

The Ohio Archivist

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Spring Conference Redux

This year's conference was held at the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) in Columbus, Ohio. The theme was SYMBIOSIS: TRADITION AND TECHNOLOGY, reflecting the Society's dedication to both traditional and new methods that are currently being employed by archivists across Ohio. Sessions covered such varied topics as minimal processing, virtual worlds, EAD creation, copyright, cataloging, technical services and disaster recovery.

The conference also included the annual meeting during which Steve Paschen was reelected treasurer of SOA and Kim Brownlee and Judy Wiener were elected to the SOA Council. (Congratulations Steve, Kim and Judy!) George Bain also received recognition via a Special Resolution. (see pg. 14)

All-in-all the conference was a rousing success, and chock-full of archival goodness! You'll find a complete conference recap later in this issue.

--Beth A. Kattelman, editor

Oral History Workshop

The Society of Ohio Archivists will hold its Fall Workshop, "Oral History for the 21st Century," October 24, 2008 at the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, Ohio. The workshop will focus on both traditional techniques and the role of new technology in oral history. Registration and other information will be posted soon on the SOA Web site at www.ohioarchivists.org.



Ohio State History Day

State History Day gives students in 6th through 12th grades an opportunity to learn about history by engaging in extensive research, and then presenting this research in papers, performances, documentaries, exhibits or websites. Students compete at regional, state and national competitions where they are judged on “historical quality,” “relation to theme,” and “clarity of presentation.” The Society of Ohio Archivists also gives special awards for the best use of primary source materials.

This year Ohio’s State History Day was held at Columbus State Community College on April 26th, with the theme of *Conflict and Compromise in History*. Because the quality of the work was so fine in the lower grades (6th, 7th & 8th), the SOA judges decided to award two prizes in the Junior Division and none in the Senior Division. The following students were this year’s SOA History Day winners:

Anirudh Dasarathy of Birchwood School for his essay, “Korematsu vs. United States: A Conflict Between National Security and the Rights of Japanese Americans.”

Rachel Farrow and Julia McDaniel of Genoa Middle School for their essay, “The American Legacy: Freedom, Opportunity and Self Betrayal.”

The winners were congratulated by Society of Ohio Archivists’ President, Angela O’Neal and The Ohio Historical Society’s Executive Director, Bill Laidlaw, Jr.



Angela O’Neal, Anirudh Dasarathy, Bill Laidlaw, Jr.

Angela O’Neal, Julia McDaniel, Rachel Farrow, Bill Laidlaw, Jr.



Memorable Moments for a National History Day Judge in Ohio

By George W. Bain

The National History Day (NHD) is an auspicious program for school-aged youth interested in history. Students in grades 6-12 have the chance to study a topic of interest that fits an annual theme and convey this work through an exhibit, media production, or dramatic performance. Beginning at the local school, the competition proceeds to the district and state level, then finally at the national level in College Park, Maryland.

As an archivist, it is my hope that many of the students who do an NHD project will be exposed along the way to primary sources and their uses. But this is not all. It is with pride that I note that the Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA) has for nearly a decade presented a modest cash prize to students at the state level, in both the junior and senior divisions, who utilize primary sources well. And it has been my privilege over the years to serve as a judge for the Ohio National History Day event. Doing this work has proven to be both inspiring and delightful.

My service as a judge at the Ohio National History Day in most years over the past dozen years or so has been in either the media category or the dramatic performance category, primarily in the junior division. The junior division includes students in grades 6-9. Some of these presentations do prove memorable. One performance that I recall in particular was a masterful presentation on the outstanding 19th century physician-scientist Louis Pasteur. It was obvious the student scholar had studied his subject thoroughly and was able to convey his knowledge and to interpret the significance of Pasteur through his narrative, the facts contained therein, and the costume and simple props he used. This student was one of our winners that day and, if memory serves correctly, went on to place in College Park.

But the memories come from some of the other things that tie together too. I recall a media presentation done about a decade ago on the events at Kent State University on May 4, 1970. (This was when hypertext graphics were coming into play, thereby leaving slide shows in the dust, but before the birth of Power Point.) I'm not certain the student won the category. But she has done well in doing research on the topic. She traveled from another part of the state to Kent and reported that the staff had told her she was the first person to use their microfilm FBI files. My deduction was that Kent State had purchased the microfilm files not too long before that time and she happened to be lucky. Still, she was using primary sources as an adolescent and it was great to hear that the KSU staff had complimented and encouraged her with that information.

