4-1-2012

Other_news

Midwest Archives Conference

Follow this and additional works at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/macnewsletter

Part of the Archival Science Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/macnewsletter/vol39/iss4/15

This Other News is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in MAC Newsletter by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
Cuadra Associates Helps Roosevelt University Expand Public Access to Its Archives: New Software Key to Expansion

Roosevelt University, founded in 1945 to foster the democratic ideals and values of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, is taking advantage of new archives management software to provide public access to its archives. Its extensive catalog of archival materials has now been made available on the Internet through STAR Knowledge Center for Archives (SKCA), a product of Los Angeles-based Cuadra Associates. The software supports the rapid description of archival materials and provides for easy searching for materials over the Internet.

The organization of Roosevelt’s archival materials did not begin in earnest until 2007, and about 20 percent of the University’s collection has been processed to date. Having first focused on the description of their photographic collection, archivists are now concentrating on a series of document collections in their backlog.

University Archivist Laura Mills credits SKCA with enabling Roosevelt to pick up the pace of describing its collections, as well as supporting the release of an attractive public-access catalog.

“The appearance of our public-access catalog is welcoming and straightforward,” Mills said. “University staff members tell me that they like it. We can already see that both our users over the Internet and University staff members will enjoy the benefits of using this tool because they can get to the descriptions, photographs, and images that they want easily and quickly. And SKCA’s ‘Advanced Search page’ helps them to limit their retrieval to only the materials that are relevant to their needs.”

Mills introduced the new catalog to Roosevelt faculty and staff through a series of orientation meetings and in an announcement on the University’s internal newsletter. To call additional attention to the University’s unique collection, she also posted an announcement about the catalog on Roosevelt’s Facebook page and blog. See https://roosevelt.cuadra.com/starweb1/l.skca-catalog/servlet.starweb1?path=l.skca-catalog/skcacatalog.web.

The Romano L. Mazzoli Papers Project at the University of Louisville Archives and Records Center

Kathie Johnson, Archivist for Manuscript Collections

From 1971-1995, Louisville native Romano L. “Ron” Mazzoli, Democrat, represented the Third Congressional District (Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky) in the United States House of Representatives. While in Congress, Mazzoli was Chairman of the House of Representatives’ Immigration, International Law and Refugees Subcommittee and served on the Small Business, Intelligence and District of Columbia Committees. He was the primary architect, with Senator Alan Simpson, of major immigration reform legislation, signed into law on November 7, 1986, by then President Ronald Reagan.

The Mazzoli Papers Project consists of several components, including the processing of the Congressman’s papers, an oral history project, and the refurbishing and naming of the University Archives and Records Center’s reading room. Adapting “More Product, Less Process,” the arrangement and description of the papers took approximately two and a half years, with Project Assistant Kevin Collins working 15-20 hours per week under the supervision of Archivist for Manuscript Collections Kathie Johnson. Retention decisions were based on series: for some, everything was kept; others, such as “case files,” were sampled with approximately 10% retained; and in others, such as military academy nominations, only those that actually received a recommendation from the Congressman were kept. Readily available published material was also not retained. The collection arrived in 1995 at almost 1,500 linear feet, and was pared down to 600. The material dates from the 1920s through 2010, with the bulk of the Papers dating from 1968 through 1995. A box-level inventory to the collection is available on-line at http://louisville.edu/library/archives/findingaids/mazzoli.html, and a folder-level finding aid is in process.

The oral history component of this project included 67 hours of interviews. Almost 30 of those hours were with
Hubert Humphrey Papers to be Digitized

Through a Digitizing Historical Records grant from the NHPRC, the Minnesota Historical Society is undertaking a one-year project to digitize and make available the manuscripts and audio recordings of speeches by United States Senator and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey (1911-1978). This series of the Humphrey Papers contains 32,000 pages of annotated transcriptions for nearly every public speech dating from 1941, when Humphrey entered local Minnesota politics, until his death in 1978. The project will also digitize the audio recordings of at least 50 particularly important speeches.

