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Digital Tour of the Hoosier State: Indianapolis on the Web

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Digital Tour of the Hoosier State: Indianapolis on the Web

By Brianna Marshall, Indiana University—Bloomington

This year's MAC Annual Meeting will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana—the Crossroads of America. Some may not know quite what to think about Indiana; common associations include basketball, limestone, and the Indy 500, from which this year's conference theme takes inspiration. While these are important aspects of Indiana culture, visitors should be aware of plenty of other things about the Hoosier state and its capital city, Indianapolis. The following digital resources should help anyone get to know more about Indiana!

All Around Indiana

A good first stop for learning about Indiana is the Indiana Historical Society (IHS), which offers a broad array of digital collections to explore at www.indianahistory.org/our-collections/digital-image-collections. Learn more about notable Hoosiers, such as Madam C. J. Walker, the first female self-made millionaire; James Whitcomb Riley, the famed poet; and Benjamin Harrison, the 23rd president of the United States. Read about Indiana in times of war, including the Civil War, WWII, and the Vietnam War, or access photos and maps from around the state. Before leaving the IHS Web site, be sure to check out the INDepth stories, brief historical anecdotes often accompanied by an image from the collections. Of particular interest to those unfamiliar with Indiana will be the story *What Is a Hoosier?* Visit www.indianahistory.org/feature-details/what-is-a-hoosier to shed some light on the perplexing first question most visitors have!

Indiana Memory, www.in.gov/memories/, is another excellent place for exploring digital collections from around the state. The collections are keyword searchable—although the ability to browse by participating institutions is most helpful—opening an easy portal to collections from public libraries, universities, and other historical organizations. Additional collections hosted by the Indiana State Library are available at cdm16066.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/. For more textual history, visit the Indiana State Digital Archives, www.indianadigitalarchives.org/, for an on-line index to almost three million state and county records. Operated by the State Archives Division of the Indiana Commission on Public Records, the Web site recently added the court records of Marion County, home to Indianapolis, dating from 1822 to 1930. The site has been

recognized by the genealogy magazine *Family Tree* as one of the best state sites for three years straight.

Indiana colleges and universities are among the top providers of Internet resources documenting the state's rich history. The Private Academic Library of Indiana Digital Library Collections at palni.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ is a gateway to the digital collections of over a dozen private colleges and universities in Indiana, including Butler University, Earlham College, Taylor University, and Wabash College.

Indiana University—Bloomington (IUB) is home to stellar archival collections, many of which have been digitized and are accessible on-line through Archives Online at webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/findingaids/welcome.do. Using Archives Online, browse the collections of various repositories at IUB, among them University Archives, the Lilly Library, the Black Film Center/Archive, the Folklore Collection, and more. These collections are also fully searchable.

The Ball State University Digital Media Repository at libx.bsu.edu/ provides a robust search experience for its digital collections. Explore the collections using an interactive media viewer, or focus your search on a specific subject, location, format, or contributor. Listen to the Middletown Digital Oral Histories at libx.bsu.edu/cdm4/collection.php?CISOROOT=/MidOrHis, which include audio files and transcripts of interviews with the African-American, Jewish, and Catholic communities of Muncie, Indiana.

The Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) Program of Digital Scholarship also offers access to its digital collections at ulib.iupui.edu/digitalscholarship. Delve into the history of our host city, Indianapolis, by checking out IUPUI's exhibit on the history of Indianapolis at ulib.iupui.edu/digitalscholarship/collections/IndyHist. Be sure to look as well through the *Indianapolis Recorder* collection, which includes digitized copies of an important African-American newspaper established in 1897, at ulib.iupui.edu/digitalscholarship/collections/IRecorder.

The Purdue University E-Archives, earchives.lib.purdue.edu/?page=about, gives a glimpse into the archival hold-

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ings of the university. Of note is the George Palmer Putnam Collection of Amelia Earhart Papers, oldsite.lib.purdue.edu/spcol/aeahart/. Few people know that Earhart became a faculty member at Purdue in 1935, just two years before her 1937 disappearance during an attempted flight to circumnavigate the globe.

Indiana public libraries are another great resource to turn to on the Web. The Indianapolis Public Library features many collections pertaining to Indianapolis history at digitallibrary.imcpl.org/cdm/. The Allen County Public Library hosts the “Lincoln Collection in Indiana” research collection at www.acpl.lib.in.us/LincolnCollection/Collection.htm, which documents the life of America’s 16th president, who spent several years of his youth in the Hoosier state. The Monroe County Public Library offers a digital collection focused on Indiana limestone at mcpl.info/indiana/indiana-bedrock. Limestone quarries populate an area known as the “Stone Belt” in southern Indiana—to see footage from this region, be sure to view the classic Hoosier film *Breaking Away* (1979).

And, last but not least, the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) Archives, www.imamuseum.org/archon/?p=digitallibrary/digitallibrary, offers access to several digital collections. Highlights include the Miller House and Garden Collection; the museum’s exhibition records dating back to 1883; and the papers of J. Ottis Adams, a native Hoosier artist. If you’re attending the 2013 Annual Meeting, the Miller House and Garden Collection, www.imamuseum.org/millerhouse—a home of Modernist design located in Columbus, Indiana—is only a short drive from Indianapolis. Check out some of their digitized materials on Tumblr: digitizingmillerhouseandgarden.tumblr.com/.

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