Another memorable dramatic presentation involved a group who had studied the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). They did well and were, as I recall, one of the winners that year. In enterprising fashion the students had contacted the national CCC veterans group as part of their research and had interviewed some of the alumni as part of their preparation. But the extra ingredient that day at the state NHD event was that members of the national group came to observe the presentation and then chatted with the students afterwards. How is that for a great payoff?

Finally, I have worked more than one year with the group of SOA members that has made the decision on the awardees for the SOA NHD prize. The group works from the bibliographies that the student participants develop and then submit with their entries. I remember in particular one of the winners from the first year of the award (1999). The junior division recipient had studied the 1948 incident where an air-inversion caused smog in Donora, Pennsylvania (near Pittsburgh) that led to a number of fatalities and other health problems. The Ohio student had studied newspaper clippings and photographs in a local library and historical society and had conducted oral interviews with people who were living in Donora at the time. For me this exemplified the purpose of the award, and made it a personal pleasure to evaluate the work that for some reason made it more memorable.

In observing the student participants in the National History Day competition in Ohio, and the caliber of the work they do, it sometimes leads me to wonder how well I could have done at that level when I was a similar age. There is no way now to make a comparison. But with an interest in things historical and the use of primary source materials, I do find working as a judge both memorable and edifying. I have a great appreciation for these student and their projects--and also for the teachers who give of themselves to encourage the youngsters. For any archivist who has not served as a National History Day judge, I hope that you will find an opportunity to do so. I do believe it will prove memorable to you too.

Post Script: Let me add for the record that National History Day got its start in Ohio. It was the brainchild of David Van Tassel, professor of history at Case Western Reserve University, who launched it in the mid-1970s during the American Revolution Bicentennial and then expanded NHD to other states with assistance from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

George Bain is retired from his position as head of the Robert E. and Jean R. Mahn Center for Archives & Special Collections in the Ohio University Libraries in 2007 but is only semi-retired from the archival profession.

A Continuing Education Scholarship Winner Shares Her Story

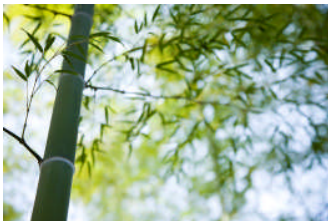
by Emily Layne Fargo

My interest in archives and librarianship stems from my experiences as a graduate assistant at the Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute at the Ohio State University. After a year of employment there, I knew that I enjoyed archival work, but I was still lacking a real connection with the larger professional community of archivists. I viewed attending the Society of Ohio Archivists conference as an opportunity to get a glimpse into the professional world I hope to be entering soon, and my two days there more than fulfilled my expectations.

Besides taking in informative presentations and panel discussions that educated me about all aspects of archival work, I was able to have one-on-one conversations with many successful, knowledgeable archivists and librarians from all across the state of Ohio. I became acquainted with several representatives of Kent State University, where I will soon be starting coursework towards a Master's in Library and Information Science. They were all extremely friendly, welcoming, and helpful, which made me even more excited about beginning my studies there this July.

In addition to these personal connections, I found myself particularly engaged by the conference's focus on new technology. Like so many members of my generation, I am relatively fluent in Web 2.0, but I had not given much thought to applications beyond the recreational. Presentations by Brian Gray, Kiffany Francis, and Beth Kattelman, among others, opened my eyes to the exciting potential uses of technologies like Flickr, Facebook, and Second Life in a library setting, from promotional possibilities to improving patron service and information accessibility. They also highlighted how much work is yet to be done in discovering new applications for these rapidly expanding and changing technologies – an effort I hope to be able to contribute positively to as a new professional just entering the field.

I would like to thank the Society of Ohio Archivists for selecting me as one of this year's Continuing Education Scholarship recipients. The conference was a fun, fascinating experience, and the perfect jump-start to my future career working in archives and libraries. I am planning to join SOA as a student member, and I look forward to seeing everyone again at next year's conference!



Spring Conference Recap



**SOCIETY OF
OHIO
ARCHIVISTS**

Spring Conference

*Symbiosis:
Tradition and
Technology*



**May 7-9, 2008
OCLC
Dublin, OH**



2008 Program Committee

Kimberly Brownlee
University of Toledo

Judith Cobb, OCLC

Patti Davis
Ohio Historical Society

Beth Kattelman
The Ohio State University

Erik Mayer, OCLC

Angela O'Neal
The Ohio Historical Society

Pre-conference Workshop EAD Finding Aid Creation Tool and Repository

On Wednesday, May 7th Cara Gilgenbach and Rhonda Rinehart of the OhioLink EAD Task Force presented an all-day, hands-on workshop on the new EAD Finding Aid Creation Tool and the Online Repository [EAD FACTORY]. Participants had an opportunity to create a basic finding aid and to use the Repository search engine to browse some existing finding aids. The Task Force members also gathered helpful suggestions from the workshop participants that will be used to further develop and enhance the Finding Aid Creation Tool.



