

A Five Year Collection Development

Created by

Lucy Butcher, Chadwick Dunefsky, Sagan Thacker, and Shelbi Webb

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Instructor: Dr. Kevin Washburn

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## **Southern Appalachian History and Culture: Five Year Collection Development Plan for the Pack Memorial's North Carolina Room**

### **Introduction**

Provides specific context to the mini-collection that was created for Project B and how this supports the larger library collection (as outlined in the Environmental Scan).

Pack Memorial's North Carolina Room mission statement helped form the basis for the creation of the collections: "The North Carolina Room at Pack Memorial Library is dedicated to actively collecting, preserving, promoting and providing equal access to the history of every person and community in Asheville, Buncombe County and the surrounding area. We are proud of our historic resources and are committed to preserving them for the future through correct archival preservation, digitization, and making them easily accessible to the public." The mission's emphasis on inclusion and access inspired the librarians to build collections based on different groups comprising the community, especially minority groups.

### **Project Scope**

The Native American history collection will collect published information and historical documents about Native American communities in Southeastern Appalachia, with the partnership and guidance of local Native American leaders. As part of the collection, the North Carolina Room will work with local Native American communities to meet their own preservation needs. This mini collection will serve the population it focuses on by providing resources to record oral histories, digitize family documents, a

place to hold events, and a repository for long term preservation at the library. It will serve all users of the library by providing access to information about southeastern Appalachia's current and historical indigenous communities--history that is often forgotten in the popular imagination of what it means to be from Appalachia. Like the other mini collections in this plan, the Native American history collection will help to shine a light on the diversity of Appalachian identities.

The field of gender and sexuality studies intersecting with Appalachian identity is in its early stages. The amount of dissertations produced on this topic is increasing. These dissertations produce interviews and discussions that allow new dissertations and organizations to form. The concept of sexuality, especially in American culture at large, is slowly being destigmatized. Users can glean from this mini-collection specifically, how Appalachia is destigmatizing sexuality. By interacting with the organizations, blogs, and podcasts, users can also gain a better understanding of the people at the forefront of the discussion. By bringing topics of sexuality into the public discourse, LGBTQIA+ individuals will also feel more comfortable expressing their gender identity. The United States and local state governments continue to pass legislation that discriminates against LGBTQIA+ individuals. The HB2 bill in North Carolina prohibited transgender individuals from using bathrooms that matched their preferred gender identity. By being part of this ongoing discussion on LGBTQIA+ individuals, users will better understand how to contribute to positive change, especially in Appalachian communities.

The Civil Rights in Southern Appalachia collection contains a variety of different sources relating to the 1960s and '70s civil rights movement in Southern Appalachia,

with a particular focus on Western North Carolina. It contains some of the most up-to-date research on various aspects of the movement, including school integration fights, sit-ins, and strikes, among other related subjects. It is unique in bringing all the extant research on civil rights in the Appalachian region—a perennially understudied field of study—together in one easily accessible place so interested scholars can compare and utilize the sources to their greatest advantage. Users can also see the connections between the LGBTQIA+ in Appalachia and Native American History mini-collections, since these minority populations fought for their rights in many ways and many locales around Appalachia.

The Appalachian Storytelling collection contains fictional tales focused on southeastern Appalachian culture in an assortment of media. The LibGuide also includes resources describing the historical, social, cultural, and economic aspects found in the stories. Many creators of the works are from western North Carolina and live in the area. The storytellers featured in the collection reflect the southern Appalachia's multicultural roots, which connects the collection to the other three collections comprising Pack Memorial's North Carolina Room. In particular, the storytelling collection's inclusion of Cherokee tales along with the blog featuring the Cherokee storyteller and culture lecturer, Lloyd Arneach, correlates with the Native American History collection. The collection acts as a protector of the community's folk and oral traditions by holding, distributing, and preserving stories told by the community and those who share the community's southern Appalachian heritage.

### **Future Projections**

Description of Events (series of events and how they connect to literacy)

Using what you know about your library institution, "guess" what the future might look like for the library. What services might they add, eliminate, change, expand, innovate, or reevaluate (for a collection, this would be a realignment evaluation to see what is still relevant-example: Collection Mapping)?

