

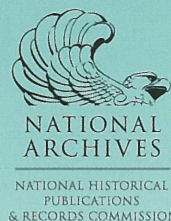
ESSENTIAL LIBRARY

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Using photography equipment at the Kent State Museum, University Libraries' Digital Initiatives and Outreach Librarian Haley Antell stabilizes a piece of art from the May 4 Collection. Museum Registrar Joann Fenn and Curator Sara Hume assisted with the digital capture of the painting.



"Peace: Learn It, Live It, Teach It," created by Candace Bates



University Libraries is a worldwide resource for the Kent State shootings

As Kent State University nears the 50th anniversary of the events and aftermath of the shootings that took place on May 4, 1970, University Libraries' Special Collections and Archives has completed a major digital project that will serve as an essential resource of primary materials on the subject.

Made possible by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), *Kent State Shootings: Actions and Reactions* is the largest digital initiative to date at University Libraries, containing nearly 50,000 pages of materials (approximately 35 cubic feet) from the historical May 4 Collection. The grant team, led by Cara Gilgenbach, head of Special Collections and Archives, and Virginia Dressler, digital projects librarian, worked diligently from September 2016 to August 2018 to accomplish this monumental task.

The materials, now freely accessible from anywhere in the world via internet, present a range of reactions to the events of May 1-4, 1970, which left four students dead and nine students wounded by Ohio Army National Guard troops. Included in the project are faculty collections



Row of National Guard personnel coming down the hill near the Pagoda sculpture.

containing correspondence received from students whose coursework was cut short by the shootings; Kent State administrative records and community reactions, such as those represented in the papers of LeRoy Satrom, mayor of the City of Kent in May 1970; reactions from college students across the country and around the world; and artistic responses to this pivotal moment in United States' history.

The project also encompassed a number of other major objectives, including outreach and promotion, curriculum design, a video tutorial and creation

of research articles and professional presentations. Completion of the grant was a huge effort that cut across departmental, organizational and even institutional lines, encouraging collaboration between Kent State and other universities.

Digitizing the materials facilitates its use by researchers at nearly all educational levels, from junior high students working on National History Day projects, to high school and college students learning about American history, to advanced scholars writing books or creating major documentary films on this subject. This accessibility of the collection will benefit the next generation of scholars, artists and citizens to be able to learn from one of our country's most significant moments, regardless of their location or ability to visit the archives in person.

Visit www.library.kent.edu/special-collections-and-archives/nhprc to view the digitized materials and to learn more about the *Kent State Shootings: Actions and Reactions* project, team members and the NHPRC grant.

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