Strategic Planning: SWOT Analysis

The first session at this year's conference was a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats). The session was facilitated by J. D. Britton of the Ohio Historical Society who was instrumental in helping to gather insightful feedback from SOA members. The SOA's Board of Directors will use the feedback to help set priorities and plan for the future of the organization when they meet for a special Board retreat in August.

SWOT facilitator
J.D. Britton



SWOT attendees help
SOA set priorities



SOA President, Angela O'Neal welcomes conference participants

Plenary

This year's plenary address was delivered by Brian Gray, Head of Reference and Engineering Librarian for the Kelvin Smith Library at Case Western Reserve University. Brian's address was entitled "Increasing the Value of our History with the Web."



Brian Gray gives the Plenary address

Thursday, May 8
1:30 – 2:45

Session 1: Rebuild and Flood Proof: Disaster Recovery at the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library

Chair: *Katy L. Klettlinger*, Ohio Historical Society
Speaker: Carol Dunn, Findlay-Hancock County Public Library
Speaker: Dick Taylor, Findlay-Hancock County Public Library

In 2006 the FHCPL was devastated by a flood. Since then, the library has been coping with construction and recovery. Dunn and Taylor discussed how these ongoing processes have affected the library, and the mitigating measures that FHCPL has taken to minimize future damages.

Session 2: Archives Reference Panel

Chair: *Louise Jones*, Ohio Historical Society
Speaker: Kim Brownlee, University of Toledo
Speaker: Ron Davidson, Sandusky Library
Speaker: Bertha Ihnat, The Ohio State University

This panel discussed various issues related to archives reference. Ron Davidson talked about the “ask a” reference services that have been instituted at Sandusky and also noted how blog podcasts can be of use in archives reference. Kim Brownlee addressed the challenging topic of helping people find images. And Bertha Ihnat discussed electronic media and The Ohio State University’s information repository, The Knowledge Bank.

Thursday, May 8
3:15 – 4:30

Session 1: Combined Cataloging: Archives and Object Collections

Chair: *Beth Whittaker*, The Ohio State University
Speaker: Lisa Wood, Audiovisuals Curator, Ohio Historical Society
Speaker: Keith Manecke, Cataloger, Ohio Historical Society

In this session, panelists discussed the challenges and opportunities of cataloging object collection and archival materials and how these can be integrated into existing cataloging practices.

Session 2: Archives 2.0: A Survey of Library, Archives, and Museum Projects Using Web 2.0

Speaker: Kiffany Francis, Metadata Librarian, Cleveland State University

Ms. Francis discussed the ways in which libraries, archives and museums are implementing Web 2.0 technologies and provided suggestions on how other institutions can use the tools to increase exposure of their collections.

Friday, May 9
8:45 – 10:15

Session 1: Copyright for Archivists

Speaker: Michelle D. Deis, J.D., MLIS

This session provided an overview of copyright law, and highlighted those parts that are particularly pertinent to libraries and archives. Deis discussed library copying, fair use, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998 and the New Orphan Works legislation.

Session 2: Introduction to OhioLINK's EAD Task Force

Speaker: Cara Gilgenbach, Kent State University
Speaker: Rhonda Rinehart, University of Akron
Speaker: Janet Carleton, Ohio University
Speaker: Amy McCrory, The Ohio State University

These members of the EAD Task Force presented an overview of OhioLINK's new EAD finding aid creation tool and repository, the EAD FACTORY. This tool uses a web interface to help Ohio institutions easily create finding aids. Finding aids that are submitted the repository can then be searched across institutions.

Friday, May 9
10:30 – 12:00

Session 1: Archives Advocacy Panel

Speaker: Jelain Chubb, Ohio Historical Society

Speaker: Judith Cetina, Cuyahoga County Archives

Speaker: Gillian Marsham Hill, Greene County Archives and Records Center

Panelists discussed the important of advocacy and how it affects funding and support for archives. Particular topics of discussion included the “Preserving the American Historical Record Act,” Statehood Day and other legislative priorities.

Session 2: Trends in Technical Services
Sponsored by OHIONET

Speaker: Roman S. Panchyshyn, OHIONET

Panchyshyn discussed current and future trends in tech services and highlighted some of the important associated points. He noted that tech services departments must develop their ability to manage digital projects and must deal with the challenges of the need for increased digital storage. He also discussed the increasing need for non-English access to resources.

