News from the Midwest

Midwest Archives Conference

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Please submit “News from the Midwest” items for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio to Troy Eller at troy.eller@wayne.edu; and items for Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to Alison Stankrauff at astankra@iusb.edu. Submissions must be 150 words or less.

ILLINOIS

Newberry Library
As part of the Newberry’s recent National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Division of Preservation and Access grant to process the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad Company records, archivists started a blog, Everywhere West, to document the project’s progress, showcase items from the collection, and describe the use of the Railroad’s land records for genealogical research: http://publications.newberry.org/cbq/.

Society of the Divine Word–Chicago Province


The Society of the Divine Word’s Meyers Archives received a $5,975 NEH grant to fund a preservation and conservation assessment of their rare and fragile books and audiovisual materials: http://www.divineword.org/robert_m_myers_archives/robert_m_myers_archives.aspx.

University of Illinois–Chicago (UIC)
UIC Richard J. Daley Library’s Special Collections Department has processed the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Records. These Records document the history and activities of the PTA and its predecessor organization, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Some material is included from the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers. See http://library.uic.edu/home/collections/manuscripts-and-rare-books.

INDIANA

Ball State University
Created from digitized 16mm films, the University Libraries recently added the Ball State University Historic Films and Videos and the Muncie and Delaware County Films and Videos collections to its Digital Media Repository. The collections document significant developments and events, noteworthy scholarship, and student life throughout Ball State’s history, local politics, business, industry, and social and family life. See http://libx.bsu.edu/.

Butler University
Butler University contributed two digital exhibits to the Indiana Historical Society’s “Destination Indiana” gallery. The exhibits chronicle the history of Butler University and Hinkle Fieldhouse, which is listed on the National Register and was featured in the film Hoosiers. Almost all of the exhibit images are from the Butler University Archives.

Crawfordsville District Public Library (CDPL)
Reference and local history librarians at the CDPL completed The Hidden History of Montgomery County, scheduled to be published by The History Press this spring. Using primary sources and rare photographs from CDPL’s archives, the authors introduce readers to forgotten artists, authors, and actors, in addition to exploring sensational crimes, campaigns, and celebrity visits.

Indiana Digital Archives
The Indiana Digital Archives has new digital collections available, including the United Spanish War Veterans (USWV) database with over 6,470 entries for members of the Indiana Department of the USWV. The database, including the Indiana subset, was created in 1904 by the merger of three smaller record sets of Spanish-American War veterans. See http://www.indianadigitalarchives.org.

Indiana Historical Society (IHS)
The newest digital collection added to the IHS Web site is the Essays of Indianapolis Literary Club (1889–1940). The IHS Indiana Experience continues to feature a suite of immersive visitor experiences, including “Destination Indiana.” See http://www.indianahistory.org/library/.

Indiana University (IU) School of Medicine Library
The IU School of Medicine Library received two consecutive Public Health Subcontracts from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine to digitize the Indiana State

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Board of Health Monthly Bulletin (1899–1991), and a Library Services and Technology Act grant from the Indiana State Library to incorporate content into the Indiana Memory Project. See http://scholarworks.iupui.edu/handle/1805/1640.

Northern Indiana Center for History (NICH)

Last fall, the NICH hosted a traveling exhibit, entitled “Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America,” featuring artifacts from four hundred communities of Catholic sisters who established and ran schools, hospitals, and orphanages during America’s earliest days, thereby promoting a culture of social service. The exhibit showcases Catholic sisters’ nursing assistance during the Civil War and their present ministries around the globe.

Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods

With the assistance of the Indiana Historical Society’s Historic Document Preservation Program and the Preservation Imaging Lab, the first of two books that record the entry of all women into the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, has been digitized. The entries include the women’s religious names, and, in most cases, additional genealogical information. See http://www.spsmw.org/archives/gems-from-the-archives.aspx.

IOWA

Drake University

Drake University’s Cowles Library has made available for research the collected papers of family members John Cowles, Mike Cowles, and David Kruidenier, whose media empire began with The Des Moines Register in 1935 and expanded to all the major papers in Minneapolis and Look magazine. See http://www.lib.drake.edu/heritage/GardnerCowlesFamily/.

KANSAS

Kansas Historical Society (KHS)

The KHS has partnered with Ancestry.com to provide free public access to thousands of pages from select years of the Kansas State Census. In addition to listing family members, the state census records often include other genealogical and agricultural production information, farm by farm.

