News from the Midwest

Midwest Archives Conference

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News from the Midwest

Assistant Editors: Alexandra Bisio, University of Oregon, and Alison Stankrauff, Wayne State University. Please submit News from the Midwest items for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio to Alexandra at bisio@uoregon.edu and items from Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to Alison at alison.stankrauff@wayne.edu. Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!

ILLINOIS

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

The records of the children’s literary magazine, Cricket, have been donated to the Special Collections Research Center of Southern Illinois University Carbondale. In all, the Cricket records consist of 100 boxes of archival materials, including editorial files, correspondence, illustrations, literary manuscripts, printed materials, and a complete set of the literary magazine itself. Founded in September 1973 by Marianne Carus, Cricket is an illustrated literary magazine for children published in the United States. The original intent was to create “The New Yorker for children,” and Cricket further inspired a line of literary magazines for children of different ages: Babybug, Ladybug, Spider, and Cicada.

INdiana

Columbus Indiana Architectural Archives

Avenue of the Architects, a new exhibit about Columbus’s Fifth Street, opened at the Cleo Rogers Memorial Library on August 24. CIAA commissioned new work from Hadley Fruits and Adam Reynolds, regional photographers who have long experience shooting Columbus architecture. Their images are paired with Balthazar Korab’s iconic twentieth-century photos of Fifth Street’s modern masterpieces and its historic nineteenth-century buildings. The photographs are displayed on a zinc-plated steel framework designed by Jonathan Nesci who drew inspiration from the grid-patterned ceilings of I. M. Pei’s Cleo Rogers Memorial Library, which in turn reflect the grid on the facade of Eliel Saarinen’s First Christian Church. CIAA’s exhibit, the first to highlight this important design corridor, shares its community’s remarkable design heritage with local residents and visitors to Columbus. The exhibit received funding from Columbus Area Visitors Center, Columbus Museum of Art and Design, and Heritage Fund.

DePauw University Archives and Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity Archives

A joint exhibit by DePauw University Archives and Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity Archives celebrates the 150th anniversary of the admittance of women to the university. Three of the first four women to graduate were members of Theta, and two were founders. Two DePauw students, also Thetas, assisted with the content of an exhibit that looks at the first four as well as what it was like to be a female student in the late 1860s and early 1870s. The exhibit will run through the end of December 2017. Visit a virtual version at heritage.kappaalphatheta.org/page/firstwomenatdepauw.

Elkhart County Historical Museum

The Elkhart County Historical Museum’s project archivist, Amy Christiansen, completed a 12-month contract job in September to inventory the library, process the archival collections, and assist in reference services. Through a Heritage Support Grant offered by the Indiana Historical Society, Christiansen processed the contents of the manuscript collections to increase accessibility via online finding aids. The entire library collection of 1,789 volumes has now been inventoried and made searchable via the Elkhart Public Library’s online catalog. 127 individual manuscript collections and 142 small manuscript collections have been arranged and described. Finding aids for the manuscript collections are available on the ECHM’s website. Christiansen has since been hired part
time as research archivist helping with research requests and is also working part time to process the Ted Drake Collection and create a temporary traveling exhibit funded by a grant through the Community Foundation of Elkhart County.

**Indiana Archives and Records Administration**

A new online catalog connects researchers to the millions of records housed within the collections of the Indiana Archives. The *Research Indiana Catalog* simplifies the process of searching the archives’ collection by providing listings of more than a quarter of a million holdings. Some of these commonly sought-after materials include Indiana military, immigration, institutional, and vital records. Like many historical institutions, the Indiana Archives faced the challenge of making historical and governmental information more accessible while preserving fragile and irreplaceable materials. *Research Indiana Catalog* is the culmination of a three-and-a-half-year project to organize, preserve, and make available the archives’ extensive collections. For the first time, archives staff, researchers, and the public are now able to view the catalog from anywhere via any device. To explore the *Research Indiana Catalog*, visit www.ResearchIndiana.iara.in.gov.

**Indiana University Bloomington and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma**

The Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma (ESTO) through a partnership with the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology of Indiana University (GBL) was awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant to create a digital library of Shawnee collections and resources to promote overall materials access. The GBL staff will digitize 15 linear feet of the Shawnee Tribal History Document Series in the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley Ethnohistory Collection. Members of ESTO will travel to Bloomington for a weeklong training session, and then GBL staff will conduct community workshops in Oklahoma to provide hands-on learning experiences with technology and newly acquired historical documentation. The GBL is incredibly excited to continue this partnership and create more access to its archives!

