

The logo features the letters 'UT' in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a blue rectangular background. To the right of the 'UT' is a stylized yellow shape resembling a flame or a leaf, with a blue swoosh underneath it. Further to the right, a dark blue vertical bar contains two white vertical bars, resembling a stylized '11' or a building facade.

UT

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## Part of Toledo's information revolution documented

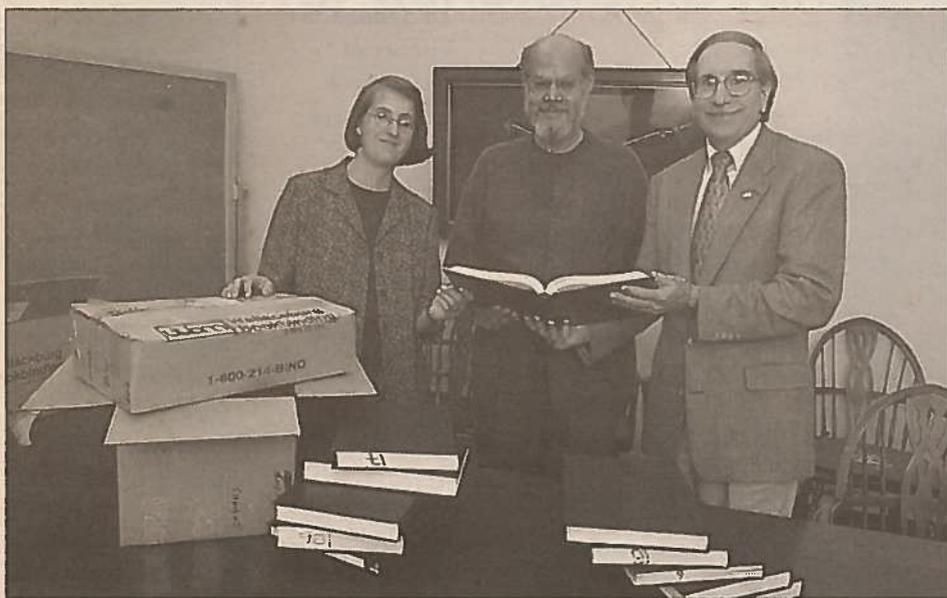


Photo by Bill Hartough

**Historic holdings:** Barbara Floyd, Dr. Abdul Alkalimat, center, and Dr. John Gaboury with some of the 47 volumes that document part of the Glass City's foray into the cyber world.

By Kimyette Finley

The Industrial Revolution changed how the world did business from manual labor and tools to machines. In the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the information revolution transformed socialization in the world. Dr. Abdul Alkalimat, director of UT's Africana Studies Program, is taking steps to ensure that a small part of Toledo's entrance into the information age is documented.

Alkalimat and students in the Africana Studies Program provide educational support to the W.J. Murchison Community Center in central Toledo. According to its Web site, the Murchison Center's mission is to educate and provide community support, with its main tool for change being community-based cyber power, which provides empowerment and organization using computers and the Internet.

Forty-seven volumes of documentation and works from Africana Studies and the Murchison Center were donated to the Ward M. Canaday Center last month.

"After the first year, we put together a volume of our things — a documentation of Africana Studies, proposals, notices of events, etc.," Alkalimat said. Those documents, along with papers detailing the beginnings of a computer-training center at the Murchison Center, are part of the Canaday Center holdings. "If you think about the history of this town being a building, we're adding some bricks," Alkalimat said about the project.

"Just as people study the origin of the Industrial Revolution, they should study the origin of the information revolution — at least from one microscopic view," Alkalimat said. He believes this is the first such archive of primary documentation

from a grass-roots, inner-city organization in the country.

"The information revolution is the process of social transformation based on computers and the Internet," Alkalimat explained. "Social change is taking place on a scale similar to the Industrial Revolution, impacting how people communicate, organize their social life, how organizations are structured, and how science and education are done. This revolution is changing the meaning of time and space, creating a new historical period of globalization — we can connect with each other by audio and video everywhere in the world in real time as well as via the World Wide Web. Already, the tools of information technology dominate the global economy, the organization of libraries and institutions of higher education, and all forms of communication."

Barbara Floyd, director of the Canaday Center and University archivist, said it's not often that an archival repository has holdings such as the ones from Africana Studies and the Murchison Center. "We're always looking to document the history of a community. It's wonderful that a community organization is involved in a cutting-edge subject," she said.

Dr. John Gaboury, dean of University Libraries and professor of library administration, said of the donation, "This is a continuation of our partnership with the Toledo community. It complements President Johnson's community outreach."

UT faculty and administrators are a potential audience for the records that have been catalogued, but the information is available for a wide audience.

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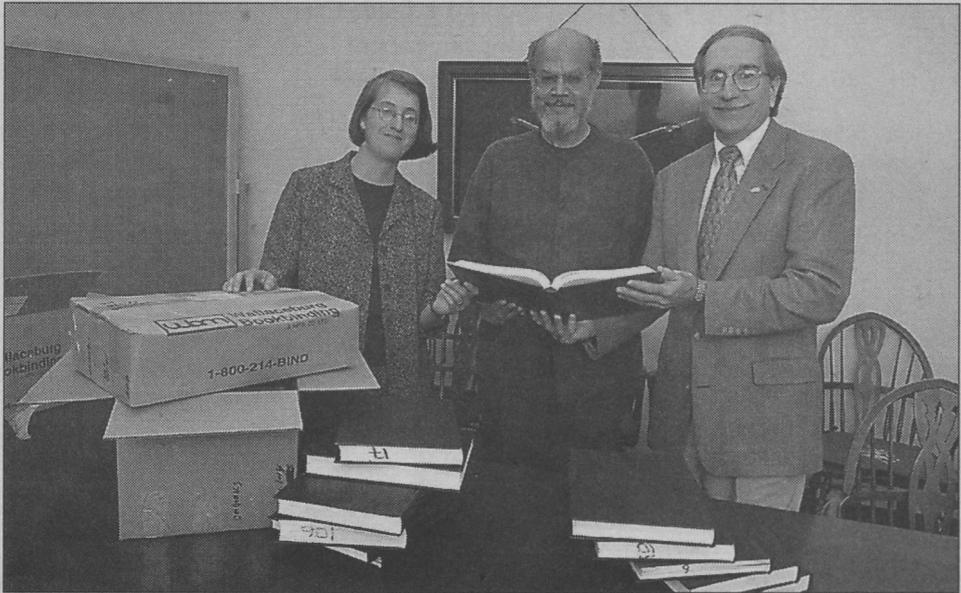


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