

**TRLN TASK GROUP ON SOUTHERN AMERICANA
FINAL REPORT
SEPTEMBER 25, 2009**

**PART 1
INTRODUCTION**

The American South, a geographical area the size of Western Europe, is made up of sixteen states and the District of Columbia. Chronologically, it includes nearly five centuries of recorded history and several millennia of prehistory. In 2006, with an estimated population of 109,083,752, it accounted for thirty-six percent of all U.S. residents and was the nation's most populous region. The four TRLN libraries are widely acknowledged to have the most comprehensive combined collections of materials on the American South to be found anywhere in the country.

Recognizing their national responsibility to continue collecting materials on the region in the twenty-first century, the TRLN Collections Council established a Task Group on Southern American Collections in May 2009, with the following members: Pat Dominguez, UNC; Elizabeth Gorman, NCCU; Will Hansen, Duke; Darby Orcutt, NCSU; and Tim West, UNC, chair. They charged this group:

"...to reexamine our cooperative collecting agreements in Southern Americana. With the goal of a comprehensive TRLN Southern Americana collection in mind, review the existing cooperative statement and recommend a revision to that high-level statement. In addition, recommend guidelines for collecting responsibilities that include more depth and additional clarification to assure comprehensiveness by identifying gaps, reducing undesirable duplication and identifying areas of desirable duplication. Consider special collections and general collections and all formats."

The work of this task group builds on extensive discussions carried out by TRLN librarians in the late 1980s. Because this initiative covered all subjects and formats and involved dozens of selectors in many disciplines at three universities, staff met together for two years to exchange information and discuss possible agreements for various subjects and formats. They learned the strengths and weaknesses of each other's collections, where they duplicated one another, and where there were gaps. Minutes from meetings document what they learned. The success of the cooperative efforts for Southern Americana bore fruit in 1991/92 and 1992/93, when the three libraries received two Title II-C grants of nearly \$600,000 to build Southern Americana holdings.

Early in 2009, the expansion of subject disciplines, increasing number of formats, and advent of new technologies suggested that the TRLN Southern Americana collections should be reviewed to see what was still working and should be retained; what was not, and should be fixed or discarded; and what was new and should be developed.

The Task Group conducted surveys to get a fresh sense of Southern Americana, by subject area, in the special and general collections of the four TRLN institutions. Details of these

surveys are Appendix 1 of this report. Summaries of the surveys, a note on gaps in the collections, and recommendations precede the detailed findings. The report, then, is organized in these parts:

1. Introduction
2. Summary of Surveys
 - a. Special Collections
 - b. General Collections
3. Gaps
4. Recommendations

Appendix 1: Survey Data

Appendix 2: Predominant Collections and Shared Responsibilities: Spreadsheets

Appendix 3: Some Pertinent Collections outside TRLN

PART 2

SUMMARY OF SURVEYS

A. Special Collections

The task group surveyed the existing holdings and collecting intentions of special collections libraries and departments at all four institutions, including (but not limited to):

- The North Carolina Collection, Southern Historical Collection, Southern Folklife Collection, and Rare Book Collection at UNC;
- The Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library and sections of the Medical Center Library and Goodson Law Library at Duke;
- The Special Collections Research Center at NCSU; and
- The University Archives, Records, and History department, Shepard Library Treasure Room, and Law Library McKissick Collection at NCCU.

Throughout the descriptions below, the efforts of the UNC North Carolina Collection to collect materials on the state comprehensively should be kept in mind.

Humanities

Historically, special collections at Duke and UNC have focused most closely and consistently on Southern humanities fields, especially history, literature, and African American studies. NCSU and NCCU also hold special collections in the humanities, especially in African American studies and history, but humanities have been less of a focus for these universities.

History holdings are strongest at Duke and UNC for NC, then for VA, SC, and TN. Duke appears to have strength in GA history, UNC in AL, MS, and LA. States for which holdings are weaker overall are AK, DC, DE, FL, KY, MD, OK, TX, and WV. Archival collecting of history materials appears to be an area of desirable overlap, particularly as the collecting emphases of Duke and UNC have dovetailed nicely.

