News from the Midwest

Midwest Archives Conference

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ILLINOIS

Augustana College
The Thomas Tredway Library Special Collections Department has received a $3,094 grant to digitize materials from the John Henry Hauberg (1869–1955) papers. The hallmark of Hauberg’s collection is his photography, which includes approximately 8,000 glass-plate images. This project will target 1,500 of the most historically significant glass-plate images related to Native American culture and landscapes, Quad Cities scenes, the Rock Island Arsenal, Black Hawk State Historic Site, and the Denkmann-Hauberg West End Settlement in Rock Island. Many of these photographs are entirely unprecedented in the historical record. This grant was awarded by the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board, through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Newberry Library
In September, Newberry Library archivists began a two-year project to arrange, preserve, and describe 13 of the largest unprocessed collections within the library’s Midwest Dance Collection. The project is made possible by a grant from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation. Once processed, the materials will support research into the work of major contributors to Chicago’s vibrant dance culture, including Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, MoMing Dance and Arts Center, and the dancer and choreographer Ruth Page. In addition to enhanced research tools, the Newberry will host public programs, often in partnership with organizations like the Chicago Dance History Project. Visit newberry.org/midwest-dance-collection.

North Park University
The Swedish Council of America (SCA) awarded the F. M. Johnson Archives and Special Collections a grant to stabilize and digitize the parish registers and minutes (1849–1896) of St. Angsarius Episcopal Church. St. Angsarius was the first Swedish congregation in Chicago, and its records are significant to both the city and Scandinavian American history for the role the church played in the fledgling immigrant community and for their survival of the great Chicago Fire of 1871. Held in the Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago, the fragile records have been restricted from use until they receive treatment covered in part by the SCA grant. Archives staff will make the digital images freely available online through its website.

Southern Illinois University—Carbondale
Senator Paul Simon was a five-term Democratic congressman and a two-term senator from Illinois who ran unsuccessfully for his party’s presidential nomination in 1988. The Special Collections Research Center, working with the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, has digitized and created YouTube playlists of Simon’s floor speeches, campaign videos, press conferences, special events, and public service announcements on issues such as direct federal loans to college students, programs to create jobs and national adult literacy programs, a constitutional balanced-budget amendment, and the North American Free Trade Agreement. See youtube.com/channel/UCN5DE7n0gQHZ5SHw6MVU4RQ/featured.

INDIANA

Indiana State University
The Cunningham Memorial Library Special Collections Department premiered the fall exhibit, Seasons of White and Blue: Exploring the Past and Present of ISU. Tied to the university’s Sesquicentennial Era celebration, the exhibit explored the history of ISU through clothing and culture. Curated by the university archivist, Katie Sutrina-Haney, and the data curation librarian, Kayla Siddell, the exhibit featured a collection of images and artifacts from the University Archives. The four main sections of the exhibit explored the expansion and diversification of ISU students, changes in sporting activities, the progression of ISU’s mascot, and cultural changes.

Morgan County Public Library
Heavy use of county probate records at the Morgan County Public Library grew the need to index the records to make them suitable for online viewing. That all the surnames that begin with the same letter were together but not in strict alphabetical order made accessibility a challenge. To remedy this, the genealogy librarian and a volunteer worked together to create an online portal for these files.
To date, records A through E are completed and accessible online. See morgancountylibrary.info/genealogy.

Purdue University
The Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center at Purdue Libraries is pleased to announce that the finding aid to Neil A. Armstrong’s papers is now available. A team of three staff members processed the 207-cubic-foot collection over two years. The papers document Armstrong’s grade school years, his participation in the Boy Scouts, his college years, his NASA career, his work on various commissions and boards, and hundreds of his written speeches. Several classes at Purdue have already made use of the papers. The Armstrong papers are part of the growing Barron Hilton Flight and Space Exploration Archives established at Purdue Libraries in 2011 with generous support from Barron Hilton and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. Visit collections.lib.purdue.edu/flight-and-space.

Southwestern Indiana Collections Connection (SICCA)
SICCA announces the group’s third Annual Meeting on Monday, February 22, 2016, at the Old National Events Plaza in Evansville. The event is free to members and membership is also free. SICCA provides its members with a no-cost professional networking community on collections care, advocacy, and collaboration. SICCA membership draws from a variety of institutions in Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky, including museums, libraries, historic homes, historic sites, archives, national parks, and governmental units. Contact agowen@vanderburghcounty.in.gov.

KANSAS
Kansas University
The Robert J. Dole Archives and Special Collections had a banner Archives Month celebration in October! It conducted an internal Dole Institute archives contest and participated in the Kansas State Historical Records Advisory Board’s passport project. One public program featured archival materials and an interview with Mo West, Senator Dole’s legislative assistant for disability during Congress’s consideration of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Dole Archives received a 2015 Technology Award from the Kansas Museums Association for the web-based version of the new exhibit, *Celebrating Opportunity for People with Disabilities: 70 Years of Dole Leadership*, and launched a mini-exhibit on Dole and the Kansas City Royals, coinciding with the Major League Baseball playoffs.
The archives held several classes on the theme of disability, including two convening in collaboration with campus World War I commemorative events. Visit dolearchives.ku.edu.

