



## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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### FOR INFORMATION:

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**August 30, 2002**

### **NCSU Libraries Receives \$175,000 To Build Resources Unique to North Carolina**

The NCSU Libraries received two grants totaling almost \$175,000 that will preserve and build collections unique to North Carolina in agriculture and rural life and in the history of forestry.

A \$124,490 grant was awarded to the Libraries by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in conjunction with the U.S. Agricultural Information Network (USAIN) for preserving literature related to agriculture and rural life from 1820 to 1945. Cornell University administers the funds. Another \$50,000 grant was made to the Libraries by the State Library of North Carolina, through the Library Services and Technologies Act (LSTA) to expand development of a "History of Forestry" Web site, adding special collections from the College of Natural Resources at NC State and forestry image archives from the University of North Carolina–Asheville.

The \$124,490 grant, formally known as Phase IV of Research/Public Service Project, PA-24058-02, and awarded by NEH and USAIN over a two-year period, has the title "Preserving the History of the United States Agriculture and Rural Life: State and Local Literature." The grant focuses on documents from the years 1820 to 1945, when first-generation, wood-pulp paper was introduced and used extensively in the world of printing. This first-generation papermaking technology, however, produced paper with low longevity, meaning that after about 100 years the pages often become highly brittle—cracking, breaking, and even crumbling. Documents from this time period are important candidates for preservation.

To obtain this grant, Cornell's Albert R. Mann Library led a consortium of libraries seeking total support of more than \$500,000. NC State first



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joined the consortium during Phase III and has proven to be a highly significant member. The NCSU Libraries' portion for Phase IV—nearly 25% of the entire grant—will build upon work already completed in Phase III, when NC State librarians developed a comprehensive bibliography on *Agriculture and Rural Life in North Carolina and the Southeastern States, 1820-1945*. To prioritize the documents listed in the bibliography, a panel of three experts ranked more than 1,200 titles according to their research value. The NCSU Libraries Preservation Department will now preserve access to the top 50% of these documents—using state-of-the-art-microfilming methods. In all approximately 600 complete texts will be microfilmed. Microfilmed documents, when stored according to preservation standards, have a minimum life span of 500 years, as determined by the U.S. Library of Congress.

The second grant, a \$50,000 grant supporting collection digitization, comes to the Libraries' Special Collections Department mainly through funds provided by the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). The project is 90% supported with federal LSTA funds made possible through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The State Library of North Carolina, a division of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, administers the project. **The award, officially a North Carolina Exploring Cultural Heritage Online (NC ECHO) grant**, allows the NCSU Libraries and its collaborative partners to expand the development of a unique "History of Forestry" Web site and portal that focuses on North Carolina as the birthplace of U.S. forestry. The Web site was first established with a 2001-2002 EZ-LSTA NC ECHO grant and will become a publicly accessible resource by November 2002.



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Building upon the content of the forestry Web site, which tells the story of Carl Alwin Schenck and the Biltmore Forest School through documents and photographs, this second phase will incorporate new collections with material from the National Forest Service image archive at UNC–Asheville and documents held by NC State University's College of Natural Resources on the Hofmann teaching forest in eastern North Carolina. Computer access to the National Forest Service and Hofmann Forest collections will enable researchers to make direct comparisons of

nineteenth- and twentieth-century educational methods and forest management approaches.

The NCSU Libraries is an academic research library with strengths in science, engineering and technology. Ranked 32 out of 113 academic research libraries by the Association of Research Libraries, it has a collection of more than three million volumes, 47,000 print and electronic serials, and hundreds of databases, making it one of the most comprehensive research collections in the region.

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