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## News from the Midwest

Midwest Archives Conference

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# News from the Midwest

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*Please submit News from the Midwest items for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio to Alexandra at [bisio@uoregon.edu](mailto:bisio@uoregon.edu) and items from Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to Lois at [hamill1@nku.edu](mailto:hamill1@nku.edu). Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!*

## ILLINOIS

### Special Collections Research Center

Historians studying the rich tradition of African American communities in southern Illinois can now consult a broad range of records in a single central location. In 2017, archivists with the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) at SIU Carbondale began exploring ways to give researchers better access to vital African American records. After meeting with local religious and community leaders and campus faculty, SCRC launched Reclaiming the African American Heritage of Southern Illinois, a project to document the organizations, lives, interests, concerns, and activities of African Americans in this area. The first records collected under this project were funeral programs dated from 1980 to 2016. These seemingly incidental objects contain a wealth of family and community history. The Reclaiming project has also collected documents from Mount Olive Baptist Church (Colp, IL), Caledonia Free Will Baptist Church (Olmsted, IL), and the papers of Elbert E. Simon and Pepper Holder.



*SIU Carbondale history faculty member Dr. Pamela Smoot reviews a donation for collection at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 2018.*

## INDIANA

### Bartholomew County Public Library

The Bartholomew County Public Library has launched an online exhibit exploring 301 Washington Street, a building that has played a cornerstone role in the history of prominent families, businesses, and modern design in Columbus, Indiana. This building—more than any other in Columbus—tells the story of the Irwin-Sweeney-Miller family. While many families have contributed to shaping Columbus over the last 200 years, the Irwin-Sweeney-Miller family holds a unique position for its involvement in business, religion, politics, art, and philanthropy locally, nationally, and internationally. The exhibit brings together 400 photographs, drawings, and documents from the collections of the Bartholomew County Public Library, the Columbus Indiana Architectural Archives, and the Bartholomew County Historical Society. This project is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Indiana State Library. Explore the exhibit at [www.columbusarchives.org/301](http://www.columbusarchives.org/301).

## IOWA

### Iowa State University

This year marks the hundredth year after Ada Hayden, advocate for the preservation of Iowa's prairies, received her PhD from Iowa State University—the first woman to do

so. Hayden went on to become a professor of botany at her alma mater. To mark the hundredth anniversary of her graduation, the Iowa State University Library's Digital Initiative Unit has expanded the existing Ada Hayden digital collection (<https://bit.ly/2JF4zuN>) to include additional materials from her papers, held in the ISU Special Collections and University Archives. Originally containing scans of the hand-colored glass slides Hayden used for her public presentations on prairie ecology, the expanded digital collection focuses on some of Hayden's behind-the-scenes work, such as her photography, illustrations, and poetry. To supplement the digital collection, an online exhibit (<https://bit.ly/2FvoauR>) was created to explore Hayden's student experience at Iowa State both as an undergraduate and a doctoral student.

Iowa State University Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) opened its latest exhibition, *"This movement for a more beautiful Iowa": The Early Years of Iowa's State Park System*, on May 17. Its online counterpart will open later this summer. As a complement to the SCUA exhibition, Heidi H. Hohmann, associate professor of landscape architecture, gave a presentation on June 6 at the Ames Public Library.

## KANSAS

### Pittsburg State University

The Special Collections in the Leonard H. Axe Library at Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, recently received a donation of approximately 500 books from activist Margie

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Eucalyptus of Kansas City, Missouri. Eucalyptus is an activist in the areas of nonviolent action, socialism, farms, and labor, and the book donation focuses heavily on these issues. She was also a friend and associate of social and political activist Meridel Le Sueur. Eucalyptus also lived and studied in China in the early 1970s, and the collection includes many books on China's politics, culture, and Chinese leader Mao Tse-Tung. The Margie Eucalyptus Collection will be housed in the Special Collections at Pittsburg State University.

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## **KENTUCKY**

### **Eastern Kentucky University Special Collections and Archives**

What if the archives played the muse? How would those tidbits of history spark our creativity? Our very first *Archives After Dark* publication answers these questions through the works of 11 competitively selected ECU students, who were invited to spend a night in the library to develop original creative works based on historical artifacts from ECU Special Collections and Archives (SCA). Inspired by Wake Forest University's "Writers' Camp @ ZSR," SCA partnered with the Noel Studio for Academic Creativity to host the *Archives After Dark* event on January 26. Publication of the finalized works was followed by a featured panel discussion at ECU's Scholars Week on April 12, giving participants the opportunity not only to showcase their work, but also to speak about their experiences. See [http://tiny.cc/EKU\\_AAD\\_BOOK18](http://tiny.cc/EKU_AAD_BOOK18) for a chilling tale inspired by a World War I gas mask, or a lovely piece of art with echoes of a vintage valentine, plus much more!

