# OHIO ARCHIVIST

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## Inside this Issue:

## BUILDING CAPACITY: DISCOVERING ARCHIVAL MATERIAL IN THE 21ST CENTURY 2014 SOCIETY OF OHIO ARCHIVISTS ANNUAL MEETING

**By Suzanne Maggard**

You are invited to attend the Society of Ohio Archivists Spring Conference 2014 on Friday, May 16, from 8:15 AM–4:15 PM at the OCLC Lakeside Conference Center in Dublin. We have an exciting conference planned—this **year's theme, "Building Capacity:** Discovering Archival Material in **the 21st Century," will explore** user interactions with rare and unique materials in our technology driven society.

To register, please visit http://www.ohiohistorystore.com/workshops/soa-conference-2014.aspx. The fee is $40 for members, $60 for non-members, and $30 for students. Advanced registration ends Friday, May 9. Lunch is included in the cost of the conference, but advanced registration is necessary to guarantee lunch. To see the complete program and session descriptions, visit the meeting page at http://apps.ohiohistory.org/SOA/?page_id=1253.

We are pleased to announce that Christopher J. Prom will be this **year's plenary speaker. Prom is assistant university archivist and** professor of Library Administration at the University of Illinois at Urbana–**Champaign. He has responsibility for the archives' digital** access and preservation programs. He holds a PhD in history from the University of Illinois, studied at the University of York, United Kingdom, and was awarded a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar Award to study digital preservation. He is a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists and is currently serving the society as publications editor and chair of the Publications.

# THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear SOA members,

As I write this column, I can still see several inches of ice and snow out my window and am grateful that we are at the point that I can begin writing about the SOA spring conference because it certainly means that spring is almost here! It has been a harsh winter but the SOA Council and all of our dedicated volunteers have been hard at work to ensure that the work of our organization is continuing along a steady and continuing path of progress.

We had another marvelous fall program, which was held in conjunction with the Ohio Local History Alliance in October. The conference, "Connecting Treasured Pasts & Bright Futures," brought attendees from far and wide who connected to both learn and share valuable information of interest to our combined memberships. The SOA session track featured two reference-focused mini-workshops and one panel. I was enthused that our mini-workshops were led by Danna C. Bell, educational outreach specialist at the Library of Congress and president of the Society of American Archivists. In addition to providing us with valuable reference tools, Bell also shared information from SAA and provided us with information about how our organizations can partner more in the future.

Also of note is the way that SOA is working to increase advocacy for archival records and institutions across the state as well as nationally. Several Council members attended Statehood Day in February to join in the collaborative advocacy efforts to showcase the important work we all do on the part of preserving and promoting history in the Buckeye State. Other recent advocacy efforts include the renewal of our support to the National Coalition for History, the participation of many of our members in National History Day, and our organization and promotion of Archives Month activities. SOA leadership is also an active part of the SAA Regional Archival Associations Consortium (RAAC), which provides an official venue for information exchange amongst the leadership of regional archival organizations, and amongst the Regionals and the Society of American Archivists. But, there is still so much more to do! The SOA council is interested in organizing a committee focused on advocacy efforts and SOA Council member Nathan Tallman, is currently in the process of leading the committee formation. Please contact Nathan if you are interested in serving or chairing this

# THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

important effort.

I am excited by the content of our annual Spring Conference, held this year on May 16, at the Lakeside Conference Center at OCLC in Dublin, Ohio. The theme, "Building Capacity: Discovering Archival Collections in the 21st Century," speaks to the challenge that all of us face in making our collections available and accessible in a twenty-first century records environment. Our plenary speaker, Chris Prom, will highlight processes that will enable us to make our born-digital collections more available digitally. Other sessions will focus on increasing the accessibility and promotion of all collections in our modern environment and to meet with visitor expectations.

As I approach the end of my first year of the SOA presidency, I am thrilled by all of the enthusiastic members that we have and am excited about the year ahead for the organization. I also welcome your ideas, thoughts, questions and comments. Please take the opportunity to speak to me at the conference or reach me via e-mail or phone. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you soon in Dublin, Ohio!

Judith A. Wiener
President, Society of Ohio Archivists
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614-292-9273

# ARCHIVES MONTH COMING IN OCTOBER

The SOA Archives Month Committee has been planning its activities for 2014. Along with the customary theme and poster, the committee is busy at work adding new wrinkles.

The theme for 2014 is "Ohio in the Depression Era" and the poster will pay tribute to the work of the federal Farm Security Administration's photo documentation project in Ohio. "We will aim to have the posters distributed to members by early September," states George Bain, chair of the Archives Month Committee.

The committee is also at work on a new venture for SOA: sponsorship of a state-wide "I Found It in the Archives" contest. The Ohio Historical Society has conducted a contest for its researchers over the past few years. This year OHS and SOA Council have decided to join forces for a state-level competition, and Council will furnish prize money. The Archives Month Committee has decided to do its part as an Archives Month activity and is currently working on the details. "We hope a number of archival centers will run contests of their own so researchers can relate the value of their research," adds Bain.

The committee is also working to have repositories hold "evenings of readings" programs during October.

Stay tuned. The committee will be announcing more details on these activities between now and the annual meeting conference in May.

In this plenary, Dr. Prom will provide "A More Product, Less Process Approach to Digital Access." He will reflect on the challenges posed by bulky sets of born-digital archives and will describe methods the University of Illinois and other institutions are using to provide low-barrier access to a variety of digitized and born-digital materials. He will explain that by putting a few simple principles into practice, we can help users discover and use digital resources that meet their needs—whatever systems or resources we may have at our disposal.

To complement Prom's talk on digital archives, this year's panel sessions will address a wide range of topics from outreach ideas to grant funding to archival description to digital collections. There will be something for everyone, no matter what your interest or skill level and there will be plenty of opportunities to network with colleagues. Join us and learn something new.

If you have an interest in outreach, Lisa Wood of the Ohio Historical Society and Dorothy Gruich of the Center for the History of Psychology will describe the benefits of providing behind-the-scenes tours and how they have reached new audiences by allowing a peek inside normally staff-only areas. In another session, Aaron O'Donovan and Angela O'Neal of the Columbus Metropolitan Library will discuss the Columbus Memory Project and the opportunities they have had to help smaller institutions and community members digitize their collections both in-house and during "digitization road shows."

New funding ideas and information on an ongoing grant project will be the focus of a session with Missy Lodge of the State Library of Ohio and Andy Verhoff of OHS. Lodge will introduce the Ohio Heritage Partnership, while Verhoff will describe the Ohio History Fund. For those more interested in archival processing and description, two sessions will address innovative approaches. Jennie Thomas and Adam Wead will discuss self-built archival discovery tools at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Cate Putirskis and Morag Boyd of The Ohio State University will present the challenges they have faced while undergoing a broad transition to modern, efficient technical services workflows.

If you are fascinated by unique digital collections and projects, you will not want to miss two of our afternoon sessions. In the session, "Digital Burma: The Baptist Missionary Archives at Denison University," Joshua Finnell, Heather Lyle, and Jonathan Moore of Denison University along with Jacob Heil, a Ohio 5 digital scholar, and Sherry Harlacher, the Denison University Museum director will address Denison's connection to Myanmar and the planning and development of a digital humanities project to digitize Denison's historical documentation of this connection. Our final session of the day is a longer combined session featuring staff dealing with the migration of digital collections and catalogs to new platforms. Panelists Keith Manecke of OHS, Andrew Harris of Wright State University, Arjun Sabharwal from the University of Toledo, and Stefan Langer of Worthington Libraries will describe decisions made and challenges addressed during migration projects.

For further learning and networking opportunities, be sure to view the student and professional posters during both our morning and afternoon breaks. Posters will address a range of topics including a finding aid conversion projects and a study to create a more user-friendly

## SOA 2014 Slate of Candidates

Following is the 2014 slate of candidates to be considered for the election to the Society of Ohio Archivists this year. Voting will take place during the business meeting portion of the annual meeting to be held May 16th.

Candidates were asked to respond to the question: *What skills and experiences can you offer to SOA?*

**Treasurer**

Emily Gainer

**Council (2 Seats)**

Jennifer Haney

Andrew Harris

Kayla Harris

Suzanne Maggard

**Treasurer**
**Emily Gainer**

Special Collections Librarian/Assistant Processing Archivist
Center for the History of Psychology, University of Akron

It has been a learning experience and a pleasure serving as SOA treasurer since 2010. During the past four years, I have learned not only about the functions of the Society but also about the diverse, professional members. The experience has prepared me to continue to act responsibly and accurately regarding the monetary account and the membership records. In my professional experience, I served on a number of committees and frequently work in a team environment. SOA Council functions as a team, with an emphasis on communication, time management, and compromise. If re-elected treasurer, I will use my organizational skills and attention to detail to keep accurate fiscal records. I will use my communication skills to keep Council aware of the incomes and expenditures, and communicate with members regarding their membership status. During my four years as treasurer, I feel that SOA has made important strides to increase communication and membership engagement, as well as responsibly manage its monetary account. I would be honored to be a part of this forward momentum in the next two years.

**Previous Positions:** University of Akron, Archival Services, archives associate senior, 2008–2012; Oberlin College Archives, processing archivist, 2007–2008; Youngstown State University Archives & Special Collections, library media technical assistant II, 2006–2007.

**Education:** MLIS, Kent State University; MA Public History, Kent State University; BS history & English, Heidelberg University.

**Professional Associations:** Academy of Certified Archivists; Midwest Archives Conference; Society of American Archivists.

## Council
## Jen Haney
Records Manager and Archivist
Warren County Records Center and Archives

My interest in working with archives began during my senior year at Miami University. I took an Introduction to Public History class where I had to spend several hours at the University Archives and in the local history office at the Lane Library. I was fascinated by all of the information I could unlock in finding aids and processed collections. This class, along with internship experience I had in local museums was the foundations of getting my Masters of Public History.

In 2008, I graduated from Wright State University with a Masters of Public History in Museum and Archival Studies. The skills acquired from this degree were utilized and honed over two years, as I worked as a processing archival assistant for the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) History Office. Concurrently, I also worked as a local history librarian within the Greene County Public Library. The library provided me the opportunity to demonstrate my patron service and reference skills, as I generally assisted 100 to 200 patrons each month on a wide range of research queries including, but not limited to local history, genealogy, and public records within Greene County.

While I enjoyed processing and accessioning collections, I loved the opportunities I had working with the public, locating their family histories, unlocking the mysteries of the past with them. These two positions are what lead me to my current position of records manager and archivist of **Warren County. While a records center isn't your** typical archive in a sense as we house more than just historical collections, I love the opportunity I have of working with the past and present. Combining the necessity to preserve the past, but also to maintain and be compliant with current

records retention policies allows me to bring unique blend of skills to SOA Council. Understanding the difference between retaining collections permanently and their value to history, while understanding we cannot keep **everything "just because" is such a** huge part of my position. I would bring this type of knowledge into SOA. This makes me organized, and continuing to be up-to-date on not just hardcopy preservation but the need for digital preservation in a local government repository, as many agencies in my county are going towards a less-paper society. Regardless of your type of archives, digitization is something that all archives are familiar with to one extent or another. I want to thank you for your consideration and I look forward to continuing my participation in SOA though out the year.

**Previous Positions:** Air Force Research Laboratory History Office, processing intern, 2008–2010; Green County Public Library, local history librarian, 2009–2010; University of Dayton, access services specialist, 2010–2013.

**Education:** MA, public history, Wright State University, 2008; BA history, minor music history, Miami University, 2006.

