classrooms. They also work with the library’s Research and Information Services Department to offer round-the-clock reference support via toll-free telephone, electronic mail, and online chat sessions. Last year, Josh Boyer, the reference librarian for DLS, and others

selected the LSSI Virtual Reference Desk software for the library, which allows co-browsing on the Web: a librarian can push Web pages to patrons, share files, and then release the patrons when they are ready to take over Web searches. The volume of questions received via the virtual reference desk has already been significant. From January through June 2001, there were 556 sessions, and the service has surpassed the “Ask a Librarian Live” electronic-mail service in popularity.

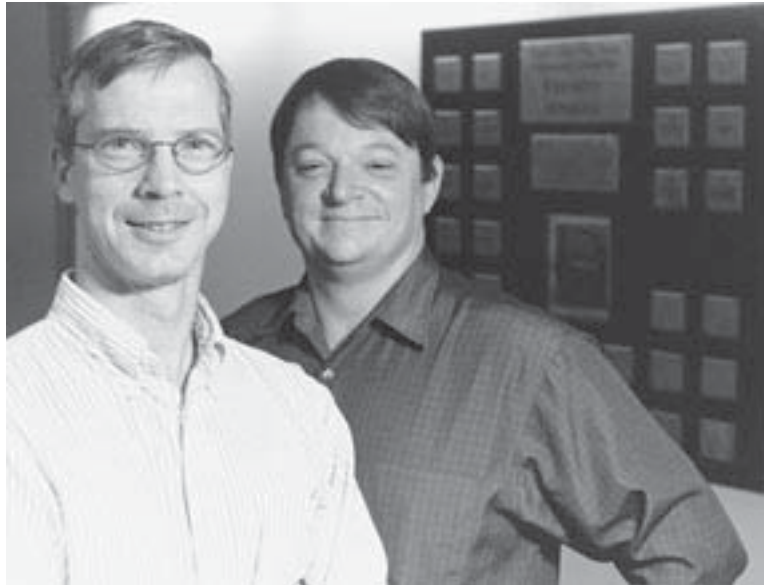
As an increasing number of courses include an online component, the library is able to offer faculty subject-specific Web pages to include in their courseware. These provide students with immediate links to crucial material in their disciplines and reduce information clutter. The library works with the LTS—which supports the faculty’s use of technology in instruction—to present these options to faculty and improve the means of including information resources in the teaching process.

Issues of copyright, pedagogy, technology, and training converge in the Learning and Research Center for the Digital Age (LRCDA), which is located on the second floor, East Wing, of the D. H. Hill Library (<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/administration/LRCDA/LRCDA.html>). In the early 1990s, the NCSU Libraries created a plan and vision for the LRCDA, designed to bring together key campus units with expertise in educating faculty, students, and staff in all aspects of new information technologies. The center includes the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, the Information Technologies Teaching Center, the Scholarly Communication Center, the Digital Library Initiatives Department, a Digital Media Laboratory, a Usability Research Lab, and DELTA’s Learning Technology Service (<http://lts.ncsu.edu/>).

As distance education has removed barriers of time and place, DELTA and the Libraries are working together to provide cohesive, responsive support to NC State’s distance education students and faculty. For more information, visit the DLS Web site at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/distance/>. For more information about distance education at NC State, see <http://distance.ncsu.edu/>. ❖

David Danehower and Ross Whetten Receive NCSU Libraries Faculty Award

BY RUSSELL S. KOONTS, FACULTY AWARD COMMITTEE



*[Left to right]
Ross Whetten and
David Danehower,
the 2001 NCSU
Libraries Faculty
Award winners.*

They are pictured in front of the Faculty Award plaque in the D. H. Hill Library.