Kentucky Women's Intercollegiate Conference (KWIC) was founded in 1970 and held state tournaments in multiple sports from 1971 through 2006. They competed regionally and nationally through the AIAW (Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women) until 1981 when the NCAA established championships for women's sports, beginning the slow but inevitable erosion of KWIC as an athletic conference. Over the course of KWIC's history, most Kentucky colleges and universities were members and are represented in the records, which consist mainly of tournament materials, meeting minutes, financial records, member applications, photographs, and publications. Thanks to a generous donation by an early advocate for women's athletics, SCA has been able to digitize the records of this organization. These records, in conjunction with the AIAW-Southern Region II Records (also digitized), document early efforts to provide women opportunities to compete at the intercollegiate level. Researchers can view the KWIC records online at <https://digitalcollections.eku.edu/items/browse?collection=75>.



*Archives After Dark 2018 participants.  
Photograph by Jimmie Mayfield.*

### **Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives**

The Kentucky Department for Li-

braries and Archives (KDLA) recently unveiled new exhibits located just outside the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort, Kentucky. These exhibits allow the public to see a rotation of historic documents, photographs, and other materials from KDLA's archival collection. KDLA is very grateful to the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., for its donation of funding for the display cabinets. Items on display are changed out every four to eight weeks. Virtual collections for each display are also available in the Kentucky State Digital Archives. KDLA's use of virtual collections allows Kentucky's citizens an alternative way of viewing the exhibits at the Capitol. Stop by the Capitol to see these beautiful cases and their unique contents. You can also enjoy these items online at <https://kdla.access.preservica.com/?s=capitol+exhibits>.



*This display outside the Capitol Rotunda  
spotlights the Kentucky Derby. Photo by  
KDLA.*

### **University of Kentucky**

The National Endowment for the Humanities announced the recipients of the 2018 Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Grant. A project from University of Kentucky Libraries Special Collections Research Center was one of 41 selected. The two-year project, entitled "*P.S. Write Again Soon*": *Revealing 200 Years of the American Mosaic through the Wade Hall Collection of American Letters*, was awarded \$199,148 to process

355 cubic feet of letters, diaries, and personal papers from the Wade Hall Collection of American Letters. Additionally, 50 cubic feet of material will be digitized. Wade Hall, a Kentucky scholar of history and literature, collected materials written by men and women of different ages, races, education, and socioeconomic status from across the United States between the 1750s and the 1960s. The grant will fund a two-year project archivist position and will result in over 2,000 finding aids and 80,000 digitized documents.



Page from *Richard Benjamin Crawford diary, 1918*. From the *Wade Hall Collection of American Letters: Crawford family papers*, University of Kentucky Libraries Special Collections Research Center.

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## MICHIGAN

### **Wayne State University Archives and the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights**

The Walter P. Reuther Library and University Archives have played key roles in Wayne State's sesqui-centennial celebrations, including the debut of *Wayne State at 150: An Exhibit*, on display through the end

of the year. The exhibit mirrors the university's mission statement: Create and Advance Knowledge; Prepare a Diverse Student Body to Thrive; and Positively Impact Local and Global Communities. The Reuther opened *All Labor Has Dignity: The 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike, Photographs by Richard L. Copley*, on display at the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights. The exhibit commemorates the AFSCME Local 1733 strike for increased wages, union recognition, and dignity, as well as the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Reuther has opened several collections documenting racial justice in Detroit: The NAACP Detroit Branch Records, as well as the papers of Robert E. DeMascio, Fay O'Hare, and Charles Cheng. For more information, visit [www.reuther.wayne.edu](http://www.reuther.wayne.edu) or [www.150.wayne.edu](http://www.150.wayne.edu).

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## MINNESOTA

### **Saint John's University Archives, Rare Books and Special Collections**

The Marcel Breuer–designed Alcuin Library at Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, re-opened for the 2017–2018 academic year following a major renovation and addition. New spaces for SJU's Archives, Rare Books and Special Collections include state-of-the-art lighting and climate control, almost a doubling of linear stack footage, multiple display options, and easy elevator access. New offices and a spacious research room, with reference materials close at hand and technological capabilities built in, now enable the staff to extend Benedictine hospitality to visitors and students. In addition, a large collection of digitized archival materials has been made available on the website ([www](http://www.csbsju.edu/sju-archives)

[.csbsju.edu/sju-archives](http://www.csbsju.edu/sju-archives)), including student newspapers from 1888 to the present, all the academic catalogs and yearbooks, alumni and admissions serials, and publications of the founding institution, Saint John's Abbey. Alcuin Library also houses a gallery to preserve and display the original manuscript of *The Saint John's Bible*, hand-written and hand-illuminated.



