News from the Midwest

Midwest Archives Conference

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News from the Midwest—Troy Eller English, 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 English at au2050@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

Decatur Public Library
Construction is underway at the Decatur Public Library on a new 3,700-square-foot Local History Room. The new area will include a reading room, a work area for staff and volunteers, and a much larger storage area, giving the archives space for future growth. The new space should be open to the public by the end of January 2015. See www.decaturlibrary.org/local-history.

Great Lakes Naval Museum

National Archives at Chicago
The National Archives at Chicago is pleased to announce the completion of a long-term finding aid project to document over 90 cubic feet of admiralty cases heard in the US District Court, Cleveland. Documenting maritime events on the Great Lakes from 1855 through 1966, the admiralty case files include both mundane litigation as well as significant maritime cases detailing events such as the tragic fates of the freighters Cedarville and Carl D. Bradley and the vessels Pewabic and Noronic. See www.archives.gov/chicago.

Roosevelt University
The Roosevelt University Archives has acquired the City Club of Chicago’s 800 program videos featuring such prominent Chicago politicians and leaders as Rahm Emanuel, Jesse White, Anita Alvarez, Karen Lewis, Mark Kirk, Pat Quinn, Toni Preckwinkle, Arne Duncan, and a young Senator Barack Obama. And, in other news, with over 200 still images from the archives, Roosevelt University, The Campus History Series from Arcadia Publishing details the university’s groundbreak- ing founding and historical influence on racial and religious inclusivity.

Wood Library-Museum
The American Society of Anesthesiology’s newly expanded Wood Library-Museum offers an in-depth look at the history of pain relieving surgical anesthetics and the profession of anesthesiology. Housing the most comprehensive collection of anesthesiology-related publications and artifacts in the world, the 70,000-square-foot facility displays actual medical devices and artifacts along with electronic media presentations and graphics. See www.woodlibrarymuseum.org.

INDIANA

Ball State University
The Ball State University Libraries recently digitized selected correspondence from the Clark Wissler Papers, 1897–1979. Wissler was curator of anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History from 1907 to 1942 and a professor at Yale University from 1924 to 1940. This digital collection features over 6,000 letters between Wissler and prominent American and British anthropologists, psychologists, paleontologists, museum curators, publishers, and members of his family from 1906 to 1947. For more, visit libx.bsu.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/WsslrCrlk.

The American Society of Anesthesiology announces its new exhibit area at the Wood Library-Museum.
Columbus Indiana Architectural Archives

The Columbus Indiana Architectural Archives (CIAA) presented the exhibition Dan Kiley Landscapes at the Bartholomew County Public Library in Columbus, Indiana, from July to October 2014. In mid-October, Tricia Gilson started as CIAA’s new archivist and curator.

Indiana State Archives

The Indiana State Archives has been awarded an LSTA grant to migrate electronic records from obsolete media. “The State Archives is fortunate to have received this grant to help cover the costs of an electronic records forensics lab to migrate and reformat electronic records from the 1970s forward—primarily from unstable 8-inch, 5.25-inch, and 3.5-inch floppy and Zip disks and CDs onto newer media, with the intent of both preserving and making accessible the content for future generations,” said Director Jim Corridan, adding, “ICPR hopes to make this service available to all Indiana governments, sometime in 2015.” This project is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act.

Willard Library

Willard Library in Evansville, Indiana, was one of 14 libraries in Indiana to receive a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) 2014 Digitization Sub-Grant. The funding will enable the continuation of the project begun last year to digitize thousands of the library’s most significant photographic images, which will be accessible through the Indiana Memory website. This project is made possible by a grant from the US Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Indiana State Library. Library officials have also announced that the grand opening for Willard’s expanded archives will be held on February 7, 2015. The new 8,000-square-foot addition will house offices, a storage facility, a research room, and an exhibit gallery that will also be used for public programs.

IOWA

Iowa State University

Reflections on ISU Extension is a new digital collection available through the Digital Collections at Iowa State University Library. Created in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the passage of the Smith Lever Act in 1914 establishing the Extension Service at the national level, the digital collection focuses on early Extension work at Iowa State (1900–1924). A Silos and Smokeystacks National Heritage Area grant provided funding for a student intern to work on the project this past summer. See www.add.lib.iastate.edu/preserv/cdm/isuext.html.

