OMAMAC 2017 Wrap-Up

Cheri Thies and Mark Greene were presented the Emeritus Membership Award for their years of service to MAC and contributions to the wider archival community.

Nebraska weather, noted for its determined and immediate changes, certainly gave us beautiful sunny days for OMAMAC 2017, the Annual Meeting held April 5–8 in Omaha, Nebraska. Blue skies covered the downtown Hilton, just a bit to the north of the Old Market, in an area of the city that increasingly offers new places to visit. Some of our MAC members even had a chance to be in two states at once if they visited the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge over the Missouri River!

And the programs shone too. Through the Society of American Archivists, MAC offered the “Cultural Diversity Competency” one-day workshop instructed by Helen Wong Smith. She focused on developing and engaging in learning experiences and opportunities to better understand individuals with diverse backgrounds, beliefs, behaviors, cultures, and values. MAC members attended the workshop free, as an opportunity to both learn and to assist in further development of this program. “Teaching with Primary Resources” provided information on how best to engage all levels of students and archival patrons with collections and repositories. Text mining and text-mining tools were the focus of “Getting Started with Text Mining Archival Collections,” along with how archivists and researchers can use them for collection access. Hands-on work made the “Exhibit Support Basics: Solutions for Small Institutions and Small Budgets” a very

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Dear MAC Members,

Our Annual Meeting this year in Omaha was fabulous and energizing. The sessions were thoughtful and well planned, and our breaks and reception were fun and engaging. Thank you to the Local Arrangements Committee cochairs Mary Ellen Ducey and Amy Schindler, Program Committee cochairs Sasha Griffin and Harrison Inefuku, and their tireless committee members for planning such an excellent meeting.

I would like to thank the members of Council I have worked with during my term as president, David McCartney, Erik Moore, Michael Doylen, Joel Thoreson, Mary Ellen Ducey, Anne Thomason, Jennie Thomas, Michelle Sweetser, Harrison Inefuku, and Anke Voss. MAC is a much richer organization because of your thoughtful insights, and I could not have done my job without you. I would also like to welcome new Council members Alexis Braun Marks and Lisa Sjoberg, who bring years of knowledge from their previous leadership experiences.

Thank you also to our outgoing ex officio Council members and committee chairs: Carol Street (development coordinator), Lisa Sjoberg (Education Committee cochair), Cheri Thies (Emeritus Scholarship chair), Alexis Braun Marks (Membership Committee chair), Paul Eisloeffel (Newsletter editor), Mary Ellen Ducey (Nominating Committee chair), Tanya Zanish-Belcher (President’s Award Committee chair), and Miriam Kahn (vendor coordinator). I greatly appreciate your hard work and commitment to the organization.

And, a big welcome to our new ex officio Council members and committee chairs. We are looking forward to your continuing contributions to MAC: Becca Smith (development coordinator), Amy Bishop (Education Committee cochair), Emily Gainer (Emeritus Scholarship chair), Matthew Gorzalski (Membership Committee chair), Eric Willey (Newsletter editor), Anne Thomason (Nominating Committee chair), Ellen Swain (President’s Award Committee chair), and Katie Blank (vendor coordinator).

And now, I would like to share my “State of MAC” address, given at the Members’ Meeting on April 7, 2017.

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OMAMAC 2017 Wrap-Up
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colorful workshop, showcasing tips, tools, and resources for creating exhibits.

Tours included a trip to the Joslyn Art Museum. The museum holds internationally known works of art relating to the American West, showcased in the exhibition *Wild Spaces Open Season*, as well as other genres exhibited in galleries of the museum’s European and American collections. We went behind the scenes to observe museum activities that make archives and museums similar and also slightly different as cultural heritage institutions. The tour to Boys Town included a visit to the Hall of History, which promotes and celebrates the legacy of Father Flanagan and the home he created, now open to all children, no matter their race, religion, or gender. The open house at the Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library’s Rare Book Room at Creighton University allowed us to browse through highlights of that collection. A walking tour through the Old Market Historic District, surrounded by industrial and warehouse buildings, revealed how the area has been made a showcase for downtown Omaha. An extra stop for ice cream sweetened the tour. The restaurant tours provided opportunities to see a bit more of downtown and to participate in the First Friday event that takes place every month to celebrate local creativity in Omaha’s historic neighborhood. We were also able to take in a Creighton University Bluejays baseball game and, of course, experience some of the best steaks Nebraska has to offer!

We were very happy to commemorate Nebraska’s sesquicentennial with a tasty birthday cake at the MAC opening reception on Thursday night. The event was held in the glass house at the KANEKO, a renowned gallery created by artists Jen and Ree Kaneko in 1998 and located in three refurbished warehouses in the Old Market. We celebrated surrounded by *Passion and Obsession: From the Collection*, an exhibit associated with the programming themes of the KANEKO: design, ideas, performance, and innovation. The KANEKO curators assisted greatly in the success of the reception by locating it in the heart of the artwork. If the wealth of conversations, smiles, and enthusiasm evident that evening was any indication, the venue was truly inspiring! We were treated to Reuben sandwiches made by a local restaurant, and we were able to taste locally brewed root beer and craft beer, as well as local wine.

The MAC Pals reception, coordinated by Natalie Morath, offered a chance for new MAC members to meet and talk with long-timers. The poster sessions, which were open to all archivists, allowed all MAC members to promote activities at their repositories. These specific sessions, along with Friday Forums, really enhanced one-on-one interaction between archivists.

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The MAC Members Meeting included a very special event this year following the “State of MAC” address given by outgoing MAC president Jennifer Johnson. Long-term MAC members Cheri Thies and Mark Greene received the MAC Emeritus Award. They both took the stage and generously shared memories of their experiences—educational, fun, and extraordinary!

As with every MAC event, we learned more about our colleagues, our work and its challenges, and how to navigate the inner workings of a meeting at a new location. Thanks are due to the Local Arrangements, Program, and Education Committees, who did their best to keep things running and facilitate a great meeting experience. Thanks also to our generous sponsors: Bellevue University Freeman/Lozier Library, Creighton University Libraries, Crowley Company, Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, International Quilt Study Center and Museum, Museum of Nebraska Art, University Information Services, University of Nebraska–Lincoln Libraries, University of Nebraska at Omaha Libraries, and University of Nebraska Medical Center McGoogan Library.

If you missed out on a session, be sure to visit “MAC Forums” on MAC’s website to find presentations and resources from the meeting. Highlights of the meeting can also be found on Twitter and Facebook.
MAC NEWS—Continued
Mary Wallace, Assistant Editor

President’s Page
(Continued from page 2)

State of MAC

These past two years, it has been an honor to serve you, the membership, as MAC president. What I have come to appreciate about MAC is our willingness to tackle change. We repeatedly learn from the previous year and try to improve for the next. There is a willingness to try new things and there is energy around this continuous improvement.

You may recall last year we ran into a problem with our election and membership system, allowing members who had not renewed to vote in MAC elections. Thanks to the work of the Election Review Committee, led by Secretary Michael Doylen, a number of changes were implemented for this year’s election. We made procedural improvements. We established a renewal deadline: if you have not renewed by the end of January, you are not eligible to vote in elections. And, we shortened the election timeframe. After discovering that members vote on the day or day after they receive an e-mail reminder about the election, we implemented a reminder schedule. This proved to be true this year as well and even with a shortened election period, about the same number of members voted in this year’s election: 198 individual votes were cast, that’s 31 percent of individual members. Your votes really do influence who the next leaders of MAC will be.

This year, Michael Doylen and Abigail Nye at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (UWM), the home of the MAC archives, formulated a records retention policy for MAC records. This was approved by Council at our meeting yesterday morning. As records keepers, we now have official guidelines for documenting the work of managing MAC. The policy provides a framework for ensuring the preservation and accessibility of core documentation of the work of the organization. And, it communicates to MAC leaders and members how records of enduring value will be collected and maintained by the UWM Archives. Thank you Michael and Abbi for your work on this effort.

As Joel Thoreson noted in his treasurer’s report, not only do we have an expected deficit this year, but he has uttered the dreaded words, “dues increase.” Cost planning is a part of the current strategic plan for a number of reasons, including noted increases in the amount we pay hotels for meetings. AV costs always need a stiff negotiation, and food and beverage costs continue to go up. I would love to ask you to eat less, but I cannot because we have food and beverage minimums to meet, so please, keep eating. For two years in a row we have not met room blocks with our symposia and have had to pay the hotels. And, the realization that while a dues increase may in fact be necessary, we can only ask members to increase the amount they pay to be a member of MAC by only so many dollars, and only so many times. Council will be thinking long-term about how to manage dues increases, meeting registration rates, and fund-raising, but also membership. A large part of our budget depends on membership renewals, and individual memberships have fallen to 637 people, when four years ago we were at an all-time high of 732 individual members. While this year’s budget is not based on the membership numbers of four years ago, the loss of a hundred members does affect the financial stability of the organization. Council will be balancing how to keep MAC cost-effective for members while improving our budget.

In addition to budget discussions, which will take place in the fall, Council will be looking at the symposia. MAC has offered Fall Symposia in place of a fall meeting for 10 years. The symposia offer excellent opportunities for smaller groups to come together to learn and investigate topics more thoroughly. Yet, in the area of expenses there has been some scope creep, to the point where, administratively and financially speaking, aspects of the symposia require planning similar to that of our spring meetings. Vice President Erik Moore will be leading a Symposia Task Force to review and evaluate all aspects of MAC symposia to make recommendations about their future organization and structure. To determine how to keep the symposia cost-effective for the organization and members, as well as educationally beneficial, the committee will make recommendations for improving and continuing them.