**Professional Associations:** ARMA 2013–; County Archivists and Records Manager Association 2013–; Miami Valley Archivist Roundtable 2008, 2013–; National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators 2013-; Society of American Archivists 2013–; Society of Ohio Archivists 2013–.

**Andrew Harris**

Metadata Librarian

Digital Services, Wright State University Libraries

I am a recent transplant to Ohio since beginning at Wright State more than a year ago. Though I am new to Ohio, I am not completely new to the archives field. I obtained my MLIS in 2011, and for the last two years I have worked in, or with, various archives units. My experience includes sorting and processing, reference, outreach, digitization, DACS training, and social media. For the last year I have been working closely with the Special Collections and Archives at Wright State to describe and make their content available online. My first major task was migrating content from the libraries' DSpace site to our Digital Commons instance.

I have a unique perspective because of my experience and current work that would be beneficial to SOA. Through my work in two separate university IRs I have had the opportunity to work with faculty, staff, and students to capture, digitize, and describe their personal work. In addition to that, being a part of a digitization unit makes me keenly aware of developments on the technological side of the spectrum while still working regularly with heritage materials.

I would also like to highlight my experience with social media. In the last year I have worked as a member of the Wright State University Libraries Social Media Team to organize and manage multiple social media channels. With the changeable nature of social media and the constant developments in technology my continued experience would be a benefit to SOA.

Since my arrival here in Ohio I have been continually impressed with the atmosphere of collaboration across the entire state. SOA is representative of that atmosphere and I would consider it a privilege to be able to work with other leaders in the field.

**Previous Positions:** University of Alabama, archival technician, 2012–2013; Smithsonian Institution, Archives of American Gardens intern, 2012; University of South Carolina's Scholar Commons, graduate assistant, 2011–2012; University of South Carolina, Coleman Karesh Law Library, graduate assistant, 2011–2012; University of South Carolina, School of Library and Information Science, Davis 2.0 Virtual Center, manager, Second Life, 2010–2011.

**Education:** MLIS, University of South Carolina, 2011; BA, fine arts and Spanish, The University of Virginia's College at Wise, 2006.

**Professional Associations:** Ohio Digitization Interest Group, 2014; Society of Ohio Archivists, 2014.

**Kayla Harris**

Records Manager and Archivist

Clinton County Records and Archives

Since I moved to Ohio last year I've found a really strong network of information professionals, and a commitment to preserving Ohio history. I've enjoyed getting to work with people across the state in several of the organizations that I belong to, including the Miami Valley Archives Roundtable, and the County Archives and Records Management Association. I'm looking forward to becoming more involved with the Society of Ohio Archivists and I think one of my

unique traits is my history of working in libraries and archives across the country. I would bring to SOA my different perspectives from several places including the University of Alabama, the University of South Carolina, Michigan State University, and the Smithsonian Institution.

When I worked for the University of Alabama I **was very involved with ALA's sub**-group, Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS). I served on the continuing education committee and worked as the interim e-forum coordinator. E-forums are a cheap and easy way for professionals to collaborate on a topic-based discussion on an email Listserv over a 2-day period. Moderators keep the topics going by asking questions and then summaries are compiled at the end. It would be interesting to see some sort of similar tool for archivists since many of us across the state encounter similar issues.

Since I work in both the archives and records management world, I am particularly attuned to understanding what materials are of historical significance and that should be maintained in the archives. As a government agency we have limited space and resources so I have to be selective to preserve the most important materials. I feel strongly about educating the public that *archival* **means more than just something that's** *old*.

Along with many of my peers, I am thoroughly organized and have a strong attention to detail.

I would be honored to work with other great archival leaders in our state and serve as a Council member for the Society of Ohio Archivists.

**Previous Positions:** University of Alabama, metadata librarian, 2012–2013; Smithsonian–Archives of American Gardens, intern, summer 2011; University of South Carolina, digital collections assistant, 2010–2012.

**Education:** MLIS, University of South Carolina, 2011; BA, English and history, Michigan State University, 2010.

**Professional Associations:** Library Association (Continuing Education Committee intern 2012–2013); ARMA; County Archivists and Records Manager Association (Legislative Committee Chair 2013–); Miami Valley Archives Roundtable; National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators; Society of Ohio Archivists; Society of American Archivists.

### Suzanne Maggard

Reference/Collections Librarian
University of Cincinnati

As an experienced archivist and committee member, I have a variety of skills and experiences to offer SOA. I have worked at the Univer**sity of Cincinnati's Archives and Rare Books Li**brary for the past five years. Working in a small shop at a large urban university, I have had the opportunity to gain experience in many aspects of archival work from reference to processing to archival description. On a daily basis, I provide reference
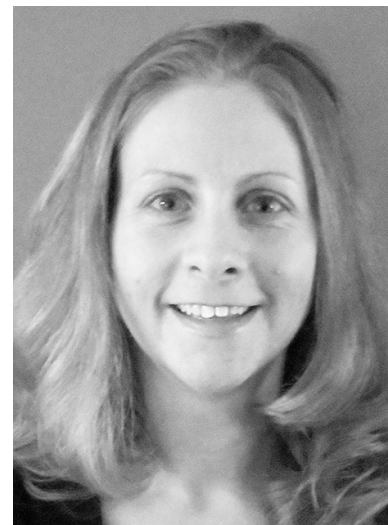
assistance and instructional sessions to students, faculty, staff, and the general public. I am the main contact for both the Urban Studies and German-Americana collections and am also responsible for implementing the use of Encoded Archival Description in the Archives and Rare Books Library. My job duties have allowed me the opportunity to see the archives field from many different areas, so I feel I can understand what many archivists do in their daily work whether it be in public service or behind-the-scenes creating finding aids or digitizing rare materials.

Shortly after starting to work in Ohio, I became a member of SOA. Since 2011, I have served on the Spring Conference Committee and this year I am serving as chair of the committee. I have also served on the Educational Programming Committee since 2012. As a member of these SOA committees, I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with many talented archivists throughout Ohio. Planning a conference takes organization and communication, and serving on these committees has helped me to improve my skills in these areas. Serving as chair of the committee this year, has provided me the opportunity to learn even more about SOA's structure, finances, and traditions by working closely with SOA's president and treasurer to determine needs and costs for this year's conference. I will bring these skills and experiences to SOA's Council.

I also have experience serving the larger archives community outside of SOA, and I am a strong supporter of finding ways to collaborate with our fellow archivists and related professionals. As a member and current cochair of the of the OhioLINK EAD Task Force, I am involved in ensuring that an important collaborative effort of Ohio's archivists continues into the future. Last year, I was elected as a member of the SAA EAD

Steering Committee which is currently working to find ways to help the archives community implement EAD3. In the Cincinnati area, I was instrumental in forming an informal archives group called the Cincinnati Area Archives Roundtable, which provides a forum for archivists and related professionals to meet, discuss projects, and learn about other local archival organizations. My involvement in this organizations outside of SOA has also provided me the opportunity to see the need to continually encourage and welcome new members to SOA.

I am honored to be nominated to run for SOA's Council and I look forward to continuing SOA's strong traditions and looking for ways to make it even better, if I am elected as an SOA Council member.

**Previous Positions:** University of Cincinnati, Archives and Rare Books Library, reference/collections librarian, 2008–; The Filson Historical Society, special collections assistant, 2007–2008; special collections intern, 2006; University of Kentucky, Center for Oral History Research, graduate assistant, 2005–2006.

**Education:** MSLS, University of Kentucky, 2006; MA, United States history, University of Cincinnati, 2003; BA, history, Thomas More College, 2001.

**Professional Associations:** Academic Library Association of Ohio, 2011–; Midwest Archives Conference, 2007–; OhioLINK EAD Task Force, 2011– (current cochair); Society of American Archivists, 2005–, EAD Roundtable Steering Committee, 2013–; Society of Ohio Archivists, 2008– (Current Education Committee and Spring Program Committee chair).

## ENGAGING AND ATTRACTING SOA MEMBERS

**By Emily Gainer, SOA Treasurer and Membership Committee Liaison**

With new committee members and new goals, the SOA Membership Committee experienced a resurgence in the past eight months. Generally, the committee recruits and supports new and renewing members. Committee members identify events and organizations throughout the state to distribute membership information. The committee is responsible for writing and updating membership literature, including the annual membership renewal letter and the membership brochure.

In an effort to get more members involved, recruit new members, and increase awareness about SOA, the membership committee identified the following three goals for 2013−2014.

*Goal 1: Update the membership brochure*
The membership brochure is a valuable marketing tool for SOA. It gives information about the society, lists membership benefits, and includes a membership form. It's portable and can easily be handed out at events. Since it had not been significantly updated in years, the committee decided it was time to take a closer look at the brochure. Last summer, the committee reviewed the content and added photographs of members "in action" to the brochure cover. The Membership Committee also collected quotes from current members to use as testimonials to give the brochure a more personal perspective. If you would like brochures to hand out at events, to give to students/interns, or to display at your organization, please contact Emily Gainer at erlockh@uakron.edu.

*Goal 2: Setup information tables at events around the state*

The Membership Committee is exploring ways to increase awareness about SOA and recruit new members. During Kent State University's fall semester, SOA representatives attended the School of Library and Information Science's "Career Exploration: Information and Library Professions" in Columbus and Kent. Volunteers Mark Bloom, Jillian Carney, Emily Gainer, and Liz Plummer, staffed the tables and answered numerous questions about the archives profession and SOA. Archives Month posters were handed out as well. Between the two locations, a total of about 170 students, plus faculty, attended. If you know of an event would be suitable for an SOA table, please contact Membership Committee chair, Ron Davidson at rdavidson@sanduskylib.org.

*Goal 3: Online membership renewal capabilities*
For a few years, there has been informal discussion about creating online renewal capabilities for members to renew by credit card. While convenience was a top priority, the site needed to be secure and as cost efficient as possible for SOA. Recently, the Ohio Historical Society offered the use of their History Store, which fit these requirements. During the 2014 membership renewal drive, 50 of 100 members renewed or joined using the online system. That is 50% in the first year! Members who use the online renewal should note that their credit card statements will indicate that they paid OHS, but SOA will be reimbursed quarterly for the membership payments. If you have feedback about online renewal, please let a member of SOA Council know.

The Membership Committee cannot accomplish its goals without input from SOA members. What can you do to help? Encourage new professionals, students, interns, volunteers, etc.,

to join SOA. If you meet a new archivist, suggest they contact Emily or Ron to discuss membership. Or provide Emily or Ron with their contact information, and we would be happy to send information to them. Also, keep an eye on the SOA Listserv and Facebook group for volunteer opportunities to staff the SOA table. All information and handouts are provided.

## SOA MEMBERSHIP DATA (2014 DATA COMPILED ON FEBRUARY 20)

|  | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Student** | 11 | 13 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| **Individual** | 133 | 120 | 91 | 123 | 99 | 90 | 84 |
| **Institutional** |  | 7 | 3 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| **Bridge** | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0 | 2 |
| **Total** | 144 | 140 | 101 | 139 | 113 | 102 | 100 |

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Need to renew your membership for 2014? There's still time! Renew online through the Ohio Historical Society's secure History Store, or download the invoice from the SOA homepage and mail with check or money order to the address on the form.

Individual and Student members receive discounts at events and voting rights at the annual business meeting. Patron and Sponsor receive Individual benefits plus provide additional support for SOA special projects. Institutional members receive discounts for up to two employees to attend the annual meeting.

Your membership dues directly impact archives in the state of Ohio.