KENTUCKY

Filson Historical Society

The Filson is excited to announce the launch of a new phase in user access to its collections. The Filson’s card catalog has long been the best point of access to its manuscript collections, providing detailed, subject-level description. Though the Filson uses MARC records and finding aids to provide remote access to the public, it had been unable to do so with the same granularity of the card catalog. Early in 2014, working with Underground Vaults and Storage and Louisville Geek, it began a project to scan the card catalog, run OCR on the images, and use the text to populate a keyword-searchable database. The beta test for the project, which sampled one large collection’s cards, the Bullitt Family Papers–Oxmoor Collection, has been completed and is now active via the Filson’s website (filsonhistorical.org/finding-aids-research-tools/bullitt-family-papers). It is anticipated that the remainder of the project will go live in phases throughout 2015.

MICHIGAN

Detroit Public Library

The Detroit Public Library (DPL) recently launched its Digital Collections portal to showcase more than 67,000 rare and unique images from the library’s Burton Historical Collection, National Automotive History Collection, E. Azalia Hackley Collection of African Americans in the Performing Arts, Ernie Harwell Sports Collection, and the Rare Book Collection. Donors to the project include the National Automotive History Collection’s Board of Trustees, Detroit Public Library’s Friends Foundation, and Nicolas and Diane Quintana. Additionally, DPL was fortunate to receive a generous grant in June 2014 from MotorCities National Heritage Area. See digitalcollections.detroitpubliclibrary.org.

Michigan State University

Interns at the Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections (UAHC) indexed magnetic media, created a manual for handling and processing, indexed the film collection, replaced rusty canisters, and checked acetate degradation. UAHC also began setting up a video and audio digitization lab and identifying player equipment. In April 2014, a special fund was created to raise money for the AV collections, with advertising targeted to alumni. The first phase of the Spartan Archive digital repository went live in June 2014. UAHC had
received funding from NHPRC to develop a preservation environment for four series of database records from MSU’s Office of the Registrar as a prototype for a trusted digital repository for born-digital institutional records: spartanarchive.msu.edu. MSU’s records management program, administered by UAHC, recently added a university records manager and assistant records archivist to complete a full revision of the existing university records retention schedules. UAHC underwent much-needed renovation and expansion in 2014, with new movable shelving and an air handler for collection storage areas installed. UAHC will expand into the space next to its current office for a larger reading room, additional workspace, and a secure collections area. See www.archives.msu.edu.

Mid-Michigan Digital Practitioners
The third Mid-Michigan Digital Practitioners (MMDP) meeting was held at Central Michigan University in September 2014. Michigan State University Libraries and University Archives and Historical Collections formed MMDP in summer 2013 to bring together professionals engaged in creating and curating digital collections in mid-Michigan and the surrounding region. The next scheduled meeting is in Ann Arbor in spring 2015. Information about past meetings may be found at archives.msu.edu/about/conferences.php?about_conferences.

Northern Michigan University
In July 2014, the Central Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan University Archives received a new full-time record analyst, Sara Kiszka, to conduct a comprehensive records survey of official university records and to renew record management practices across all academic departments, programs, and administrative offices. The archives recently acquired the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission (CUPPAD) records through the local records repository program. The CUPPAD records provide detailed information about economic and community development in six Upper Peninsula counties.

University of Michigan
The History of Art Department’s Visual Resources Collections, until very recently, had never made its archival holdings public. With the aid of Encoded Archival Description (EAD) files, it is now able to provide access to finding aids and inventories of its primary resources online, connecting researchers with its vast resources of images of art, architecture, and artifacts. See quod.lib.umich.edu/v/vrc.

Wayne State University
The Walter P. Reuther Library has opened several exciting new collections, including the papers of poet, folk singer, and activist U. Utah Phillips. In addition to papers and audiovisual materials documenting the progression of his creative work, the 32-linear-foot collection also records Phillips’s involvement in social and political causes, including veterans’ peace movements, hobo and homeless advocacy, environmentalism, and his own 1968 US Senate bid. See reuther.wayne.edu/node/12357.