Hopefully, once COVID precautions no longer hinder social interactions, the renovations planned for the North Carolina Room will transform the area into a “friendly, coworking space,” as the Collections Manager, Katherine Calhoun Cutshall, expressed in an interview. Such a change may boost the North Carolina Room’s ability to host events and programs by offering a comfortable and aesthetically pleasing atmosphere that encourages patrons to return. Strolling Through History, an event in which interns design tours of the collections, may become a more satisfying experience if the North Carolina Room looks less “stuffy” (Cutshall, 2020). A more relaxed environment may encourage the general public to enter the space, since a stuffy physical space could imply that only high-level researchers are welcome to the facility instead of a typical citizen with curiosity. As a result, turning the space into a welcoming environment encourages a diverse group of people to engage with the collections, which fulfills the North Carolina Room’s mission.

The renovations would also help in attracting users to new events. For example, the Appalachian Talk Series involves lecture-style and circle discussions of the North Carolina Room collections, so hosting these events among the collections helps showcase and draw people to the collection. Additionally, the creation of a Forensics program that

entails people combing through the Appalachian Storytelling collection for works to perform amongst each other. An intimate setting would contribute to the event's purpose of creating casual fun and advancing public speaking in the community. Another point to these new events includes motivating engagement with the collections, which promotes reading and boosts literacy skills.

The NC Room could apply to form a committee and present at a conference hosted by the Journal of Appalachian Studies. They could invite local students to assist in the development of a presentation that would demonstrate the NC Room's contributions to representing local identities. This presentation would demonstrate to the journal the value of representing these identities and encourage further development in supporting the local Appalachian community. These identities would include the ones found on the mini-collection: Native Americans, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and African Americans. This kind of presentation would happen in five years, after the NC Room has implemented the goals laid out below in the development plan.

Greater outreach to the community and more embedding of the NC Room at local and regional events will also continue to be important. If the NC Room is to continue to be relevant and important to the local community, it must show its worth to diverse community members. One of the best ways to do this is to bring parts of its diverse collections out into the community for a kind of "show-and-tell." Since the NC Room is part of a public library, the public needs to have access to the archival materials and be aware of their existence. In addition to the remodeling of the NC Room space and

similarly welcoming initiatives, going out into the community and making history come alive is imperative.

### **5 Year Collection Develop Plan Details**

<b>Collection Development 5 Year Plan</b>	
<b>Mini-Collection Topic</b>	<b>Plan Details for Each Mini-Collection</b>
Native American History	<p>Year - 2020:</p> <p>Goal 1: Audit existing collection and create a distinct finding aid and section of the NC Room webpage (similar to the arts &amp; crafts and African American collections currently available) to collect and help users access the library's current Native American collection.</p> <p>Goal 2: Generate a list of current gaps in the collection and a plan for filling them.</p> <p>Goal 3: Create an outreach plan for building connections with the local Native American population, in hopes of including their perspective and voices in the future development of the collection.</p> <p>Year - 2021:</p> <p>Goal 1: Build out the existing Native American collection to fill the gaps identified in 2020's goal 2. Including subscribing to needed historical databases and journals and investing in both historical and contemporary materials.</p> <p>Goal 2: Organize a formal partnership with local Native American leaders for their involvement in the collection. Identify what resources they would like to see preserved in the library, how they would like to see those materials collected and displayed, how the library can aid their own preservation goals, etc.</p> <p>Year - 2022:</p> <p>Goal 1: Continue to build trust through outreach with local</p>

	<p>Native American communities. (Hosting events, preservation workshops, marketing the library, etc).</p> <p>Goal 2: Organize oral history and digitization projects lead by the partnership between the NC Room and the local Native American community.</p> <p>Year - 2023</p> <p>Goal 1: Have a robust, well organized collection of published materials and historical artifacts built with the help of the local Native American community that is easily accessible both in person and online, and includes oral histories and digitized local historical materials.</p>
LGBTQIA+ in Appalachia	<p>Year - 2020:</p> <p>Goal 1: Purchase bound copies of LGBTQIA+ Appalachian dissertations. Start to encourage students to contribute their theses to the collection. Start to form partnerships with these students to contribute to their research.</p> <p>Goal 2: Start to form partnerships with local LGBTQIA+ organizations. Reach out to these organizations to gain a preliminary understanding of how the NC Room can assist in their goals.</p> <p>Year - 2021:</p> <p>Goal 1: Develop programs with these organizations and host them in the NC Room. Develop marketing strategies and gain better internet presence.</p> <p>Goal 2: Start to become a safe place for LGBTQIA+ individuals. Reach out to local LGBTQIA+ communities and host events.</p> <p>Goal 3: Display LGBTQIA+ friendly posters, provide resources to individuals and connect them with organizations that support their needs.</p> <p>Goal 4: Continue collecting new dissertations and binding them to add to the NC Room collection.</p> <p>Year - 2022:</p>