During 2013, SOA provided:

- Education and networking at the spring Annual Meeting and the joint SOA/OLHA fall meeting

- Scholarships for one student and three new professionals to attend the Annual Meeting

- Access to the *Ohio Archivist*, the society's online newsletter

- Recognition to an outstanding individual through the Merit Award

- Support to the National Coalition for History through an organizational membership

- Design and printing of the Archives Month poster, "Disasters in Ohio"

# 2013 SOA FALL JOINT MEETING RECAP: "CONNECTING TREASURED PASTS & BRIGHT FUTURES"

**By Christine Schmid Engels, Cincinnati Museum Center**

The fall joint meeting of SOA and the Ohio Local History Alliance at the Holiday Inn in Worthington was once again an insightful and enjoyable experience for all involved. Meetings with OHLA create a special dynamic and energy that always leaves me more engaged and dedicated to not only SOA but to all of history in Ohio. The variety of topics covered in the sessions is wonderful. There are the ever-practical ones such as digitization, grant writing, and volunteer management and training, but also more creative topics such as dating photographs, collecting the recent past, and exhibit narrative tips.

SOA sponsored one track of sessions on Friday, October 4. Out of 228 meeting registrants, 23 registered as SOA members. The SOA archives track was a special one this year with Danna C. Bell, SAA president, leading two two-part workshops, "Reference Basics for Archivists" and "Archivists and Teachers: A Winning Combination." With an engaging and magnetic personality, Bell both instructed and encouraged conversation and creative ways of dealing with difficult questions and challenging patrons. Bell



*John Ball and Mark Bloom at the luncheon. Society of Ohio Archivists & Ohio Local History Alliance Meeting, October 4, 2013.*



*Danna Bell presenting mini-workshop on reference in archives. Society of Ohio Archivists & Ohio Local History Alliance Meeting, October 4, 2013.*

broke down the process of analyzing primary sources in a way that seemed simplistic but upon completion of the exercise one realized it was deceptive in that regard. By urging us to slow down and leave our preconceptions at the door Bell taught us to look at documents with fresh eyes. The end product of the process—observe, reflect and question—is a much deeper understanding of the document and of the issues it addresses.

The lunchtime plenary speaker, Dr. Larry L. Nelson, adjunct assistant professor at BGSU Firelands, gave an amusing and informative presentation on the War of 1812 in Ohio. He humorously shot down myths and misconceptions about the war and its key players while providing enough information to whet one's appetite for more. Undoubtedly his speech made many in the audience consider trekking to a few of the state's War of 1812 sites after hearing his enthusiastic descriptions.

The last session of the day was our "Ask an Archivist" panel. SOA members Dan Noonan, Gillian Hill, Janet Carleton, and I fielded questions from the audience ranging from accession and

## 2013 SOA FALL JOINT MEETING RECAP: "CONNECTING TREASURED PASTS & BRIGHT FUTURES"

deaccession issues, to storage space woes and electronic recordkeeping. Conversations centered on doing the best you can with what you have and finding online tools and other resources to assist in doing so.

Though the sessions were informative there was also some great networking happening throughout the day in the hallways during break, at the vendor display area, and before the speaker began at lunch. SOA can only be strengthened with the interaction of allied history professionals and hopefully we can help out OHLA members while we are at it.

Thanks to OHS for handling the registration and to OLHA for offering us the opportunity of partnering with them.



*SOA leaders with Danna Bell. SOA leadership with SAA President Danna Bell at the Society of Ohio Archivists & Ohio Local History Alliance Meeting, October 4, 2013. L-R: Janet Carleton (newsletter editor), Christine Engels (past president), Jillian Carney (vice president), Gillian Hill (secretary), Emily Gainer (treasurer), Danna Bell (SAA president), Judy Wiener (president), Lisa Rickey (council), Jacky Johnson (council).*

## SOA SOCIAL MEDIA

SOA's newest social media platform, Flickr, holds meeting photos. Visit http://flickr.com/ohioarchivists.

Visit the SOA Pinterest page at http://pinterest.com/ohioarchivists/. To share ideas for the page, to participate in the interactive "Archives & Records News" board, or to request that SOA pin from your organization's website or blog, please contact SOA Public Information Committee Chair Jennifer Long Morehart at jlong@tlsohio.edu.

Join us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and the SOA Listserv to share and learn about news, events, and other helpful information to do with the archivist profession in Ohio.

## SOA COMMITTEES—YOU ARE INVITED!

**By Nathan Tallman, University of Cincinnati**

Want to become involved with SOA leadership, but not sure how? Looking to fill out that CV? Want to connect with colleagues? Please consider joining an SOA committee. Your voice and vision are needed to help guide SOA and support the Ohio archival community.

Committee chairs are appointed by the president and work with a Council liaison to coordinate activities. Any SOA member may join a committee by indicating interest on your membership application/renewal form or by contacting the committee chair. There are no term limits for membership. (The Nominating Committee is an exception to open membership and does have a term minimum.)

The following committees are regular, standing committees. When and how they meet is determined by the chair and committee members. Ad hoc committees may also be created, as needed. Current committee chairs and members cab always be on the [SOA Committee page](#).

The **Advocacy Committee** is a new committee and is still forming. It's expected to track issues of importance to archivists and the Ohio archival community. Issues of importance include tracking laws and legislation affecting archives, diversity, and the role of archives and archivists within society. The committee will facilitate access to resources that will aid archivists in advocating for the profession and collections to administrators and institutional stakeholders. It also communicates news from the National Coalition for History. *The Advocacy Committee is still forming and lacks a chair. If you are interested, please contact Council liaison Nathan*

*Tallman at [nathan.tallman@uc.edu](mailto:nathan.tallman@uc.edu).*

The **Archives Month Committee** coordinates all activities surrounding Ohio [Archives Month](#). Activities include choosing a theme, publication and distribution of the Ohio Archives [Month poster](#), and increasing the general public's awareness of archives. The committee works towards strengthening ties with archives users and introducing new and potential users to archives and documentary heritage. The Council liaison is Amber Bice. Contact the committee chair, George Bain, Ohio University archivist emeritus, at [bain@ohio.edu](mailto:bain@ohio.edu).

The **Awards Committee** solicits and reviews award applications for the [Merit Award](#) and [Meeting Scholarships](#). The committee is responsible for publicizing the availability of the awards and the identification and selection of awardees according to the criteria set by SOA Council. The Council liaison is Jillian Carney. Contact the committee chair, Devhra Bennett Jones, Lloyd Library, at [devhra@lloydlibrary.org](mailto:devhra@lloydlibrary.org).

The **Education and Programming Committee** plans the annual SOA spring conference and professional development workshops. Activities include choosing a conference theme, solicitation and selection of session presenters, selection of plenary speaker, publication and distribution of conference announcements, collecting conference evaluations, and planning professional development workshops of interest to members. The Council liaison is Jacky Johnson. Contact the committee chair, Suzanne Maggard, University of Cincinnati, at [maggarsm@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:maggarsm@ucmail.uc.edu).

The **Membership Committee** recruits and supports new and renewing members. Commit-

## SOA COMMITTEES—YOU ARE INVITED!

tee members identify events and/or organization throughout the state in order to distribute membership literature. The committee is responsible for writing and updating membership literature, including the annual membership drive letter, and the membership brochure. The Council liaison is Emily Gainer. Contact the committee chair, Ron Davidson, Sandusky Library, at ron.davidson@sanduskylib.org.

The **Nominating Committee** annually prepares and submits a slate of candidates for vacant officer positions and Council seats. The committee is made up of one Council member and two additional SOA members appointed by the president. Committee members must serve at least one year. The Council liaison is Gillian Hill. Contact the committee chair, Jane Wildermuth, Wright State University, at jane.wildermuth@wright.edu.

The **Public Information Committee** is responsible for public relations and outreach for SOA through the process of generating content and maintaining the tools to communicate SOA information. Duties and responsibilities include updating the SOA website, maintaining social media accounts (Facebook, Flickr, LinkedIn, Pinterest), assisting in moderation of SOA Listserv, responding to SOA email inquiries, and documenting SOA events through photographs. The Council liaison is Lisa Rickey. Contact the committee chair, Jennifer Long Morehart, ELCA Region 6 Archives, Trinity Lutheran Seminary at jmorehart@tlsohio.edu.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE NEWS

**By Jennifer Long Morehart, PIC chair**

**New Website**. In 2013, Council approved the migration of the SOA website from the MediaWiki to the WordPress platform. Since then, the PIC has transferred all files and images from the wiki to the new WordPress site, and edited any textual errors resulting from the migration. Thank you to the Ohio Historical Society for hosting SOA's website. *Visit the new site at http://ohioarchivists.org/!*

**Meeting Images**. Last fall, a team from the PIC took photographs of the SOA/OLHA meeting and posted them to Flickr. Thank you to George Bain, Lily Birkhimer, Janet Carleton, and Lisa Rickey for sharing their time and expertise. See the snapshots at http://www.flickr.com/photos/ohioarchivists/.

**SOA Listserv**. In response to the need for SOA Listserv guidelines, the PIC has assembled a Listserv policy draft and submitted it to Council for approval. Thank you to Lisa Rickey for heading up this important project.

The Public Information Committee welcomes ideas and suggestions for improving SOA communications. Please send your ideas to Jennifer Long Morehart (chair) at jmorehart@tlsohio.edu.

## GO-TO DIGITAL RESOURCES

**DiGITaL:**
Digital Guidance,
Information, Tips,
and Lingo

Daniel Noonan, editor
e-Records/digital resources archivist
The Ohio State University

So far in this column, we have spotlighted the history of the Ohio Electronic Records Committee, discussed digital preservation planning, the basics of digital forensics, and the evolution of email management. I feel it is time to spotlight some go-to resources in the digital curation, digital preservation, and electronic records realms. While certainly not exhaustive, the following list of blogs, Library of Congress resources, tools, projects, and reports, is representative of some of the best resources currently available.

**Blogs:**

***Around the World in Eighty Gigabytes***, http://80gb.wordpress.com/, is Alexandra Eveleigh's blog "…about the impact of technology on archives, particularly smaller local archives in the UK."

**Future Arch**, http://futurearchives.blogspot.com/, created in 2008 and still current "…is a place for those…working with born-digital archives at the Bodleian Library to share [their] thoughts, frustrations and successes." Or as the masthead states "Future Arch = traditional archives + digital archives @ the Bod."

**Future Proof—Protecting our digital future**, http://futureproof.records.nsw.gov.au/, is the blog of the State Records Authority of New South Wales. While Future Proof is a centralized information source on a range of recordkeeping issues relevant to the New South Wales public sector, it is also a phenomenal resource for the wider digital recordkeeping community.

**Practical E-Records**, http://e-records.chrisprom.com/about/. Edited by Chris Prom, assistant university archivist and associate professor of Library Administration at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, it is the outgrowth of a research fellowship he had at the University of Dundee. The intent of the blog is "…to wrestle with these issues on a practical level and, at the end of the day, come up with a few techniques and recommendations that other archivists and records managers might find useful." [Editor's note: Prom will be the keynote speaker at the SOA spring meeting this year.]

**Thinking Records**, http://thinkingrecords.co.uk/about/, is James Lappin's records management blog. He is a consultant with 20 years of experience, and writes about issues surrounding electronic records management and digital preservation.

**Library of Congress:**

The **National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA)**, founded in 2010 as part of the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, works towards building the capacity for public and private organizations to save digital content. Working with a set of community values that encompass stewardship, collaboration, inclusiveness, and exchange, the NDSA has five working groups focused on content, standards and practices, infrastructure, innovation and outreach. While membership is open to individuals and organizations, there is an expecta-

tion of commitment to involvement by: serving on one or more working groups; collecting, providing and/or curating content; and/or providing services. Available at http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndsa/.