Last year, our plenary speaker, Dennis Meissner, spoke about “Diversity, Inclusion, Value, and Engagement.” This year, 50 of us were fortunate enough to attend the “Cultural Diversity Competency” workshop instructed by Helen Wong Smith the Wednesday before the Annual Meeting. We were challenged to learn new skills for interacting and engaging people of different backgrounds, assumptions, beliefs, values, and behaviors. MAC will be exploring how to best serve the diverse range of archivists in our region. We can’t continue to rely on the Archie Motley Scholarship to be our most public contribution.

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to diversifying the profession. Does our organization reflect the communities that we serve, and if it does not, what can we do to better reflect our communities? How do we improve the pipeline into the profession and into leadership positions? We provide the option to include preferred pronouns on our name badges, now how do we encourage people to use them? We will be looking to you, our members, to guide how best to help our organization better reflect our region and respond to member needs. We need you to engage in discussion about these issues.

To better understand who are our members, we will be conducting a MAC census this spring. Thank you to Daardi Sizemore and Alexis Braun Marks for your hard work on developing the survey. Expect to see announcements in your e-mail about the member census shortly after you return home from Omaha. Questions will focus on demographic information, but also seek to understand professional engagement, barriers members face in seeking employment and professional development, and the member benefits that you value most. Before we begin campaigning for new members, and as we seek to understand how to be a more inclusive organization, we want to better understand who we are. Your assistance in completing the census will be greatly appreciated.

In closing, it has been a pleasure and an honor to serve you these past two years. It has been a learning experience, and I am grateful for the thoughtful conversations I have had in Council and with committee chairs, and, most important, with members. I am continually impressed with the time and energy you voluntarily invest in our organization, and I go away inspired and energized after simply spending time with you. I am proud to have contributed to a small part of MAC’s 45-year history and to MAC’s continued success for the next 45 years.

Thank you,
The following minutes are presented in draft form for informational purposes only.

President Jennifer Johnson called the regular meeting of the Council of the Midwest Archives Conference to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 6, 2017, at the Hilton Omaha in Omaha, Nebraska.

Council members present: Alexis Braun Marks, Michael Doylen, Paul Eisloeffel, Harrison Inefuku, Jennifer Johnson, Erik Moore, Michelle Sweetser, Jennie Thomas, Anne Thomason, Joel Thoreson, Anke Voss, and Nat Wilson. A quorum was present.

Guests present: Mary Ellen Ducey, David McCartney, Amy Schindler, and Lisa Sjoberg

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Council unanimously passed the motion with all members voting.

Vice President’s Report

Mary Ellen Ducey and Amy Schindler, LAC cochairs of the 2017 Annual Meeting (Omaha), joined Council and presented their report. They reviewed AV expenses, issues with the online registration form, the budget, and low attendance at MAC workshops. The conference met its goals for registrations and the hotel block. Council debated a range of options to address escalating AV costs, including purchasing some equipment that would travel from meeting to meeting (such as projectors and extension cords), pursuing annual sponsorships by national organizations or companies, and simply building these expenses into the Annual Meeting registration rates. No decision was reached.

Harrison Inefuku, Program Committee cochair of the 2017 Annual Meeting, presented his report. The PC developed themes around diversity/inclusion, instruction and assessment, and outreach. He noted that some individuals will present at multiple sessions during the Annual Meeting. MAC has no policy or statement prohibiting this, although he noted that past PCs have tried to avoid it. He suggested including this recommendation on calls for session proposals and speaker agreement forms. The PC opened the call for posters to everyone and accepted all submissions, but made no awards. The PC also developed a single online evaluation form for the meeting.

Council discussed issues with the online registration form. Remedies include use of a project tracking tool to coordinate communication and activities; tasking one of the LAC cochairs with responsibility for the online form; tasking one person at AMC to create and update the form; and clarifying Annual Meeting guidelines for the PC and LAC.

Gregory Brooks and Debra Nolan of AMC joined the meeting, and Council invited them to speak to the issue of web forms. AMC requests four weeks lead time to respond to requests for form creation or revision. Regarding membership, Brooks discussed a slight decline in membership renewals and offered to help MAC develop approaches to retaining members. Regarding the website, he noted that Memberclicks now offers a responsive design option, and he offered to assist with website redesign. Johnson asked incoming secretary Thomas to arrange a teleconference between the MAC Executive Committee and AMC during the summer.

Moore presented the report of the 2017 Fall Symposium Organizing Committee (Columbus). The hotel will provide 20 room nights from October 12 to 13 at $139/night. The symposium will be held at The Ohio State University Libraries, which is waiving fees for AV and room rental. It was moved and seconded to set registration rates for the 2017 Fall Symposium at $150 for members, $175 for nonmembers, and $75 for students. Council unanimously passed the motion with all members voting.

Moore presented the report of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2018 Annual Meeting (Chicago). He noted that the budget as presented omits expenses for AV (estimated at $15,000) and food/beverage taxes and service fees (estimated at $7,000). When these costs are included, total estimated expenses would be $56,600. Council directed the LAC to set a more ambitious fundraising goal of $8,000 to $10,000 and to propose more realistic registration rates. Membership registration rates should reflect a significant membership benefit; nonmember rates should incentivize individuals to consider becoming members; and student rates should be held as low as possible, although a modest increase would not be out of the question. Moore will work with the LAC to...

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revisit registration rates based on the above considerations. Council declined to approve costs for transportation and the reception site separate from the overall budget. Council deferred voting on the proposed rate for reception guests. It was moved and seconded to appoint Daria Labinsky and Eira Tansey as Program Committee co-chairs for the 2018 Annual Meeting. Council unanimously passed the motion with all members voting.

Moore presented a proposal for the 2018 Fall Symposium to be led by Amy Chen, special collections instruction librarian at the University of Iowa, on the topic of archives instruction. He will re-introduce the proposal for a vote in the near future, after some planning details are worked out.

Moore reported that Detroit is a possible site for the 2019 Annual Meeting.

It was moved and seconded to approve the roster of the Symposium Review Committee: Erik Moore, chair; Menzi Behrnd-Klodt, Nick Pavlik; Joshua Ranger; Becky Schulte; Joel Thoreson; and Anke Voss. Council unanimously passed the motion with all members voting.

It was moved and seconded to approve Matthew Gorzalski as Membership Committee chair, 2017–2019. Council unanimously passed the motion with all members voting.

It was moved and seconded to approve Anne Thomason as Nominating Committee chair, 2017–2018. Council unanimously passed the motion with all members voting.

It was moved and seconded to approve Ellen Swain as Presidents’ Award Committee chair, 2017–2019. Council unanimously passed the motion with all members voting.

It was moved and seconded to approve Katie Blank as vendor coordinator, 2017–2019. Council unanimously passed the motion with all members voting.

Johnson introduced proposed changes to the President’s Manual. It was moved and seconded to approve the changes as presented. Council passed the motion with eight members voting yes and one abstention. The secretary will finalize the changes to the manual.

Johnson introduced proposed changes to the Nominating Committee’s Manual. Council discussed proposed changes to the language regarding Council vacancies. It was moved and seconded to approve the proposed changes as amended. Council passed the motion with all members voting. The secretary will finalize the changes to the manual.

Johnson noted that MAC recently received a solicitation from the Society of Ohio Archivists to support its annual meeting. Council declined to provide funds, but the request raises the issue of how MAC would respond to similar requests in the future. Council agreed to consider such requests on a case-by-case basis and suggested promoting our services (e.g., Speakers Bureau).

Johnson reported on updates to the strategic plan. The MAC census is on track. The records retention schedule will receive a vote later today. She volunteered to serve on a governance housekeeping task force. She asked Inefuku, as new publications coordinator, to review the author agreement for *Archival Issues*. Council agreed to table discussion about establishing an advocacy task force. Incoming president McCartney indicated his interest in working with Council to issue statements in response to public policy discussions that relate to the archives profession. Council discussed progress on inclusion and diversity goals, such as integrating these goals into 2018 Annual Meeting planning (Friday session, session proposals, tours, outreach to community organizations), enhancing the
MAC census to include diversity/inclusion information, improving the pipeline for new leaders, and using inclusive language in MAC documentation.

Johnson introduced proposed changes to the Officers’ Manual. *It was moved and seconded to accept changes as presented.* Council unanimously passed the motion with all members voting. The secretary will finalize changes to the manual.

**Secretary’s Report**

Doylen presented his report on the 2017 annual election, which was the first election to implement changes proposed by the Election Review Task Force. He also led a discussion about use of Google Drive to organize access to leader manuals. Finally, he presented a revised version of the records management schedule for discussion. *It was moved and seconded to accept the schedule as presented.* Council unanimously passed the motion with all members voting.

Doylen will move the records schedule to Google Drive so that leaders will have continued access and notify the MAC archivist that it has been approved. He recommended that either the president or the secretary encourage new leaders to review the Officers’ Manual, which now includes information about both Google Drive and MAC’s records management policies, at the start of their terms.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Thoreson presented his report. Overall, MAC ended its fiscal year with a surplus of $1,398. Details are included in the treasurer’s report.

The 2017 budget projects a $10,888 deficit. Details are included in the treasurer’s report. Thoreson recommends that Council consider a membership dues increase in the near future.

**Publications**

Johnson presented the report of the *Archival Issues* Editorial Board. Council accepted the report as submitted.

Paul Eisloffel, the *Newsletter* editor, presented his report. He also proposed changes to the *Newsletter* Editor’s Manual, which include a recommendation to reduce the terms of assistant editors from three to two years. *It was moved and seconded to accept the changes as presented.* Council unanimously passed the motion with all members voting. The secretary will finalize the revisions.

Council accepted reports of the Nominating Committee chair, the public information officer, the Bowen Committee chair, and the development coordinator as presented by Johnson.

Lisa Sjoberg presented the report of the Education Committee. Council discussed low registration for MAC workshops at this year’s Annual Meeting. Council noted that registration varies annually, but affirmed its intent that workshops should at least be cost neutral. Council requested that the MAC census include a question or questions to help it understand what members want from workshops. Council also suggested offering fewer workshop options at Annual Meetings.

