


**The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Library Alliance** has received a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the assessment and strengthening of library services for faculty research at historically black colleges and universities. The project will foster improved library services on individual HBCU campuses and develop collaborative approaches to expand HBCU community-wide library support for faculty research. The project will begin by assessing librarians at HBCUs to better understand current capacity and identify library needs related to research support. In partnership with the HBCU Faculty Development Network, additional assessment will be done with HBCU faculty to better understand the support they need for research, especially in regard to services that are or could be provided by librarians. Assessment results will be shared with individual campuses and used to identify needs and issues that could be addressed collectively through the HBCU Library Alliance. Following the assessments, the HBCU Library Alliance will develop model programs for library-based research support services through sub-grants to eight HBCU libraries. The sub-grants will allow participating libraries to implement innovative programs and increase engagement with faculty in provision of support for research.

**The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History** received a \$1 million grant from the Arcadia Fund to launch the first two years of a long-term project to digitize endangered language materials currently housed in the museum's National Anthropological Archives. The materials found in this archive preserve a collection of primary sources for investigating endangered cultures and languages, indigenous environmental knowledge, and

the connections between these subjects. Through its Recovering Voices Initiative, the museum plans to digitize its entire collection of ethnographic sound recordings, estimated at 3,000 hours and 35,000 pages of manuscript materials, using techniques that will make these electronic sources readily available to the public through the Smithsonian's online and openly accessible catalog system. Experts estimate that more than 50 percent of the world's living languages will cease to be spoken by the end of this century, and with them, the ability to confront worldwide environmental challenges will be diminished. The digitization project funded by Arcadia aims to conserve this knowledge, which is currently recorded on materials that are at high risk of degrading.

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## Acquisitions

**Film critic Judith Crist's papers have been** acquired by Columbia University Libraries/Information Services' Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Throughout her career, she wrote reviews for *The New York Herald Tribune*, *New York Magazine*, *TV Guide*, *Saturday Review*, *Gourmet*, and *Ladies' Home Journal*. In 1963, she became the first regular movie critic for the "Today Show." Her reviews were often known to be caustic; film director Otto Preminger referred to her as "Judas Crist." In addition to her work as a film critic and reporter, she taught journalism courses at Columbia and was a long-time member of the Executive Committee of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism Alumni Association. She also served three terms as president of the Alumni Association during the 1960s. The papers constitute 135 linear feet of material, covering her entire career as a writer, critic, exhibitor, and teacher. The collection is the gift of her son, Steven Crist. 

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