

# **Digitizing Twentieth Century Civil Rights Collections from the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture in Charleston, South Carolina**

**Award Number:** NAR15-RD-10180-15

**NHPRC Interim Narrative Report for October 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017**

## **The Project**

In late spring of 2015 the College of Charleston was awarded an 18-month, \$81,725 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to digitize, describe and make freely accessible online sixteen archival collections (52 linear feet) of materials held by the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture. These collections provide insight into the significant role of leaders and organizations from Charleston, South Carolina and the surrounding Lowcountry region in the twentieth century civil rights movement. The original grant proposal and the first interim narrative report for the project “Digitizing Twentieth Century Civil Rights Collections from the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture in Charleston, South Carolina” may be found at <http://lcdl.library.cofc.edu/content/research-and-reports>. This is the third interim narrative report for the grant period of October 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017.

## **Performance Objectives**

1. Submit complete reports by the deadlines in the Grant Award Summary.  
**Ongoing effort, will meet expectations**
2. Acknowledge the National Historical Publications and Records Commission in all print and electronic products that result from grant support.  
**Ongoing effort, will meet expectations**
3. Amount of cost share meets or exceeds the amount approved by the NHPRC.  
**Ongoing effort, will meet expectations**
4. Digitize an estimated 93,600 pages from 16 collections.  
**Unlikely but in progress**
5. Make all digitized material available through the Lowcountry Digital Library, the South Carolina Digital Library, and the Digital Public Library of America.  
**Ongoing effort, will meet expectations**
6. Revise the EAD finding aids and MARC records for the 16 collections to include links to the digital surrogates.  
**Ongoing effort, will meet expectations**
7. Create no less than two online exhibitions, featured on the Lowcountry Digital History Initiative (<http://ldhi.library.cofc.edu>), that highlight the project’s digitized materials.  
**Completed**
8. Make announcements about on relevant listservs including the Society of American Archivists, Humanities and Social Sciences On-line (H-Net) and South Carolina Archival Association (SCAA). Also promote the project via social media, including LCDL’s Tumblr, Twitter and Facebook feeds, SCDL’s Facebook page, and the DPLA’s Tumblr and Twitter feeds.

**Ongoing effort, will meet expectations**

9. Speak at two conferences for K- 12 educators, university faculty, and cultural heritage professionals. Also submit a case study for publication in a professional journal.

**Completed**

As you can see from our above performance objective status statements, we anticipate completing this project with a 90% completion rate of our performance objectives.

**Plan of Work for Reporting Period**

The original plan of work included in the grant proposal states that during this period the following will be accomplished:

- High priority collections completed and uploaded into LCDL. Digitization of moderate priority collections begins.

**Work Accomplished During Reporting Period**

**Digitization and Metadata Creation**

Digitization and metadata creation (performance objectives #4 & #5) have continued throughout the report period of October 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017. During this period, collections digitized, described, and made accessible through the Lowcountry Digital Library and South Carolina Digital Library and the Digital Public Library of America are as follows:

Collection Title: J. Arthur Brown Papers, 1937-1988

Collection Link: <http://lcdl.library.cofc.edu/content/j-arthur-brown-papers-1937-1988>

Total Number of Objects: 380

Total Number of Scans: 679

Collection Title: Charleston Branch of the NAACP, 1920-1995

Collection Link: <http://lcdl.library.cofc.edu/content/charleston-branch-national-association-advancement-colored-people-papers-1920-1995>

Total Number of Objects: 1,141\*

Total Number of Scans in entire collection: 11,270

\*This represents one half of materials digitized in this collection. The second half will be uploaded by the close of this award on 7/31/2017.

Collection Title: Eugene C. Hunt Papers, 1834-1994

Collection Link: <http://lcdl.library.cofc.edu/content/eugene-c-hunt-papers-1834-1994>

Total Number of Objects: 238

Total Number of Scans: 917

All collection listed are accessible via the Lowcountry Digital Library (performance objective #5). The South Carolina Digital Library automatically harvests all of LCDL's digitized content every month. The Digital Public Library of America is scheduled to harvest all of SCDL's content quarterly, though that schedule historically has varied

widely, dependent on factors related to the DPLA and outside of our control. As you can see from the above collection homepage links, all digitized collections produced by this award acknowledge the National Historical Publications and Records Commission’s generous support and involvement (performance objective #2). Additionally, 5 of the 8 currently digitized collections are now linked to the MARC record (performance objective #6) for enhanced accessibility from the library catalog.

Total summary statistics for digitization and metadata creation by Mr. Sfirri for the period of October 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017 are listed in the table below.

<b>Digitization/Description Summary Data</b>	<b>October 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017</b>
<b>Total Linear Feet Scanned</b>	12.75
<b>Total Scans Created</b>	15,384
<b>Scans/Linear Foot</b>	1,207
<b>Hours Scanning</b>	241
<b>Average Scans/Hour</b>	63.83
<b>Total Metadata Records Created</b>	7,071
<b>Hours Creating Metadata</b>	300
<b>Average Metadata Records/Hour</b>	23.57

Total summary statistics for digitization and metadata creation by Mr. Sfirri for the period of February 2016 through September 30, 2016 are listed in the table below.

