Women Religious Special Collection  
Avila University


- Initial focus: on books *by, for,* and *about* Women Religious – currently over 2,500 books (1850s-present)

- Purpose: To provide a unique repository for out-of-print and contemporary books, manuscripts, pamphlets, photos and other materials on American Catholic sisters including archives for small religious communities that need a home

Women Religious Special Collection (WRSC)  
Avila University

**CSJ Center for Heritage**
- Materials about Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, founders and now sponsors of Avila University
- Archives of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
- Avila University Archives (1916 – present)

**Current Goals and Future Plans**
- Digitization of materials from the WRSC, U.S. CSJ Federation Archives and Avila University Archives
- Renovation (Spring/Summer 2014) of A.U. Library into Learning Commons complete with archival and heritage space
**Issues and Challenges**

- Policies and Procedures
- Partnerships/Joint Projects
- Hiring of Lay Researchers/Archivists
- Organization, Management, Accessibility, Preservation & Digitization (setting priorities)
- Availability of Resources and Materials
- Utilization & Links to other archives/digital resources

**Organizations & Resources**

Conference on the History of Women Religious
www.chwr.org

Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious
www.archivistacwr.org

Catholic Research Resources Alliance
www.catholicresearch.net