**Society of Indiana Archivists**

In August, the Society of Indiana Archivists (SIA) issued a call for a social media coordinator, envisioning a singular role. Ultimately, the board decided to develop a communications committee consisting of members working with archival collections at academic, state, religious, museum, and public library institutions. In the few months since its debut, the committee developed an active social media presence and created SIA newsletter content. This work is guided by a board-developed 2016 social media policy and best practices discussion. With a new Twitter account and revitalized Facebook page, the committee works to engage members and promote the accomplishments of individuals and institutions in Indiana. Highlights include national recognition from participation in NARA’s monthly #ArchivesHashtagParty; team members taking shifts and answering a multitude of questions on SAA’s 10/4 #AskAnArchivistDay; SIA’s Facebook page audience has grown to almost 800 likes; promotion of annual SIA Fall Workshop with Christopher Prom across platforms and recapped with Storify. Join the conversation @INarchivist or at www.facebook.com/INarchivist.

**Vanderburgh County Clerk’s Archives and Old Courthouse Foundation**

As part of Evansville’s commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the United States entering World War I, the Old Courthouse Foundation partnered with the Vanderburgh County Clerk’s Archives to present *Night at the Old Courthouse* on November 3, 2017. This year’s historical exhibit featured stories of Evansville during the war period. Thousands of men came to the Old Courthouse to meet with their draft board and undergo their initial physical examinations by local nurses in the free clinic located in the basement. Evansville would go on to contribute at least 48 nurses to the war before it ended, with many of those women serving in hospitals just behind the front lines. Additional displays featured the story of fallen soldier Sgt. Frederick G. Myler and displayed the war letters, pictures, and wartime souvenirs of Evansville’s fighting men and women.
Riley Hospital Historic Preservation Committee

The Riley Hospital Historic Preservation Committee (RHPC) recently completed its fifth book relating to the history of Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health in Indianapolis. Leading up to the hospital’s centennial in 2024, the RHPC is dedicating efforts annually to developing small books that introduce readers to people key to the hospital’s beginning and growth. The fifth book produced by the RHPC is *A Giving Heart: A Tribute to Jessie Spalding Landon—The First “Woman for Riley.”* Jessie Spalding Landon was the first woman philanthropist for the hospital and, as such, was the first “Woman for Riley.” Landon is recognized for her contributions to the hospital in a tribute etched into the stone wall of the original entrance to the hospital. The book helps to introduce people today to who she was and what she did as a leader and philanthropist, setting an example for other women to follow.

IOWA

The Iowa State University

The Iowa State University (ISU) Library is pleased to announce a new digital exhibition "A More Beautiful Iowa": Iowa’s State Parks System, which serves as a companion to the Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of Iowa’s state parks bill and highlighting ISU’s contributions to the establishment of the parks and the early years of the system’s existence. The digital exhibition extends the focus beyond ISU and includes additional information on the parks system as a whole, the people behind the park names, and a broader history of the parks’ design, construction, and the land they preserve. A robust bibliography, interactive features, and a story map illustrating the beauty of Iowa’s state parks are also included. Contact digital@iastate.edu for more information about this digital exhibition. SCUA’s next exhibition, “Doing their bit: Iowa’s Role in the Great War, opens January 17, 2018.

University of Northern Iowa

In October 2017, University of Northern Iowa’s Rod Library partnered with the Alumni Association to harness some homecoming energy and capture alumni and student stories for a new initiative: Panther Pride: Stories of the Past and Present. Through this collaborative project, Panthers recorded short oral history videos capturing memories of campus history and traditions, which will be added to Special Collections and University Archives and will enhance the historic record with real voices. This story-gathering event was scheduled in the library during a reception honoring the Golden Graduates class of 1967, and alumni and current students could step into a recording booth to share their oral histories. A variety of other materials from University Archives, such as yearbooks and student newspapers from years past, were displayed during the festivities for attendees to enjoy and reminisce over. These short oral histories will be made available online through the university’s digital repository, ScholarWorks.