Duke and UNC have renewed their commitment to split responsibility for collecting Southern small literary presses (Duke) and little magazines (UNC). There is also potential to expand on African American children's literature collections at Duke (children's literature featuring African American stereotypes) and NCCU (African American children's authors). Collections of archival literary materials are another area of desirable overlap in coverage, with different collecting policies and emphases at Duke and UNC: Duke emphasizes collecting authors who intersect with other primary collecting areas and authors with a connection to Duke; UNC emphasizes North Carolina authors and those with a Chapel Hill or UNC connection.

Materials for African American studies form one of the great strengths of TRLN special collections, with all four institutions holding important and rare materials in their special collections.

For other humanities fields, UNC has the primary TRLN special collections for Southern materials on American Indian Studies, Folklore, Linguistics and Journalism (not newspapers). Duke has the primary collection for Religion. Jewish Studies is not a major strength at any TRLN institution, but this area is also well covered at other Southern institutions. Latino Studies is another growing field of study not currently well represented in TRLN special collections.

Social Sciences

Overall, Duke and UNC are the two institutions that have focused on special collections in the social sciences. The main disciplines in which collecting has overlapped are political science and public policy, education (i.e., the history of education), and sociology.

UNC (especially the Southern Historical Collection) has focused on public policy collections to a greater degree than Duke, and campus interest in specifically Southern policy and politics appears to be greater at UNC. Duke's collections have focused more on historical political materials, especially for the Civil War, Reconstruction, and Jim Crow periods.

The history of African American education is documented at all four institutions. Researchers in sociology, anthropology, and many other fields are interested in these and other materials on Southern education, so this area is another for which duplicative effort is perhaps necessary and even advantageous.

Sociology especially as it concerns the study of social change in the South is collected at Duke, UNC, and (to some extent) NCSU. UNC's pioneering Odum Institute for Research in Social Science has provided the motivation for significant historical and current collecting. Consequently, social change in the South is a primary collecting interest of both Duke and UNC. While the discipline of sociology is broad and diverse, no efforts to cooperate or subdivide collecting responsibilities are known to have taken place at TRLN institutions.

For other disciplines, UNC has the primary special collections for Anthropology, Archaeology, and Geography, and Duke has the primary special collections for Sexuality Studies and Women's Studies.

Fine Arts

NCSU has the major collections for TRLN for Southern Architecture and Design. Duke (documentary photography) and UNC (African American and North Carolina artists) collect visual art materials. Duke and UNC both collect materials on Drama (more of a focus at UNC). UNC collects folk music, while Duke collects regional materials on jazz (especially North Carolina). Dance and Decorative Arts and Crafts are less well collected, though NCSU has extensive materials on textiles.

Professional Fields

For most of these fields, special collections have been concerned with documenting the history of the field, rather than providing current materials for vocational education. Both Duke and UNC have large collections for Business, Law, and Medicine, given their professional programs for each discipline. No cooperative program for rare books or manuscripts exists for any of these fields, and collecting business records has grown more challenging, as the Southern business landscape has grown more diverse.

NCSU has TRLN's major collection for Engineering. UNC and NCCU both have special collections for Library and Information Science. Social work overlaps with a variety of other disciplines, and is collected at both Duke and UNC. Criminal justice has not been systematically collected anywhere, though both Duke and UNC have an interest especially in capital punishment. Pharmaceutical science and veterinary medicine have also not been collected in special collections.

Science, Technology, and Health

Many of these disciplines do not appear to have a Southern component. Of those that did seem distinctively Southern, agriculture was most widely collected, with large historical collections at Duke, UNC, and NCSU, collections on tobacco at all four institutions, and additional collections on forestry at Duke and NCSU. NCSU has the most active collecting focus in this area, with Duke and UNC more focused on the Southern agrarian economy of the 18th-19th centuries. Duke also continues to collect tobacco materials.

NCSU is the most active collector for the applied biological sciences and for the history of applied science and technology in general. UNC and Duke also have with significant collections in these areas. Textiles are another area of emphasis at NCSU, especially the science of textile manufacturing, although UNC has many textile-related archival collections.

Environmental Sciences/Studies has not been collected extensively, but is an area of growing interest at Duke. Geology is collected at UNC, but at a lower level than previously.

Special Materials/Formats

Many of the media formats fell somewhere between general and special collections, or TRLN institutions have not yet decided where administration of these types of media will be

handled. Datasets, for instance, are held primarily in the general collections at Duke, but UNC's Odum Institute for Research in the Social Sciences holds large datasets on the South.