This year, two NC State faculty members received the prestigious NCSU Libraries Faculty Award for their outstanding contributions in support of the Libraries' mission and its role within the university. David Danehower, associate professor of crop science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Ross Whetten, associate professor of forestry in the College of Natural Resources, have collaborated with the Libraries on many important projects, most notably in furtherance of the library's scholarly communication program. The award was presented at the Friends of the Library's annual Fall Luncheon on November 9, 2001. Susan K. Nutter, vice provost and

director of Libraries, described Danehower's and Whetten's many activities on behalf of the Libraries, saying,

I am delighted finally to be able to say "thank you" publicly to two of the Libraries' most active and articulate supporters on campus. Both of them have been dedicated and vigorous proponents of the NCSU Libraries' scholarly communication effort since its inception, making it difficult to honor one and not the other. . . . In 1998, . . . the North Carolina State University Copyright Ownership Task Force was formed. Ross and David agreed to co-chair this diverse group and . . . conducted three Copyright Ownership Town Meetings at various locations across campus. They were instrumen-



Vice Provost and Director of Libraries Susan K. Nutter [right] presents the Faculty Award to Ross Whetten.

Co-recipient David Danehower could not attend the presentation.

tal in writing the report and recommendations and in presenting those to the provost. . . . David Danehower's and Ross Whetten's service and commitment to the NCSU Libraries' scholarly communication initiatives have been untiring and exemplary, with ramifications that can have a profound effect on the broader scholarly community as a whole.

Danehower and Whetten, working with library staff and members of the University Library Committee's Scholarly Communication Subcommittee, cochaired the NC State Copyright Ownership Task

Force (COTF), the first of its kind in the UNC system. Their dedicated support of the Libraries' scholarly communication colloquia and seminars has helped to raise campus awareness of the NCSU Libraries' role in the area of scholarly communication. As cochairs of COTF, Danehower and Whetten led three Copyright Ownership Town Meetings to discuss possible revisions to NCSU's copyright ownership policy and to garner faculty input on what the task force policy recommendations should include. Their invaluable contributions to the library over the last decade

make them outstanding recipients of the NCSU Libraries Faculty Award. ❖



New Approaches to Cross-Collection Searching

By CAROLYN D. ARGENTATI, PUBLIC SERVICES, AND STEVEN P. MORRIS, RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICES

The NCSU Libraries is acquiring and producing more and more materials in electronic format, resulting in the evolution of a rich “digital library” collection. Elements of the digital library include electronic books and journals, image and multimedia databases, spatial and numeric data for use with Geographic Information System (GIS) software, governmental and other World Wide Web sites, numerous journal and newspaper indexes, and library catalogs. Some of these digital resources are owned and licensed by the Libraries for its users, while others reside on remote servers.

At the same time, most library and Internet search tools have not evolved as rapidly as the information itself has expanded and diversified. Existing navigation tools frequently require users to access each individual type of collection separately. This could involve going to five, ten, or more different Web sites or databases, requiring a significant amount of time and effort to do a comprehensive search.

Knowledge management (KM) systems have begun to provide more powerful forms of integrated access to the growing digital library universe. They serve as bridges between a user’s information needs and the many kinds of materials in a large research collection. With one query, KM software simultaneously searches multiple information resources and formats (for example, books, maps, and images) and provides the user with one consolidated list of results, a list that can even be customized according to individual preferences. This technique is often referred to as cross-collection searching.

The NCSU Libraries has joined other North Carolina agencies in implementing a new generation of technologies for integrated knowledge

management. Like those agencies, the library has selected the MetaStar product suite from Blue Angel Technologies. The project will involve preparing descriptive data and indexing schemes for the collections; capturing, organizing, and mapping data across multiple formats; and developing search entry portals and protocols for presenting search results. The knowledge management system will both complement and incorporate the traditional library catalog.

Accommodating Different Methods of Resource Description

One advantage of KM systems over traditional library catalogs is their ability to accommodate different methods and levels of description. Information resources often have different description needs. For example, GIS data users require descriptive data to find the answers to such questions as: What source materials were data derived from? What processing steps were undertaken in preparing the data? What is the spatial extent of the data? What format is the data in? This descriptive data, or metadata, may be collected, organized, and stored within the KM system according to a standard created by the Federal Geographic Data Committee specifically for geospatial data.

