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Project: "American Studies Across the Atlantic"  
Professional Development Grant 2009  
Report

The Professional Development Grant I received in summer 2009 for my project, "American Studies Across the Atlantic," a comparison of the development of the discipline of American Studies in the United States and Italy, allowed me to travel to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. I spent three days in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress consulting the archives of the American Association of American Studies (ASA). Specifically, I was interested in the programs of the conferences held by ASA between 1974 and 1995, where 1974 is the year the Italian Association of North American Studies also started holding conferences and 1995 the last year the ASA program is not available on line. I located and consulted the programs from 1974 to 1983 and from 1991 to 1995, but found a gap in the collection from 1985 to 1990. I alerted both the collection curator and ASA about the gap in the holdings, and ASA has sent replacement copies for those years. I am currently waiting for Reproduction Services to send me photocopies of the programs I was not able to consult during my visit. While it was disappointing to find a gap in the ASA archives, I am glad I could have it redressed for future researchers.