University of Kansas (KU)

The University of Kansas, together with McGill University and Springfield College, recently celebrated the 150th birthday of James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, with an on-line exhibition, available at http://liblamp.vm.ku.edu/omeka/exhibits/show/naismith150. The University’s Dole Institute of Politics completed a two-year grant from the National Historic Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to process and create guides for the collections of Senator Robert J. Dole (http://dolearchive.ku.edu/). Thanks to a generous donation, KU Libraries recently opened the Marilyn Stokstad Reading Room in the Kenneth Spencer Research Library. See http://spencer.lib.ku.edu/.

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Historical Society (KHS)

The KHS Foundation received a $100,000 NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant to enable the Kentucky Oral History Commission to fund the project, “Pass the Word: The Guide to Oral History in Kentucky.” Beginning this spring, “Pass the Word” will survey oral history holdings in repositories across Kentucky and create a searchable database for researchers. The KHS Martin D. Schmidt Research Library received a NHPRC grant to process the physical and electronic records of the Kentucky Folklore Program Collection. See http://kyhistoricalsociety.typepad.com/historyburgoo/.

University of Kentucky (UK)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded the UK Libraries a $195,853 National Leadership Grant to further develop their Oral History Metadata Synchronizer, an open source system that enhances access to oral histories on-line. To help connect finding aids to digitized objects, the UK Libraries developed an open source content management system utilizing Blacklight and Google Maps’ Application Programming Interface. Visit the Beta site and select the “Smith Family Papers” to explore a manuscript collection digitized at the folder level at http://eris.uky.edu/exploreuk/.

University of Louisville

The Kornhauser Health Sciences Library at the University of Louisville began its 175th anniversary this year with “‘Frankenstein’: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature,” an exhibit created by The National Library of Medicine. The exhibit and accompanying programming explored Mary Shelley’s work and the biomedical advances that challenge people’s traditional understanding of what it means to be human.

Northern Kentucky University (NKU)

NKU’s Steely Library Special Collections and Archives Department received the congressional papers of
retired Senator Jim Bunning. The collection documents his 24 years of public service in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate from 1987 to 2010. Along with the congressional papers of Gene Snyder and Ken Lucas, who also held the Fourth Congressional District seat, NKU now holds over 40 years of continuous records for this district.

MICHIGAN

Archives of Michigan
Once rescued from the dumpster, the records of the Wayne County Road Commission are now preserved at the Archives. These records document important moments in highway history, including the country’s first mile of concrete highway (1909). The Charles and Ardith Westie Collection is another new collection that contains WW II-era letters between Charles and his wife. The Archives is also placing select nineteenth century Michigan census records on its Web site: http://seekingmichigan.org.

Grand Rapids City Archives
The Grand Rapids City Archives recently acquired the Real Property Appraisal Files from the City Assessor Department dating from 1936 to 2009. With documentation of every commercial, industrial, and residential building, including photographs, measurements, and descriptions from 1936 to 1938, this record series has quickly become the most popular file in the City Archives.

Michigan State University (MSU)
As part of the NHPRC-funded Spartan Archive electronic records project, the Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections (UAHC) created metadata definitions and conducted user needs surveys, database appraisals, and data extraction and transmission. For project documentation, visit http://spartanarchive.wordpress.com. To help researchers meet grant funders’ requirements for data management plans, UAHC has partnered with MSU Libraries to teach faculty seminars on research data management. Follow the UAHC on Twitter (@msuarchives) and at http://msuarchives.wordpress.com.

Michigan Technological University
The Michigan Tech Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections held an open house in November to mark the completion of a two-year NHPRC project to improve description of the Archives’ seven hundred discrete collections of personal papers, diaries, organizational records, business materials, mining company records, maps, newspapers, and other historical documents. See http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/.

Wayne State University
The Walter P. Reuther Library completed a one-year pilot program for which students in the School of Library and Information Science conducted weeklong or longer technical internships during academic breaks. Designed to be a skill builder for soon-to-be graduates, the program involved students creating four hundred EAD finding aids, cataloging library materials using MARC, adding metadata, and digitizing audiovisual resources. Follow the Reuther at http://www.facebook.com/reutherlib.

MINNESOTA

Basilica of Saint Mary
The Basilica of Saint Mary was awarded a $110,000 grant from the American Express Partners in Preservation program to build preservation projects. The Basilica Archives scoured their collections for fascinating photographs and artifacts to use (Continued on page 12)
with social media, and launched an extensive exhibit in the church proper, including original drawings, documents, cartoons, and fallen bits of plaster ornamentation.

Minnesota Public Radio
Minnesota Public Radio is creating an inventory of the physical collections it has accumulated over the course of 45 years, including a variety of media. This project is part of a national initiative funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to create a comprehensive archives of holdings at public radio and television stations.