Other types of digital information may have different descriptive requirements. For example, the social sciences data community makes use of the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) standard for documenting numeric data resources used in the social sciences. The DDI standard incorporates content not found in other metadata standards, including, in the case of survey data, detailed information about the

survey questions from which the data originates. Other metadata standards used by the Libraries include Dublin Core, for general description of a broad range of information resources, and Encoded Archival Description, a standard for encoding archival finding aids.

Creating Different “Information Spaces”

Maintaining separate databases for different types of information resources also facilitates the creation of distinctive information spaces, allowing users to formulate targeted searches against specific information resource collections. Users can search a number of databases and then, based on scanning and comparing the results, focus on one or more databases for further searching. Separating descriptive data into separate spaces also makes it possible to provide descriptions based on the component parts of any given resource. For example, a collection of digital aerial photos, in which there could be as many as 2,000 images, might be represented by a single entry in the library catalog. At the same time, in a specialized database of geospatial data resources, there might be catalog records for each individual image to accommodate retrieval of images by location, place, or other user-defined criteria.

Creating Gateways to Databases

MetaStar’s gateway component permits the creation of a single interface to a database collection, the composition of which may be customized to suit the needs of a particular user population. For example, an agriculture gateway might allow users to select from and search against a set of agriculture-related databases. MetaStar’s gateway capability, combined with its harvesting (extracting metadata from a Web-based document), also makes it possible to integrate and draw information from relevant databases available from other institutions such as universities and state agencies.

Next Steps

Staff members at the NCSU Libraries are currently engaged in testing and prototype development with the Blue Angel MetaStar software. Several prototype systems involving spatial and numeric data and cross-collection searching in various subject areas are expected to be in place by early 2002. For further information, please send an electronic-mail message to Steve Morris (Data Services) at steven_morris@ncsu.edu. For more information about Blue Angel Technologies and MetaStar, visit its Web site at <http://www.blueangeltch.com/>. ❖

Reference area,
D. H. Hill Library.



NC State Librarians Win Best Paper Award at ASEE Conference

BY NANCY VAUPEL, SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

North Carolina State librarians Honora F. Nerz and Suzanne T. Weiner are the recipients of the 2001 American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference Best Overall Paper award for their submission “Information Competencies: A Strategic Approach.” The award included a \$3,000 prize. More than 1,000 papers were presented at the conference, which was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in June 2001. Their winning presentation is available on the Web at: <http://www.asee.org/conferences/annual2001/bestpapers.cfm>.

In their paper, Nerz and Weiner discuss how students who have been instructed in the use of library resources for specific class assignments often return to the library “unable to transfer knowledge” from that previous instruction. The students then need “substantial individual help” from a librarian to complete their next assignment. In assessing this situation, Nerz and Weiner suggest the solution is to integrate information and library competencies into the curriculum. According to Weiner, “The curriculum integration approach that we explain in our paper is the product of several years of work. Our research applies the theories that were established by Poping Lin of MIT in her paper, ‘Core Information Competencies Redefined: A Study of the Information Education of Engineers.’”

With the collaboration of NC State’s College of Textiles faculty and, in particular, its dean, Blanton Godfrey, Nerz and Weiner tested this approach. Their paper explains what was done, why, and then analyzes the results. Weiner and Nerz agree that faculty members at the College



[Left to right] Suzanne Weiner and Honora Nerz.

of Textiles not only value libraries and information literacy but also see librarians as part of the educational process in the classroom. The faculty’s open attitude and progressive vision proved critical to the success of the research, which resulted in the award.

Suzanne Weiner is currently head of Collection Management at the NCSU Libraries. Before that, she served as head of the Burlington Textiles Library and Engineering Services. Weiner worked at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before coming to NC State, first as a librarian and then as the education coordinator for the Center for Innovation in Product Development.