	<p>Goal 1: The NC Room at this point should be a stable home for the local LGBTQIA+ community. The NC Room should consider gathering material and presenting at a conference. By publicizing this material, the NC Room can better contribute to the developing literature.</p> <p>Goal 2: Apply for grants to better develop a collection of LGBTQIA+ material. Start to branch out and collection other types of material including poetry or fiction written by LGBTQIA+ Appalachian writers. Form partnership with the public library branches and develop a stronger collection of local LGBTQIA+ writers.</p> <p>Year - 2023</p> <p>Goal 1: Think about starting an oral history collection of LGBTQIA+ voices. This oral history collection could expand to the Appalachian region at large, beyond the local Asheville community.</p> <p>Goal 2: Consider developing a podcast that highlights local LGBTQIA+ communities. If a podcast already exists, consider partnership and supporting that podcast.</p> <p>Year - 2024</p> <p>Goal 1: At this point, the NC Room should have a sizeable LGBTQIA+ collection. Begin a yearly evaluation of this collection and reflect on what kind of material is missing or overrepresented.</p>
<p>Civil Rights in Appalachia</p>	<p>Year - 2020:</p> <p>Goal 1: Evaluate existing collections in the archive and determine weaknesses and strengths relating to civil rights efforts in (1) Buncombe County, (2) Western North Carolina, and (3) Southern Appalachia as a whole.</p> <p>Year - 2021:</p> <p>Goal 1: Compile list of areas that the collections should or could cover. Get input from the local African American community on what they would like to see in the collection and focus on what the community thinks is important.</p>

	<p>Goal 2: Reach out further to the local African American community to solicit gifts or leads of archival material relevant to civil rights efforts in the Western North Carolina and Southern Appalachian area.</p> <p>Goal 3: Research what scholarly or other work is available on the subject area and gather sources to supplement the LibGuide and the physical collection. Obtain this work in physical and digital copies for people to use. Catalog it in both Pack Memorial Library's online catalog and the NC Room's special catalog.</p> <p>Year - 2022:</p> <p>Goal 1: Process, preserve and make available analog collections of materials relevant to civil rights. Focus on preservation of materials and ensure that they will be available for generations to come.</p> <p>Goal 2: Digitize as many civil rights collections as possible, staying mindful of the sustainability concerns of digitization outlined by Pendergrass et al. in their article "<a href="#">Toward Environmentally Sustainable Digital Preservation</a>." Work with the library system's IT team to determine strategies to sustainably preserve materials and move toward carbon neutrality.</p> <p>Goal 3: Outreach to local civil rights and cultural organizations to publicize the library's collections and collaborate on ways of creating new ones. Publicize the collections in other ways, such as leading tours, giving talks and showing the relevance of these collections to our times.</p> <p>Year – 2023:</p> <p>Goal 1: Look at the possibility of hosting a conference—perhaps in collaboration with the University of North Carolina at Asheville's <a href="#">African Americans in WNC &amp; Southern Appalachia Conference</a>—to bring leading scholars and facilitate community discussion of the germaneness of the 1960s-70s civil rights era to today's time. Utilize the library's collections as a base and inspiration for events and subject matter at the conference.</p> <p>Year – 2024:</p> <p>Goal 1: Collaborate with other archives in Southern Appalachia and beyond who hold similar materials in order to enable</p>
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	<p>resource-sharing, greater cooperation, collaborative exhibits, and programs that enable and encourage the networking and alliance of archives, scholars, and community members throughout Southern Appalachia.</p>
<p>Appalachian Storytelling Collection</p>	<p>Year - 2020:</p> <p>Goal 1: Begin digital preservation projection. Identify analog materials without electronic copies for purchase, then schedule staff and time dedicated to digitizing these items.</p> <p>Goal 2: Check inventory and conduct shelf scans to see which books are damaged. Books deemed unusable must be put on the Replacement List for the next acquisition.</p> <p>Year - 2021:</p> <p>Goal 1: Begin compiling a list for acquisition. Use Asheville Citizen-Times for book reviews on regional authors' new books, as well as the North Carolina Library Journal and Appalachian Review.</p> <p>Goal 2: Conduct online searches for additions to the LibGuides. This includes searching Spotify for podcasts featuring interviews of southern Appalachian folk discussing their lives and telling stories.</p> <p>Goal 3: Research and contact community institutions and people for resources to add to the research guide. Start with the YMI Cultural Center and Blue Ridge National Heritage Area website for ideas.</p> <p>Year - 2022:</p> <p>Goal 1: Assess for storage. Begin analyzing the library's data on which items have been checked out of the collection or used in the facility in the past 5 years. Items that have not been circulated should be stored in the environment-controlled storage unit.</p> <p>Year - 2023:</p> <p>Goal 1: If renovations have been completed by this time, begin evaluating the environment as a venue for the Forensics program.</p> <p>Goal 2: Conduct assessment of analog materials, the books, for</p>