Bethel College
The Mennonite Library and Archives at Bethel College transferred approximately 2,300 digital images to the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office in Kykotsmovi, Arizona, on March 23, 2015. The original nitrate negatives and glass lantern slides were taken by Mennonite missionary and ethnologist H. R. Voth from 1893 until about 1912, mostly at the Third Mesa villages. The archives at Bethel College houses Voth’s extensive papers. Placing the full set of the Voth photos in the Hopi archives returns the images to their place of origin where they will have the most relevance and use.

Kentucky
Kentucky Oral History Day
On October 21, 2015, the Kentucky Council on Archives collaborated with the Kentucky Oral History Commission and the Kentucky Historical Society to sponsor the first Kentucky Oral History Day during Archives Month. Over 10 institutions participated, ranging from large academic repositories to small historical societies. The goals of the day were to improve access to oral history collections and to promote awareness of oral history collection needs and strategies for collection management. At Eastern Kentucky University, for example, student workers indexed interviews using the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer OHMS. Participants engaged in a lively Twitter conversation using #OralHistoryDay to connect their efforts and share their experiences.

University of Kentucky
The University of Kentucky’s Special Collections Research Center kicked off its annual Learning Lab internship project in September 2015. Undergraduates in the year-long internship generally process collections and create scholarly research related to those collections and their research interests or specialties. This year, interns will be processing 10 cubic feet of blueprints from a Lexington, Kentucky, architectural firm and jointly working on scholarly projects that look at the economic development of Lexington through construction and development. Interns also attended a special “Description Camp” workshop to learn about proper handling of archival documents, ArchivesSpace, and describing collections with an archival mindset. Students will present their final projects in April 2016.
MICHIGAN

Capital Area District Libraries
The Capital Area District Libraries’ Forest Parke Library and Archives has launched its Local History Online catalog after a year of dedicated effort. Local history staff and volunteers are adding more content every day, with current highlights being a local postcard collection, area club and society papers, family history materials, death notice indices, a cookbook collection, biography and subject file indices, and automotive collections. Visit cadl.org/research-and-learn/local-history/forest-parke-library-and-archives-home.

Michigan Technological University
In 2015, the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections received a Michigan Humanities Council Heritage Grant to document and exhibit African American heritage in the Copper Country. The archives also received a Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission Heritage Grant to fund an oral history project documenting the memories of copper miners and their families. In addition, Lindsay Hiltunen, senior archivist with the Michigan Tech Archives, has also renewed the department’s commitment to Michigan History Day, with targeted outreach to high school students and Saturday research workshops to encourage participants to create local, primary source–driven projects.

Mid-Michigan Digital Practitioners
Forty archivists, librarians, digital curators, and others met at Albion College in October 2015 as part of a Mid-Michigan Digital Practitioners event. The event included a half-day workshop funded by the Michigan Archival Association, where representatives from the University of Michigan Bentley Historical Library showed “Structured Data Wrangling” strategies and representatives from the Michigan State University Libraries shared techniques in “Leveraging Digital Humanities Methods and Tools in the Archive.” The second day included lightning talks, posters, networking and demos on open access, linked open data, Digital Public Library of America, electronic records transfer, institutional repositories, and disk recovery. The next meeting is scheduled for mid-March 2016 at Grand Valley State University. Visit archives.msu.edu/about/conferences.php?about_conferences.

Wayne State University
The Walter P. Reuther Library has created a HistoryPin tour featuring Detroit’s Eastern Market, the largest public market district in the United States. Using images from the Detroit News Collection, the online tour offers a unique glimpse into the everyday activities of the market between 1910 and 1981. Visit the site at bit.ly/1METGJx. In other news, the newly available Max M. Fisher Papers, comprising 185 linear feet of papers spanning from the 1950s through 2000, document Fisher’s life and career as a successful Detroit industrialist and investor, Jewish community leader, legendary philanthropist, and influential Republican Party fund-raiser and power broker. See reuther.wayne.edu.

MINNESOTA

University of Minnesota
The Immigration History Research Center Archives celebrated its 50th anniversary in fall 2015 with its colleague, the Immigration History Research Center. Activities included a reception with former curator and associate director Joel Wurl as featured speaker and the anniversary exhibit curated by Ellen Engseth and Daniel Necas, People on the Move: 50 Years of Documenting and Researching Migration Experiences at the Immigration History Research Center and Archives. Other activities included a fundraising campaign and participating in the “Immigrant America Conference: New Immigration Histories from 1965 to 2015,” an interdisciplinary conference marking the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Immigration Act.