Honora Nerz became head of the Burlington Textiles Library and Engineering Services at NC State after working as the textiles and engineering services librarian. Nerz worked for five years as a design engineer for Bechtel Corporation before going into library work. ❖

First Temple of the Atom Electronic Text Project: Increasing Access to Special Collections in the Digital Age

BY RUSSELL S. KOONTS, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT, AND
JAMES JACKSON SANBORN, RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICES AND DIGITAL LIBRARY INITIATIVES

. . . at 59 minutes past midnight in the early morning hours of September 5, 1953, the Raleigh Research Reactor breathed with nuclear life for the first time. . . . For 51 months—four years and 12 weeks—the world's first college-owned nuclear reactor was in the making, evolving from a dream through negotiations, design, and construction to initial operation. . . . The N.C. State nuclear reactor was (1) the first to be used entirely for peacetime training and research, (2) the first to be operated on any college campus as a non-AEC reactor, (3) the first to be open for public inspection with visitors welcomed. . . .

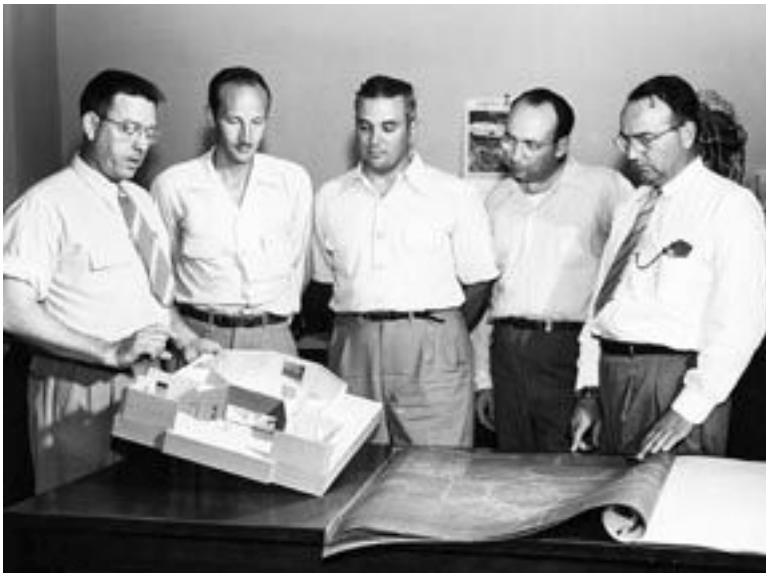
—from *First Temple of the Atom*, NC State School of Engineering, ca. late-1950s

In July 2000 the NCSU Libraries' Special Collections Department established an electronic texts program to provide increased access to unique

and interesting items from its collections. The first priority required choosing a project small enough to complete successfully, but varied enough to allow experimentation with

tools and procedures at each stage of the process and to establish program standards. Work on a Web site detailing the history of the first Raleigh Research Reactor at North Carolina State College (operational from 1953 to 1955) had been conducted earlier in the year. In light of this, the department decided that the first electronic text project should focus on key historical and archival documents relating to the establishment of the reactor program. The intent was to add value to the Web project and to increase awareness of the unique materials housed in Special Collections.

Throughout the summer of 1999, staff members from Special Collections and Digital Library Initiatives reviewed boxes of historical documents from the College of Engineering, Office of the Dean, Department of Nuclear Engineer-



[Left to right] "The Big Five"—Clifford K. Beck, Raymond L. Murray, Arthur C. Menius, Arthur W. Waltner, and Newton Underwood—review blueprints and a model of the reactor and public observation rooms, 1951. Photo courtesy of University Archives.



*View of reactor cell construction, ca. 1951. Daniels Hall sits in the background.
Photo courtesy of University Archives.*

ing, and Engineering Communication record groups. The survey identified for potential inclusion nearly 250 documents that trace the history of the reactor from its initial conception, through its creation, to the nuclear accident that caused it to be decommissioned.

