Dear,

Greetings. I’d like to ask for your help regarding a project we have begun at the University of Southern Mississippi. Our Archives has developed an important and constantly growing collection of original research materials on the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi. We believe that these civil rights holdings are local resources with a truly national significance. Scholars travel from across the nation and from other parts of the world to use these materials that document one of America’s most far-reaching social movements.

We believe that our library has an opportunity, however, to reach many more historians, teachers, and learners by making some of our most significant collections available on the Internet. The library is engaged in a project called the Civil Rights in Mississippi Digital Archive, which brings together oral histories, photographs, and historical manuscripts into a single, searchable database accessible by a worldwide audience (See http://www.lib.usm.edu/~spcol/crda/).

The USM Libraries seeks permission to include your collection in its digital archive. Allowing us to reach users in this way does not represent a relinquishing of your intellectual property rights to the collection. Instead, it simply gives USM the right to digitize the material and make it available over the web for research and scholarship. Any individual who wishes to publish or profit from publication or use of your materials would be required to secure your permission. Each item in the digital archive will contain a copyright statement to this effect.

I have enclosed a permission form, and would appreciate your signing and returning it in the stamped, self-addressed envelope provided. If you have any
questions or issues to discuss before doing so, or if you would just like to know more about the project, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes, and thank you for your continuing support of our work at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Sincerely,

Enclosures