Council accepted the report of the First-Time MAC Meeting Attendees Committee as presented by Johnson.

Braun Marks presented the report of the Membership Committee. She provided an update on the census and proposed a launch date in late April or early May (latest). She also reported on MAC Pals, which is reaching the end of its three-year pilot (2015–2017). The MAC Pals Subcommittee of the Membership Committee recommends that the MAC Pals coordinator serve on the LAC as ex officio to improve communication and coordination. *It was moved and seconded to accept the recommendation and task the vice president with updating the LAC Manual accordingly.* Braun Marks amended the motion to include approval of related revisions to the Membership Committee Manual. Council unanimously passed the motion with all members voting.

Braun Marks also noted a decline in membership renewals. Although the decline is slightly offset by new members, it is worth considering how the Membership Committee might improve both retention of existing members and recruitment of new members. Doylen suggested that future Membership Committee reports include data about renewals and drops to help Council monitor trends.

Council accepted reports of the Morley Committee chair and the vendor coordinator as presented by Johnson.

Webmaster Nat Wilson presented his report. He noted an increase in mobile traffic (23 percent) and proposed the formation of a task force to update the website in a mobile-friendly way.

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“From Good to Great Exhibits” October 13–14, 2017
The Ohio State University Libraries

Does your organization create exhibits to connect archival collections with your community? Are you looking for insights, tips, and tricks for improving the impact of your exhibits? Join us in Columbus to learn how to go from good to GREAT exhibits!

The Ohio State University Libraries is pleased to host the MAC Fall Symposium at its William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library and Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum. During the symposium, we will share methods for creating captivating stories, devising engagement strategies, and leveraging exhibits for development work.

Bring examples of your own work with exhibits and plans for future initiatives to share in hands-on exercises. Through sessions, discussion, observation, and group work, you will gain insights, test best practices, and come away with solutions that you can apply directly to your archives’ exhibits.

Registration for the symposium will be $150 for members, $175 for nonmembers, and $75 for students. Rooms have been arranged for $139 at the Springhill Suites at 1421 Olentangy River Road. You will be provided with parking passes to park on campus, or you can take a shuttle from the hotel to the libraries.

Registration and a detailed schedule will be available on the MAC website in July. For more information, please contact Tamar Chute (chute.6@osu.edu).

Minutes of the Council Meeting
(Continued from page 9)

Johnson presented the report of the Presidents’ Award Committee. She noted that the awardees are unable to attend, but the state representative who nominated them will accept the award on their behalf at the Business Meeting. Council agreed to cover expenses for an award winners’ luncheon at future Annual Meetings; Moore noted this expense would be covered by food and beverage minimums. Council declined to vote on proposed revisions to the committee’s manual; the chair will be asked to make proposed changes directly in Google Docs for Council to review.

Johnson reminded new Council members to meet briefly following the Members’ Meeting.

Johnson acknowledged outgoing and transitioning Council members and thanked them for their service.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved and seconded to adjourn. Council unanimously approved the motion with all members voting. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Michael Doylen
Secretary
The following minutes are presented in draft form for informational purposes only. Membership will vote to approve this draft at the 2018 Members’ Meeting.

President Jennifer Johnson called the Annual Members’ Meeting of the Midwest Archives Conference to order at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, April 7, 2017, at the Hilton Omaha in Omaha, Nebraska.

A quorum was present.

The agenda was approved as presented. Minutes of the April 29, 2016, Annual Members’ Meeting were approved as presented.

Presentation of 2017 Awards

On behalf of the Presidents’ Award Committee, Tanya Zanish-Belcher presented the award to Susan Mulheron and Joseph Kueppers, chancellors of the Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

On behalf of the Emeritus Membership Award Committee, Alexis Braun Marks presented the award to Cheri Thies, and Colleen McFarland Rademaker presented the award to Mark Greene.

On behalf of the Emeritus Scholarship for First-Time MAC Meeting Attendees, Cheri Thies presented the award to Hannah Weber.

On behalf of the Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship for Minority Students, Lara Friedman-Shedlov presented awards to Chido Muchemwa and Jessica Tai.

On behalf of the Louisa Bowen Memorial Graduate Scholarship, Shaun Hayes presented the award to Tre shani Perera.

Other Acknowledgments and Recognitions

President Johnson thanked the 2017 Program and Local Arrangement Committees, as well as outgoing committee chairs, and voting and ex officio members of Council. She welcomed new members of Council and committee chairs.

On behalf of the governor of Nebraska, Paul Eisloeffel bestowed on President Johnson the honorary title of Nebraska Admiral, Nebraska’s highest honor.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Joel Thoreson provided a detailed report on MAC’s financial status. He noted that MAC ended its 2016 fiscal year with a general fund budget deficit of $11,666.59. However, with the growth of invested funds, the bottom line showed a growth of $1,398.38.

The 2017 general fund budget projects a deficit of $10,888. However, Thoreson noted that much depends on membership renewals at the end of the year. He indicated that Council may consider presenting a dues increase to the membership in 2018.

President’s Report

President Johnson delivered her final report to the membership. She discussed the following: the 2017 election during which 31 percent of eligible individual members voted; a records retention schedule approved by Council earlier in the week; diversity and inclusion goals and activities; an upcoming MAC census; declining membership; and the need to consider increases both in membership dues and in Annual Meeting registration fees. She thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve.

Vice President’s Report

Vice President Moore thanked the 2017 Program and Local Arrangement Committees, the Education Committee, and AMC. He provided information about the 2017 Fall Symposium to be held in Columbus, Ohio, from October 13 to 14. He introduced Dana Lamparello and Morgen MacIntosh Hodgetts of the 2018 Local Arrangements Committee, who gave a brief presentation promoting the Annual Meeting to be held in Chicago, Illinois, March 21–24.

President Johnson invited incoming president David McCartney to the podium to close the meeting. There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Michael Doylen
Secretary
I recently had an opportunity to represent MAC at a professional association fair at the University of St. Catherine for its Library and Information Science Program. It was a wonderful experience, not only to connect with graduate students but to let them know what they can expect from a professional association such as MAC. From scholarships to peer-reviewed publishing opportunities, MAC is approachable and beneficial at all stages of one’s career. Many Chicago 2018 erasers were pocketed by those who stopped by, so perhaps we’ll see them at our next Annual Meeting!

And, speaking of Annual Meetings, please join me in congratulating all who were involved in organizing and planning MAC’s Annual Meeting in Omaha, April 5–8, 2017. Specifically, I would like to thank Mary Ellen Ducey, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, and Amy Schindler, University of Nebraska at Omaha, who served as our LAC co-chairs; Sasha Griffin, Denison University, and Harrison Inefuku, Iowa State University for co-chairing our Program Committee; Lisa Sjoberg, Concordia College, and Marcella Huggard, University of Kansas, of MAC’s Education Committee for their efforts; and Nat Wilson, Carleton College, and Paul Eisloeffel, Nebraska State Historical Society, for providing our website and program editing support. Again, thank you to all who participated. I appreciate your work!

Please also join me in thanking those who presented in sessions or provided a poster. This interest and willingness to share professional expertise with colleagues is what makes these meetings a success. As a profession, we are continually learning, and we learn best from each other.
Fall Symposium, “Transitioning from Good to Great Exhibits,” Columbus, Ohio, October 13–14, 2017

Join MAC in Columbus, Ohio, to explore exhibit planning and development, engagement, learning opportunities, assessment, and outreach. Our hosts are Lisa Carter, associate director for Special Collections and Area Studies, and Tamar Chute, university archivist, both at The Ohio State University. The instructors will include Erin Fletcher, exhibitions coordinator; Jenny Robb, curator of the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum; and Justin Luna, exhibitions preparator.

Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, March 21–24, 2018

The Chicago Local Arrangements Committee, headed by Andrea Bainbridge, DePaul University, and Andy Steadham, Rotary International, and in cooperation with the Chicago Area Archivists, is working to give MAC a great welcome home for our 2018 Annual Meeting. The winter chill may not be quite done with the Windy City when we arrive, but nothing can stop this group of midwestern archivists from having a great time learning from our colleagues. The conference and accommodations will be downtown at the DoubleTree near the Magnificent Mile and much of what Chicago has to offer. Look for announcements from the Program Committee, cochaired by Daria Labinsky, National Archives at St. Louis, and Eira Tansey, University of Cincinnati, on ways you can participate.

If you have ideas or would like to consider hosting a meeting, please feel free to contact me at moore144@umn.edu. I would welcome the opportunity to help you plan out a proposal.
MAC NEWS—Continued
Mary Wallace, Assistant Editor

2017 Awards

Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship
The Archie Motley Scholarship for Minority Students Committee received five complete applications during the 2017 cycle. Committee members were impressed with all five applications and wished that they could make more than two awards. However, they came to a consensus on two top candidates and awarded the scholarships to Chido Muchemwa and Jessica Tai.

Chido Muchemwa is a second semester master of science in information studies student at the University of Texas at Austin. Her archival experience already includes working as a graduate research associate at the Harry Ransom Center, processing a collection at the Stark Center for physical culture and sports, and working on exhibits and outreach at the American Heritage Center while receiving her MFA from the University of Wyoming. She is active in student SAA and AMIA chapters, and has joined SAA, the Society of Southwest Archivists, and the African Studies Association. Her references lauded her as an “outstanding and committed student” with “considerable archival expertise, [an] international perspective, and a grounded cultural competence.”

Muchemwa’s powerful essay described her decision to pursue a career in archives while researching her family history at the National Archives of Zimbabwe for her MFA thesis. It wasn’t what she found in the archives that inspired her, but what she didn’t find; her career goals involve returning to Zimbabwe to work toward decolonizing and democratizing its National Archives.