Minnesota Historical Society
The Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) was recently awarded its fourth National Digital Newspaper Program grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to digitize an additional 100,000 pages of historic Minnesota newspapers. MNHS delivered 343,307 pages from 38 historic Minnesota newspapers to the Library of Congress’s website, Chronicling America (see chroniclingamerica.loc.gov). Additionally,
the Historical Minneapolis Tribune (1867–1922) is now available through a new platform provided by the Minnesota Historical Society in partnership with Minnesota State Library Services. Funding for the digitization and access to the newspapers was provided by the Minnesota Department of Education through a Library Services Technology Act grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Visit newspapers2.mnhs.org/jsp/browse.jsp.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Project for Automated Library Services (PALS)
PALS is happy to announce that St. Cloud Technical and Community College and Winona State University joined the PALS Islandora Community during the summer of 2015. Islandora is an open-source digital asset management system supported by PALS. See islandora.mnpals.net for more information about our community support.

MISSOURI

Fontbonne University
The Fontbonne University Archives received a grant from the Fontbonne Community Connection (FCC) in 2015 to digitize its collection of student yearbooks. The digital images are now available for viewing on the archives’ website. The FCC is a women’s giving circle that funds projects proposed by Fontbonne University staff, faculty, students, and student organizations. The grant proposals are a compilation of priority goals that are beyond the scope of a current year’s budget.

Kansas City Public Library
The Kansas City Public Library Missouri Valley Special Collections Department processed a massive collection of oversized blueprints, maps, architectural drawings, land abstracts, photos, and correspondence from the Kansas City Stockyards, one of the area’s most important industries. The two-year project was funded by a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources as part of the Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives initiative, which was supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Visit kchistory.org.

National Archives–St. Louis and Kansas City
The 2016 Virtual Genealogy Fair hosted by the National Archives featured staff members from the National Archives at St. Louis and the National Archives at Kansas City. The presentations included topics such as military personnel-data records, preserving family records, Civilian Conservation Corps personnel folders, World War I–related personnel documents, women in civil service, and using bankruptcy records for genealogical research. The presentations are available on the National Archives YouTube channel, and handouts can be found at archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair/2015.

Webster University Archives
The Webster University Archives has provided support for various university centennial activities, including videos, an alma mater contest, a time-capsule project, a social media trivia contest, homecoming events, and the book, Webster University: A Century of Defining Moments, a photo-laden compilation of the college’s transition from its founding by the Sisters of Loretto, to being the first US Catholic college to become secular, to its current status as a global university with campuses on four continents. Visit webster.edu/wup/books/centbook.html.

OHIO

The Ohio State University
The Ohio State University Archives celebrated its 50th anniversary in May
2015 with an open house featuring historical film footage, artifacts, and stacks tours. To commemorate the anniversary, in September an endowment was fully funded to support the operations of the archives, including programming, special projects, and staff development. In addition, this past fall, the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center Archival Program celebrated its 25th anniversary with several major events and an exhibit, Mysteries in Ice. The film, Byrd 1933, premiered in October, using archival films of Admiral Richard E. Byrd’s lecture series, preserved with a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation. See byrd1933.com.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Rapid City Library

The Rapid City Library is creating a Local History Room to preserve and make available materials documenting the history, development, and identity of Rapid City. The Library Foundation was generous enough to fund the vision: honoring the past with a façade echoing that of the original city library building with the inclusion of stained-glass windows. Patrons will have the opportunity to access digitized materials, including oral histories, images from Black Hills history, and genealogical resources through one of the library’s many databases.

South Dakota State Historical Society

The South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre recently uploaded new photographs from the R.C. Lathrop Collection to the South Dakota Digital Archives. Over 600 railroad-related photographs were added to the online photo archives, with a particular emphasis on railroad depots. Other images include scenes of elevators, roundhouses, tracks, rail yards, water tanks, and other railroad-related buildings from several South Dakota towns. The images date from the 1900s to the 1970s. Visit history.sd.gov/archives.

WISCONSIN

Miller Brewing Company

As part of its 160th anniversary celebration in September, the Miller Brewing Company unveiled four rotating displays of archives items, many rarely seen by the public until now. Each display tells the story of a period in the company’s history. Archivists Charlie Hosale and Erik Brooks led the effort, including building displays celebrating founder Frederick J. Miller and the growth of Miller High Life, which launched in 1903. The brewer also buried a time capsule to be opened on Miller’s 200th anniversary in 2055.

Wisconsin Historical Society

Wisconsin scientist Increase Lapham (1811–1875) was a pioneering scholar in natural history and one of Milwaukee’s founding fathers. Thanks to a generous grant from the Council of University of Wisconsin Librarians, his papers, totaling 40,000 pages of correspondence, diaries, scientific notes, and other records, will be digitized and made available online. Future additions may include museum objects and printed publications associated with Lapham. The project, headed by archivist Laura Farley, will last well into 2016. See whist.org/1HXZqF5.