	<p>physical damage by using Northeast Document Conservation Center website as guidelines (<a href="https://www.nedcc.org/free-resources/preservation-leaflets/overview">https://www.nedcc.org/free-resources/preservation-leaflets/overview</a>). Note the following Preservation Leaflets categories: Emergency Management plus Storage and Handling.</p> <p>Year - 2024:</p> <p>Goal 1: Review Disaster Preparedness plan. Ensure safety sites for materials meet preservation standards if removal becomes necessary; ensure all staff know their roles and how to communicate with each other before, during, and after disasters; check equipment needed to preserve and conserve collection; check if insurance policies are up to date; Consult Northeast Document Conservation Center website's hurricane resources (<a href="https://www.nedcc.org/free-resources/hurricane-resources">https://www.nedcc.org/free-resources/hurricane-resources</a>) for actions taken after different types of disasters and compare them to Pack Memorial's plans. Make necessary changes to the plans if necessary.</p>
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### **Summary and Other Considerations**

A major high-level activity affecting all the collections includes the weeding process. Depending on the type and value of the information offered by the resource, items will either be disposed of or stored for preservation. Staff may easily remove online and digital resources from the LibGuide websites, but disposing the analog materials will require a more complex procedure. Staff must lock materials weeded out of the collection in bins, then contact the agency Pack Memorial Library uses to discard materials.

Because the North Carolina Room serves as an archive and special collection that preserves rather than dumps its material, the staff will most likely not find the disposal procedure necessary. However, storage presents possible challenges. The NC Room currently has limited storage space for analog materials.

Ideally, the North Carolina Room will only require on-site storage to prevent needing transportation of items to and from an off-site facility. In reality, the purpose of the renovations to invite people to use the North Carolina Room's space reduces the possibility of that ideal. As a workspace, reading room, and event venue, much, if not most, of the facility's space will go towards users rather than the collection. As a result, materials would need housing elsewhere. Due to the inclusion of diverse collections, the number of materials may grow until exceeding the North Carolina Room's capacity. If this happens, then staff may need to research places that would serve as off-site storage or consider construction for another part of the library building that could increase on-site storage space. Lack of funding for such a venture may mean soliciting nearby institutions to hold materials for the North Carolina Room, like D. Hiden Ramsey Library at UNC-Asheville. Depending on the amount of materials needed to transfer, Pack Memorial may lack the personnel for such an undertaking, so staff may consider looking into enlisting volunteers for the project, which would require staff designing a recruitment campaign to attract volunteers.

As for potential shortcomings, the library has historically not focused very much of its storage space or collection attention on immigrant communities in Western North Carolina, which are a population rapidly growing in stature and significance. Future collecting policies will want to include immigrant communities and their archival materials as much as possible in their considerations of what to collect, how to collect it, and with whom they should work in partnership. We see the NC Room continuing to become more significant as a record of the minority experience in Western North

Carolina and the Appalachian region as a whole. Our collection will need to include collections and stories from people from a wide variety of diverse backgrounds if it aims to be a truly important and accurate mirror for the full range of human experiences in WNC.

### **References**

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