The **Sustainability of Digital Formats Planning for Library of Congress Collections** is a comprehensive inventory of current and emerging digital formats that includes "…identification of tools and detailed documentation that are needed to ensure that the Library of Congress can manage content created or received in these formats through the content life cycle…" and to identify and describe both formats that are promising for long-term sustainability and those that are not. Available at http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/formats/index.shtml.

**Tools/Projects:**

The **AIMS—Born Digital Collections: An Inter-Institutional Model for Stewardship Project** was conducted between 2009–2011 with institutions from the United States and the United Kingdom. "The AIMS Framework was developed to define good practice in terms of archival tasks and objectives necessary for success. The Framework…presents a practical approach but also a recognition that there is no single solution for many of the issues that institutions face when dealing with born-digital collections." The AIMS Whitepaper and associated tools can be found at http://www.digitalcurationservices.org/aims/white-paper/.

**The BitCurator project**, http://www.bitcurator.net/, "…is a joint effort led by the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities, to develop a system for collecting profes-

sionals that incorporates the functionality of many digital forensics tools…. BitCurator is defining and testing support for a digital curation workflow that begins at the point of encountering holdings that reside on removable media—either new acquisitions or materials that are within a repositories existing holdings—and extends to the point of interaction with an end user. BitCurator will address both tools required at the point of initial data extraction and back-end tools for batch processing of disk images."

The **Curator's Workbench**, http://blogs.lib.unc.edu/cdr/index.php/about-the-curators-workbench/, is a collection preparation and workflow tool for digital materials that helps archivists manage files before they are stored in an institutional repository or dark archive.

The **Data Curation Profiles Toolkit**, http://datacurationprofiles.org/, was developed through a research collaboration between the Distributed Data Curation Center at the Purdue University Libraries and the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign. A Data Curation Profile is essentially an outline of the "story" of a data set or collection, describing its origin and lifecycle within a research project.

The **Digital Preservation Business Case Toolkit**, http://wiki.dpconline.org/index.php?title=Digital_Preservation_Business_Case_Toolkit, is a comprehensive toolkit, developed by the Digital Preservation Coalition, to help practitioners and middle managers build business cases to fund digital preservation activities.

The **File Information Tool Set (FITS)**, http://projects.iq.harvard.edu/fits, identifies, validates and extracts technical metadata for a wide range of file formats.

## GO-TO DIGITAL RESOURCES

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**Managing the Digital University Desktop**, http://ils.unc.edu/digitaldesktop/, was an NHPRC grant project that ran from 2001 through 2005 and was designed to:

- Document how faculty, administrators, and staff use and manage files and records from electronic mail and other desktop applications.

- Develop optimized e-mail and desktop management policies and best practice guidelines to serve higher education, based on the analysis of user needs and practices.

- Develop educational opportunities to optimize faculty, administrator, and staff use, and management of desktop electronic documents.

- Develop user profiles necessary for a strategic consideration of electronic records management systems.

**PARADIGM**, the **P**ersonal **Ar**chives **A**ccessible in **Dig**ital **M**edia project, conducted by the universities of Oxford and Manchester, was developed to explore the issues involved in preserving digital private papers through gaining practical experience in accessioning and ingesting digital private papers into digital repositories, and processing these in line with archival and digital preservation requirements. Available at http://www.paradigm.ac.uk/index.html, the project outcomes included:

- A template for ensuring long-term access for institutional holdings of digital personal papers.

- Best-practice guidelines workbook, http://www.paradigm.ac.uk/workbook/index.html, on issues relating to the archiving of personal papers in digital form.

- Templates for institutional policies for collection development, retention, and disposal.

**POWRR** (Preserving (Digital) Objects With Restricted Resources), http://digitalpowrr.niu.edu/, is an IMLS funded project that is investigating, evaluating, and will recommend scalable, sustainable digital preservation solutions for many medium- and smaller- sized institution's libraries. One of its most impressive accomplishments is the "Digital POWRR Tool Evaluation Grid," http://digitalpowrr.niu.edu/tool-grid/. The Tool Grid looks at various digital preservation tools, both open source and for a fee, and identifies functionality based on aspects of the Open Archives Information System (OAIS) model including ingest, processing, access, storage, maintenance, and other considerations including cost.

**Miscellaneous:**

**CLIR** (Council on Library and Information Resources) has produced a wealth of useful reports for the archives and library profession—more than 150 reports on preservation, digital libraries and more—which are available in reverse chronological order at: http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports.

**DigCCur Professional Institute**, http://ils.unc.edu/digccurr/institute.html, consists of a five-day session in May and a two-day follow-up session January. Each day of the summer session will include lectures, discussion, and hands-on lab components. The institute is designed to foster skills, knowledge, and community-building among professionals responsible for the curation of digital materials. Participants return January to discuss their experiences in implementing what they have learned in their own work environments. Participants compare experiences, lessons learned, and strategies for continuing progress.

**DigCurV**, http://www.digcur-education.org/eng/About, is a project funded by the European Commission's Leonardo da Vinci programme to establish a curriculum framework for training in digital curation. It addresses the availability of training for digital curators in the library, archive, museum and cultural heritage sectors needed to develop new skills that are essential for the long-term management of digital collections. Two key tools they make available to network members are:

- The *DigCurV Curriculum Framework,* http://www.digcurv.gla.ac.uk/index.html, defines separate skills lenses to match the specific needs of distinct audiences within digital curation in the shape of executives, managers, and practitioners.

- *CURATE: The Digital Curator Game,* http://www.digcur-education.org/eng/Resources/CURATE-Game, is designed to be used as an exercise that prompts players to put themselves into digital project scenarios in order to address issues and challenges that arise when institutions engage with digital curation and preservation.

The **Digital Curation and Preservation Bibliography**, http://digital-scholarship.org/dcbw/s1/dcbw-s1.htm, presents selected English-language articles, books, and technical reports that are useful in understanding digital curation and preservation. Most sources have been published between 2000 through 2012.

The **Digital Curation Centre**, http://www.dcc.ac.uk/, while based in the United Kingdom, is a world-leading center of expertise in digital information curation with a focus on building capacity, capability, and skills for research data management. The DCC's Curation Lifecycle Model, http://www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/curation-lifecycle-model, provides a graphical, high-level overview of the stages required for successful curation and preservation of data.

The **Forensics Wiki**, http://www.forensicswiki.org/wiki/Main_Page, is one of the most comprehensive websites regarding digital forensics, and contains a plethora of information with more than 650 pages focused on the tools and techniques used by investigators, important papers, people, and organizations, involved in digital forensics.

**OCLC Research** has produced a series of reports collectively known as "Demystifying Born Digital," http://www.oclc.org/research/activities/borndigital.html, which look at a call for collaboration, first steps for managing born digital collections, and detailed steps for transferring born digital content.

**NEWS&
NOTES**

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## INDIVIDUAL NEWS

**Stephanie Bricking** started a new position as a metadata librarian at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County in November 2013. She was previously an archivist at the Henry R. Winkler Center for the History of the Health Professions at the University of Cincinnati.

**Geoff Edwards** recently took on the role of archivist at the Cincinnati Art Museum. He is a graduate of the Archives and Records Management master's program at the University of Aberystwyth in Wales, and he worked at Glamorgan Archives in Cardiff before moving to Indianapolis, where he worked at the Indiana State Archives.

**Robin Heise** has been promoted to a full time position, public outreach coordinator, at the Greene County Records Center and Archives. Robin began working in Greene County as an intern while still a student in the Wright State Public History program. Upon completing her MA in 2012, Robin had an opportunity to join the Archives' staff as a part time employee.

**Miriam Intrator** is now special collections librarian at the Mahn Center for Archives and Special Collections, Ohio University Libraries. She earned a MSLS from the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, and

PhD from The Graduate Center of The City University of New York. She has previously served as photo archivist and registrar at the Leo Baeck Institute, local history and reference librarian at Pacific Grove Public Library, and adjunct reference librarian at Monterey Peninsula College

**Angela O'Neal**, manager of the Genealogy, History & Travel division at the Columbus Metropolitan Library, was named a community representative for the [Digital Public Library of America](#) and will assist the DPLA staff with community outreach in Ohio.

**Dr. Ware Petznick** was named executive director of the Shaker Historical Society on January 24. Ware had been serving almost a year as the director of Education and Administration before her promotion. She wrote a successful OHRAB grant in 2013 to reorganize and index the Elizabeth Nord Library and Archives Map and Stereoview Collections, both of which projects were recently completed.

**Barb Sedlock**, metadata and archives librarian at Defiance College, has begun a quarterly column for the Historical Novel Society: *[Hidden Treasures for Historical Research](#)*. The column will highlight digital documents, images, and books that are freely available on the internet that historical novelists can use for research or story ideas. Future posts will mostly highlight digital documents from academic and cultural institutions' websites. Contact her at [bsedlock@defiance.edu](#).

**Michelle Wirth** recently accepted the position of temporary archivist, a position funded by the Cooperative Society, at the Edward L. Pratt Research Library, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medi-

cal Center. A native of Cincinnati, Michelle earned her MLIS from Kent State University. Prior to joining Cincinnati Children's, Michelle was special project archivist at the American Jewish Archives for two and a half years.

## ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

### Cleveland Archives Roundtable (CAR)

Since its last update in the Ohio Archivist, the Cleveland Archival Roundtable (CAR) has been busy. They have presented archival education programs of various kinds, set up an exchange for unneeded supplies from one institution to be available to others who need them, had joint meetings with other local organizations sharing some parts of our mission, and conducted tours of institutions with varied missions and collections.

While it is not possible to list all meetings and activities here, the following comprise some of the most interesting. Educational sessions led by individual experts have included programs on film preservation (Karen Gracy) and "green" archives (Christina Vernon). Other programs have used SAA webinars as a basis for discussion (Thinking Digital, the Archives Census). Meetings at special repositories included the Case Western Reserve University Special Collections and Archives (with an exhibit of amazingly creative fine book bindings by Jan Sobota in a neighboring space), a tour of the Cinecraft facility (a film company founded before World War II with an enormous retrospective film library), the archives of the fashion collection at the Kent Museum (with an exhibit of Katherine Hepburn's wardrobe), and President Garfield's mausoleum in Lake View Cemetery, where records document the final resting places of people such as Harvey Cushing, the father of neurosurgery, and the Rockefeller family. CAR members were also guests at a lecture on musical antecedents of Elvis Presley (and an impromptu tour) at the Archives of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Cooperative meetings included one at the gallery of Art NEO, a local organization dedicated to the history of art and architecture in northeast Ohio, and most recently the Digital Library Consortium of Cleveland.

CAR members attended a joint meeting with the Consortium at the Shaker Heights Public Library. CAR member Megan Hayes of the library and a colleague from Shaker City Hall described a massive project digitizing a card file of information on all the buildings in the city and making it available online. The two directors of the project received the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board's Achievement Award for 2013 for their successful endeavor.

New ideas for future CAR meetings include a panel discussion "of the whole," wherein all attendees are on the discussion panel, and "an evening of readings," in which participants read from items in their collections related to a theme. CAR is also looking forward to working with SAA on its annual conference in Cleveland in 2015. To stay informed about CAR activities, please visit http:// clevelandarchivists.wordpress.com/.

### Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives (MARAC)

The MARAC spring 2014 meeting will be held April 24–26 at the Hyatt Hotel in Rochester, New York. The meeting theme, "Film, Freedom and Feminism," honors former Rochester residents George Eastman, Frederick Douglass, and Susan B. Anthony. Program sessions will address such topics as documenting social uprising and political protest using film and audio, women in archives, the Underground Railroad, and managing audiovisual collections. The reception will be held at the beautiful George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film. More

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information at http://www.marac.info/upcoming-conferences.