MINNESOTA

General Mills Corporate Archives
The General Mills Corporate Archives welcomes two interns, Jessica Faucher and Joyce Lopez for the 2014–2015 academic year. Both are current MLIS students at Saint Catherine’s University, St. Paul, Minnesota. They are working alongside the company’s archivist, Susan Wakefield. Jessica Faucher received her undergraduate degree from the College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Minnesota, and will graduate with her master’s in spring 2016. Joyce Lopez will graduate in spring of 2015 with her master’s degree in library and information science. She received her undergraduate degree at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Hamline University
Hamline University recently launched a blog of correspondence from the mid-1880s. Found at huarchivesblog.wordpress.com, letters exchanged by Henry L. “Harry” Osborn and Euphemia Miller “Effie” Loag, a then recently engaged couple, are being posted on the dates that they were written 130 years ago. Harry had just left for his first faculty position at Purdue University, leaving Effie behind in New York City, and their letters cover day-to-day details of their lives, politics, and the arts, among many other subjects. Harry subsequently became Joseph Dean Professor of Biology and Geology at Hamline in 1887 and stayed there
in various capacities until his retirement in 1933. Effie gave lessons to Hamline students. After their deaths in the 1940s, the Henry L. Osborn and Family Papers were donated to the university. The collection also includes the correspondence of other family members, travel journals, lecture notes, sketches, and photographs.

MISSOURI

Missouri Southern State University

The Missouri Southern State University (MSSU) Archives hosted the Missouri Association of Museums and Archives, October 24–25, 2014, in Joplin, Missouri. The MSSU Archives received a signed copy of Real Peace by Richard M. Nixon, the 37th president of the United States on October 27, 2014. The archives also received a letter to former congressman Gene Taylor that President Nixon initialed, detailed in the book. This letter was donated by former state senator Gary Nodler, who served as aide to former congressman Gene Taylor. The MSSU Archives also holds the Gene Taylor Congressional Papers in its Manuscript Collections.

OHIO

Greene County Archives

Staff recently updated the repository’s website and established a Facebook page to educate the public on the archives’ holdings. They promoted both by sponsoring an “I Found It in the Archives” essay contest at the local level, showcasing how the information found in the repository has touched peoples’ lives. Read the winning entry at www.co.greene.oh.us/index.aspx?nid=1003.

Society of Ohio Archivists

The Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA) 2015 Spring Conference, “Archives Amplified,” will be held Friday, May 15, in the OCLC Conference Center General Session Room in Dublin, Ohio. Keep an eye on SOA’s website for more information at www.ohioarchivists.org.

WISCONSIN

La Crosse Public Library

The Archives Department at the La Crosse Public Library has recently been awarded a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council to bring the popular downtown walking tour of the seedier side of La Crosse history to the stage. During three performances in January 2015, local history experts from the archives will share stories about the unwholesome side of La Crosse’s history in Dark La Crosse Tour: The Radio Show. Drawn from primary source materials in the archives, the stories explore themes of lumbering, prostitution, murder, the paranormal, the Great Depression, Prohibition, and La Crosse’s only lynching.

Marquette University

In conjunction with American Archives Month in October and in support of the Wisconsin theme of Sharing Our Very Best, the Department of Special Collections and University Archives invited the Marquette community to tag their best photos of Marquette. Students, staff, alumni, and others affiliated with the university were to post a photo of a great experience or one of their favorite things about Marquette using the hashtag #MyBestMU in various social media. The tagged items were captured by archivists and posted to the “My Best” Marquette board on Pinterest at www.pinterest.com/marquetteraynor/my-best-marquette.

Ward Irish Music Archives

The Ward Irish Music Archives of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is the recipient of an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) Leadership in History Awards for its Irish Sheet Music Archives website (irishsheetmusicarchives.com). The Irish Sheet Music Archives website is the online home of the sheet music collections found in the Ward Irish Music Archives of Milwaukee Irish Fest. Users can browse and search over 5,000 pieces of Irish and Irish American themed sheet music, and they can view full scans of sheet music in the public domain. For more information visit irishsheetmusicarchives.com/About-Us/News/Ward-Irish-Music-Archives-Wins-2014-AASLH-Award-of-Merit.htm.

Wisconsin Historical Society

The Connecting to Collections grant, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is well underway. This $237,000 grant has allowed the society to provide extensive preservation training to the state’s cultural heritage institutions. Three hands-on disaster planning workshops presented by the Midwest Art Conservation Center were provided in five locations across the state. A preservation self-assessment tool was created, and training for this tool was provided to over 200 people as part of the Council for Local History’s Regional Meetings. Additional preservation training and resources have been delivered through webinars, conference presentations, and the new disaster preparedness program.

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Wisconsin Veterans Museum
The Wisconsin Veterans Museum was recently awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant to digitize approximately 1,700 Civil War–era images from its processed archival holdings. The scope of the project will include digitizing original images, preserving the digital files, and creating metadata for each digitized image. The grant will also allow for the creation of an online searchable database that will provide patron access through the museum’s website.