Jessica Tai is in her second quarter at UCLA’s masters in library and information science program, for which she also received an Asian Pacific American Library Association scholarship and a processing fellowship through UCLA’s Special Collections Library. She has a background in photography and has used it in her archival fieldwork involving glass conservation, maritime research, the Sierra Club, and the Oakland Public Library History Room, and she is planning a community-based photographic preservation workshop with the Los Angeles Archivists Collective. She is active in her student SAA chapter and serves on the Diversity Subcommittee of the Los Angeles Archivists Collective and the Scholarships and Awards Committee of the Asian Pacific American Library Association. She has joined the ALA and the Society of California Archivists.

Tai’s essay tied archives to social justice (via photography), argued for equal access and representation, and expressed a strong commitment to workforce diversity and impact. Her references praised her as a “creative and critical thinker” and noted her “superior skills at planning and implementing original programming” for archival outreach, such as a “crafternoon” event using archival reproductions from activist groups.

Archival Issues: A Big Thanks and a Hearty Welcome!
By Alexandra A. A. Orchard, CA, Archival Issues Editorial Board Chair, Wayne State University

Since 2011, Archival Issues’ readers have benefited from Elizabeth Engel’s stewardship. As publications review editor, Engel ensured the reviews section of our journal flourished, providing analysis of the latest archival books and technologies. Her editorial acumen gave readers insight and helped new and seasoned authors alike hone their voices.

It is fitting that the next person serving as publications review editor was one of these voices. Please join me in welcoming Brandon Pieczko as Archival Issues’ new publications review editor. Pieczko’s term runs from June 2017 through May 2019. I look forward to collaborating with him and hope that some of you will join us by sending in submissions.

If you have any questions about article ideas (tip: conference presentations make great articles!), transitioning your presentation or poster into an article, or submissions, please feel free to contact me at alexandra@wayne.edu. Archival Issues Editorial Board chair. As a reminder, we encourage contributions from both new and experienced authors.
Emeritus Scholarship for First-Time MAC Attendees

The Emeritus Scholarship for First-Time MAC Attendees Committee received four very strong applications. After careful consideration and lots of discussion, the committee decided to award one $500 scholarship to **Hannah L. Weber**. Weber currently works as an associate librarian in archives and local history at the La Crosse Public Library Archives in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and is completing an online graduate degree in archives management at Simmons College, Boston. She stated that she was “excited to learn about and engage with the archival community in the Midwest” and wanted to attend “sessions that discuss archives collaboration and new ways to reach out to potential users” so she could learn from her “professional peers and discuss their successes, challenges, and best practices.” Hopefully, with the help of the Emeritus Scholarship her first MAC meeting lived up to her expectations.

Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Students in Archival Administration

The Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Students in Archival Administration Committee was very pleased to award the scholarship to a student who has an extremely bright future in the archival profession. **Treshani Perera** was chosen as this year’s recipient of the 2017 Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship. Perera is a current student at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. She plans on graduating in May of 2017 with coordinated master of library and information studies and master of music in music history degrees. Her career aspiration is to become a music archivist or work as a music special collections librarian in an academic library.

Perera has presented posters at MAC and SAA annual conferences for the past two years. Last year, she was chosen as one of three Archival Fellows at the Rutgers University Institute of Jazz Studies, where she processed her first archival music collection. She has also been a project intern for the SAA 75th Anniversary Oral History Project. Perera also serves as the president of UW–Milwaukee’s Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists and has been instrumental in reinvigorating that group.

On top of all of that, Perera consistently maintains an excellent grade-point average. All of these facts strongly point toward the Bowen Scholarship being awarded to a student with a bright future in the archives profession who will continue to represent Louisa Bowen’s legacy in a very positive fashion.
Emeritus Membership Award

This year, the Membership Committee voted to award emeritus member status to two long-standing members and contributors to the Midwest Archives Conference, Mark Greene and Cheri Thies.

**Mark Greene**, nominated by Colleen McFarland Rademaker, traveled from Wyoming to accept his award. Greene joined MAC in 1985 when he was the archivist at Carleton College. He served on Council from 1992 to 1995, as president from 1995 to 1997, and as chair of the Editorial Board of *Archival Issues* from 1999 to 2003. He remained a member of MAC even after moving out of the region to serve as the director of the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming in 2002. As McFarland Rademaker noted in her nomination letter: “Of course, Mark’s service to MAC extends beyond his work within the organization. I think of Mark as a MAC ambassador who introduced the many gifts of midwestern archivists to the larger archival world. While our geographical region may be ‘flyover country’ to many Americans, American archivists know it as the incubator of MPLP, formidable thinking about archival theory and practice, and the courage to deaccession boxes of useless junk sitting in the corner of the archives. Mark put MAC and the Midwest on the archival map in a most unforgettable way.”

**Cheri Thies**, nominated by Meagan Kellom, has been an active member of MAC since 1977 when she joined the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society. Thies served the organization not only as a program participant, public information officer, and *Newsletter* editor, but as the chair of multiple committees (Education Committee, 1990–1994; Local Arrangements Committee in 1986 and 1993; Presidents’ Award Committee, 2003–2009; and MAC Emeritus Scholarship Committee, 2014–2017); and as a member of Council from 1995 to 1998 and as president from 2001 to 2003. As Kellom noted in her nomination letter: “[Thies] continuously promoted being active in the organization among her colleagues and coworkers, making us feel welcome in the organization even though we were new professionals and had no experience or involvement with conferences or professional organizations.”

It seems fitting that Mark Greene and Cheri Thies were awarded emeritus status at the same meeting, given the work that they did together for MAC, which most notably included redesigning and reinvigorating the *MAC Newsletter* to make it the carrier of more and better content for members. It was a privilege to award emeritus status to both Mark Greene and Cheri Thies at the Members’ Meeting in Omaha in April. They are without question deserving of an honor that was created to recognize those who have contributed to the success, growth, and visibility of MAC through committee work, programming, outreach, and governance.
President’s Award

MAC honored the recipients of its Presidents’ Award during the Annual Meeting held in Omaha, Nebraska. The chancellors of the Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Joseph Kueppers and Susan Mulheron, received recognition during the MAC Members’ Meeting on Friday, April 7, 2017.

The MAC Presidents’ Award was established in 1986 as a means for MAC to recognize significant contributions to the archival profession by individuals, institutions, and organizations not directly involved in archival work but knowledgeable about its purpose and value. A committee comprising the three most recent past presidents of MAC selects recipients from nominations submitted by committees in each of the 13 states in the MAC region.

Awardees Susan Mulheron and Joseph Kueppers are both attorneys who serve as chancellors of the Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul. As their nominator stated, “These two attorneys have repeatedly fought on behalf of the archives at the highest levels of the organization. Although they do not work in the archives directly, they understand the intrinsic value of preserving and making accessible the archdiocese’s long and storied history. Because of their outstanding advocacy the archives has made outstanding progress forward despite considerable challenges faced by the institution.”

The chancellors of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis have been instrumental in the development of a twenty-first-century archives and records management program.

Susan Mulheron championed the archdiocese’s move from paper to electronic records. Because of her executive-level support, the Archives and Records Department was able to design, test, and implement a CRM database to manage clergy and parish records. As a result, all stakeholders now have access to this critical institutional information. Even more exciting, Mulheron advocated for the purchase of electronic records management software, and the Archives and Records Department has started on what will be a 10-year process to digitize 150 years’ worth of bishops’ and archbishops’ correspondence, along with other major collections in its holdings. This will allow the archives to make information far more readily available to genealogists and researchers.

Joseph Kueppers has also gone far above and beyond in his advocacy for the archives. In particular, he fought for the archives as it recently undertook a move across town to a new corporate headquarters. While searching for a new building, Kueppers, who co-led the building selection committee, kept the needs of the archives paramount. He found a location with a secure space for the archives that was large enough to contain its considerable holdings. Kueppers also ensured that the new building was fitted with a dry fire suppression system in the archives area. Additionally, he fought to make sure the archives has an independent HVAC system to regulate temperature and humidity in the stacks. As the archives liaison, he also worked tirelessly to make sure that the movers, the building’s current owners, and the construction crew—folks not familiar with archives—understood the value, fragility, and security issues inherent with the materials. Due largely to Kuepper’s efforts, the Archives and Records Department is now located in a larger, better-designed, and more secure space than the institution has ever before afforded its archives.
News from the Midwest

Assistant Editors: Alexandra Bisio, Jesuit Archives, and Alison Stankrauff, Indiana University South Bend. Please submit News from the Midwest items for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio to Alexandra at abisio@jesuits.org and items from Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to Alison at astankra@iusb.edu. Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!

ILLINOIS

Chicago Public Library

The Chicago Public Library Harold Washington Library Center Special Collections announced the opening of the collection, Chicago Park District Records: Photographs. Comprised of approximately 61,000 photographic prints dating from 1863 through the early 2000s, the photographs document site development, park facilities, features (such as gardens, fountains, playgrounds, and sculptures), park staff, programmatic activities, special events, the lakeshore and shore protection efforts, road construction and redevelopment, and citywide events, such as Special Olympics and cross-park tournaments. Periods of notable development in the history of the Chicago Park District are also well represented, including WPA construction projects, landscapes, and park features. The collection is rich in evidentiary value for studying the growth and evolution of the Chicago Park District’s properties and services, as well as for telling Chicago’s story, particularly with regard to how the demographics and populations served by the city’s parks have changed over time. Visit www.chipublib.org/fa-chicago-park-district-records-photographs/.

INDIANA

Riley Hospital Historic Preservation Committee

The Riley Hospital Historic Preservation Committee (RHPC) is launching a second historical photo display for 2017 in July that will be up for the remainder of the year in the hospital’s Ruth Lilly Learning Center lobby in Indianapolis. The photo display features images of the 21 leaders who were incorporators of the James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Association on April 9, 1921. The display introduces hospital staff, families, and visitors to these leaders and how they began the dream for the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children that opened on November 19, 1924.