MISSOURI

Midwest Genealogy Center
The Center recently completed digitization of four Kansas City and Jackson County, Missouri, plat books, spanning the years 1886 to 1925. Volunteers completed a name index for the 1904 and 1911 plat books. The digital images of each plat book can be viewed page-by-page, and are searchable on the Missouri Digital Heritage Web site: http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/.

Missouri State University
Celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, Missouri State University’s student newspaper, The Standard, is available on-line and includes issues from 1912 through 2009. See http://digitalcollections.missouristate.edu.

National Archives at Kansas City
Finding aids for the Aberdeen Area Office records and Winnebago Agency records from the Bureau of Indian Affairs can be found in the Archival Research Catalog at http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/. The 1940 U.S. Federal Census opened on-line to the public on April 2, and the Archives is offering a series of classes that explain how to search the on-line interface and describe the information researchers will find there. See http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/inex.html.

State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO)
After an arson and vandalism incident at the Ellis Library in September, the SHSMO’s Research Center--Columbia sustained water damage to its facility. With damage primarily confined to office areas, only two of approximately 5,000 manuscript collections sustained minor damage. Some reels of duplicate microfilm were also destroyed. The facility reopened to the public four days later, and reconstruction of ceilings, walls, and floor surfaces finished in December.

Harry S. Truman Library
The Truman Library opened a 3,200-page accretion to the Bess Wallace Truman Papers, which contains letters written by the families of Harry and Bess Truman, particularly those between Bess and her mother, Madge Gates Wallace. These letters include family news and discussions about Missouri, national politics, elections, and the Korean War. Please send inquiries to truman.reference@nara.gov.

OHIO

Cleveland Public Library (CPL)
Founded one hundred years ago, The Kokoon Arts Klub was Cleveland’s entrée into modern art, giving Clevelanders a taste of avant-garde nightlife with festive parties called “Bal Masque” in the 1920s and 1930s. The artistic legacy of founders August Biehle and William Sommer lives on in their collections at the CPL, which featured The Kokoon Klub in a library exhibition that opened in August 2011, and in an exhibition catalog, Out of the Kokoon, available from the Friends of the Cleveland Public Library, http://www.friendsclpl.org/.

Ohio University (OU)
Ohio University’s first alumna Margaret Boyd’s senior year experiences at Ohio University is tweeting the 1873 diary of its first female alumna, Margaret Boyd. Courtesy of Ohio University.
are being tweeted through a collaboration between the OU Libraries’ Digital Initiatives and Reference units. Student workers Matt Wesley and Karah Finan are tweeting Boyd’s 1873 diary, posting images to Pinterest, and researching and writing blog posts that offer a window into her world. See http://twitter.com/MaggieBoyd1873.

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum
The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum held the soft opening of its Library and Archives on January 17. The growing library collection includes thousands of books, periodicals, and sound and video recordings. Over 220 archival collections are currently available for research, including the institutional records and personal papers of record labels and executives, artist managers, performers, radio disc jockeys, photographers, journalists, critics, historians, poster artists, collectors, fans, and fan clubs. The grand opening is scheduled for April 9. For more information, see http://library.rockhall.com.

University of Toledo
The exhibit “Medicine on the Maumee: A History of Health Care in Northwest Ohio,” is on display at the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections through December 28. The exhibit uses documents, photographs, and artifacts from the Canaday Center’s collections, as well as materials borrowed from other repositories. For more information or an extensive free catalog, contact barbara.floyd@utoledo.edu.

SOUTH DAKOTA
Augustana College
Augustana College’s Center for Western Studies archives and library are benefitting from a $1.5 million endowment campaign, which includes a challenge grant from the NEH, awarded in 2008. A multiyear Archives Digitization Initiative was launched with this additional funding, beginning with the digitization of photographs related to the 1890 and 1973 events at Wounded Knee, to coincide with the Center’s April Dakota Conference on the subject.

Dakota Wesleyan University
C-SPAN made extensive use of the Dakota Wesleyan University Archives’ “Senator George McGovern Collection” in its series, The Contenders: They Ran and Lost but Changed Political History. Episode 13 focused on George McGovern and aired in December. Materials from 1939 Poet Laureate Badger Clark’s collection at the Archives were used in “Cowboy Song Tradition,” a traveling exhibit highlighting several early cowboy poets and songwriters.

WISCONSIN
Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS)
The WHS and the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research received three grants in 2011 for nitrate film projects. The National Film Preservation Foundation awarded funds to preserve, reformat, and digitize Our Own Gang (c. 1933) and The LumberJack (1914), which were produced in Wisconsin. In February 2012, the Society published digital facsimiles of more than 7,500 pages from the extensive papers of Senator William Proxmire: http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/topics/proxmire.