Friday, May 9
1:30 – 2:45

Session 1: History Day: Engaging Students and Teachers in History

Speaker: Megan Wood, Ohio Historical Society

Wood discussed how to use the National History Day program as a catalyst for outreach and engagement to students and educators. She presented an overview of the program and discussed how the History Day program encourages the use of archival collections, and provided information on how archivists and librarians can get involved as a History Day judge.

Friday, May 9
10:30 – 12:00

Session 2: Issues in University Archives Panel

Speaker: Stephen Paschen, Kent State University
Speaker: Vic Fleischer, University of Akron

Panelists discussed numerous issues associated with university archives, including how to work with students, ways in which information professionals can target educational curriculums in order to get more involved with students and faculty, institutional repositories and records management.

Friday, May 9
3:00 – 4:15

Session 1: Minimal Processing: A Case Study

Speaker: Fred Previts, Ohio Historical Society
Speaker: Angela Manella, Ohio Historical Society
Speaker: Patty Davis, Ohio Historical Society
Speaker: Lisa Wood, Ohio Historical Society

Panelists discussed the Ohio Historical Society's implementation of minimal processing for State Archives collections, using the processing of Governor Bob Taft's records as an example. The panel took participants step-by-step through the process and provided many useful handouts for further reference.

Session 2: Second Life 101

Speaker: Beth Kattelman, The Ohio State University

Kattelman gave a brief introduction to the online virtual world of Second Life, taking the audience on a brief tour of areas of interest for archivists and librarians. She also discussed how Second Life is being used as an educational platform and how archivists are using Second Life to share collections and information.

Elections

At this year's Annual Meeting, Steve Paschen was reelected to the office of Treasurer, and Kim Brownlee and Judy Wiener were elected to serve on Council. Kim and Judy will be replacing Erik Mayer and Judy Cobb whose 2-year terms ended this year.

Roland Baumann receives Merit Award

Roland H. Baumann received a Society of Ohio Archivists Merit Award for his outstanding leadership and work on behalf of the Oberlin College Archives. Baumann spearheaded a campaign that raised over \$530,000 for the Richard and Priscilla Stevenson Hunt Endowment Fund for Preservation and Digital Access.



Vice President, Vic Fleischer presents SOA Merit Award to Roland Baumann

George Bain Honored

This year George Bain was honored at the SOA Annual Meeting with the following Special Resolution:



Resolution Recognizing George Bain

Whereas, **George Bain** has been a longstanding, dedicated, and much-respected member of the Society of Ohio Archivists and the archival community, and

Whereas George Bain has been an ardent and active supporter of, and tireless advocate for, Archives Week and History Day in Ohio, contributing both his time and himself to the ongoing need for archival outreach and awareness to the broader community, and,

Whereas, through his personal interactions with both archivists and non-archivists, George has taught and mentored countless individuals about the importance of archives and of being an archivist, and

Whereas, through these and other innumerable other actions on behalf of archives and archivists, George has furthered the mission of the Society of Ohio Archivists “to exchange information, coordinate activities, and improve professional competence in Ohio’s archives and manuscript repositories”

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of the Society of Ohio Archivists, on behalf of its membership, offers George Bain, upon his retirement from the archival profession, its appreciation for his years of dedicated service; respect for his unwavering commitment; and genuine thanks for his personal and professional commitment to the archival community.

Angela O’Neal, President
Vic Fleischer, Vice-President

SOA Council

Council Officers

President

2007-2009

Angela O'Neal
Digital Projects Manager
Ohio Historical Society

Vice President

2007-2009

S. Victor Fleischer
Associate Professor of Bibliography and Head
of Archival Services
University of Akron

Secretary

2007-2009

Gillian Marsham Hill
Greene County Records Center and Archives

Treasurer

2008-2010

Stephen Paschen
Senior Archives Associate
The University of Akron

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Kim Brownlee
Manuscripts Librarian and Assistant
University Archivist
Ward M. Canaday Center for Special
Collections, Carlson Library
The University of Toledo

2007-2009

Ron Davidson
Archives Librarian
Sandusky Library

2007-2009

Katy L. W. Klettlinger
Assistant Curator
Peninsula Library and Historical Society

2008-2010

Judy Wiener
Head Curator
Assistant Professor
Medical Heritage Center
Prior Health Sciences Library
The Ohio State University

Editor, *The Ohio Archivist*

Beth Kattelman
Associate Curator
The Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee
Theatre Research Institute
The Ohio State University