IOWA

Iowa State University

The Iowa State University Library Digital Initiatives Program has launched a new online exhibition, For Married Students: Building a Community in Pammel Court, 1946–1978 (exhibits.lib.iastate.edu/pammel-court-digital-exhibit). In addition to content from the original Pammel Court exhibit that opened last January, the online version features an interactive timeline of Pammel Court’s history, links to related online materials, and tools to compare and contrast aerial views of campus and some of the Pammel floor plans. The online Pammel Court exhibit joins the library’s 24 other online exhibits (exhibits.lib.iastate.edu).

Iowa State University Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) opened its latest exhibition, “This movement for a more beautiful Iowa: The Early Years of Iowa’s State Park System,” on May 17. Its online counterpart will open later this summer. As a complement to the SCUA exhibition, Heidi H. Hohmann, associate professor of landscape architecture, gave a presentation June 6 at the Ames Public Library.

University of Iowa

Renowned broadcast journalist Tom Brokaw has announced the donation of his papers and memorabilia to the Department of Special Collections, University of Iowa Libraries. Brokaw attended UI during his freshman year in 1958–1959. The collection documents his 50 years with NBC, first as a field reporter and later as anchor of the NBC Nightly News. Find more information at now.uiowa.edu/2016/11/brokaw-donates-papers-to-ui-libraries.

Iowa City has been a hotbed of protest and a hotbed of printing. Power to the Printers: The Alternative Press in Iowa City, 1965–1985 is a physical exhibit open May 15–August 25 in the University of Iowa Main Library. Publications and other materials from the Iowa Women’s Archives and the University Archives will be featured. Visit www.lib.uiowa.edu/gallery/exhibit/power-to-the-printers-the-alternative-press-in-iowacity-1965-1985.

KANSAS

Kansas State University

This spring, the K-State Libraries joined organizations across the region in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Chisholm Trail. Chisholm Trail: History and Legacy features artifacts, books, maps, and photos that give visitors a glimpse into Kansas’s Wild West era and its turbulent relationship with the Texas cattle trade. From 1867 to 1885, the Chisholm
**NEWS FROM THE MIDWEST—Continued**

Alexandra Bisio and Alison Stankrauff, Assistant Editors

Trail, which ran from southern Texas through Oklahoma and Kansas, was the primary route for southern ranchers to drive their herds north to the railways that shipped their longhorns to eastern markets.

Additionally, in the fall, students enrolled in Translating the Freedom Papers: Charles de Gaulle and WWII Correspondence conducted extensive research using correspondence from the Richard L. D. and Marjorie H. Morse Department of Special Collections. Students’ work appears in an exhibit, *Très Secret: Translating the Freedom Papers*.

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**KENTUCKY**

**Filson Historical Society**
The Filson Historical Society announces the opening of two new exhibits honoring the centennial of the United States’ entry into the First World War, *Called to Arms: Kentuckians in the First World War* and *Selling the War: Posters from WWI*. These exhibits are open to the public and coincide with WWI lectures happening throughout the spring and summer months. For more information about the exhibits and lectures, visit filsonhistorical.org/exhibits. In addition to in-house galleries, WWI-related image galleries are also available and can be viewed at filsonhistorical.org/galleries/world-war-i-posters and filsonhistorical.org/galleries/music-of-the-great-war. For more information or inquiries regarding tours, contact Johna Ebling, exhibits manager, at jpicco@filsonhistorical.org.

**Lexington Public Library**

County directories, local histories, and postcard images of Kentucky are now available through the Lexington Public Library’s new Kentucky Room Digital Archives at lexpublib.org/digital-archives. Among the inaugural documents in the Digital Archives are:

- The 1940 Rural Directory of Fayette County
- 55 historic postcard images of central Kentucky
- The 1896 illustrated program of the Woodland Park Kentucky Chautauqua Assembly
- A published transcript of Maude Ward Lafferty’s 1917 local history speech, *The Town Branch*
- The 1923 songbook, *Mountain Ballads for Social Singing*
- The 1892 and 1896 Annual Catalogue of Hamilton Female College

The items digitized are housed in the Central Library’s Kentucky Room. Like all the items in the Kentucky Room’s closed stacks, they are available for viewing in the Kentucky Room by request. However, librarians expect digitization to make these rare items more widely available while still safely preserved.

(Continued on page 20)
Northern Kentucky University
The Special Collections and University Archives Department provides professional assistance to regional archival and cultural heritage organizations. Thanks to a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, Steely Library and the department were able to present a free security workshop. Last fall, the library hosted a two-day DAS workshop. Several years ago NKU was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections grant to assess the environmental climate of its collections storage room. The department has recently donated extra PEM monitors from the grant to four local museums, libraries, and historical societies in support of their work.

MICHIGAN
Central Michigan University
The DigMichNewsContest 2017 received 6,839 postcards (2,761 of which were handmade) and 25,136 tweets. The L’Anse won and will have 12 reels of its microfilmed newspapers digitized by the Clarke.

Three EIAC half-inch, black-and-white, sound videotapes of major African American poets reciting their poetry at CMU on February 14, 1974, were digitized in January 2017 by Scene Savers. Herbert Woodward Martin, Etheridge Knight, Raymond R. Patterson, Mari Evans, and Dudley Randall (who founded the Broadside Press in Detroit) all played important roles in the Black Arts Movement. Topics include life in prison; love; African American women housekeepers; slavery; Dafuskie Island, South Carolina (Gullah); Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Patrice Lumumba, and Frederick Douglass.

Michigan State University
The Michigan State University Archives continues to work on transcribing, scanning, and posting materials from its Civil War–related collections. There are now 85 collections online comprised of over 1,800 objects and nearly 7,300 pages. The Civil War collections can be found at civilwar.archives.msu.edu.

As part of a campuswide Science Festival, the MSU Archives hosted an open house featuring significant scientific archival collections, including those of Barnett Rosenberg, Margaret Zee Jones, and G. Malcolm Trout. Through demonstrations and activities, visitors learned about the scientific aspects of archival work, such as types of paper, humidifying photos, deodorizing pamphlets, and de-acidifying newspapers.

The MSU Records Management program recently announced the completion of a major revision of MSU’s Human Resources retention schedules. Part of a larger project to revise all of the university’s retention schedules, the new Human Resources records retention schedule includes more records series; uses a consistent, easy-to-use format; and better aligns with institutional, federal, and state policies and regulations.

Wayne State University
On April 27, the Walter P. Reuther Library opened its exhibition, 12th Street, Detroit, 1967: Employment, Housing, Policing, and Race Relations in Evidence. Few topics in Michigan’s history are as divisive as Detroit’s 1967 Civil Unrest (frequently known as the Detroit riot, rebellion, or uprising). Decades later, the aftereffects of those five days of physical damage and emotional trauma linger on through a profound disconnect between southeastern Michigan’s people and communities. The exhibit empowers visitors to create independent insights based on the evidence contained in the Reuther Library’s numerous archival collections documenting not only the events of 1967, but also the social, economic, and political landscape before and after the violence. The Reuther Library joins several area cultural institutions in a partnership to mark the inauspicious 50th anniversary of the events of 1967, including the Detroit Historical Society, the Detroit Institute of Art, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the Michigan Science Center, and MOCAD. The physical exhibit, funded with a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council, will be open through January 2018. It is also available online at projects.lib.wayne.edu/12thstreetdetroit.
Missouri

State Historical Society of Missouri

The State Historical Society of Missouri broke ground April 19, 2017, for the Center for Missouri Studies, a new facility located at 6th and Elm Streets in downtown Columbia. The groundbreaking ceremony was held to celebrate this milestone in the society’s effort to build a larger, more modern, and more accessible headquarters. The 76,000-square-foot building, designed by nationally recognized design and planning firm Gould Evans, will provide the society with a state-of-the-art facility to carry out its mission to collect, preserve, and disseminate Missouri’s history and heritage. The Center for Missouri Studies was made possible with a $35 million state construction bond and is expected to be completed in the spring of 2019. The new building will give greater visibility to Missouri’s history and heritage while improving public access to the society’s programs, services, and resources.

University of Missouri

The University of Missouri will be offering two archives courses in 2017–2018, taught by Professor Sarah Buchanan. In fall 2017, ISLT 9410 Archival Practice will introduce students to the practice and theory of archival work, focusing on the key processes of records creation, appraisal, preservation, and outreach. In spring 2018, ISLT 9410 Archival Systems and Records Management will orient students to archival arrangement and description using archival metadata and access tools such as ArchivesSpace, applying principles to organizational contexts of managing records.

The School of Information Science and Learning Technologies is also pleased to have partnered with the Black Archives of Mid-America in offering ISLT 9410 Archives in Context as a spring break in-service learning opportunity. Students engaged in an archives workshop led by Professor Buchanan and collections work with archivist Geri Sanders. Students and faculty have also formed a new Society of American Archivists Student Chapter at the University of Missouri.

Ohio

Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board

OHRAB awarded Ohio Archives Grants to eight institutions: the City of Alliance; Dawes Arboretum, Newark; the Historical Society of Mt. Pleasant, Ohio, Inc.; New Straitsville History Group, Shawnee State University; Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati (Mount Saint Joseph, OH), Wilmington College Peace Resource Center; and Worthington Historical Society. The Ohio Archives Grants are funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, an arm of the National Archives and Records Administration, through its State and National Archival Partnership Grants program.

South Dakota

South Dakota State Historical Society

The South Dakota State Historical Society’s Deadwood Fund grant program has awarded grants to five historical sites. Funding for the program comes from Deadwood gaming revenue earmarked by state law for historic preservation projects throughout the state. The society’s State Historic Preservation Office at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre administers the program. These were the most recent sites to receive grants to supplement their work:

Arlington: Arlington Community Museum, also known as the Arlington Masonic Temple, built 1907–1908.
Delmont: Thomas Lenehan House, or the Onion House, built 1902.
Faulkton: Pickler Mansion, built 1882–1894.
Madison: Herschell-Spillman Steam Riding Gallery, also known as the Prairie Village Carousel, built sometime between 1901 and 1920.
St. Onge: Anderson-Ridley Barn, built 1902.