**Ohio Digitization Interest Group (OhioDIG)**

OhioDIG, a grass roots interest group, began meeting again in November 2013. The group had been on hiatus for a few years. OhioDIG is meeting every other month in central Ohio for discussion, presentations, and networking. Upcoming programs will cover in-house digitization, moving image digitization and storage, and state digitization hubs. Find out more at http://ohiodig.org/.

**Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS)**

The OGS conference, GenEx2014, will be held at Kalahari Resorts, Sandusky, April 30 –May 3. The event includes hundreds of programs, workshops, meals, a safari expedition, and an exhibit hall. Rooms include access to all resort benefits including the indoor water park. More information at http://www.genex2014.org/.

**Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB)**

OHRAB is pleased to recognize the Shaker Heights Public Library as its 2013 Achievement Award recipient. The Shaker Heights Public Library, in conjunction with the City of Shaker Heights Landmark Commission, created HistoricShaker.com, an online collection and reference tool capturing and cataloguing the architectural history of Shaker Heights

homes dating as far back as 1915. More than 1,000 volunteer hours were provided in the scanning of more than 10,000 index cards to create a searchable database highlighting the construction year, building materials, construction cost estimate, and architect of Shaker homes. In addition, a smartphone app was created, allowing the public to view the digitally-recorded history of homes as well view a walking tour of Shaker's historical landmarks, events, oral histories, and people significant to the history of the city. More information on OHRAB's Achievement Award, which is announced during Archives Month in October, at http://www.ohrab.org/awards/achievement-awards/.

**Institutional News**

**Cincinnati Museum Center**

The award-winning exhibition *Diana, A Celebration*, which chronicles the life of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, is currently on display at the Cincinnati Museum Center through August 17. This is the final showing for the renowned exhibition, which has been touring the world since



*Judy Cetina, OHRAB member, presents the 2013 OHRAB Achievement Award to Ann Klavora, Shaker Heights Landmark Commission, and Meghan Hays, Shaker Heights Public Library.*

2003, before the items return to her sons in England to be preserved for future generations.

Just as Diana, Princess of Wales, continues to inspire people globally, Cincinnati Museum Center hopes to inspire people locally with a companion gallery, *Daughters of the Queen City.* Items from Cincinnati Museum Center's historic collections illustrate a sampling of philanthropic efforts by Cincinnati women from the 1850s–1960s. The gallery also recognizes a modern city of women leading, giving, and caring, inviting visitors to learn more about several local organizations at work today. *Daughters* features historic gowns and objects of women who raised funds for charity and awareness about issues ranging from the city's widows and orphans to education and the arts. More information at http://www.cincymuseum.org/.

**Columbus Metropolitan Library (Columbus)**

For Black History Month, the Columbus Metropolitan Library held 25 programs at branches throughout central Ohio. At Main Library, a celebration of the first year of the African American Digital Collection was attended by more than 50 people. The event marked the beginning of the library's campaign to reach 20,000 images in the digital collection during the month of February. Check it out at http://digital-collections.columbuslibrary.org.

Stay in touch with the new email list from Columbus Metro's Local History and Genealogy division. Sign up at http://www.columbuslibrary.org/emails for a monthly email that contains research tips, book recommendations, and upcoming events.

**Defiance College (Defiance)**

Defiance College successfully moved its DC Memory database from OhioLINK's DSpace system when the Digital Resource Commons was decommissioned in fall 2013. DC Memory is now hosted at Northern Micrographics on the Rescarta platform. The address, http://memory.defiance.edu/, remains the same, but the site is now more image-heavy. DC Memory contains images of original source documents on the history of Defiance College, including all known catalogs and yearbooks, student newspapers (1902–1960 thus far), alumni newsletters, band/choir/theater programs, and other documents of interest to genealogists and historians of northwestern Ohio. There is also a selection of photographs from Schauffler College, formerly of Cleveland and Oberlin. The original documents are housed in the Pilgrim Library's archives at Defiance College, and are available to researchers who wish to visit the campus. More information is available at the Archives page of the Pilgrim Library's website at http://library.defiance.edu/content.php?pid=343595&sid=2809558.

**Kent State University Libraries (Kent)**

Kent State University Special Collections & Archives is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Borowitz True Crime Collection. This extensive collection, donated by Albert Borowitz and Helen Osterman Borowitz, includes both primary and secondary sources on crime as well as works of literature based on true crime incidents. The collection documents the history of crime, with primary emphasis on the United States, England, France, and Germany, from ancient times to the present day. It includes groups of materials on specific criminal cases which have had notable impacts on art, literature, and social attitudes.

Each year, Kent State University Libraries hosts a True Crime lecture. The 2014 Borowitz lecturer is Dr. Thomas Doherty of Brandeis University. Doherty will present on media coverage of the 1932 Lindbergh baby kidnapping case. The lecture, "Little Lindy is Kidnapped: The Media Coverage of the Crime of the 20th Century," will take place on April 17 at 4 PM. In concert with

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the anniversary celebration and on exhibit now is *From Crime to Culture: The 25th Anniversary of the Borowitz Collection at Kent State University*. The exhibit showcases popular fact-based crime publications dating from the seventeenth through the twentieth century. Included in this chronological exploration of the literature are **cautionary pamphlets, sensationalistic "penny dreadfuls," popular true crime series, classics of** twentieth century, and contemporary true crime works. The exhibit runs through June 13. For more information on these events see http:// www.library.kent.edu/ scevents.

**Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute at the Ohio State University Thompson Library Gallery (Columbus)**

The Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute is pleased to announce a new exhibition: *Theatre Magic: Technology, Innovation, and Effect*. This exhibition explores the unsung heroes of theatre—the innovators, designers, and technicians—**whose "magic" has** wowed audiences since the beginnings of show business. Visitors will uncover the se-

crets behind special effects, explore the workings of a toy theatre and a seventeenth-century theatre through virtual reality, experience what a **magic lantern "pose show" might have looked** like, and try their hand at theatrical lighting design. The exhibition will feature manuscripts, photographs, original designs, set models, props, and costumes from the special collections of the Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute. The exhibition can be seen at the Ohio State University Thompson Library Gallery through May 11. For more information contact Beth Kattelman, exhibition curator, at kattelman.1@osu.edu.

### Ohio Historical Society (Columbus)

Staff members at OHS are nearing completion in the digitization of the Albert J. Ewing Collection, which consists of more than 4,000 glass negatives of varying sizes. A traveling photographer, Ewing was born in 1870 in Washington County, near Marietta. He most likely began his photography career in the 1890s, and from 1896 to 1912 he traveled extensively as an itinerant photographer in southeastern Ohio and central West Virginia. His remarkable images deal primarily with individual and group portraits, as well as landscapes and others scenes of daily life in the Appalachian region.

A selection of Ewing's original negatives are on display in the **Ohio History Center's third**



THEATRE MAGIC
Technology, Innovation & Effect

January 15 - May 11, 2014

An Exhibit of the Jerome Lawrence &
Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute

University Libraries • Thompson Library Gallery

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
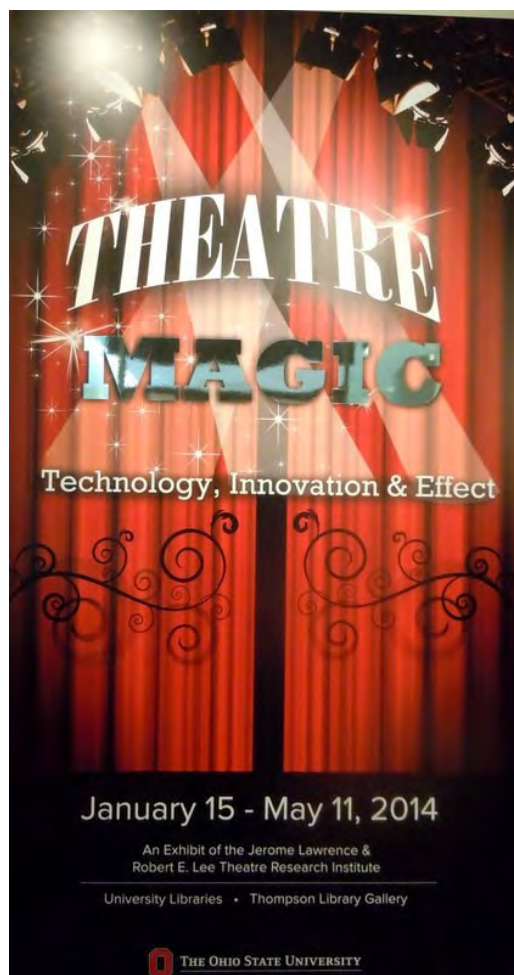
*Courtesy of the Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute at the Ohio State University Thompson Library Gallery*

floor lobby through July, complemented by an **exhibit featuring modern prints of Ewing's photo**-graphs on the museum floor. Digitized images are being added to the Ohio Memory digital library, where the entire collection will eventually be available and searchable by the public. A comments feature enabled on the collection has allowed Ohio Memory users to contribute to identification of the people and places seen in these photographs—information that otherwise may have been lost to history. The physical exhibit has garnered media attention as well as **contact from Ewing's descendants, who have helped to fill in the blanks of Albert's life story.** To learn more about the collection, please visit the Albert J. Ewing Collection on Ohio Memory at http://www.ohiomemory.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16007coll19, or come visit the Ohio History Center in Columbus!

## Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum (Cleveland)

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum is pleased to announce a new exhibit, Sweet Soul Music: Fame Studios and the Muscle Shoals Sound, which tells the story of the legendary studio and the remarkable sounds it created. Established in 1959 it became the foundation for **what has come to be known as the "Muscle**



**Shoals Sound." After assuming sole ownership,** Rick Hall moved FAME Studios to a repurposed candy and tobacco warehouse in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. FAME Studios nurtured many of the most popular and beloved artists in the history of American music. In 2010, FAME Studios do-

nated a portion of their archives to the Rock Hall, and that collection is now available for research at the Library and Archives (view online finding aid). This free exhibit will run through April 2014, and is available in the Library Reading Room at the Library and Archives.

## Shaker Historical Society (Shaker Heights)

While assisting a researcher, the SHS recently discovered that it held a photograph of Philip L. Small, AIA. Small worked prolifically in Shaker Heights for the Van Sweringen brothers, who developed this inner ring Garden City suburb of Cleveland. Shaker Square, a 1924 façade addition to the Vans house on South Park Blvd., and designs for The Country Club are among many jobs credited to Small. Despite active searching elsewhere, the researcher had yet to find an image of Small until locating the one at the historical society. SHS did not know it was there either, which calls further attention to their goal to create more finding aids and indexes of their archives.

## Troy Historical Society (Troy)

Troy, Ohio, is celebrating its 200th birthday this year. It was incorporated on February 7, 1814. The bicentennial celebration began with a birthday party on January 4. At that time, city organizations and businesses displayed their history at the ITW (Illinois Tool Works) **Food Equipment Group's Ridge Avenue** Building. The ITW Food Equipment Group, formerly known as the Hobart Manufacturing Company and Hobart Corporation, makes Hobart food machines. It is one of the oldest companies **in Troy and one of the world's leading makers of** commercial food equipment.

A City of Troy Bicentennial Committee is planning commemorative events. Through this committee, **"Bicentennial Minutes" are being featured on Troy's Channel 5 Public Access Station.**

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Minutes are being written and read by both Troy historians and residents, and historic photographs or artifacts sometimes accompany the Minutes. Reporters from the *Troy Daily News* are also writing weekly feature articles about the **Troy's historically significant people and events.**

An independent non-profit group named the Troy Bicentennial Book Committee is working in partnership with the Troy Historical Society to write a new history book titled *Transitions of Troy*, which will feature a year-by-year timeline of events starting at 1900. Events of the 1800s were covered in the book *Troy: The Nineteenth Century*, written many years ago by the late Troy historian Thomas B. Wheeler. Copies of *Transitions of Troy*, published by MT Publishing Company, can be pre-ordered online at the company website.