For film, Duke's emphasis on documentary film includes many Southern films, but otherwise there appears to be no concerted collecting of Southern documentary or feature film in TRLN special collections, with most films appearing in media centers or other circulating collections.

Government documents are handled as special collections at NCCU, in general collections at Duke (except for some historical, especially Confederate) items and NCSU, and in both general collections and the N.C. Collection at UNC. Maps of the region do not appear to be a major focus of any area special collections, besides Civil War maps at Duke, and North Carolina maps at UNC. This area is a potential gap in special collections. Newspapers in physical format are collected in Duke's special collections, and North Carolina papers in UNC's North Carolina Collection.

UNC has the largest collection on Radio in the region. Television records are held at Duke and UNC (some jointly with NCCU); however, there has been no systematic collecting for this format. Both Duke and UNC are experimenting with what and how to capture for Web presence in the area; this is a topic for continuing discussion and exploration.

B. General Collections

While Southern Americana materials in the special collections of the TRLN libraries are unmatched nationally in terms of their quantity and quality, their value is significantly enhanced by the large number of titles about the American South in the general collections. Most of these resources have been acquired over time to support teaching about regional issues and research that arises from the advantages many faculty experience by studying problems close at hand.

Materials about the American South in the general collections of the TRLN libraries generally fall into one of the following categories:

1. Resources acquired to support academic programs that exist primarily at only one of the TRLN universities. Duke, for example has a School of the Environment and a Center for Documentary Studies, while NCSU has unique programs in golf management, travel and tourism, agriculture, entomology, textiles, and veterinary medicine. UNC's unique academic programs include folklore, journalism, city and regional planning, geography, geology, and pharmaceutical sciences.
2. Resources acquired to support teaching and research that focus to a greater degree on the region at one institution than the others. Fields include education at NCCU; applied biology at NCSU; and anthropology/archaeology at UNC.
3. Resources that support not only strong academic programs but also have significant collection strengths, such as religious studies at Duke, African American children's

literature at NCCU, agriculture at NCSU, and language and linguistics and regional music at UNC .

4. Resources that support comparable academic programs at several of the universities. The fields of African American studies, history, political science, women's studies, and business overlap at all four TRLN institutions, and so do the collections. Three of the four TRLN institutions support programs in children's literature, civil rights, law, tobacco, and zoology. Areas of overlap primarily between Duke and UNC include American Indian studies, Jewish studies, Latino studies, literature, economics; public policy administration, sexuality studies, sociology, art, dramatic art, criminal justice, medicine, publishing, history of science and technology, and marine sciences. Other areas of overlap are engineering at Duke and NCSU; and information and library science, at NCCU and UNC.
5. Titles in special formats, such as data sets, films, and government documents, are collected in all four TRLN libraries; newspaper backfiles in microfilm from the region have been the object of cooperative agreements between Duke and UNC for several decades.

Information about areas with predominant collections at one library and those in which there are shared responsibilities for the American South in the general collections of TRLN libraries is summarized in spreadsheets in Appendix 2.

PART 3 GAPS

In the process of compiling the survey of Southern Americana collections at each TRLN school, the task group identified several gaps in the overall TRLN Southern Americana collections. While TRLN librarians may decide not to fill gaps that do not directly relate to the mission of the member institutions, an awareness of them can inform future collecting decisions.

Some of the most prominent gaps are associated with formats, rather than subjects. There is no active collection of television or radio programs created in or about the South. Since these broadcasts played important roles in twentieth-century Southern culture, collecting in this field should be seriously considered. There also is no focused special collection effort in films about the South or by Southern filmmakers. As we move into the twenty-first century, another format that warrants consideration is digital information. In particular, the capturing of web sites and web pages related to Southern institutions might be approached collaboratively.

As for academic disciplines and subject fields, gaps and underdeveloped areas identified by the task group include Latino studies, Native American studies, and, in special collections, criminal justice, environmental sciences, and contemporary decorative arts and craft schools. The field of Latino studies is relatively new, but since the South in general and North Carolina in particular are becoming the home of a growing Latino population, it is a field that will be increasingly important to the study of the American South. Original documentation of Native

Americans has not been the focus of collecting at TRLN libraries, although there do appear to be related collections at Appalachian State, UNC-Asheville, and Western Carolina. There is some coverage of capital punishment in special collections at Duke and UNC, but no focused initiative to collect around the numerous current issues involving criminal justice in the South. The environmental sciences, an area of great current, and surely future, concern, is not a focus area in TRLN special collections, though Duke seems to have a growing interest. The South is home to a number of art/craft schools, and the TRLN consortium is a natural place to collect information about them.