(Continued on page 22)
Wisconsin
University of Wisconsin–Superior Special Collections and Archives

More than 9,000 engineering drawings for over 200 vessels are now available for research in the Fraser Shipyards Collection at the UW–Superior Special Collections and Archives. A searchable online index for the drawings is available at fra-shipyardscollection.omeka.net. The new index will allow researchers to access information about drawings for many famous Great Lakes vessels, including the Fraser Class and Maritimer vessels, the Edmund Fitzgerald, and the William A. Irvin. Many of these drawings are not available elsewhere and are accessible to the public for the first time through this collection. In addition to thousands of engineering drawings, the Fraser Shipyards Collection contains correspondence, photographs, and more. This collection is of interest to model builders, maritime history researchers, maritime archaeologists, and naval architects and engineers. A guide to the complete collection can be found at library.uwsuper.edu/fraser. Contact the archives to learn more: 715-395-8359, or archives@uwsuper.edu.

NEWS FROM THE MIDWEST—Continued
Alexandra Bisio and Alison Stankrauff, Assistant Editors

(Continued from page 21)

Aeon is not another front end system. Really.

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Archival Resources on the Web

Assistant Editor: Jolie Braun, Ohio State University.

Contact Jolie at braun.338@osu.edu if you would like to guest author a column or have a good idea to share.

Resources for Teaching with Primary Source Materials
by Jolie Braun, Ohio State University

Whether teaching undergraduates how to do research, leading an activity for K–12 students, or giving a talk to the general public, instruction is a key part of archival outreach and engagement. After long being seen as gatekeepers, today archivists are increasingly recognized as facilitators and as such have a responsibility to inform, educate, and inspire. This column highlights websites about archives-based instruction with the goal of helping readers discover resources that will help them create opportunities for learning and engagement.

TeachArchives.org

TeachArchives.org is an essential resource for any archivist interested in teaching with primary source material. The result of the Brooklyn Historical Society’s multiyear collaborative grant project, the site consists of a collection of hands-on activities intended to introduce students from middle school to graduate school to working with archival materials. Cleanly designed and easy to navigate, TeachArchives.org features more than a dozen tried and tested lesson plans, from analyzing runaway slave advertisements to studying photography formats to using historical documents to explore ideas about garbage. A major strength of the site is the thoughtfulness, thoroughness, and flexibility of the activities. Each includes detailed information—learning objectives, a step-by-step lesson plan, end products, handouts, and digitized archival materials—making it easy to replicate or adapt. The site also offers a selection of excellent articles about teaching in an archives or special collections setting. Pieces such as “Choose Your Documents” and “What Are High-Impact Practices?” provide both practical advice and reflections on pedagogical approaches. While new content is no longer being added, the wealth of materials will keep any new visitor busy for quite a while.

TPS Exchange

Developed by archivists and special collections librarians, TPS Exchange (rb.teachwithstuff.org) aims to be an “interactive, one-stop site to find and exchange information about teaching with primary sources.” A project of SAA’s Reference, Access, and Outreach Section and the Teaching with Primary Sources Committee, the site features hands-on activities for a variety of audiences, including K–12, undergraduate and graduate students, and community groups. Like TeachArchives.org, TPS Exchange’s lessons include in-depth descriptions and supplementary materials. While some activities depend on specific collections or items, the strongest—such as “Primary Source Workshop” and “Exploring Artists’ Books”—are highly adaptable and focus broadly on helping students develop critical, analytical, and research skills through working with primary sources. A relatively new and still growing resource, the site currently offers eight lesson plans. For those who have successful activities to share, TPS Exchange allows users to submit their own content as well.

(Continued on page 24)
DocsTeach

The National Archives has an extensive collection of online educational resources, and DocsTeach: An Online Tool for Teaching with Documents (www.docsteach.org) is particularly worth highlighting for those interested in using primary source materials to teach American history and culture to a K–12 audience. The site features three major components: a digital collection of thousands of archival resources, a library of document-based activities, and an online tool that helps educators create their own activities. With more than a hundred available, DocsTeach’s exercises span the course of American history and include such topics as "Comparing Civil War Recruitment Posters," "Analyzing Einstein’s Citizenship Application," and "Challenger Explosion Photograph Analysis." Users may search by grade level, historical era, skill developed (such as historical analysis or historical research), or activity type. While TeachArchives.org and TPS Exchange focus on hands-on activities in an archives or special collections setting, DocsTeach is geared toward classroom learning. As the exercises are built around high-resolution images of primary source materials, this resource is ideal for those who do not have easy or direct access to archival documents. Students studying the civil rights movement, for example, can explore Rosa Parks’s arrest record, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and materials documenting Bloody Sunday regardless of their location. The “Online Tools” portion of the site is a unique and especially exciting feature allowing users to create and customize their own teaching activities by guiding them through a series of questions about lesson topic, goals and objectives, and desired primary source materials.

Primary Source Sets

Created by educators, the Digital Public Library of America’s Primary Source Sets (dp.la/primary-source-sets) are “designed to help students develop critical thinking skills by exploring topics in history, literature, and culture through primary sources.” Arranged thematically, each set features approximately a dozen digitized primary source artifacts from libraries, archives, and museums across the United States. With more than a hundred sets, the site boasts a wide range of topics, including “Creating the Constitution,” “The Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston,” “The Post-War Rise of the Suburbs,” “Negro
League Baseball,” and “ACT UP and the AIDS Crisis.” Because the sets contain a variety of material types, this site is an excellent way to help students discover that archival materials are not only documents, they can also be audiovisual items, such as a news footage clip of an Equal Rights Amendment rally or an excerpt of an oral history about school desegregation. A teaching guide accompanies each set, including discussion questions and suggested activities. Targeted at K–12 teachers and college instructors, DPLA’s project also will be useful to archivists working with students, teachers, or groups interested in learning about American history, literature, and culture.

**Using Primary Sources**

Like DocsTeach and the DPLA’s Primary Source Sets, the Library of Congress’s Using Primary Sources (www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources) is aimed at educators interested in teaching American history and culture to K–12 students using primary source materials. Much of the content, however, can be adapted for a variety of contexts, collections, and audiences, and would be valuable to any archivists who teach. Of particular note is the “Primary Source Analysis Tool,” a simple but effective online worksheet that helps students observe, analyze, and document their reactions to archival materials. Users first select a primary source material format (from 10 options that include maps, photographs and prints, political cartoons, motion pictures, and newspapers) and then are asked a series of questions intended to help them explore an archival item. The manuscripts category, for example, prompts users to consider: “What do you notice about the page the writing appears on?,” “Why do you think this manuscript was made?,” and “If someone created something like this today, what would be different?” The accompanying teacher’s guides, also arranged by format, provide activity ideas. Using Primary Sources also has sections about teaching citations and copyright, as well as a page dedicated to finding primary sources that includes links to themed digital collections, web guides, and digitized primary source materials organized by state.

**The Teaching with Primary Sources Bibliography**

SAA’s Reference, Access, and Outreach Section’s Teaching with Primary Sources Working Group has developed a comprehensive resource for scholarship on archives-based instruction (www.zotero.org/groups/teaching_with_primary_sources/items/collectionKey/2BKBKRT5H8). The bibliography comprises more than a hundred scholarly articles, chapters, and books, and features “works [that] offer theoretical and practical information on using primary sources as pedagogical resources and how archivists can assist with maximizing student learning.” It can be searched by keyword and sorted alphabetically by title or author, and links to full articles available online are included where applicable.

**A Few Final Suggestions**

Here are a few general suggestions regarding these resources. When using one of these sites in a presentation or activity, check the links beforehand to make sure they are working. If devising a handout based on activities or lesson plans encountered through these resources, remember to cite by including a credit line at the bottom. Last, think broadly! While each of these websites has particular audiences in mind, they all offer opportunities for thinking about how to implement new content, ideas, and approaches into one’s teaching.

![Primary Source Analysis Tool](image-url)
It Takes a Library to Preserve a Scientific Database:
A Collaborative Exploration of Database Preservation
By Bethany Anderson, University of Illinois, and Tracy Popp, University of Illinois

Scientists create a variety of digital assets as part of the research process. Some assets capture information about the world at a specific point in time; others attempt to test a hypothesis and reveal a “fact” about the world. The data generated by scientific endeavors, whether observational or experimental, manifest in a variety of formats and degrees of complexity depending on the discipline, the software, and the ways in which the data are intended to be used and reused by their creators and/or collaborators.

The Archives at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (U of I) is currently working to preserve and make accessible one such digital asset, the International Registry of Reproductive Pathology database from the College of Veterinary Medicine. This database exemplifies the complexity of scientific data creation as well as underscores the importance of drawing on the expertise of archivists, digital preservationists, data curators, and subject specialists to address the challenges of preserving complex scientific digital objects.

Origins of the International Registry of Reproductive Pathology

The International Registry of Reproductive Pathology (the Registry) comprises a large hybrid scientific collection created by Kenneth B. McEntee, a veterinary pathologist who spent his career studying diseases of the reproductive system. Known for his meticulous recordkeeping, McEntee amassed data on about 20,000 cases of reproductive pathologies in animals. McEntee collected most data during the 1970s before retiring from Cornell University where he had served as chair of the Department of Large Animal Medicine, Obstetrics and Surgery in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Shortly after retiring, McEntee moved himself and the Registry to the College of Veterinary Medicine (Vet Med) at U of I where he continued work on the Registry for another six years. After McEntee, pathology professor George Foley managed the Registry. During the late 1980s through the 1990s, the Registry drew reproductive pathologists from across the United States while also being used as a teaching collection. Given the number of veterinary pathologists and other scientists interested in accessing the Registry, Foley had hoped to make portions of the collection more accessible through digitization and Internet-based distribution, but his plan was never realized. The Registry subsequently fell into disuse due to difficulties accessing and storing such a large, disparate collection of materials.