The Troy Historical Society will have bicentennial speakers throughout the year. One of these speakers, architect Patrick Hansford, spoke on **March 20 about the Troy's architecture. For more** information about upcoming speakers and other Troy bicentennial events, contact the Troy Historical Society at 937-339-5900 or tths@frontier.com.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center, the former mansion home of Mrs. Mary Jane Hayner. On February 28, the Center opened an exhibit entitled *A Toast to Mrs. Hayner's House and Town*,

in honor of both Troy's bicentennial and the Troy -Hayner Cultural Center's centennial celebration for Mrs. Hayner's home. The exhibit title comes from an old photograph taken at a dinner party at the house showing a toast to Mrs. Hayner. The free exhibit will run through April 20. For information, call 937-339-0457.

### Wright State University Special Collections & Archives (Dayton)

Wright State University Special Collections & Archives is pleased to announce that you can now stay connected with us on Facebook and Twitter (@WrightStArchive). Followers can expect posts about archives news, photographs, featured collections and resources, upcoming events, blog posts and articles, and requests for feedback. These new social media channels are in addition to our blogs "Out of the Box" and "*Dayton Daily News* Archive."

In December, WSU Special Collections & Archives was one of several Dayton-area cultural institutions to be featured on the Dayton episode of C-SPAN's 2013 Cities Tour of BookTV & AmericanHistoryTV. Wright State's segment featured materials from our world-renowned Wright Brothers Collection, while Dawne Dewey, head of Special Collections & Archives, told stories about the Wright family and the collection.

Also in December, the Wright State University Libraries' Digital Services Department completed a migration of Special Collections & Archives' digital collections from the OhioLINK DRC to Wright State's new Campus Online Repository, CORE Scholar (powered by Bepress). Archival materials on CORE Scholar include both Special Collections materials available on CORE Scholar include Wright Brothers photographs, Civil War letters, and 1913 Flood survivor oral histories. University Archives materials on CORE Scholar include course catalogs and early issues of The Guardian, WSU's student newspaper.

**Wright State Public History Program (Dayton)**

Dawne Dewey, director of the Public History Program, visited the Museum of the Terracotta Soldiers and Horses of Shi-Huang-Di near Xi'an, China, in October, as part of a partnership forged between the museum and Wright State University. Under the terms of the partnership, Wright State experts would go to the site to conduct research aimed at expanding the excavation and better protecting and displaying the mausoleum. The university would accept students from the museum seeking to learn more about conservation, historic preservation, and exhibition preparation. Also during the trip, Dawne also spent time visiting University of Hong Kong ar-



chivist and WSU Public History alumna Stacy Gould. **Additional photos from Dawne's trip** can be seen on the WSU Special Collections & Archives Facebook page.

The Public History Program held its third annual Public History Symposium on March 14. The plenary speaker was George Willeman, Nitrate Film Vault manager for the Library of Congress and an alumnus (1988) of the WSU Motion Picture and Film Department. The majority of the symposium featured presentations and poster ses-

sions given by current Public History graduate students, showcasing their internships, projects, and research. The student presenters were Sarah Aisenbrey, Christopher Erb, Kaitlyn Goss, Marcus Manchester, Seth Marshall, Rebekkah Mulholland, Karis Raeburn, and Kyle Yoho.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Public History Program, and plans are currently underway to hold a reunion. All WSU Public History alumni are requested to please send their current contact information (email, telephone, mailing address) and employment status to Dawne Dewey, at dawne.dewey@wright.edu, to ensure that all alumni receive news about the anniversary activities.

### IMLS-LSTA: Ohio Digitization Hubs

The Columbus Metropolitan Library, Cleveland Public Library, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, and Toledo-Lucas County Public Library were recently awarded a combined total of $760,421 to create a network of coordinated Digitization Hubs. The funds were awarded from Institute for Museum & Library Services LSTA funds from the State Library of Ohio and matching funds from OPLIN (Ohio Public Library Information Network). The Digitization Hubs will be regional digitization centers with specialized state-of-the-art technology to digitize and archive, for online access and hardcopy reproduction, rare and culturally significant materials located in their libraries. Once established, the hubs will also serve other libraries, museums, archives, and local communities. Read the press release at http://www.library.ohio.gov/Marketing/PR/2013/December.

### IMLS-Museums for America Award: Center for the History of Psychology at the University of Akron

The Center for the History of Psychology (CHP) at The University of Akron received a Museums for America grant of more than $52,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to explore how to enrich museum field trips for students.

The project includes a one-day brainstorming workshop with local high school teachers to design, implement, and evaluate educational resources to provide meaningful, informative, and memorable field trips. After the brainstorming session, the museum will develop a Teachers' Resource Package with guides to the museum, exhibits, and classroom activities; lesson plans based on state standards; and an online repository of archival materials for classroom activities. The museum also will create a *Measuring the Mind* interactive exhibit for teenagers and young adults, providing access to historical materials from the collections.

The CHP is a unique institution that cares for, provides access to, and interprets the historical record of psychology and related human sciences. Gallery visits are free and open to the public Monday through Friday 10 AM–4 PM and Saturday 12–4 PM. Research visits are by appointment. Contact the CHP at 330-972-7285, ahap@uakron.edu, or visit http://www.uakron.edu/chp/.

### NHPRC-Minimal Processing Award: Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives (AJA) is pleased to announce the successful completion of a two-year National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) Minimal Processing Grant. During the term of this grant, from September 2011 to August 2013, the AJA arranged and described—using minimal processing guidelines—over 2,000 feet of holdings. Through this grant, the AJA was able to make available to the public nearly 100 collections of previously unavailable personal and institutional records. Among the collections processed during this grant are papers of rabbis, community leaders, social welfare agencies, civil

rights activists, Holocaust survivors, scholars, and American Jewish families that span the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

In addition, the AJA staff was able to use this grant as a catalyst to think critically about all of its archival functions, particularly in the areas of accessioning, arrangement, and description. During the course of this grant, AJA archivists had the opportunity to learn new professional techniques, innovate, and to refine procedures within the context of contemporary archival thought and practice—and to contribute to an ongoing professional discussion. Through NHPRC support, the AJA not only reduced its unprocessed backlog, but it was also able to think strategically about future collection initiatives, discuss news strategies for archival arrangement and description, and to move forward, with great success, in its ongoing collection development and collection management strategies.

The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the NHPRC in supporting this work. A full listing of all collections processed during the NHPRC grant can be found online.

## NEH–Preservation Assistance Grant: Marian Library

The Marian Library at the University of Dayton received funding from the National Endowment for Humanities through a Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions to do a preservation assessment of the archival collections and rare books. Tom Clareson, a preservation consultant with LYRASIS, conducted a two-day site survey in which he assessed storage and housing of collections, environmental conditions, and preservation practices. Mr. Clareson concluded his visit with an open session and discussed initial findings with special collections staff. He will be providing a written report of his findings which will include prioritized recommendations. Based on the assessment, the Marian Library will develop short-term goals and long-term action plans for preservation. Some examples of the preservation issues focused on during the survey were the need for environmental monitoring equipment, phased replacement of storage furniture, conversion of obsolete audiovisual formats (such as safety film and nitrate reels, recording wire, and reel-to-reel tape), rehousing the philatelic collection (which includes thousands of Marian stamps from around the world), updating policies such as the disaster plan, and temperature and lighting in the gallery spaces. More information about the Marian Library may be found at http://udayton.edu/libraries/.

## OHRAB 2014 Grant Awards

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board announced it has awarded grants to ten institutions to support archival projects. The funded projects include organizing and preserving historical records and cataloging and digitizing records for improved access. Overall OHRAB received thirty applications requesting more than three times as much funding as was available. The grants are funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, an arm of the National Archives and Records Administration. More information at http://www.ohrab.org/grants/regrant/.

- Alliance Historical Society (Stark and Mahoning counties): "Alliance Historical Records Preservation and Cataloging Project" ($1,769)

- Canal Fulton Public Library (Stark County):

"Preservation of Canal Fulton Local History Photographs" ($800)

- Clinton County Records and Archives: "Indexing and Rehousing of Probate Records" ($1,500)

- Hardin County Genealogy Society: "Digitization and Storage of Anna Lee Mayhorn Collection" ($640)

- Historic New Richmond (Clermont County): "Preservation and Cataloging of Historic New Richmond's Archive" ($798)

- Ohio Genealogical Society (Richland County): "Digitization of the 'Ohio Story' Script: Bringing Old Radio Back to Life" ($2,000)

- Otterbein University (Franklin County): "Reclaiming the Presidential Papers, Part I: Walter G. Clippinger Papers Preservation and Indexing Project" (1909-1939) ($1,960)

- Rocky River Public Library (Cuyahoga County): "Rocky River Public Library & Cowan Pottery Museum Records Database Project" ($870)

- Summit County Historical Society: "Captain Simon Perkins, Jr. Quartermaster Papers Preservation and Digitization Pro-

ject" ($1,600)

- Warren County Historical Society: "Historical Records Preservation and Digitization Project" ($1,042)

## OHRAB Award: University of Akron Archival Services 2013

The University of Akron Archival Services, a division of University Libraries, is pleased to announce the successful completion of a nine-month $1,980 National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) grant that was awarded last April through the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB). The funding was used to digitize for preservation purposes and to make available online 153 technical reports from the Daniel Guggenheim Airship Institute that are part of the extensive holdings of Archival Services. The digitized reports are available online as fully searchable PDF documents at http://cdm15960.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15960coll3.

The Daniel Guggenheim Airship Institute was operated by UA from 1929 to 1949 and was a partnership with the California Institute of Technology, the Daniel Guggenheim Fund, and the Goodyear-Zeppelin Corporation in Akron, Ohio. Experiments conducted at the Institute focused on the effects of turbulence and drag on airship hulls as well as meteorological observations. The technical reports are a valuable source of information that primarily document research in lighter-than-air flight, heavier-than-air flight, meteorology, aerodynamics, and G-force measurements that was conducted at the Institute. The reports are frequently used by students, historians, scholars, lighter-than-air enthusiasts, and researchers for a variety of research projects. This project was supported in part by an award from OHRAB with

additional funding provided by the University. UA gratefully acknowledges the support of these bodies.

The Daniel Guggenheim Airship Institute Records and other historical resources on the history of lighter-than-air flight and local history are available by visiting Archival Services, Polsky Building LL10, 225 S. Main St., Akron, OH 44325-1702. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8 AM –5 PM. Additional information at http://www.uakron.edu/libraries/archives/.

**Ohio History Fund Grants Awarded**

Ten history- and preservation-related organizations in Ohio have been awarded grants totaling **$110,000 from Ohio's History Fund. The grants,** awarded on a competitive basis, were announced during the annual Statehood Day luncheon at the Statehouse in downtown Columbus on Thursday, Feb. 27.

The History Fund grants are made possible by voluntary contributions from Ohioans who opt to donate a portion of their state income tax refund to the Ohio Historical Society for use in the grants program. The History Fund had $110,000 to grant in 2014. The Ohio Historical Society received 64 applications requesting a total of $788,000 in grant funding this year, underscoring the importance of the grant program to local history- and preservation-related organizations throughout Ohio.

Recipients of the 2014 History Fund grants are:
- Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, Cleveland: $16,500 to undertake an architectural and historical survey of dwellings—mostly single-family houses—built between 1945 and 1969, to identify districts that may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and assist Cuyahoga County communities in their preservation efforts.

