

Indiana University (IU)-Bloomington has received a \$25,000 grant from the National Recording Preservation Foundation to preserve rare, original recordings of “The Orson Welles Show.” The live radio series produced by its host and namesake debuted September 15, 1941. Previously, Internet sites and books have stated that only eight of the 19 “Orson Welles Show” broadcasts have survived. An IU-led preservation and digitization project, “Orson Welles on the Air,” will reveal the truth. Original lacquer discs containing 14 of the broadcasts, as well as other supposedly lost recordings, had been secured by IU Libraries’ Lilly Library. Together, the “Orson Welles on the Air” materials represent the most complete original source of audio for Welles’ radio work during the late 1930s and 1940s, with the highest extant sound quality. Along with digitization, the “Orson Welles on the Air” project will include the creation of an interactive website to provide context for the collections. Librarians will build an imaginative online experience, where users will be able to stream audio of the recordings, search Welles’ scripts and access expert commentary. The National Recording Preservation Foundation’s grant will assist digitization experts as they preserve 324 master sound recordings in the form of lacquer discs and about 100 accompanying paper scripts. The script pages show tangible evidence of Welles’ creative process in their dramatic deletions and seemingly last-minute rewrites. Some of the recordings include “Mercury Theater on the Air,” “Campbell Playhouse,” and the most complete known set of “The Doorway to Life.”

Acquisitions

A rare collection of early Mississippi law books have been acquired by the Mississip-

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pi State University (MSU) Libraries. MaxxSouth Broadband—a provider of highspeed Internet, cable TV, and phone services in northern Mississippi—and its owner John Robinson Block donated a rare collection of early Mississippi law books to the MSU Libraries and subsequently pledged an inkind gift valued at \$750,000. The gifts are part of the company’s Community First program, designed to deliver on the company’s mission to give back and support its communities in ways that enhance their quality of life. The collection of 19th-century Mississippi territorial and state session laws were printed between 1801 and 1898. The collection includes the first digest of the laws of the Mississippi territory, published in 1808; state session laws from 1818 to 1859, showing the development of the legal system from a context of early frontier conditions to a highly regulated plantation-dominated society; five Civil War imprints published between 1861 and 1865; and Reconstruction and post-Reconstruction era laws through 1898. MaxxSouth Broadband will also provide advertising and other services to MSU Libraries and to a variety of other programs at the university over a three-year period.

The Scott Stantis Papers, a compilation of political cartoons by the *Chicago Tribune*’s editorial cartoonist, has been acquired by Loyola University Chicago Libraries. The collection is focused on Chicago politics and includes a nod to political themes on a national level. It is comprised of more than 400 works on paper and more than 2,700 electronic drawings that have appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*’s editorial pages and other publications across the United States since 2002. Known for his libertarian, conservative view of government and society, Stantis’s editorial cartoons have been syndicated in more than 400 publications around the world, including *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsweek*, and *TIME*. He received a Sigma Delta Chi Award for Excellence in Journalism in 2012, and his comic strip, “The Buckets,” was included in *The 100 Best Comics of the Century*, a book published in 1995. ♪