Among the papers identified for possible inclusion were many that related to NC State faculty members who founded the reactor project: Clifford A. Beck, A. C. Menius, Newton Underwood, Arthur Waltner, and Raymond Murray. Murray further assisted library staff by providing context for the reactor program and the importance of key documents. Additionally, he had donated his “Reactor Notebook” to the University Archives several years earlier. The ninety-four-item notebook—consisting of memoranda, reports, notes, and experimental results—covers the formative days of the reactor planning and became the cornerstone of the reactor electronic text project.

In July 2000 Russell S. Koonts, James M. Jackson Sanborn, and Maryjo George determined which documents would be included in the reactor project. The team reviewed docu-

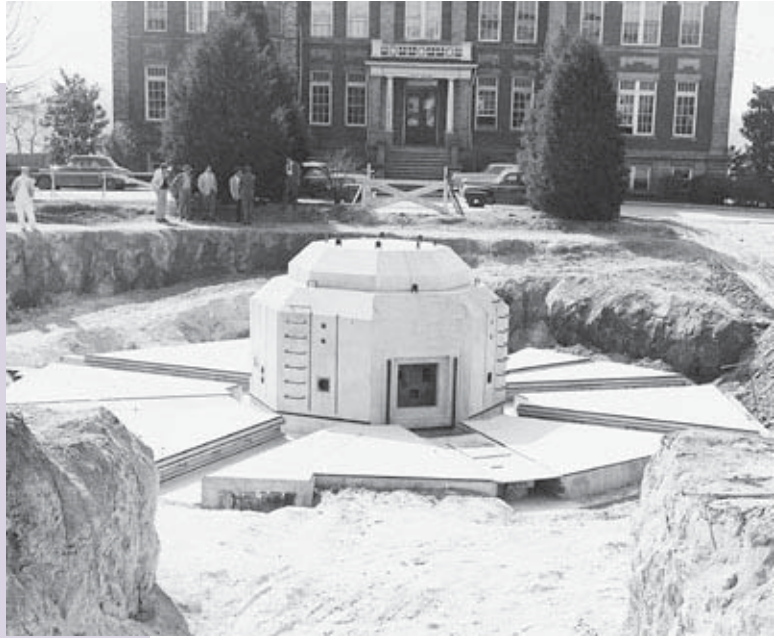
ments listed in the 1999 survey and selected documents for scanning based on subject matter, level of perceived digitization difficulty, and interest to the processing individual. Clifford Beck’s 1950 “Proposal of a Nuclear Reactor at North Carolina State College” was the first document chosen because of its consider-

able length, its use of images, and significance in establishing the reactor program at North Carolina State College. Each document selected then required intensive work to prepare it for the Web (see “First Temple of the Atom Document Digitization Process,” page 11).

Special Collections unveiled the “First Temple of the Atom Electronic Text” Web site in December 2000 (www.lib.ncsu.edu/archives/etext/engineering/reactor), which coincided with the Department of Nuclear Engineering’s fiftieth anniversary celebration. Additionally, a site devoted to Murray’s notebook is accessible at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/archives/etext/engineering/reactor/murray/index.html>.

When Special Collections began the project, it hoped to make documents available to a wide range of individuals who might not otherwise be able to examine the documents. Since its public announcement, the site has been used in presentations, classwork (by students and professors), and historical and genealogical research. The site has been indexed by Yahoo and Google and is included in the North Carolina Exploring Cultural Heritage On-Line (NCECHO) Web site, which provides access to the special collections of North Carolina’s libraries, archives, and museums <<http://www.ncecho.org/>>. ❖

When completed, the reactor shield had eight sides with radiation parts in each side and trenches for work tables. The old Zoology Building (present-day site of Mann Hall) sits in the background. Burlington Mills Foundation donated \$200,000 toward the construction of the reactor building. Photo, ca. 1952, courtesy of University Archives.



First Temple of the Atom Document Digitization Process

The documents digitized for the reactor electronic text project went through a five-step process to make them accessible via the World Wide Web. Following is a brief description of the five steps.

