

University Archives & Special Collections Annual Report 2019-2020

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University Archives and Special Collections (UASC) was well-positioned for the transition to virtual access and service during the coronavirus pandemic, as we invested in improving the online discoverability of our holdings throughout the 2019-2020 year. The installation of additional shelving in the fall supported gaining greater physical control over the collections. In turn, we engaged in significant inventorying and metadata creation efforts that increased the sizes of our digital collections and digital records of physical materials, such as finding aids and ArchivesSpace catalog records. To better support the preservation of Salve Regina's history and access to it by the public, we have initiated conservation and digitization projects on a variety of archival materials.

Collections Management and Core Operations

New accessions: 14 archives accessions and 2 Special Collections accessions, spanning around ~3 linear feet plus 2 volumes and a small number of digital files. This is a decrease from last year, but there are additional materials from this fiscal year which have yet to be accessioned. We processed 15 linear feet of materials.

Hilary completed the major undertaking of inventorying and assessing the Archives' audiovisual materials. Many of these materials were never accessioned and the collection was largely a mystery. She inventoried around 1500 items in 15 different formats, which documented about 900 separate events in Salve Regina history. Hilary identified 40 audio reels and 11 video reels as candidates for cleaning and digitization, and the Archives has contracted Mass Productions to do this work.

We sought to improve discoverability and reference services by providing additional guides to archival collections and digitized collections.

- St Augustin digital and physical collection
 - Patrick Murphy collection on St. Augustin's Church and School
<https://www.riamco.org/render?eadid=US-RNSRU-SP14>
 - <https://digitalcommons.salve.edu/st-augustin/>
- Christopher Kiernan papers: <https://www.riamco.org/render?eadid=US-RNSRU-RG21.6>
- Kate Sullivan Collection on the Nursing Program at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras: <https://www.riamco.org/render?eadid=US-RNSRU-RG21.5>

Volunteer Michaela Sheerar, who also digitized and described hundreds of photographs, processed papers and created finding aids for past academic deans:

- Papers of the Academic Dean, Sister Margaret Sorenson:
<https://www.riamco.org/render?eadid=US-RNSRU-RG6.1.6>
- Papers of the Academic Dean, Dr. Beverly Miller, PhD:
<https://www.riamco.org/render?eadid=US-RNSRU-RG6.1.7>
- Papers of Dr. Lester Carr: <https://www.riamco.org/render?eadid=US-RNSRU-RG6.1.8>

UASC continued expanding digital collections this year:

- Published **989** images in Salve Regina University Archives Photos (4680 total)
- Published **36** images in Salve Regina University Property and Architecture Images (3295 total)
- Published **1,034** new items in the Archives & Special Collections area of Digital Commons (4,919 total)

Johannes von Gumpenberg digital collection has 348 items and is available at <https://library.artstor.org/#/collection/87732645>

So far we have published **152** documents in South Kingstown Colonial Records collection in Artstor: <https://library.artstor.org/#/collection/87732644>. We also participated in a JSTOR's pilot program to expand audiences by publishing these documents to the JSTOR Open Access platform: <https://www.JSTOR.org/site/SalveReginaUniversity-100085787>.

A conservator from the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) visited the Archives in summer 2019 and transported five scrapbooks back to the NEDCC facility in Andover for assessment. The Archives has negotiated a conservation and digitization contract for two of the scrapbooks, which cover the first 20 years or so of Salve Regina's history. The Archives is looking for funding opportunities to support similar work on the other three scrapbooks, kept by a Massachusetts woman named Marion Ellis who attended women in business conferences in the late 1920s.

The Archives migrated its catalog to a hosted instance of ArchivesSpace through LibraryHost. The migration went flawlessly and we were able to launch the public user interface so that users can search the collections: <http://salvearchives.libraryhost.com>. We shared this launch through the library's blog <https://library.salvereginablogs.com/archivesspace-is-live/>

The history department's summer 2019 McGinty Fellows, Danielle Cabral '19 and Anna Paradis '20, recorded oral histories and worked on transcribing the handwritten Annals kept by the Sisters of Mercy at Salve Regina. History department student worker and former McGinty Fellow Isabelle Gillibrand '20 continued recording oral histories during the academic year, and we posted 11 at <https://digitalcommons.salve.edu/memories/>.

