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## News from the Midwest

Midwest Archives Conference

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## News from the Midwest—Troy Eller, Wayne State University, and Alison Stankrauff, Indiana University South Bend, Assistant Editors

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

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### ILLINOIS

#### Society of the Divine Word

The Robert M. Myers Archives proudly announces the publication of *Communities of the Word: Stories of the Chicago Province, 1895–2012*, which it sponsored and for which it supplied research assistance. In 1899, the Society of the Divine Word arrived in North America and established the Techny community, north of Chicago. From there, the society grew to include communities throughout the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. Their histories make up the compiled stories of *Communities of the Word*, written by the men who lived, learned, and worked in their communities. Like Charles Dickens's serialized novels, a new chapter will appear every month; unlike the Dickens serializations, the medium is electronic. A new installment will be posted each month on the Robert M. Myers Archives Holdings page at [www.divineword.org/robert\\_m\\_myers\\_archives/communities\\_of\\_the\\_word.aspx](http://www.divineword.org/robert_m_myers_archives/communities_of_the_word.aspx).

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### INDIANA

#### New Albany–Floyd County Public Library

The New Albany–Floyd County Public Library is approximately a third of the way through a grant received from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Twenty-one hundred photographs have been digitized and cataloged by Heritage Photo and Research Services, an Indianapolis-based company. The library has made digitized images available online through its Historic Image Archive, which can be found at the library's website at

[www.nafclibrary.org](http://www.nafclibrary.org). At the conclusion of the project, the photographs will be made available to a much wider audience through the Indiana Memory Project on the Indiana State Library's website. The final goal is to create a link to southern Indiana's photo history that will benefit generations to come.

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### IOWA

#### University of Iowa

The Department of Special Collections and University Archives at the University of Iowa Libraries has been awarded a grant of \$300,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to preserve and digitally reformat the Keith/Albee Collection. Benjamin Franklin Keith and Edward Franklin Albee were partners in a Providence, Rhode Island–based vaudeville talent booking agency during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Over 50 linear feet of documents, including correspondence, newspaper clippings, and playbills, will be preserved and made accessible online to researchers when the project is completed in 2017. For more information, see [collguides.lib.uiowa.edu/?MSC0356](http://collguides.lib.uiowa.edu/?MSC0356).

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### KENTUCKY

#### The Filson Historical Society

The Filson Historical Society proudly reports its May 2014 groundbreaking on a campus expansion project. Designed by the De Leon and Primer Architecture Workshop, the project will transform the historical society through the construction of a 20,000-square-foot building

featuring collection storage facilities, museum-quality exhibition space, and a multipurpose event center, and including the renovation of its current buildings and the creation of a public, parklike campus. The expansion, estimated for completion in late 2015, should ensure the future growth of the Filson and help secure the important history of Kentucky and the entire Ohio River Valley. The Filson thanks its 2013–2014 graduate intern, Mary Alexandra “Alex” Covington, from the history department at the University of Louisville, for her work in processing numerous photograph and manuscript collections. The Filson is pleased to welcome Johna Picco, from the University of Illinois's Graduate School of Library and Information Science, as its 2014 Boehl Intern.

#### University of Kentucky

University of Kentucky's Special Collections announces projects for its 2013–2014 Learning Lab internship. This year's interns will be processing the E. F. Spears and Sons Hemp Records, the Ron Nickell Playbill Collection, the Daniel Drake Carter Letters, and three subseries from the Wade Hall Collection. The Special Collections Learning Lab is a center of primary research and experiential learning that allows undergraduates in various majors to explore archival training and theory according to their area of research interest. Additionally, students will produce a scholarly project related to the collection, giving researchers increased opportunities for access. A final presentation discussing Learning Lab outcomes will be held in April 2014 and is open to the public.

*(Continued on page 24)*

(Continued from page 23)

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## **MICHIGAN**

### **The Henry Ford**

The Benson Ford Research Center at The Henry Ford worked with the Dearborn Public Library and other community organizations on the Big Read Dearborn, a community-wide reading celebration and exploration of Jack London's classic novel, *The Call of the Wild*. The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment. The Henry Ford hosted the March 8 kickoff event, including a lecture and discussion. During 2013, the Archives and Library put 48 finding aids and related catalog records online, including the Engineering Laboratory Office Records subgroup of the Henry Ford Office Records, which contains an unbroken run of Henry Ford office correspondence from 1920 through 1952 and documents a period of more than 30 years of activity of Henry Ford and his company. Visit [www.thehenryford.org/research/index.aspx](http://www.thehenryford.org/research/index.aspx) for more.