Step 1: Digitization

The first method used to convert traditional paper documents into electronic texts is to scan them onto a computer. The initial high-resolution scan, or master image, is captured in color and saved as a TIFF file roughly forty-four megabytes in size. To produce smaller files appropriate for viewing on the Web, TIFF images are then converted and compressed to full-size and thumbnail JPG files. A thumbnail of the image is used to display alongside the document text when viewing the digitized item and provides a link to the larger image of the original document.

Step 2: Transcribing/ Converting Text

After a document is scanned, the text must be either transcribed or converted into editable text.

If the item is merely a few pages, hand written, or contains poor quality typeface, library staff transcribe the document. If the document is longer, typed, and has a clear typeface, the library uses TextBridge9.0, an Optical Character Recognition (OCR) program, to capture the text for future encoding. TextBridge imports the TIFF file and converts the image to a text-based file. After conversion, the converted text is compared to the original for accuracy. Conversion using OCR can reach a 98 to 99 percent accuracy rate.

Step 3: Encoding

The third step uses an encoding language to convert the text-based file into a format viewable on the Web. Special Collections projects use an eXtensible Markup Language (XML), the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) tag subset named

teixlite. The TEI is an international project that is developing guidelines for the preparation and interchange of electronic texts for scholarly research. The teixlite subset, which consists of the most widely used tags from the TEI standard, allows the library to identify people, places, dates, and other content within the documents by selecting the appropriate tag and attributes.

Step 4: Validating/ Parsing/Viewing

In XML, tagging and encoding is controlled by industry-wide standards. Tags must be opened and closed in a precise order and must adhere to strict guidelines relating to usage and placement. Such definitions appear in a “document type definition” or dtd. To ensure that library documents meet teixlite practices, Special Collections runs a program that checks tag formations against the rules set forth in the dtd. Referred to as parsing, the program reports any errors it encounters as it checks the document tags and their locations. When an error is reported, the encoder locates and fixes the error.

Step 5: Providing Access

Today’s Internet browsers do not have the capability to display XML-based documents without translation. To make XML files available to the public, they are translated into HTML documents using the eXtensible Stylesheet Language (XSL). For example, an XSL stylesheet converts the XML tags <title render=“italic”>...</title> into the HTML tags <i>...</i> for the sake of display. However, the original file retains the XML tags to provide increased searching capabilities. Search engines can then be programmed to search only for words within specific tags instead of a generic keyword search (e.g., one can find all documents with the date of 1952 and Raymond Murray as the author) Presently, Internet Explorer 5.5 and 6 are the only commercially available browsers that support XML/XSL translated documents. Because of browser limitations, Special Collections provides both XML and HTML versions of the reactor documents. ❖

Agriculture Flourishes in Special Collections

By LOIS F. BLACK, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The NCSU Libraries’ Special Collections Department has significantly expanded its holdings in the area of agriculture during the past year, thanks to a series of donations and bequests. Among the collections received were the papers of John Stephen Campbell, Ralph Cummings, and the North Carolina Farm Bureau. Both the Cummings and Campbell collections, which complement each other, include research materials on tropical agriculture.

The Campbell Collection

The Campbell collection, which was received last winter, encompasses tobacco cultivation. The majority of Campbell’s professional library will be added to the Libraries’ main collections, while his papers will be available for use in Special Collections after the collection is processed.

Campbell was born in London, England, on April 4, 1923. He attended Reading and Cambridge universities and completed graduate

John S. Campbell.
Photo from Special Collections.



studies at Trinidad's Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in the West Indies and at Harvard University. He died on September 12, 2000.

