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Little Red Herrings-If You Build It They (Really) Will Come

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**Future Directions**

As part of its Silver Anniversary activities, USAIN is poised to review its preservation and access program to consider how its national preservation program will evolve to meet the needs of the next decade. Among the topics we will likely address in updating the NPP AL are:

- lessons learned over the past 22 years;
- development of a shared print program for agriculture;
- updating our preservation priorities, including preservation of born digital resources;
- exploring the potential for future grant funding;
- producing digital files from a trove of preservation microfilm;
- partnerships with innovative organizations such as the Internet Archive, Hathitrust, and Biodiversity Heritage Library;
- the potential for pairing a prospective cooperative collection development program with our successful cooperative preservation program;
- developing a portal that will make the corpus of historical literature easily searchable and accessible; and
- how best to evolve the NPPAL within the CRL Global Resources program as a foundation upon which to build international shared print and a systematic international program of digitization, print archiving, and licensing in agriculture and rural life.

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**Endnotes**


3. Jan and Wally Olsen were the inspiration for much of the preservation work at Mann and the NPPAL. Janet McCue, Mary Ochs, Stephanie Lamson, Walter Cybulski, Dorothy Wright, Peter McDonald, Barbara DiSalvo and many others contributed mightily to the early work in this arena.


6. A link to a PDF version of the NPPAL can be found at: http://www.usain.org/Preservation/preservinitiative.html.

7. The contemporary core literature lists became the basis of TEAAL, The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (http://teal.org), which provides access to agricultural literature to income-eligible countries.


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**Author’s Note:** You can see from the pictures loaded on our Website (http://bit.ly/MKFbid) that this proved to be a marvelous transformation. — MH
I have never liked Kevin Costner so to begin with a famous line from one of his movies is a bit odd for me. I know many like him (my wife even ran into him at the Vietnam Memorial many years ago) but I always found his movies overdone. Waterworld, I believe it was called, lasted about half a week, didn’t it? I don’t mean at the theaters, I mean at one showing. That was one long, interminable movie! Even so, abusus non tollit usum, as they say. Abuse does not abolish use, so I’ll use the line.

Besides, no other line would do in this case, and this story will tell why.

We began with an empty, gutted space

For those of you who know Dacus and Winthrop, you know we’ve been talking about a new building for some time now. Depending on who you ask, we’ve had it “on the books” for about two decades, give or take a few years. But this is South Carolina and the wheels of justice grind ever so slowly. After several very valiant attempts with our legislature, we realized that a new building would not materialize soon. Meanwhile, Ida Jane Dacus, now 44 years old, was beginning to show her every line and wrinkle. We had to do something. Over the course of my fourteen years here, we had made several peripheral changes but even those had gone stale. The time had come for something more dramatic.

We began with our students and our faculty and staff, asking them what they wanted in our library. The renovations were estimated to contain both reference and circulation. Not everyone was sure that (or anything else) would work. Further, some were not at all sure that it was even a good idea. But the limits had to be pushed and so we pushed forward. Amid some shaking heads and a few wagging fingers, we forged on. You can view our weekly progress here as we chronicled it with pictures, words and updates. (http://libguides.library.winthrop.edu/renovations).

Our library faculty and staff rallied to make all this happen. Get this picture in your mind’s eye. We had to close off almost half our building, including the part that just so happens to coincide with the main entrance to the library. The renovations were estimated to take about sixteen weeks. Summer session was already on us. In order to finish on time, we had to stay open and get this work done. We redesigned our main entrance to open on the opposite side of the building, added a few other tweaks and hoped for the best.

We could not have had a better contractor than the Holden Company. They worked as indefatigably as did we to make all this happen and it did, on time and at, if not under, budget. Holden put up with a lot, not only from worried staff about individual pieces of the puzzle, but also with a dean who kept looking at his watch and reminding them that fall session would be upon us sooner than they thought. Would they complete it on time? A few finishing touches occurred the week school began, but about 98% was completed on time.

As you can see from the pictures on our site, it proved to be a marvelous transformation. We held an open house, gave away prizes and had a few contests. More than 1,100 students came to see us during our four hour open house. Everything seemed like it had been a success, but had it really, and for how long?

I can safely say, after a semester of being open, that the changes have been wildly successful. Our occupancy rates are up an average of 25%, reference inquiries are up more than 50%, and student usage up more than 30% overall. We are now open from Sunday at 1:00 p.m. and do not close the building again until Friday at 9:00 p.m. We open again Saturday at noon, close at 6 that night, and Sunday begins the cycle again. The 24-hour access is restricted to the main floor only after midnight. Fridays and Saturdays had always been our least busy times, so we felt the need to be open 24-hours then unnecessary. Our

Nearly completed Information Commons

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