Spreading the Word: New Collections at the Atlanta University Center

JESSICA LEMING, AUC WOODRUFF LIBRARY

The Archives Research Center at Atlanta University Center's Robert W. Woodruff Library is pleased to announce the accessibility of fourteen collections of rare materials that document African American religion spanning from the 1880s to the 2000s. These unique collections include correspondence, sermons and speeches, research files, photographs, and audio and video recordings. The collections document theologians and scholars, as well as Christian and Islamic ideologies. They were donated by educators and family that understood the importance of keeping the materials close to the community from where they were generated.

**Atlanta University Center
Robert W. Woodruff Library**

Thanks to a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, entitled [Spreading the Word: Expanding Access to African-American Religious Archival Collections of the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library](#), the Library's Archives Research Center and Digital Services Unit have digitized over 2,700 photographs, cassettes, and reel to reel audio and video formats. Almost 70 percent of these materials have been made available on the Library's institutional repository, [Digital Commons](#). The grant team prioritized these audio and video collections due to the inherent instability of magnetic media and the decreasing availability of playback equipment, a situation archives all over the country are currently facing.¹

The library is fortunate enough to announce the availability of the following collections related to significant African American religious figures, with more becoming available throughout the following year. You can follow the progress of the archives in this project at [our blog](#), or by using [the guide for the project](#). Any questions about the collections can be directed to the archives at archives@aucr.edu.