



Executive Summary – May 2011

ASSOCIATION OF CENTERS FOR THE STUDY OF CONGRESS



On May 17, Ben met with Fowler West, Chair of The Standing Committee, to discuss progress in the library

and what Fowler could do to encourage people to renew their membership. After lunch, Ben visited Jim Le sar at the Assassination Archive and Research Center (AARC). The AARC was the recipient of over 1 million government documents from the FBI and CIA concerning the Kennedy assassination. The AARC, in addition to these govdocs, also has hundreds of linear feet of materials gathered over the last 45 years by avid assassinationologists. [<http://www.aarclibrary.org/>]

On Wednesday, the 8th annual meeting of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress convened at the National Archives. Following lunch, David Ferrero, Archivist of the United States, shared a word of greeting and announced that the Center for Legislative Archives is being put on the same footing as the Presidential Libraries. This gives the work on Congress the same importance in NARA as the work of the President. The keynote address was given by Peter Overby, NPR correspondent for Power, Money & Influence. Following the keynote, three political scientists offered a discussion of how they use congressional archives in their research. Two of the panelists had recently published [\*Cheese factories on the moon: Why earmarks are good for American democracy.\*](#)



The sessions on Thursday were recorded by C-SPAN beginning with a discussion by members of the Association of Former Members of Congress. Three ex-congressmen spoke about how they decided where their papers would be archived and how they have interacted with these institutions along the way. The next session featured participants in the Senate Historical Office's Oral History program who had been staff members for Senators and Senate committees. The first session after lunch covered declassification of congressional records from the perspective of NARA and the House Intelligence Committee. After this, the Center for Legislative Archives described their educational outreach programs.



Mary Ferrell in her home ca. 1995.

On Friday, Ben traveled from Washington to Boston, MA. On Saturday, he met with Rex Bradford of the Mary Ferrell Foundation to assess how Poage Library could partner with the Foundation to process the papers of Mary Ferrell. In a 2001 appraisal of her papers, John R. Payne wrote: "As a whole, the Mary Ferrell Library and Archive is the most comprehensive and most widely recognized collection of Kennedy materials in private hands. It is rivaled in scope and depth only by the library at the Sixth floor Museum at Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas."

SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST ARCHIVISTS



Benna Vaughan attended the annual meeting of the Society of Southwest Archivists in Little Rock, Arkansas, held May 18-21, 2011. The initial opening reception on May 18 was held in the Peabody-Little Rock, also the hotel for the conference and sessions. On May 19 the keynote address was given by Elliot West, Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Arkansas, who spoke of the importance of archives as priceless historical resources. He used examples from his forty years of research experience.

Benna attended a panel discussion titled: "Seizing the Opportunity: Archiving Campus History," given by a group from Oklahoma State University. The session talked of documenting campus history, the OSU photograph collection and the digitization process they are going through in dealing with their yearbooks and campus newspapers. Benna also attended a panel discussion on "Filling Our Niche: Opportunity and Promise in Subject Repositories." This session focused on how different institutions used their collections and resources to take advantage of opportunities they found on campus and off. Discussion about mission, collection development and collaboration, reference, and access finished out this session.

As a new member of the Scholarship Committee, Benna spent 1.5 hours on Thursday and Friday working the slot table, a raffle and silent auction where the money from ticket sales for the items goes toward scholarships to attend next years meeting for students and other archivists.

The large reception for the conference took place that evening at the Bill Clinton Presidential Library. Tours of the facility were offered and food was provided.

On May 20, Benna attended a session on "Doing More with DSpace." This session was on how different organizations used DSpace as a warehouse to store active preservation functions. Also a discussion on what it does well, what it doesn't do well, and how it interfaces with users. Baylor uses ContentDM but I wanted to hear about the other program. Another session titled "Documenting Under Documented Cultures," discussed the ways repositories dealt with under documented sections of the population: Local Government Case Files, Mexican-American Archives, Houston-Corpus Christi and Beyond, and Archives in Guatemala City were all discussed.

W. R. POAGE LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
NOVEMBER 2010

On the last day, May 21, Benna attended the breakfast and business meeting and participated in the annual slotto event. She was also recognized for her election to the Scholarship Committee.