The Humphrey Papers (1883-1982), http://www.mnhs.org/library/findaids/00720.xml, comprise 1,700 cubic feet of materials consisting of U.S. Senate and Vice-Presidential files, as well as materials pertaining to Humphrey’s family and personal life and his 1968 presidential and 1970 Senate campaigns. Within this collection, the speech text files series (http://www.mnhs.org/library/findaids/00442.xml) consists of approximately 46 cubic feet of varying formats, including notes, drafts, speaking texts, printed copies, and transcripts. Also present are excerpts, sample speeches, and incomplete indexes and checklists. The speeches address a variety of topics, including education; labor rights; foreign policy; international relations and the United Nations; nuclear weapons proliferation; communism and democracy; and health care, including Medicare legislation.

For this project, the MHS will hire an archival digitization and metadata assistant. Staff will follow the MHS digitization toolkit that documents its practices, techniques, and formats, and will link the digitized images to series-level inventories in the collection’s EAD finding aid. To digitize the sound recordings, project staff will reformat analog tapes, audio cassettes, and reel-to-reel tapes to WAV files, which will serve as preservation masters. Staff will create user copies from the WAV files in MP3 format. Similar to the textual digital files, the audio digital files will link to the EAD inventory of Humphrey’s speech recordings.

When complete, the digitization of this series of archival materials will document the path of Humphrey’s career, his evolving political thinking, and the maturation and high-water mark of the liberal tradition in twentieth century American politics and government. Hubert Humphrey, more than most leaders of the age, articulated his political values and pressed forward his agenda.
through the medium of speechmaking. Because of this, his extensive body of speeches comprises a wide and deep pool of documentary evidence illuminating American political and social history from the end of World War II through the end of the Vietnam War.

As his longtime colleague and adversary, Senator Strom Thurmond, eulogized Humphrey’s public oratory, “Here, then, is the nation’s true consolation: That voice that could not be silenced in life—that famous, unmistakable voice, instantly recognized throughout the land—will not be silenced in death. Hubert Humphrey will go on talking down the ages, to us, to our descendents, as long as the Republic endures.”

The Romano L. Mazzolie Papers
(Continued from page 29)

Mr. Mazzoli himself and cover a variety of topics, including his Italian ancestry and family history, his childhood years and education, his political and non-political careers, and important subjects and people in his life. The other 37 hours of interviews were with his immediate family, his Louisville and Washington staff, some of his campaign volunteers, and colleagues in the Congress. These interviews were conducted to present the Congressman as he was viewed by others, including his wife and children; his assistants, secretaries, and case workers; and his peers in the government. Some of these interviews are also available on-line at http://digital.library.louisville.edu/collections/mazzoli/, with more to follow.

The collection and newly renovated Romano L. Mazzoli Reading Room were officially opened on November 8, 2011.
Confused By Your Role As “Archivist as Educator?”

Mark your calendar for MAC’s 2012 Fall Symposium:
“Engaging with Students: Primary Sources in the K-16 Classroom”

The importance of educating our students is well-stated in Julia Hendry’s 2007 American Archivist article: “What better way to ensure that the policy makers and voters of tomorrow are both critical thinkers and sensitive to archival concerns than to introduce them at an early age to the usefulness of archives?” Recent literature in a variety of disciplines has investigated the use of primary sources in classroom settings. These studies have provided evidence about the benefits of using primary sources in K-16 curricula. This symposium will gather archivists and educators together to learn and discuss methods for connecting students with primary sources. Speakers will provide hands-on opportunities to work with primary sources, develop assignments and lesson plans using primary sources, and dialogue about best practices. Speakers include Peter Carini from Dartmouth College, Stacia Kuceyeski from the Ohio Historical Society, and Dr. Deanna Sellnow from the University of Kentucky.

The Symposium will be held at the Radisson Hotel on the Cincinnati riverfront in Covington, Kentucky. The hotel is located on the south bank of the Ohio River, across from beautiful downtown Cincinnati and within a few blocks of the historic Mainstrasse neighborhood of Covington. A special reception for participants will be held on Friday evening at the Radisson’s revolving restaurant, which features stunning views of the Cincinnati skyline. Check the MAC Web site in the coming months for more details on this unique opportunity to connect with fellow archivists and educators!