*The Saint John's University's Archives and Special Collections Research Room includes reference space and materials, projection capabilities, artifact display space, and a nearby scanner.*

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## MISSOURI

### **Washington University**

John M. Olin Library is the main library in the University Libraries system at Washington University in St. Louis. During the spring 2018 semester, a two-year renovation of Olin gradually came to an end. Dynamic new study and exhibition areas in the building were introduced, including the Thomas Gallery, a lively pathway located on level 1 of Olin. The Thomas Gallery features state-of-the-art exhibition spaces for displaying a variety of rotating exhibits from the libraries' collections and beyond. The current exhibit, *Lasting Legacies*, highlights the libraries' collections of notable Washington University alumni, including playwright Tennes-

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see Williams, actress Mary Wickes, and filmmaker Henry Hampton. The libraries' rare broadside copy of the Declaration of Independence is also on display in the Thomas Gallery in a climate-controlled chamber.



Thomas Gallery. Photo by James Byard/  
WUSTL Photos.

### **Webster University**

The papers of Marsha Mason, award-winning actress, are now available at Webster University in St. Louis. Mason, a 1964 graduate of the university, is best known for her roles in movies such as *The Goodbye Girl*, *Only When I Laugh*, and *Cinderella Liberty*. She has acted in numerous theater productions and was also seen in several episodes of the television series *Frasier*. More information about the collection can be found at <http://library.webster.edu/archives/findingaids/mason/index.html>.

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### **NORTH DAKOTA**

#### **University of North Dakota**

The Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections at the University of North Dakota received a donation of the ceremonial dress sword worn by the first UND alum to die in World War II. Carleton Elliott Simensen graduated from UND in June 1940 and was commissioned into the United States Marine Corps

as a second lieutenant. “Sim” served as a recruiter for the Marines, and died on the USS *Arizona* at Pearl Harbor. Simensen’s sword passed to his brother, Kenneth, who served in the Air Force during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. When the younger Simensen retired to Oregon, the sword stayed with him until his passing in 2003. Last year, it was purchased by Sia Rezvani, an attorney in Portland. Upon discovering the sword’s history and the relationship of its owner to UND, Rezvani donated the sword to the university.

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### **OHIO**

#### **University of Dayton Marian Library**

The Marian Library at the University of Dayton will be celebrating 75 years in 2018. Founded in 1943, the library was created to be a lasting institution that could make the Blessed Virgin Mary better known, loved, and served. The library supports scholarships in several disciplines, and many of the artifacts in the archives document popular devotions to Mary. One of the most commonly used collections is that of Marian sheet music. As part of the anniversary commemorations, two Marian concerts have been organized as a unique way to both celebrate and highlight the collection. The January 2018 concert featured the vocal trio Eya, specializing in the interpretation of medieval music for women’s voices. On October 18, the vocal ensemble Marian Consort will perform. More information about the concerts and other anniversary celebrations can be found at <http://go.udayton.edu/marianlibrary75>.



*The Marian Library, 75 years*

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### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

#### **South Dakota Historical Society**

Four new newspaper titles have been added to the growing online database of historical United States newspapers, according to the South Dakota State Historical Society. New titles recently added include the *Grant County Herald*, 1879–1883, and the *Herald*, 1883–1890, out of Big Stone City; as well as the *Advance*, 1890, and the *Herald-Advance*, 1890–1922, out of Milbank, also in Grant County. In 2016, the State Historical Society–State Archives received a two-year \$240,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to digitize historical newspapers. The project is part of *Chronicling America*, a Library of Congress initiative to develop an online database of select historical newspapers from around the United States. As part of the grant, the State Historical Society–Archives will digitize approximately 100 rolls of microfilmed newspapers predating 1922 to be included in this collection. This is the second grant the State

Archives has received to participate in this project. To view the newspapers, visit the Chronicling America Website: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=South+Dakota&ethnicity=&language>.

## **WISCONSIN**

### **Recollection Wisconsin**

Recollection Wisconsin, the collaborative statewide digital initiative, was recently awarded an IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant to support the Curating Community Digital Collections (CCDC)

program. Coordinated by WiLS (Wisconsin Library Services), the CCDC program will place graduate students from UW–Madison’s Information School and UW–Milwaukee’s School of Information Studies in summer fieldwork positions at small and underresourced memory institutions across Wisconsin in 2018 and 2019. Students will work closely with host institution staff and professional mentors to develop workflows for curation, management, and preservation of community history–related digital collections. Host institutions selected for summer 2018 are the

Barron County Historical Society, College of Menominee Nation, La Crosse Public Library Archives, Manitowoc County Historical Society, Outagamie Waupaca Library System, and Rock County Historical Society. Archivists and information professionals from Beloit College, Circus World Museum, Marquette University, UW–Madison, UW–Milwaukee, and UW–Stout will act as mentors. For more information, visit <http://recollectionwisconsin.org/digipres>.



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