## PROJECTS

**John Armstrong Research Notebooks.** Final statistics for the Armstrong Project: 72 large 3-ring binders of materials divided into 200+ smaller white binders for scanning. 2,140 PDFs were created from the 101,180 pages scanned by the Riley Center. Feedback from the JFK research community has been very positive. Sushmi added all the PDFs to the Armstrong web site:

<http://www.baylor.edu/lib/poage/jfk/index.php?id=73168>

Darryl Stuhr in the Riley Center also created a new web site in CONTENTdm with links to all the PDFs and a full-text search box:

[http://contentdm.baylor.edu/cdm4/index\\_15poage-arm.php?CISOROOT=/15poage-arm](http://contentdm.baylor.edu/cdm4/index_15poage-arm.php?CISOROOT=/15poage-arm)

**Marvin Leath Papers.** Nicole Abril took photos of all the 3-D items in the Leath inventory. Kristina started re-folding the Leath materials into acid-free folders.

**Jack Hightower Papers.** Nicole finished the inventory of the Hightower office vertical files including eight additional boxes picked up in April from Judge Hightower.

**Project 9-11.** Rachel Carson began working with images



for the 9-11 exhibits and preparing them for printing by the DMS.

The 9-11 exhibit will be a visual remembrance focusing on the events and aftermath of the tragic day. The W. R. Poage Exhibit Gallery will be divided up into three parts:

- 1) sequence of events,
- 2) immediate aftermath, and
- 3) social aftermath.

The "sequence of events" will consist of

five large images of the:

- World Trade Center Towers before the attack,
- first and second attack on the Towers,
- attack on the Pentagon, and
- crash of United flight 93.

At the present moment, there is an attempt to make the images of the towers 3-D.

The "immediate aftermath" will display the chaos that reigned over the nation in the days following the attacks. Newspaper headlines, articles, and images will be displayed over the wall. Visitors will have the opportunity to add to the exhibit by completing a card with their thoughts, prayers, etc. and adding it to the wall. Images will also chronicle the clearing of debris at Ground Zero, up to the removal of the final support beam.

The "social aftermath" will contain three display cases on patriotism, the TSA, and the rebuilding of the World Trade Center.

On the Moody Allbritton Foyer large panels of newspaper front pages will be displayed. Four display cases will contain similar information as to the Poage exhibit.

**Chet Edwards Papers.** Edwin Cook completed a detailed inventory of awards and plaques, and Nicole took photos of all the 3-D items and will add them to the inventory. Katie Reid began re-folding Edwards' legislative papers prior to updating the inventory.

**Standing Committee Newsletter.** Mary continued to tweak the summer newsletter.

## ACTIVITIES BY DATE

**May 5** – Ben met with Bill Hair and later attended a meeting regarding fundraising for the Edwards' archive.

**May 11** – Benna, Mary and Ben attended the Library Salad Luncheon.

**May 13** – Ben had a lunch meeting with Bill Hair and attended the Hooding Ceremony in honor of graduate student Sushmi Chakraborty.

**May 16-20** – Ben attended the [Association of Centers for the Study of Congress](#), visited the [Assassination Archive and Research Center](#) in DC and traveled to Boston to talk with the staff of the [Mary Ferrell Foundation](#) in Ipswich MA.

**May 18-21** – Benna attended the [Society of Southwest Archivists](#) in Little Rock, AK.

**May 18-19** – Mary participated in the AMIGOS online meeting. She "attended" the following sessions:  
Ubiquitous Services: Technology at the Point of Need  
Quick Response: QR Codes Boost Service  
Embedded by Hashtag: Using Twitter to Provide Real-Time Reference & Instruction

Seeing the Library Through the Terminator's Eyes: Augmented Reality

Is That a Library in Your Pocket?

Applying Design Thinking to Humanize the Self-Service Library Experience.

**May 23** – Ben visited Jack White in Harris Hospital in Fort Worth after Jack's heart surgery. Ben picked up additional books at the home of Bob Platt.

**May 25** – Benna, Mary and Ben attended a Sexual Harassment seminar.

**May 26** – Ben attended a Special Library Directors' meeting, then represented Poage at Kathryn Brogdon's reception in ABL.

**May 27** – Benna attended a Phoenix Staff Development Seminar at TWU in Denton, TX.

**May 29** – Ben visited Bob and Ruth Platt and picked up additional books.

## CATALOGING

### Special Libraries Cataloging Team:

Janet Pence: Books: Titles 19, Vol. 20; Original cat. 11; LPs: Titles 9, vol. 19; CD-ROM Titles 1, Vol. 1, original cat. 1.

Vertical Files: Titles, 42, vol. 42. Original Bearcat input 42.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 11-13** – Poage Staff to attend Kettering Institute workshop for conducting forums.

**August 15-19** – Ben to attend the [Society of American Archivists](#) as incoming Chair Elect of [Congressional Papers Roundtable](#).

**August 29-Oct. 31** – Tenth anniversary of 11 September 2001 exhibit in Moody and Poage libraries.