<b>Digitization/Description Summary Data</b>	<b>February – September 30, 2016</b>
<b>Total Linear Feet Scanned</b>	14.25
<b>Total Scans Created</b>	20,339
<b>Scans/Linear Foot</b>	1,427.3
<b>Hours Scanning</b>	292.5
<b>Average Scans/Hour</b>	69.5
<b>Total Metadata Records Created</b>	14,289
<b>Hours Creating Metadata</b>	467.5
<b>Average Metadata Records/Hour</b>	30.6

As indicated in our Interim Narrative report #2, it is extremely likely that we will not complete the digitization of all collections identified in this grant by the completion of our award (July 31, 2017). We have met with the new Manager of Archival Services at Avery, Ms. Aaisha Haykal, and she has chosen which of the remaining collections the project digitization and metadata specialist has and will continue to focus on for the remainder of the award period. Additionally, after the close of the award period, we will work with Ms. Haykal to train Avery’s graduate assistants to aid in the digitization process. This will allow us to digitize even more materials, bringing us somewhat closer to our digitization goals, without costing any additional money. Ms. Haykal has confirmed that any collections that are not digitized by this award could serve as a potential to-do list for further digitization efforts for the Avery Research Center staff.

### **Exhibit Production**

During the period of October 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017, the project completed performance objective #7 and has now officially published two digital exhibits which feature materials digitized through this grant. Exhibit #1 was completed during the previous interim report period. Exhibit #2 was officially released to the promoted and released to the public in February of 2017, completing performance objective #7. Details for both exhibits are as follows:

#### Exhibit One Details

**Exhibit Title:** Avery: The Spirit That Would Not Die, 1865-2015  
**Exhibit Description:** 2015 marked the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Avery Normal Institute and the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the [Avery Research Center](#) for African American History and Culture at the College of Charleston. This online exhibition explores the history of Avery, from its origins as a school for Black Charlestonians starting in 1865, to its current form as a center for promoting the history and culture of the African diaspora, with an emphasis on Charleston and the South Carolina Lowcountry.  
**Project Partner/Author:** The College of Charleston's Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture  
**Publication Date:** May 2016  
**Link to Live Exhibit:** <http://ldhi.library.cofc.edu/exhibits/show/avery>

#### Exhibit Two Details

**Exhibit Title:** Remembering Individuals, Remembering Communities: Septima P. Clark in Charleston's Public History Landscape  
**Exhibit Description:** This online exhibition interprets and maps the life of Septima Poinsette Clark—an African American civil rights educator, activist, and Charleston native—to interrogate historic and present day divisions in Charleston's public history landscape. The project is based on a presentation delivered by Katherine Mellen Charron, author of *Freedom's Teacher: The Life of Septima Clark*, at the 2015 Southern Association for Women Historians' Conference in Charleston, South Carolina.  
**Project Partner/Author:** Katherine Mellen Charron  
**Publication Date:** February 2017  
**Link to Live Exhibit:** [http://ldhi.library.cofc.edu/exhibits/show/septima\\_clark](http://ldhi.library.cofc.edu/exhibits/show/septima_clark)

There are two more exhibits ready for peer review which will include content digitized during this project, including “20<sup>th</sup> Century African American History: Desegregation at the College of Charleston” and “Morris Street Business District: Diversity and Preservation in Charleston, South Carolina.”

## Project Publicity

While we completed performance objective #9 as stated in interim narrative report #2, we continued to promote the project.

Amanda Noll, Lowcountry Digital History Initiative (LDHI) Project Coordinator and Aaisha Haykal, Manager of Archival Services for the Avery Research Center spoke at the South Carolina Federation of Museums annual meeting held in Walterboro, SC on March 10, 2017. They spoke about their experiences working with various community partners to promote awareness of the history of desegregation in Charleston, South Carolina. Topics included the project, “Digitizing Twentieth Century Civil Rights Collections” funded by the NHPRC, with an emphasis on increased accessibility to archival materials on the topic of desegregation history. The presentation was entitled, “Somebody Had To Do It: Collection, Preserving, and Exhibiting Stories of Integration.”

Mr. Sfirri published a short article discussing the project, progress, and digitization statistics to the inaugural issue of the South Carolina Digital Library’s newsletter and has submitted a second, companion piece about the ongoing project for the next issue.

Finally, newly hired Manager of Archival Services, Aaisha Haykal, Education Outreach Archivist for the Avery, Barrye Brown, both of the Avery Research Center and Heather Gilbert, continue to work on an article for [Archival Outlook](#), the award-winning magazine of the Society of American Archivists. The editors of Archival Outlook have shown interest in the piece. We plan on submitting for the June 1, 2017 deadline.

## Project Analytics

We thought it might be interesting and useful to begin tracking the use of the digital collections on LCDL through the Google Analytics platform. Please note these analytics do not account for use on other platforms through which content is harvested. So far, the collections show the following use:

All page views listed below are from the publication of that particular collection (date varies) to March 31, 2017. While we don’t anticipate these statistics being useful until we have a full year of data for each collection, we felt it was important to being tracking the analytics now.

Collection Name	Page views (through 3/31/17)
Septima P. Clark Papers, ca. 1910-ca. 1990	4,604
Esau Jenkins Papers, 1963-2003	1,687
Bernice Robinson Papers, 1920-1989	535
Cleveland L. Sellers, Jr. Papers, 1934-2003	488
J. Arthur Brown Papers, 1937 - 1988	232
Charleston Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Papers, 1920-1995	467
Eugene C. Hunt Papers, 1834 - 1994	95*

\* Collection just published on March 14, 2017.