### **Wayne State University**

Several positions at the Walter P. Reuther Library have been restructured following the passing of a colleague and in anticipation of upcoming retirements and user needs. The existing librarian position was eliminated, and Kristen Chinery moved into the role of reference archivist. Former reference archivist William LeFevre has become senior processing archivist to focus on the enormous backlog of United Automobile Workers records. Deborah Rice has moved to a newly created third audiovisual archivist

position to help respond to the high volume of AV requests. The Reuther has opened eight backlogged collections totaling more than 300 linear feet from the United Community Services (UCS) of Metropolitan Detroit. With its origins dating back to 1917, UCS was an umbrella organization for a wide range of social welfare agencies in the metro Detroit area, including those involved with child care, families, health, recreation, and community planning. For more information, visit [www.reuther.wayne.edu](http://www.reuther.wayne.edu).

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## **MINNESOTA**

### **Minnesota Historical Society**

The Minnesota Historical Society received a National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) grant to complete an ambitious, large-scale project that resulted in complete digital access to texts of Hubert H. Humphrey's speeches. Using a low-budget, high-volume approach that scanned each file with a sheet feeder to produce PDF/A reproductions, created minimal metadata for each file, and added them into an existing EAD inventory, the society digitized a total of 101,936 pages. The project also tested preservation reformatting of magnetic sound recordings and produced a selection of 106 speeches. Labor costs for digitization included real time playback of each recording, as well as an additional five minutes to add metadata, format the conversions into BWAV and MP3 files, and add them to an EAD inventory. The project realized a highly economical approach to mass digitization of an oft-sought collection of an influential twentieth-century politician. For speech texts, see [www.mnhs.org/library/findaids/00442.xml](http://www.mnhs.org/library/findaids/00442.xml) and for

sound recordings, [www.mnhs.org/library/findaids/01098.xml](http://www.mnhs.org/library/findaids/01098.xml).

### **Minnesota Legacy Grants**

Two Legacy Grant-funded projects, for microfilm duplication and for archives processing and rehousing, have been completed at the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum in St. Paul. A Legacy Grant-funded cataloging project of over 2,000 negatives and positive transparencies has also been completed at the Northwest Airlines (NWA) History Centre in Bloomington.

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## **OHIO**

### **Ohio Digitization Interest Group**

The Ohio Digitization Interest Group (OhioDIG) is happy to announce it has revived and is meeting every other month in the central Ohio area for presentations and networking. OhioDIG is an informal discussion group open to all with an interest in cultural heritage digitization. Meetings are bringing together more than 40 attendees from varied types of institutions to share on topics from digitization of specific formats to migrating platforms. Find out more at [ohiodig.org](http://ohiodig.org).

### **Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board**

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board awarded grants to 10 institutions for processing, cataloging, and digitization projects. Included are records documenting courts and local governments, businesses and industries, military and social organizations, and educational institutions. Funding is provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Grant recipients are the Alliance Historical Society, the Canal

Fulton Public Library, the Clinton County Records and Archives, the Hardin County Genealogy Society, Historic New Richmond, the Ohio Genealogical Society, Otterbein University, the Rocky River Public Library, the Summit County Historical Society, and the Warren County Historical Society. Visit [ohrab.org](http://ohrab.org) for more information.

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## **WISCONSIN**

### **University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee**

The School of Information Studies (SOIS) at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee awarded the Timothy L. Ericson Scholarship in Archival Studies to Hayley Jackson. The scholarship honors the founder

and long-time director of the SOIS Archival Studies Program, Timothy L. Ericson, whose contributions to SOIS have supported his colleagues, inspired his students, and brought many new and talented individuals to the archives profession.

### **The Wisconsin Veterans Museum**

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum joined the March Madness fun this year by hosting a Battle of the Beards bracket of Civil War soldiers on its Facebook page. The structure of the bracket mirrored that of March Madness basketball brackets with 16 photographs of creatively bearded soldiers and officers paired up two at a time for three rounds. Voting was open for 24 hours on Facebook

before a winner was announced to advance to the next round. The final four challengers had full biographies posted on Facebook in the days leading up to the final round. The Battle of the Beards was an overwhelming success, creating a lot of conversation and excitement among staff and Facebook followers alike. Due to the overwhelming popularity of the competition, a new exhibit of Beard Bracket challengers is being launched on the Wisconsin Veterans Museum web page, providing a biography for all 16 soldiers and officers. See it at [wisvetsmuseum.com/exhibitions/online/beard\\_bracket\\_challenge](http://wisvetsmuseum.com/exhibitions/online/beard_bracket_challenge).



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