Campbell's work carried him around the world. After serving in the British navy, he worked as an agricultural officer in the Department of Agriculture in Nigeria. He then crossed the Atlantic to become senior lecturer at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad, where he designed and supervised an agronomic research unit. Before leaving Trinidad, Campbell served as a land development officer at Tate and Lyle Sugar Corporation, where he arranged for the cultivation of 5,000 acres of sugar cane and developed alternative commercial food crops to sugar cane. Campbell moved to Wilson, North Carolina, in 1966 to serve as vice president of the Imperial Tobacco Company. During his tenure at the company, Campbell supervised research and worked to expand the selection of tobacco varieties and improve cultivation methods. He retired in 1980

but continued his research, serving as a consultant to the United Nations and the World Bank on the international tobacco market.

Campbell also worked as an educator and volunteer in various locations. He served as an adjunct professor of crop science at NC State for a number of years, where he taught courses on the production of tropical food crops. His volunteer activities included serving as chairman of the TQC Tobacco Association, director of the North Carolina Tobacco Foundation, and as chairman or member of numerous organizations in Wilson. Campbell also published widely, with more than sixty articles to his credit. His reports, however, were not limited to professional journals, as he frequently contributed to the popular press, radio, and television.

The Ralph Cummings Collection

The second significant donation of personal papers to Special Collections is the Ralph Cummings Collection. Cummings, who was born in 1911 in Reidsville, North Carolina, grew up in a farming family. After a long and varied career, he donated his papers to the library in spring 2001. He also gave his research library, which will be housed in the Libraries' general collections.

Cummings worked on his family's farm throughout his childhood before enrolling at North Carolina State College. He completed his graduate education at Ohio State University, receiving a Ph.D. in soil science. He accepted a position as assistant professor of soil science at Cornell University before returning to his home state to become head of NC State's Department of Agronomy in 1942. During his tenure, he also held positions with the Agricultural Experiment Station in North Carolina.

Cummings eventually left North Carolina to continue his research overseas. He served as chief of the North Carolina Research Mission to Peru and also as field director and principal representative in India for the Rockefeller Foundation. Cummings later returned to NCSU as administrative dean for research and finally as an adjunct professor. He held numerous other professional assignments over the years, including director of the International Rice Research Institute, direc-



Focus, a newsletter published three times a year, seeks to promote the services, activities, needs, and interests of the NCSU Libraries to the university, the Friends of the Library, and beyond.

Editor: Terrell Armistead Crow.

NCSU Libraries Homepage: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/>

tor of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, and chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research.

The role Cummings played in the Green Movement of the 1960s, which centered on the need to increase food production in India, brought him international recognition. He made significant contributions in the efforts to relieve world hunger and to teach students about the principles of agriculture. Cummings worked with the Ford and Rockefeller foundations to reach these goals.

North Carolina Farm Bureau Collection

The third collection of note the department received in 2001 is that of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, which includes ledgers and records about North

Carolina crops dating from the bureau's inception in 1936. The collection will continue to expand as the federation transfers additional materials to the NCSU Libraries on an annual basis.

Initially, the Farm Bureau had 4,490 members from thirty counties across the state. In 1953 the bureau launched its service-to-member programs by establishing the North Carolina Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company. Many other programs followed. For instance, in 1962 the North Carolina Farm Bureau Service Company started to offer tires and batteries for sale to bureau members. This program now includes many other products. The North Carolina Farm Bureau Marketing Association, incorporated in 1963, markets hogs, beef cattle, dairy products, spent hens, and apples and other fruits and vegetables. In 1965 the North Carolina Farm Bureau R. Flake Shaw Memorial Scholarship Fund was established, and in 1983

the North Carolina Farm Bureau Legal Foundation began. Another new program, the North Carolina Farm Bureau Political Action Committee, was launched in 1987. In 1991 the North Carolina Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom received its charter. Today, the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation has more than 400,000 members.

Donating a Collection

These new collections enhance the library's strong collections in agriculture and entomology. Special Collections plans to continue expanding these research collections. Anyone interested in donating a manuscript collection to the NCSU Libraries should call Lois Fischer Black, manuscripts curator, at (919) 515-9059 or send an electronic-mail message to lois_black@ncsu.edu. ❖