



Freezer for Preservation of Color Negatives Special Collections/University Archives

Background

In 2007 Special Collections presented a proposal to Gannett, Inc. for transfer of the Courier-Journal photo morgue, comprising several hundred thousand negatives in over 200 linear feet. While existing climate control measures in the Photographic Archives stacks area are ideal for black/white negatives and prints, some of which date to the 1920s, the volatility of color negatives requires freezing, within special packaging, for effective preservation of image quality. Since every Courier-Journal image since 1993 is color, as well as many mid-20th century images, including the tri-color spreads of Food Editor Cissy Craig, 77 linear feet of negatives require zero degree storage.

Project

The purchase and installation of a walk in freezer will preserve the Courier-Journal photo morgue color negatives, as well as smaller groups of color negatives from other significant collections.

Benefits

- Preserve the visual record of the Courier-Journal, a nationally recognized newspaper and Louisville's principal news medium
- Allow the Photographic Archives to seek and accept other significant collections involving color negatives

Cost

The total investment required for this project is \$35,000. This includes \$7,000 for renovation and modification of Ekstrom Library LL24 and adjacent area, as well as the purchase and installation of walk-in freezer for \$28,000.

How to Get Involved

Outright donors, individuals, groups, companies and others may work together to create collaborative support. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Cheryl Crane with the University of Louisville at 502-852-3523 or cheryl.crane@louisville.edu.