

**T**he Great Smoky Mountains region has a rich and inviting history. From the early Cherokee inhabitants to the European explorers and settlers who continued to develop the region, people have left their distinctive mark and cultural legacy on the Great Smoky Mountains.

Home to some of the most rugged mountain terrain east of the Rockies, the Smokies harbor a biosphere unique on our planet. Yet historians, geographers, scientists, economists, sociologists, environmentalists and folklorists seeking research material about the Smokies have in the past found these items scattered and difficult to access.

The Great Smoky Mountains Regional Project (GSMRP) was founded in 1997 to collect and preserve the many books, journal articles, newspaper accounts, photographs, sound recordings, oral histories, and maps on the region and make them available to researchers. Since that time, we have had wonderful success, compiling the definitive bibliography on the region, adding significant and unique materials, and digitizing important collections such as the Pi Beta Phi - Arrowmont archives, and the photographs of Dutch Roth and the Thompson Brothers. Still, much more remains to be done. Fragile documents need to be identified and preserved. More collections need to

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**The Great Smoky Mountains Regional Project**

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be digitized and made available via the Internet. Additional funding would facilitate great opportunities to expand the scope and reach of the Project.

**Great Smoky Mountains Named Collection Endowments .....\$25,000**  
 Collection endowments allow us to cover the cost and expense of acquiring, processing and preserving new collections.

**Student Library Assistant Named Endowments .....\$50,000**  
 Graduate Assistants can help process, catalog, and digitize collections. Two permanently funded student positions would address backlog projects and new collections as they arrive, while providing an outstanding opportunity for aspiring information science students.

**Great Smoky Mountains Regional Project Named Professorship .....\$500,000**  
 Named professorships allow us to attract and retain talented librarians with a commitment to excellence and scholarship. A professorship would allow a librarian the opportunity to focus exclusively on the project, pursuing full-time the acquisition of rare and endangered recordings, photographs, historical documents and manuscripts and the planning of programs and lectures while setting the strategic direction of the Project.

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park Photographic Collection Project .....\$1 million**  
 Digitization of the extensive Great Smoky Mountains National Park photographic collection, currently housed in the basement of Park Headquarters with limited accessibility. This multi-year project will result in the largest, most important collection of digital Smoky Mountains historical materials freely available to the public.

**Center for the Study of the Great Smoky Mountains at the UT Libraries ...\$5 million**  
 The Center would include an endowed chair, dedicated space for research and GSM collections, and a permanent staff to expand the program making it the only one of its kind in the nation.

For more information on the Smokies project, go to: [www.lib.utk.edu/smokies](http://www.lib.utk.edu/smokies).



Photos by Jim Thompson