- Dayton History (Montgomery County): $18,000 to preserve, digitize and make available the majority of the William Preston/Marvin Christian Photograph and Negative Collection. The locally and nationally signifi-**cant collection includes some of the world's** first aerial photographs, taken from early Wright Flyers, as well as scenes of Dayton life.

- Dayton Society of Natural History (Montgomery County): $16,000 to reconstruct the thatched roof of the Big House, which is the central exhibit of SunWatch Indian Village/Archeological Park, a partially reconstructed 13th century American Indian Village along the Great Miami River. The project will enable SunWatch to return to using the Big House for school and public programs. The roof work will be done while SunWatch is open to the public, so visitors can see the work in progress.

- Historic New Richmond (Clermont County): $7,000 to repair the windows and replace the box gutters of the c.1853 Ross-Gowdy House museum—the third and final phase of a 10-year historic preservation project undertaken by Historic New Richmond, a volunteer-operated local historical society.

- McKinley Presidential Library & Museum, Canton (Stark County): $3,700 to conserve two dresses that belonged to first lady Ida McKinley. The project is part of a long-range plan to preserve 20 dresses that once be-**longed to her, now in the museum's collec-**tion.

**OHIO GRANT NEWS**

- [Ross County Historical Society](), Chillicothe: $10,000 to purchase textile storage cabinets for the society's new collection facility. The cabinets and new facility will make it possible to store the society's historic clothing collection under conditions that meet best practices for textile care and make items more accessible for exhibition and study.

- [Slavic Village Development](), Cleveland (Cuyahoga County): $18,000 to install a new roof on the circa 1920 Viola Building in Cleveland's Broadway Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The new roof is the first phase of an effort to stabilize and rehabilitate the Viola Building, enabling Slavic Village Development to return it to active commercial and residential use.

- [Summit County Historical Society](), Akron: $8,500 to assist the society in a long-term effort to renew its collection management capabilities in preparation for Akron's bicentennial in 2025. The grant will enable the society to buy updated collections-management software, catalog items in its new collections facility and buy new shelving for care of its collections. The project is expected to improve the society's ability to draw on its rich collections for exhibits and public programs and expand its capacity to accept new items.

- [Williams County Records Center](), Bryan: $3,800 to hire a consultant to conduct an assessment of Williams County's local government archives. The consultant will offer guidance in stewardship of the county's archives and address topics such as digitization, preservation planning and disaster planning. With the consultant's report in place, the county will be able to ensure that its records will continue to be safe and accessible to the variety of citizens who use them.

- [Worthington Historical Society]() (Franklin County): $8,500 to replace deteriorated sections of the roof of the c.1812 Orange Johnson House museum, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The repairs will enable the society to continue preserving the historic Orange Johnson House, sharing Worthington's history and interpreting life in early 19th-century central Ohio.

**Grants Funded by Voluntary Contributions From Many Ohioans**

Ohio's History Fund is made possible by a "tax check-off" on state income tax returns that lets Ohioans opt to donate a portion of their state income tax refund to the Ohio Historical Society, to support grants to local history- and preservation-related organizations in Ohio.

"The History Fund is about preserving and sharing Ohio's heritage," says Ohio Historical Society Executive Director and CEO Burt Logan. "The History Fund is a worthy program that helps local history and preservation organizations fund projects important to their communities. For just $8—the average donation—Ohioans are helping them to preserve history."

Recipients of the History Fund grants are chosen on a competitive basis. A panel appointed by the director of the Ohio Historical Society reviews the grant proposals, and then makes a recommendation to the director, who approves the final selection. The Ohio Historical Society administers the program and is not eligible to apply for the History Fund grants.

### About the History Fund

In 2006, creation of a tax check-off to fund a statewide grants program for history- and preservation-related projects was identified as a priority by participants in the annual Statehood Day legislative advocacy event sponsored by the Ohio Historical Society and nine partner organizations: Heritage Ohio, the Ohio Academy of History, Ohio Archaeological Council, Ohio Council for Social Studies, Ohio Genealogical Society, Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, Ohio Local History Alliance, Preservation Ohio and Society of Ohio Archivists. It became a reality in 2011 when Gov. John R. Kasich signed Ohio's two-year state budget into law. The tax check-off first appeared on state income tax forms in 2012 for tax year 2011 and the first grants were awarded to 11 recipients across the state in 2013.

### How the Tax "Check-Off" Works

• Although we call it a "check-off," on your tax form, you won't find a box to check.

• Toward the end of your individual Ohio state income tax return, after you've calculated the amount of your refund (if you're receiving a refund), you'll find a line that asks "Amount of line 00 that you wish to donate to the following funds." (The line number will differ depending on which version of the Ohio state income tax return you're using—hence we've used 00 to represent the line number here).

• One of the four options is "Ohio Historical Society."

• Under "Ohio Historical Society," fill in the amount that you'd like to contribute. Last year's average contribution was $8.63, so even a small donation can make a big difference.

• The amount you contribute to the Ohio Historical Society through your Ohio state income tax return goes specifically to support the History Fund, which makes grants that help support local history- and preservation-related projects in communities throughout Ohio.

• Questions? Learn more about the History Fund grants at http://www.ohiohistory.org/makehistory or call the Ohio Historical Society's Local History Office at 800-858-6878.

### Help Promote the History Fund

The History Fund depends on voluntary contributions from many Ohioans. We welcome your help in promoting the state income tax "check-off" benefiting the History Fund. Find downloadable graphics and sample newsletter articles at http://www.ohiohistory.org/makehistorycampaign.

**FEATURE ARTICLE: GEORGE BAIN, FEATURES EDITOR**

## Disability: Uncovering Our Hidden History
## By Barbara Floyd, Ward M. Canaday Center, University of Toledo

In 2001, the University of Toledo and the Ability Center of Greater Toledo, an independent living center, formed a unique partnership when the Ability Center donated $1.9 million to create a new academic program in Disability Studies. As the Disability Studies Program at UT developed, it exemplified how a new field of academic study can lead to new archival collecting areas for the university's special collections department.

Disability Studies is a recent field of scholarship. It is based on pedagogy that emphasizes disability as a cultural construct in much the same way that gender, race, and class have been used as categories of analysis in a variety of academic disciplines. Both scholarship and teaching in the program emphasize a humanities-based perspective rather than a medical-scientific one.

Disability Studies is a direct outgrowth of the disability rights movement that formed in the 1970s. Beginning in Berkeley, California, disability rights activists began to demand that they no longer live lives locked away from the rest of society and dependent on charity. Rather, they sought self-sufficiency, deinstitutionalization, and de-medicalization of disability. Through the activism of disability rights proponents, the disability community changed the laws of government and the rules of society. The movement's greatest victory has been the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990.

Society's acceptance that persons with disabilities could live independently led to a desire of disabled people to understand their history, a history that had been lived largely behind closed doors and outside of our general understanding of the nation's past. Disability history became an important component of empowerment for persons with disabilities. But while archivists beginning in the 1960s and 1970s had sought to broaden their collecting focus to accommodate the demands of historians for a fuller documentation of our past that included many underrepresented groups, few repositories had made any effort to document the lives of persons with disabilities. The records that would provide the basis for serious study in disability history were lacking from most archival repositories.

Beginning in 2002, the Ward M. Canaday Center at the University of Toledo, working with the UT Disability Studies Program, sought to address the void of historical consciousness about disability history in northwest Ohio by sponsoring a day-long conference on the topic. The conference brought together 75 individuals from organizations that assisted the disabled who were encouraged to talk about the history of the organizations they represented. Through this exchange, it became clear that little had been done to document the rich history of these groups individually and disability history collectively. The conference marked the formal development of the [Regional Disability History Archives Project](#).

To date, the Canaday Center has acquired more than 20 collections of organizational records and personal papers that contribute to our understanding of disability history. Many of the collections are from organizations that have

assisted the disabled, including: the Assistance Dogs of America, Inc., one of the first organizations in the country to train dogs for persons with multiple disabilities; the Autism Society of Northwest Ohio, a grassroots organization founded by parents of children with autism; Bittersweet Farms, a residential farm for adults with autism; the Sight Center of Greater Toledo, which began in 1923 as the Toledo Society for the Blind; the Josina Lott Papers, documenting the creation of the first school in Toledo for children with developmental disabilities; and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Toledo Chapter, a parents' organization to help improve the lives of those living with mental illness.

The Center also collected the records of the Ability Center of Greater Toledo. The records of the Ability Center present a case study of how the rich history of persons living with disabilities in northwest Ohio has been unexplored.

The Ability Center dates back over 80 years and reflects the evolving story of disability, not only in our community, but nationally. The Ability Center of Toledo was founded in 1920 by

the Toledo Rotary as the Toledo Society for Crippled Children, which focused on charitable giving to help disabled children. In the 1930s, the Society founded the Opportunity Home, a rehabilitation center for children from northwest Ohio recovering from polio. With the development of the polio vaccine in 1954, the home had fewer patients, so the organization evolved again to become the Toledo Society for the Handicapped, moving away for assisting children exclusively. It emphasized vocational training to assist disabled persons in becoming financially independent, and providing transportation services which were not available to disabled persons through the regional transit authority. Finally, in the 1980s with the birth of the disability rights movement, the organization evolved again to become a center for independent living. Its mission is to support persons with disabilities to become self sufficient, to raise community awareness, and to advocate for disability issues. In just this one organization, the arc of disability history is revealed.

In addition to seeking new collections, the Canaday Center began to identify collections

we already had in our holdings that provided significant documentation of disability history that we had overlooked, including the Toledo Rotary. Research into this organization revealed that northwest Ohio had played a significant role in disability history nationally and internationally.

The Toledo Rotary was founded in 1912 as a chapter of the national organization founded in Chicago in 1905 with the motto "Service Above Self." In 1915, one of its members urged the club to consider helping disabled children. But since most families were so ashamed of such children that they hid them, the club had to undertake a survey to gather data on how many were potentially in need of help. In 1916, a major polio epidemic swept the country and impacted Toledo. That year, the club provided $700 to help pay the medical bills of poor children recovering from polio.

The following year, a boy named Alva Bunker came to the attention of the club. He was severely disabled, and without help, faced a bleak future. The president of the Toledo Rotary described him this way: "We found Alva Bunker,

## Disability: Uncovering Our Hidden History, continued.

that little boy without legs or arms, a mere stump of a lad, getting about by means of a roller skate on a board, just pushing himself around the alley. He was thirteen years of age, and had never been outside the alley in any distance.



He had never been to school, nor downtown Toledo, or ridden in a street car or automobile. His whole world was encompassed by the dark grime of the alley. They said he was mentally deficient too, and because so horribly crippled you shrank from him as you saw him, and he shrank from you because of the solitude of the surroundings of the alley made him afraid. You **couldn't get him to** smile because he never had anything to smile **about." If he reached** adulthood—by no means a certainty, given his health—he would likely have been forced to beg on the streets. When asked what he wanted more than anything, **Alva Bunker's response was "I want** to go to school.

The Toledo Rotary sent Alva Bunker to Detroit to be fitted with prosthetic legs. His one severely deformed foot that he had used almost as a hand was removed to fit him with the legs. He was also fitted with an artificial arm, which while it made him look **"normal," was useless, and he** rarely wore it.

When several members of the Toledo Rotary visited Bunker three months after his surgery, they found a remarkably different boy. He was sitting in a wheelchair, smiling, and sporting a medal he had earned for his studies. He had progressed to the fourth grade, and within eight months, had passed the eighth grade.