In many areas, the task group found that TRLN has very strong collections for North Carolina (largely due to UNC's North Carolina collection), but fewer materials about other southern states. As noted in the application for the Title II-C grants in the 1990s, librarians have historically divided the South into two geographic sections. In the primary group are the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee. These represent all the states of the former Confederacy except for Texas, which has been excluded, and Kentucky, which has been added. The secondary group consists of the peripheral states that correspond to the federal census Southern region. This group includes Delaware, Maryland, Texas, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. TRLN Librarians may well question the priorities assigned to these states and, after TRLN-wide discussion, decide to increase their collecting of materials from some of them and reduce it for others.

In seeking to fill these gaps and others that will inevitably be identified, cooperation will be especially important. The TRLN institutions may wish to consider cooperatively purchasing some materials and collections that are too expensive for any one institution to acquire.

PART 4 RECOMMENDATIONS

In response to the Collection Council charge, the task group recommends revising the Southern Americana Cooperative Collections statement to read as follows:

Southern Americana

The four TRLN libraries are widely acknowledged to have the most comprehensive combined collections of materials on the American South to be found anywhere in the country. To build on this national strength, members of the TRLN Collections Council encourage selectors to maintain a vision of a comprehensive TRLN Southern Americana collection and will provide the support necessary to help them achieve that goal

Special Collections

All four TRLN libraries acquire unique manuscript and archival collections documenting the American South. These collections are complementary for some subjects (literary figures at Duke and UNC, for example), unique to one of the libraries in others (records of advertising agencies at Duke; architectural records at NCSU), or overlapping, because

of past collecting priorities and current institutional interest (African American experience, women's history, textile industry, etc.). There are some areas of acknowledged specialization for print material: Duke emphasizes literature, religion, and social and cultural history; UNC covers North Carolina exhaustively in its N.C. Collection; NCSU collects in agriculture, architecture, and textiles; NCCU holds works of African American authors of children's literature. Collecting proceeds on an opportunity basis in other areas, though selectors should consider checking with their TRLN colleagues before acquiring expensive items or extensive collections.

General Collections

The four libraries have certain recognized areas of concentration, usually related to academic strengths. Principal among these areas are the following: For Duke, religious studies and dance; for UNC, language and linguistics, folklore, regional music, journalism, city and regional planning, geography, geology, and pharmaceutical sciences; for NCSU, agriculture, entomology, textiles, veterinary medicine, and travel and tourism; and for NCCU, education. In other subjects, collecting takes place at the research level at two or more of the libraries.

Beyond this revised high-level statement, as a result of our considering ways to maintain and strengthen the TRLN collections on the American South, the task group makes the following recommendations:

1. *Formalize existing cooperative agreements.* Currently, communication and cooperation among selectors at the TRLN libraries proceeds informally and on many fronts. However, only one identifiable formal agreement exists: Duke focuses on the output of small literary presses, while UNC collects literary "little magazines." Informal cooperative agreements should be identified and, wherever possible, formalized.
2. *Encourage selectors from TRLN libraries with overlapping Southern Americana subject areas to meet regularly to discuss continuing collaborative agreements and develop new ones.* Encouragement might include offering space for meetings on the afternoon of the TRLN annual meeting, establishing wikis or blogs, providing other logistical support through TRLN, and incentive funding through the TRLN libraries.
3. *Support unique collections with special funding.* When one library clearly has the unique academic program and/or predominant collection in a particular area, the pertinent library administrators should allocate special funding to continue building the collection in that area.
4. *Focus on the gaps.* Determine which gaps should be filled within TRLN, which are adequately handled outside TRLN, and which are not significant. The gaps noted in this report are not exhaustive.
5. *Provide support, funds, training, communication tools, and/or other incentives for selectors not specifically focused on Southern Americana to collect/ document Southern aspects of broader subject areas.*

6. *Assess the importance of collecting born-digital materials related to the American South in the TRLN special collections, and encourage funding to implement the resulting recommendations.*
7. *Support cooperative digitization projects featuring the TRLN libraries' Southern Americana holdings.*