



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Library Services
Acquisitions and Bibliographic
Access Directorate

February 11, 2011

Dear State Center for the Book Coordinator:

My colleague John Cole in the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress graciously provided your name from his network to the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) cooperative cataloging program. I write to enlist your aid in telling colleagues in your state about this program. Through NUCMC, the Library of Congress and eligible U.S. archival and manuscript repositories provide and promote bibliographic access to the nation's documentary heritage, thus celebrating the diversity of American life and providing an excellent tool for genealogical and historical research for the past fifty years.

As a state coordinator for the Center for the Book, please forward this message to your state or local networks, particularly smaller institutions or repositories that may hold hidden collections that NUCMC could describe and make known at the national and international level. The standardized bibliographic records created and distributed via this international database are sometimes the first broad exposure for a repository's collections, often generating wider usage and public awareness that in turn speak persuasively for increased support from funders and administrators for hidden collections.

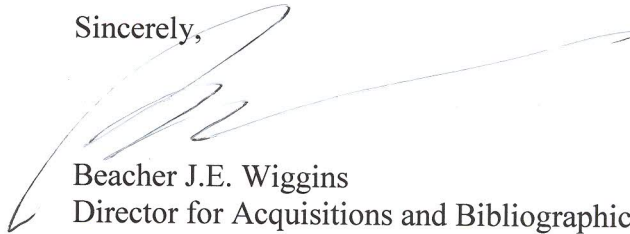
As it begins its second half-century, NUCMC extends an invitation to all eligible repositories to participate in its ongoing mission. To be eligible, a repository must 1) be located in the U.S. or its territories; 2) must regularly admit researchers; and 3) must lack the capability of entering its own manuscript cataloging into OCLC.

Participating repositories, such as local historical societies, museums, public libraries, or town clerk's offices, provide NUCMC with information (main entry, title, date range, size, scope, etc.) describing their archival and manuscript holdings. NUCMC staff at the Library of Congress then use the information provided to create MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) bibliographic records describing the repository's holdings in OCLC WorldCat. Additionally, anyone with access to the World Wide Web has free access to the entire OCLC archival and mixed collections file through the NUCMC Web site at <http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc>.

For further questions and additional information, please contact:
Library of Congress, Cooperative and Instructional Programs Division, NUCMC,
101 Independence Ave., S.E., Washington, DC 20540-4230; www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc;
email: nucmc@loc.gov; telephone: 202-707-7954; Fax: 202-252-2082.

My colleagues on the NUCMC team will be happy to assist you, and please do not hesitate to contact them or me. I enclose a handout about NUCMC suitable for distribution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Beacher J.E. Wiggins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Beacher J.E. Wiggins
Director for Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access

Enclosure



National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections Invites You to Participate

The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) is a cooperative cataloging program partnered by the Library of Congress and eligible U.S. archival and manuscript repositories that has been in existence for over fifty years. This free program provides and promotes bibliographic access to the nation's documentary heritage, thus celebrating the diversity of American life, as well as providing an excellent tool for genealogical and historical research. If you have access to the World Wide Web, you and your researchers worldwide have free access to the entire OCLC archival and mixed collections file through the NUCMC Web site at <http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc>.

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