The Collection

The 20,000 cases in the Registry are documented by an array of materials, including wet tissue samples and sections, tissue slides, tissue samples encased in paraffin wax, typed case file reports, and a 1970s FoxPro database containing a searchable catalog of all case records. The database was indexed using the Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine (SNOMED), a standard for human and veterinary medicine terminology. McEntee and his collaborators noted that the Registry required indexing for ease of access to the details recorded in the files. For this purpose, terms depicting both general and specific concepts are required, as well as a multi-axial system for combining topography, morphology and etiology as needed. SNOMED meets these specifications more closely than any other system of which we are aware.

Typed case files of the International Registry of Reproductive Pathology

Assistant Editor: Joanne Kaczmarek, University of Illinois.
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Collaborative Approaches to Stewarding Scientific Records

The University of Illinois Archives has a long history of stewarding and preserving the records of science and technology, originating with the work of the first university archivist, Maynard Brichford. Scientific and technological materials acquired by the archives include administrative records of departments and units, faculty papers, and scientific collections created by one creator but reused or added to over time by multiple collaborators and/or researchers. The archives has well-established procedures for acquiring and curating faculty papers proper, but scientific collections are often the products of collaborative scientific research having multiple creator(s)/user(s) over time and thus warrant different approaches to curation. With the recent launch of the University of Illinois Library’s Research Data Service (RDS), stewarding and leveraging the U of I’s digital (and often scientific) data sets has gained new visibility. The archives thus saw the Registry as a unique opportunity to leverage both the collection’s digital data- and paper-based materials (i.e., typed case files) through a collaborative curatorial effort with the RDS. As a first step toward making the Registry accessible again, the FoxPro database was converted to Microsoft Access.

Following the appraisal of the paper-based and digital components of the collection by Bethany Anderson, William Maher, and Joanne Kaczmarek in October 2016, Anderson reached out to digital preservation coordinator Tracy Popp and the RDS staff to develop a plan for preserving the Registry. Anderson and Popp met with members of the RDS—Heidi Imker, Elizabeth Wickes, and Elise Dunham—and Susan Braxton, Prairie Research Institute librarian, who had recently attended a SIARD (Software Independent Archiving of Relational Databases) database preservation workshop. The team developed a plan to create access to digital object descriptions of the database through multiple access points, in both the archives’ and RDS’s respective repositories (which would be cross-linked to each other). Additionally, they discussed methods and approaches to preserve and make accessible the database file. The team decided to explore whether the SIARD format could serve as a long-term preservation solution for the database.

Preservation Challenges

SIARD is meant to be format neutral, enabling curators to convert databases to a format that does not rely on proprietary software. SIARD tools enable conversions to and from a variety of database types (e.g., Oracle, MySQL, and Microsoft Access). A Databases Visualization Toolkit further makes it possible to query, explore, and export content from a database in the SIARD format.

Using the SIARD Suite and Toolkit, the team attempted first to convert the Access version of the database to the SIARD format. The conversion seemed to go fairly smoothly, but a few errors in the conversion log made the team pause. Additionally, during the appraisal of the collection, Vet Med personnel were not entirely confident that all data had been copied to Access from the FoxPro database. The team decided to access a copy of the original FoxPro database to see if any data loss had occurred.

Accessing the original FoxPro files turned out to be particularly challenging for several reasons. Not exclusively a database management environment, Visual FoxPro is also a dynamic programming language. Thus, anyone reviewing the files needs to understand which files contain application functionality and which files contain data to determine significant properties of the files individually and as a whole within the collection. One also needs access to the Visual FoxPro software. The U of I campus IT unit has an agreement with Microsoft which allows access to many software packages, though only those still supported. Thus, access was only available to the last version of Microsoft Visual FoxPro 9.0 (MSVFP) which was released in 2007. Unfortunately, MSVFP cannot access all of the files within the collection as they were created with an earlier version of the software. Specifically, MSVFP produced an error when a compiled program file was opened, indicating it could not be opened as it had been compiled in a different version of the software. Reviewing this compiled program file would likely offer clues as to how the program functioned and what may be important to migrate forward to retain functionality.

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The team’s lack of knowledge compounded this challenge; to understand the various files in the collection and whether or not they are required to retain software functionality, a fair amount of research would need to be undertaken to understand basic MSVFP. For example, 19 DBX (or database) files exist within the collection. Five of the DBX files have the same name as five CDX files. Is there a relationship between these files and, if so, do the CDX files need to be retained for the data to be accessible and accurate if migrated to a contemporary software environment or file format?

Preliminary investigations indicate the database is a collection of unrelated tables. Any structure or relations seem to be established through two queries that have been migrated to SQL. Because the SIARD package relies on the SIARD software (i.e., we don’t get any functionality from packaging the database in SIARD), we are preserving the database as flat file for access purposes. However, SIARD exports structural metadata to an XML file which is useful to ingest with the archival information package into our preservation repository.

Conclusion
Preserving complex digital scientific assets can certainly pose many challenges. This project has raised many questions about what researchers will need to understand the original databases, how to create access to them, and how to develop digital curation workflows that incorporate emerging best practices and formats afforded by the SIARD community as well as means for performing quality assurance checks. While the preservation of the database is still a work-in-progress, the possibilities of enhancing access to this resource wouldn’t be within sight without the expertise and sharing of knowledge afforded by this interdisciplinary team of colleagues.

Notes
1. Howard E. Evans, Robert O. Gilbert, Bud C. Tennant, Donald H. Schlafer, “Kenneth B. McEntee,” Cornell University Faculty Memorial Statement, Cornell University eCommons, hdl.handle.net/1813/18333.
2. Tania Banak, “Reproductive Pathology Samples Provide Valuable Information,” Veterinary Report 19 (Fall 1995), IDEALS, hdl.handle.net/2142/89571.
5. The University of Illinois Archives has recently transitioned to a new digital library platform for its born-digital and digitized collections, digital.library .illinois.edu; the RDS makes data sets accessible through the Illinois Data Bank, databank.illinois.edu.
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Merle Isaac was a Chicago musician and music teacher who published more than 800 arrangements for school orchestras, bands, and more over a career of 60 years, from his first published work in 1936 to his last published five months after his death in 1996. When he began his career, few resources existed for music teachers. He worked to give “each player an interesting . . . part to play” that was challenging but within his or her capability. The popularity of Isaac’s arrangements over the years and the fact that over a hundred are still in print today attest to his success in string music education.

Isaac was born in 1898 in Iowa, and his family had moved to Chicago by 1900. His musical experience began in the fourth grade with piano and organ lessons soon after. In high school, he played the flute and sang in the glee club.

[He] visited movie theaters and became acquainted with the organists. [He] learned about the various kinds of music that were used to accompany the silent pictures [and] registered with one of the organ companies as a theater organist seeking employment. On the day after Christmas in 1919, [he] received a call to report to a theater for work. (Their organist didn’t show up on Christmas day!)

Early feature films ran for two hours or more, requiring the right music to accompany each scene. The collection contains a sample tune list he used for one particular evening’s newsreel, comedy short, and feature film. The collection also includes a number of theater programs from 1921 to 1924 that show his name as organist and about 150 pieces of published music with rubber-stamped dates—these comprise some, but certainly not all, of his professional library.

As talkies began to replace silent films, Isaac began searching for another career. At the encouragement one of his previous music teachers, he became a certified teacher of instrumental music and in 1929 started work at Marshall High School. To better his professional capacity as a teacher, Isaac attended classes at VanderCook College of Music and took private lessons to learn to play all the instruments he taught in his classes.

He also soon discovered that the music available in the Marshall library was not appropriate for high school use. He started to write orchestra parts that would be inclusive and engage the students. As Isaac said, “Every part should be difficult enough to be challenging, but not difficult enough to be discouraging. Each player in the orchestra...
needs to feel that he is a member of the team and that he is making an essential contribution.”

Isaac earned a bachelor of music from VanderCook College, Chicago, Illinois, in 1932, a bachelor of science from IIT’s Lewis Institute of Arts and Sciences in 1936, and a master of arts from Northwestern in 1937. After 14 years of leading the Marshall High School Department of Instrumental Music, Isaac accepted a position as a Chicago Public School elementary school principal in 1943—but he continued arranging music for students for the rest of his life. Several of his arrangements are held in particularly high regard, including an abridgement of the Brandenburg Concerto no. 3, his own Apollo Suite, and Tchaikovsky’s Russian Chorale and Overture.

The Collection

The archives received a hundred U-Haul boxes of papers and music scores in 2008. We created an inventory of each box that included the fields title, composer, publisher, date, and instrumentation, prioritizing each item as follows:

- **Priority 1**: a manuscript, letter, or other unique item relating to Merle Isaac’s music arranging career that could not be obtained anywhere else;
- **Priority 2**: Merle Isaac publications that theoretically could be purchased or replaced if necessary;
- **Priority 3**: items with some interest, but not as important as the first two priorities;
- **Priority 4**: Isaac’s copy of something that was (or had been) readily available and as such was out of the scope of the collection.

By separating the fourth priority, we reduced the collection from 100 to about 40 boxes. We sorted remaining items by composer and title.

The Merle Isaac Collection consists of over eight hundred scores, mostly orchestra, string orchestra, and band arrangements. Instrumental solos, chamber pieces, and methods books are also included. An analysis found that 384 items (roughly 44% of the collection) are in manuscript form only; 363 items (42%) are in published form only; and 128 items (14%) exist in both manuscript and published form. By charting the types of music and the years published, we were able to see the trends in what publishers were looking for, or what Isaac felt was most needed. Besides the completed (or mostly completed) scores, we found hundreds of musical manuscript fragments, most of which have no identification at all, as well as the aforementioned silent movie theater programs, tune lists, and scores with date stamps. Correspondence and other personal records document his education; Chicago Public School appointments; copyright registrations; American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers membership; and so forth, and detail his interaction with publishers, conductors, and other peers.