KENTUCKY

Eastern Kentucky University Special Collections and Archives

Eastern Kentucky University Special Collections and Archives has kicked off a project to raise funds to digitize the football film collection consisting of over 800 films covering the years 1938 to 1988. Contact information for football team members was acquired from the Alumni Relations office, and a solicitation letter from long-time coach Roy Kidd was mailed to all players. Individuals who donated a minimum of $400 received a game of their choice on DVD. Donations to date have allowed SCA to digitize 92 films. Additionally, EKU has been designated as the repository for the records of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). The collection consists of publications (including ethics and standards materials), conference materials, and
MICHIGAN

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

The Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections recently joined the Social Sciences Department at Michigan Tech and the Keweenaw National Historical Park (KNHP) to celebrate two special milestones. 2017 marks the 25th anniversary of both Michigan Tech’s Industrial Heritage and Archaeology program and the Keweenaw National Historical Park. The joint festivities included a symposium on industrial and cultural heritage in Michigan’s Copper Country. Events included panels, keynotes, historical tours, discussion circles, and breakout sessions. The day-long panel discussions took place at the historic Calumet Theatre in Calumet, Michigan, where speakers from all over the country converged to discuss the founding of the KNHP, heritage tourism, and the vision for the future of these organizations. The planning committee included staff from both Michigan Tech and the Keweenaw National Historical Park.

MISSOURI

Association of St. Louis Area Archivists

The Association of St. Louis Area Archivists gathered together 19 new and seasoned professionals to survey the 250-plus container collection of the Missouri Aviation Historical Society on October 21. The all-day volunteer event was the inaugural project undertaking archival community service projects in the St. Louis region. The goals are to provide archival and records structure assistance to small nonprofit archives and to build work experience for students and new professionals. ASLAA is looking forward to the next project!

Fontbonne University Archives

The Fontbonne University Archives received a grant from the Fontbonne Community Connection (FCC) this past summer to digitize its archival collection of 42 VHS tapes. These videos contain footage of historical Fontbonne events, such as convocation ceremonies, award dinners, and guest speakers. The FCC is a women’s giving circle that funds projects proposed by Fontbonne University staff, faculty, and students that would ordinarily be outside the scope of the current year’s budget.

Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis

Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis is a digital atlas of the region’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer history from 1945 to 1992. The site combines archival documents with GIS data to examine the relationship between metropolitan space and sexual segregation, as well as how LGBTQ St. Louis was divided by race, gender identity and expression, experiences of policing and violence, and socioeconomics. Browse and explore more than 800 locations on the map, or follow several guided thematic tours. Details on the research process, technology, and methods are published on the site, along with open access to the GIS data. The project is a collaboration among the St. Louis LGBT History Project, the State Historical Society of Missouri (St. Louis), the Missouri History Museum, and Washington University Libraries (Department of Special Collections). Financial support is provided by the...
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Alexandra Bisio and Alison Stankrauff, Assistant Editors

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Mellon Foundation, through the WUSTL Center for the Humanities. Find project updates at twitter.com/MappingLGBTQstl.

NEBRASKA
Nebraska State Historical Society
NSHS Archives staff completed a project to digitize, describe and provide access to over 260 interviews by Nebraska Broadcast Hall of Fame member Leta Powell Drake. The interviews date from 1978 through 1987 and include television and film artists and sports figures. Originally broadcast on Lincoln television station KOLN, the interviews are now available through NSHS’s web-based collections search and on YouTube.

SOUTH DAKOTA
The Melinda Camber Porter Archive of Creative Works

OHIO
Franklin County Children Services
The 2017 OHRAB Achievement Award has been awarded to Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) for exemplary preservation of historic records on child welfare in Franklin County. The organization hired an archivist, located and identified the records onsite and offsite of historical value, inventoried and cataloged a large volume of material, and used the materials in displays, all while taking steps to transfer them to archivally sound storage, digitizing them, and other activities. FCCS is commended for this self-initiated project completed for the sole purpose of preserving history while balancing the significant issues of confidentiality and privacy.

WISCONSIN
La Crosse Public Library Archives
The La Crosse Public Library Archives was one of several libraries highlighted in an article about historical tours called “Walking History: Library-Led Sightseeing Tours Bring Local Stories to Life” that appeared in the September/October 2017 issue of American Libraries: The Magazine of the American Library Association.

Park University
Public history students and a faculty member in the Program of History designed and installed an exhibit titled I Was Declared a Stranger in My Own Land and You Took Me In commemorating the 75th anniversary of President Franklin Roosevelt issuing Executive Order 9066 and Park University enrolling nine Nisei students in August 1942. The exhibition incorporated public, student, and alumni sentiment in opposition and support to the enrollment, including a letter from First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. The students and faculty member utilized a small segment of the over 1,300 original artifacts contained in the Frances Fishburn Archives and Special Collections housed at Park University.