Summer work-study Delaney Daly '20 and Poulin Archives Fellow Kylee Babcock '20 digitized and described press releases from the 1960s and early 1970s. These press releases detail the day-to-day occurrences that Salve Regina wanted to share with the public. The collection is available at <http://digitalcommons.salve.edu/releases>.

Academics

Employing students continued to be a key part of the UASC academic program. Delaney Daly '20 worked full-time in the summer, and Amy Veron '21 returned as a work-study in the fall. A partnership with the cultural and historic preservation department allowed for the rehiring of Sarah Christiana '21 to continue the Documenting Slavery project. Kylee Babcock '20 returned as the Poulin Archives Fellow. She continued to work on digitizing and describing athletics

photographs, but also expressed interest in learning some other skills. Some of the work-study projects this year included born-digital file migration, collections processing, assisting with displays, preservation photocopying, digitization, shifting collections, rehousing materials, and writing metadata.

Genna collaborated with Nicole Marino and a student in the art department on the cataloging of Nature Cabinet materials in JSTOR Forum.

Outreach & Community Engagement

Archives displays:

- Quest for Understanding: a history of the Atwood Lectures <https://library.salvereginablogs.com/library-display-atwood-lectures/>
- Calligraphy as Expression and Devotion (<https://library.salvereginablogs.com/december-library-displays/>)
- Good (Archives) Dogs [online]: <https://padlet.com/salvelibrarian/archivesdogs>
- Earth Day at Salve: 50 Years of Activism and Care for Our Common Home [online]: <https://library.salvereginablogs.com/earth-day-at-salve-50-years-of-activism-care-for-our-common-home/>

Non-archives displays by UASC personnel:

- Native American Indian Heritage Month <https://library.salvereginablogs.com/november-library-displays/>
- Underrated Women Writers – Women’s History Month

To honor Johannes and Janet von Gumpfenberg and celebrate the presentation of Johannes’ art both in the library online, the library hosted a reception in February with collaboration from the art department and development office. At the reception, Johannes spoke on the motivation of art; additionally, provost Nancy Schrieber, art professor Ernie Jolicouer, and archivist Genna spoke.

UASC also hosted Climate Teach-In for Global Climate Strike as part of an Archivists Responding to Climate Change (Project ARCC) initiative:

<https://library.salvereginablogs.com/climate-teach-in-for-global-climate-strike/>

Facilities & Technology

In September, SpaceSaver vendor Donnegan installed additional shelving in room 023, adding an additional 200 linear feet of storage space. We have shifted the photograph collections, manuscript collections, oversized materials, and objects to these new shelves.

Genna continued serving as an additional contact person for Conferences and Events for booking the Special Collections Room (109).

Climate monitoring in the library has increased, with the responsibility for maintaining PEM2 monitors, collecting data, and generating reports falling under the aegis of UASC.

Reference & Usage Statistics

Use of the Archives' materials and services has remained steady since last year, despite the transition to remote services.

Digital Commons – Archives materials only

Usage of Digital Commons materials increased between July 1, 2019 and May 28, 2020 in comparison to the previous year.

- Downloads: 20,563 (7,427 last year)
- Media streams: 247 (new service)
- Metadata page hits: 7,226 (5,162 last year)

JSTOR Forum/Artstor Library

Last year, we saw an increase in usage of our materials in the Artstor Library over the previous year, but this year the numbers are more modest. This probably indicates we need to make it clearer to our users where to find our digital collections.

- Salve Regina University Archives Photographs: 523 views
- Salve Regina University Property and Architecture Images: 912 views
- Johannes von Gumpenberg Digital Collection: 1,249 views
- South Kingstown Colonial Records: 96 views

Research Services

- 71 total reference requests or questions regarding University Archives and Special Collections materials or services, serving 83 users – 7 faculty, 24 staff, 24 students, 4 alumni, 20 public, 4 unknown/other (compared to 76 requests last year)

Personnel

- UASC worked with 2 volunteers, 2 McGinty Fellows, 1 Poulin Archives fellow, and 3 work-studies
- Genna Duplisea was elected for a three-year term of Vice President/President/Immediate Past President of New England Archivists. She also served in the Rhode Island Historic Records and Advisory Board (RIHRAB), the board of the IYRS Maritime Library, and the steering committee of the Society of American Archivists' Issues & Advocacy Section.

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