The Merle Isaac Collection also includes open reel and audio cassette tapes and Eva-tone flexible sound sheets of

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recorded excerpts (included with some published scores). Most of the recorded audio tapes are of rather low fidelity, and we believe them to be rehearsal run-throughs of preliminary manuscripts with local school bands, which would have been used to make corrections. Labeling on all of these was very poor and provided almost no useful information. We acquired a Sansui open reel deck to ascertain what might be on the reel-to-reel tapes, and a one-quarter-inch splicing block, which is invaluable to reattach the leaders and fix other splices that have come undone, is included with the collection. While the flexible sound sheets are all out of print now, they are still in copyright. We decided not to digitize any of these items at this time.

The usual concerns for acidic paper applied, especially for the early theater handbills printed on inexpensive paper—information included would be difficult to find elsewhere. These and all musical manuscripts are now carefully stored in acid-free folders. A few of the silent movies, such as *Queen of Sheba* (1921) and *Blood and Sand* (1922), are available on YouTube and can be an engaging supplement to the promotional materials held within the collection when on exhibit.

Processing a collection of this size required a great deal of organization and solid work by student workers. It posed many challenges and required some difficult decisions. We have scanned title pages and/or first pages of scores for what we hope will be an online catalog of Merle Isaac’s life’s work.

References


Like most archivists I know, I fell into archives accidentally. When I was a kid, I thought I’d be the next Jacques Cousteau or a shipwreck hunter like Robert Ballard, or a Radio City Rockette. But my ears don’t pop so I can’t SCUBA dive, and I’ll never meet the Rockettes’ minimum height requirement. After years of going to libraries and hanging around archives while getting a history degree, I decided to get my MLIS so I could pursue archives.

I have no regrets, I love this profession. It’s been wonderful, though I admit, you have to learn to love the hustle.

I’m very lucky—my career has been on a pretty clear trajectory (despite a few roadblocks here and there). So far, each position has built on skills learned at previous roles. I try and say yes to everything that crosses my path: writing and publishing, presenting, volunteering, serving on my local library’s board of directors. I feel like I have built a solid foundation that, hopefully, I’ll be able to keep building. At the time of writing, I am a member of the American Archive of Public Broadcasting’s (AAPB) National Digital Stewardship Residency (NDSR). Sorry in advance for all the acronyms.

The AAPB is a collaboration between the Library of Congress and the WGBH Educational Foundation to coordinate a national effort to preserve at-risk public media before its content is lost to posterity. It also aims to provide a central web portal for access to the unique programming that public stations have aired over the past 60 years. To date, over 40,000 hours of television and radio programming contributed by more than a hundred public media organizations and archives across the United States have been digitized for long-term preservation and access. The entire collection is available on location at WGBH and the Library of Congress, and more than 18,000 programs are available online at americanarchive.org.

In 2015, the Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded a generous grant to WGBH on behalf of the AAPB to develop the AAPB NDSR. Through this project, I am working with six other recent graduates from master’s degree programs across the country at different public broadcasting stations to help to preserve the materials that those stations produce. Each member of the cohort has two built-in mentors, one from the NDSR board and one local. This doesn’t include our supervisors and mentors at our host sites or our program coordinators. The level of support and the richness of experience across all members and mentors are incredible.

At the time of writing, I’m the resident at Minnesota Public Radio (MPR). In 1967, MPR was a small college classical radio station in Collegeville, Minnesota, that grew into a giant entity much respected in Minnesota and by the larger public broadcasting community. MPR pushes out an impressive amount of content through its three cornerstone radio stations and more recently through its podcast networks. While our internally built digital asset management system manages the content pretty well, it is sometimes messy and certainly not easy to make stories public through the current archive portal.

My project has several discrete goals, with the overall aim being to clean up the internal metadata, normalize fields, and make it easier for digital content to be published to the web. Producers populate our metadata, each using fields very differently, and because of the nature of breaking news, we can’t make any fields mandatory on the production side.

I’m very lucky to have an archivist to work with, and that archiving news stories is built into existing production workflows. We also have awesome in-house IT folks who are constantly refining the databases that feed the websites. Right now, we have an internal content management site called Eddy. Eddy was the third attempt at developing an internal database after two proprietary digital asset

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management systems were “burned down” and raided to build what we have today. Eddy is useful for in-house content management, but there’s no way right now to make Eddy accessible to outside users. By the end of this residency, I’ll have made recommendations to streamline this process.

Other expectations are part of this residency. I have now presented at two conferences with my cohort. I took on another opportunity to help plan the first NDSR Symposium in Washington, DC, in April 2017. Prior to that, I had never presented at a conference, much less helped plan one. I will present at the MAC Fall Symposium as well, and, in July, I will be presenting at the Society of American Archivists’ annual meeting. I’m a little nervous about that, to be honest. But even though I dislike public speaking, having these experiences under my belt has given me a lot of confidence. These are skills I need to stay engaged in the profession. Along the same lines, I recently presented a webinar on metadata usage models, as well as reaching out to communities to encourage crowdsourced information. I highlighted the fan-fiction community.

Which is a nice segue into my advice for other up-and-coming archivists, as my first tip is to never apologize for things that interest you. I have loved the Harry Potter books since I first read them, so much so that I took a class on them in college, where I first started writing about fan fiction (as opposed to writing fan fiction). Getting that article published¹ was the first step toward cataloging the fictional books in the Harry Potter universe at hogwartslibrary.omeka.net. This is the “digital project” I submitted as my sample for the NDSR search committee to review. It was all I had, but it was enough to impress my mentors at MPR. I’m still kind of surprised that it worked as I was worried they wouldn’t take me seriously. Instead, they saw my passion. Fan fiction became an interesting way to frame my own thinking as I approached MPR’s metadata usage. Sharing that with others made presenting the webinar less scary. Childhood interests have time and again paid it forward. Childhood interests have time and again paid it forward.

The second piece of advice I have is to find your mentors. I have so many professionals “in my corner,” and, whenever I start something new, I feel I always have people to talk things over with. Even if it’s just applying for jobs and asking them to look over my cover letter and resume, it always helps to get feedback. The next few pieces are generally under the mantle of “get involved”—go to conferences, talk to people. Buy business cards if you don’t have them already. Chat with people on Twitter. I’m @libkatem, and you can always start a conversation with me! Say yes to everything, apply for everything. I could never have anticipated getting an internship at JPL, but I had a vague goal of doing an internship out of state. I applied to as many paid ones as I could find. (After only one unpaid internship, I only pursued paid opportunities. That’s my advice for those wishing to mentor—pay your interns.) You never know what’s going to happen.

And my final bit of advice is to do things that scare you. Getting out of my comfort zone has pushed me to be a better person and a better archivist. Certainly this residency has pushed me in ways that, at the beginning, I did not want to be pushed. I have felt myself grow in the past few months in ways I could not have predicted. It’s been challenging and intense, but I can’t recommend the experience highly enough.

Ultimately, this residency taught me that I have so much more to learn—we all do. Everyone has to learn new things, to push themselves in new directions, to say yes to something that scares them. And when we do things together (as a profession, as a cohort, as coworkers), we can get so much farther because we can learn from each other. This is not exactly new information to anyone, I’m sure. Nothing I have done is particularly revolutionary, I know. But it is revolutionary to me, and it might be to someone else just getting started in this profession or to someone just getting started with digital archives, or audio archives, or community building. I have found that being open to things can make the good things that I’m striving for feel a little accidental and a little magical.

Note
Brittan Nannenga has joined the Northwestern University Archives as archives assistant. Nannenga manages the acquisition and accession procedures for newly acquired archival and manuscript collections. She comes to Northwestern after performing similar duties at the University of Chicago’s Special Collections Research Center.

Sally Childs-Helton, PhD (head, Special Collections, Rare Books, and University Archives), has been promoted to full professor at Butler University. She is the first librarian to be promoted to the rank of full professor since Butler librarians gained faculty status in 2010.

Danielle Spalenka has accepted the position of preservation specialist at the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC). She provides preservation information and outreach, including assessments, consultations, training programs, and disaster assistance. She will be working remotely from Louisville, Kentucky, as part of NEDCC’s plan to extend the reach of workshops and assessments to the Midwest.

Effective January 2017, Johna (Picco) Ebling was promoted to exhibits manager at the Filson Historical Society.

Brad Houston started an appointment in June 2017 as document services manager for the City of Milwaukee.

The next Certified Archivist examination will be held July 26, 2017, in Portland, OR (SAA site); Albuquerque, NM; Annapolis, MD; Chattanooga, TN; Des Moines, IA; and San Jose, CA, as well as anywhere three Early Bird applicants or five regular applicants wish to take it.

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Institution________________________________________________________________________ Fax_________________________________ 
Title________________________________________________________________________________ E-mail__________________________________________
Business Address_______________________________________________________________________
City/State________________________________________ Zip Code______________________________
Mailing Address (if different from above) ________________________________________________

☐ New Membership ☐ Change of Address ☐ Renewal

Membership fees: $45 Individual, $90 Institutional. The membership year runs from January to December. Make checks payable to Midwest Archives Conference. Mail check and this form to Midwest Archives Conference, 631 U.S. Highway One, Suite 400, North Palm Beach, FL 33408.

In our continued efforts to be more financially and environmentally sustainable, MAC is now asking members to consider electronic-only delivery of MAC publications. If you choose e-delivery, you will receive an expanded e-mail when the new publication is available on the MAC website.

Preference for delivery of **MAC Newsletter** (CHOOSE ONE) ☐ ☐
Preference for delivery of **Archival Issues** (CHOOSE ONE) ☐ ☐

*For budgeting reasons, your choice can be modified only during the next renewal period.*