His recovery was the subject of local and national newspaper stories. One article showed **examples of Bunker's hand**writing, and quotes by Bunker:

*In this photo, ca. 1917, Alva Bunker, born with severe physical disabilities, stands on his prosthetic legs provided to him by the Toledo Rotary, which aimed to help children disabled during the polio epidemic. Courtesy of the University of Toledo Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections.*

"Hands may be 'handy' when you've got them, but when you have never had them, how can you miss them? I was born without hands, and my natural feet were no good to me. I now have artificial legs, but not so with hands. Still I work on as many problems in my class as the fellow who **has hands."**

When he re-turned to Toledo after months away, members of the Rotary took him to his **family's home to** see his mother.



*Children of the Feilbach School, the first school for disabled children in Toledo, gather outside for a Christmas photograph, ca. 1930. Courtesy of the University of Toledo Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections.*

**"She did not know the boy. He** could walk upright, and looked like any other young man. When she heard his voice, she dropped a pan of potatoes, and caught him in her arms. The men who witnessed the scene cannot speak of it with-out having tears come to their **eyes."**

**Bunker's success inspired the** Toledo Rotary to continue its work on behalf of crippled chil-dren. Rotary president Charles Feilbach worked with the Tole-do Public Schools to establish the first school for disabled children in the city. The Feilbach School continued to provide educational opportuni-ties for disabled children until

1975, when federal law re-quired that all such children have equal access at any pub-lic school.

The success of the Toledo Ro-tary inspired an international movement that became known **as the Crippled Children's** Movement. Based upon the

**FEATURE ARTICLE**

## Disability: Uncovering Our Hidden History, continued.

success of the Toledo group, in 1920 the Ohio Rotary clubs created a new organization called the Ohio Society for Crippled Children. It advocated for a model of care for disabled children that became known as the Ohio Plan that placed the responsibility of caring for disabled children with the state. Parents who could not pay for the health care of their disabled children could receive care funded by the state, including orthopedic surgery. If the child could not go to school, they would be provided education at home.

The Ohio Rotary did not stop there. In 1921 at the national Rotary convention, the group voted to create the National Society for Crippled Children. In 1922, after Canada joined, it became the International Society for Crippled Children. In 1923, Alva Bunker spoke before the international society, providing an inspirational talk.

In 1931, the International Society for Crippled Children **passed the "Crippled Children's Bill of Rights." It stated ten** basic principles to guide society's treatment of disabled chil-

dren. In 1934, the International Society for Crippled Children **began to sell "Easter Seals" to** raise money for its projects, and today, it is known as the National Easter Seal Society. Rotary continues it work to help children with disabilities today by raising millions toward the goal of eradicating polio worldwide.

Hence one young boy in Toledo inspired two international efforts to assist other disabled children. And until we started looking at the collections in the Ward M. Canaday Center to see what documentation of disability history existed, this was unknown, even to Alva **Bunker's surviving family.**

The experience of the Ward M. Canaday Center in establishing a disability history archives had led us to some conclusions about and suggestions for how others might develop a similar collecting focus. These include:

There are many records that document disability history that are not impacted by HIPPA regulations. Agencies that provide assistance to persons with specific disabilities, such as those supported by your

local United Way, likely have long histories which can be revealed in administrative records, programming files, and marketing/communication files.

Since many such organizations deal only with one specific disability, and there if often little interaction between these groups, you may want to begin your efforts with a Center for Independent Living in your area. Such organizations assist people with all types of disabilities, and often serve as an umbrella organization or clearing house for those seeking assistance. The leadership of our local independent living center has been extremely helpful to us in making connections with disability organizations and adding their support to our project.

In addition to acquiring new collections, your existing collections may include documentation of disability history that you are unaware of. Many philanthropic organizations have assistance to persons with disabilities as part of their mission, and can yield rich documentation of how particular

disabilities have been addressed locally.

In University Archives, look to see what documentation exists about the evolution of programs for students with disabilities. We discovered, in the course of our research, that the University of Toledo has had a particularly checkered history in how it has dealt with disabled students.

The history of Alva Bunker shows the evolution of how society has treated the disabled. What the Toledo Rotary attempted to do for him is an example of the charitable model of addressing disability by attempting to "fix" it. But it is undeniable that the care and rehabilitation provided to Alva Bunker clearly impacted his life for the better. As an adult, Bunker led a quiet life, living with members of his family. He worked as a chauffer and an automobile mechanic. He liked to read. He never married. Unlike Helen Keller, who he was sometimes compared to during his life in his ability to call attention to the needs of the disabled, he never attended college nor wrote a stirring best-selling autobiography. He probably did not graduate from high school. He died on January 2, 1979. His obituary in the Toledo Blade was just seven lines long. No services were held for him, and burial was private. He was 79 years old at his death.

Until two years ago, Alva Bunker's grave in Willow Cemetery in Toledo bore no marker. But on April 7, 2011, the Toledo Rotary not only placed a marker on his grave, but they also dedicated a monument to him that celebrated his contribution to history. Many members of his family, who did not know about him, turned out to celebrate his life.

I believe Alva Bunker's story points out how disability history is only now beginning to be told, and encourage other archivists to begin to collect records that document disability. The experience of the Ward M. Canaday Center to advance disability history has been successful beyond our hopes.

While all of this success has been beneficial to our program, I think the most lasting contribution of our efforts to document disability in our community has been through the clear and lasting appreciation it has brought from the disability community. As Dan Wilkins, past chairperson of the board of trustees of the Ability Center of Toledo said, "To seek out and archive 'real' disability history will provide a body of knowledge that will forever give substance and credibility to the thoughts, dreams, and actions of those who went before." As the disability rights movement recognized more than thirty years ago, protecting and promoting the rights of the disabled ultimately means protecting and promoting the rights of everyone. And incorporating the historical experience of people with disabilities into our history as a nation will lead to greater understanding among us all.

*Barbara Floyd is university archivist and director of the [Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections](#) at the University of Toledo. Prior to assuming the position at UT, she was an archivist in the manuscripts and State Archives departments of the Ohio Historical Society. She served as president of SOA from 1991–1993. Contact her at [barbara.floyd@utoledo.edu](mailto:barbara.floyd@utoledo.edu).*

# FEATURE ARTICLE

## The Past is Prologue: Archival Literacy as Bridge between Archivists and Educators
### By Shelley Blundell, Kent State University

In the fall of 2012, I used an individual investigation opportunity presented through my PhD program at Kent State University to work with the Ludy T. Benjamin, Jr. Popular Psychology Magazine collection (the "Ben Collection") at the Center for the History of Psychology (CHP) at the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio.

The magazine collection, which contains more than 1,500 issues from across popular psychology publications, and which dates as far back as the late 1800s and as far forward as 2012, was a means to explore the intersection of information literacy and archival standards/usage requirements (the core of archival literacy) in a practically applicable way. This included the creation of a rubric for information resource guides on a variety of subjects based on the subjects covered in the magazines themselves, and the creation of a method to preserve the collection in the long-term—both physically and virtually.

Goals for the project included the increase of the collection's virtual presence in the CHP's online collections and repository, and on the Internet at large, and its advertisement for in-person use at the CHP to as wide and diverse a user base as possible. To date, both goals have been met successfully; as people from around the world, including Canada and Brazil, have visited the CHP to examine the collection. Additionally, Dr. Leah Schmidt, a subsequent researcher working with the collection, implemented the concept of archival literacy into the education courses she teaches at Kent State, sharing with pre-service teachers the importance of archival literacy and primary source investigation for K–12 students, in accordance with Common Core standards on primary source literacy being implemented
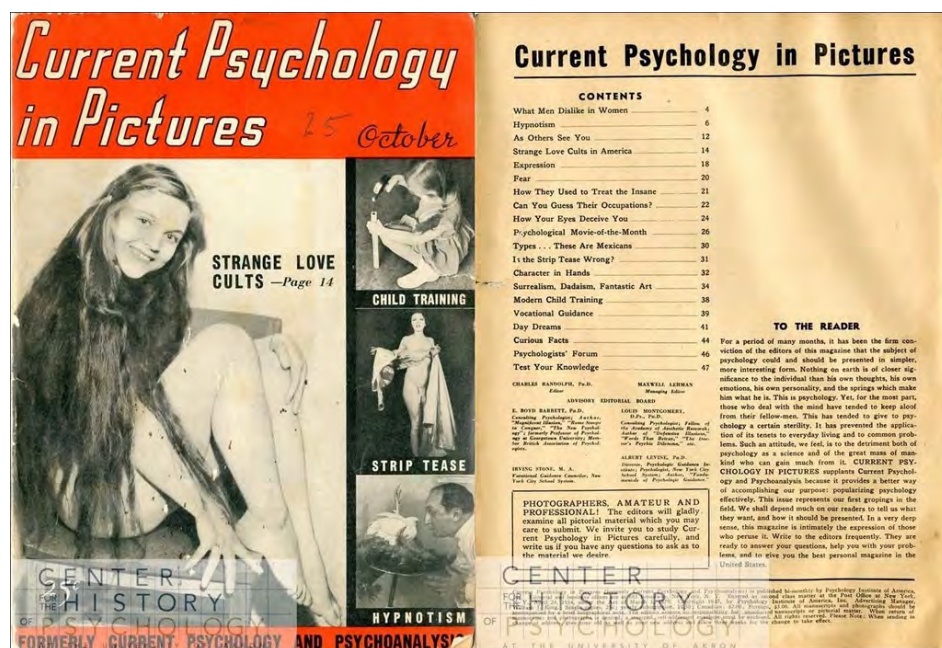


*The front and inside cover of the magazine* Current Psychology in Pictures *from October 1937 show the romance, family and identity-related psychological topics that were popular among early twentieth-century readers. This issue, featuring "strange love cults" and hypnotism, was one of Dr. Ludy T. Benjamin's favorites from the Popular Psychology Magazine collection. Courtesy of the University of Akron's Ludy T. Benjamin, Jr. Popular Psychology Magazine collection at the Center for History of Psychology.*

currently (for more on Ohio's Common Core standards in this area, visit http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Academic-Content-Standards/Social-Studies).

What was most valuable to me about the collection was what I learned about archival literacy and the power of archives/education collaboration during the project, shaping my views on information literacy for diverse user groups for my dissertation. Therefore, this article is being used as a means to spread the idea of archival literacy to a broader archival audience, and to encourage discussion on this topic toward generating practical approaches to increased archival usage in the future.

To read more about the Ben Collection, visit my blog post written for the CHP at http://centerhistorypsychology.wordpress.com/2013/01/07/thursdays-with-ben/.

**The archival literacy concept**

The idea of archival literacy first began surfacing in archival literature in the late 1990s and early 2000s (Gilliland-Swetland, Kafai and Landis 1999, O'Toole 1995, Yakel, 2004, Yakel and Torres 2003) when archives, like many other

library and historical institutions, began to feel the economic pinch. Particularly, archives were tasked with finding new and economically viable ways of staying relevant to a larger audience of users, both in-house and virtually.

Based on literature on the concept, it appears that archivists, who have long prized the power of collaborative endeavors which bring diverse users into the archives, found willing collaboration partners in educators, many of whom were being tasked directly with teaching students the importance of primary source literacy at the K–12 level (Archer, Hanlon and Levine 2009, Bush 2012, Common Core State Standards Initiative 2012, Gilliland-Swetland et al. 1999, Yakel 2004) and in higher education (Krause 2010, Nimer and Daines 2012, Yakel 2004). Archer et al. (2009) equate primary source literacy to the earlier concept of **"archival intelligence" discussed** by Yakel and Torres (2003), and describe it as a set of skills which include "the researcher's knowledge of archival principles, practices, and institutions; the ability to develop research strategies; and an understanding of the relationship between primary sources and their surrogates, such as finding aids and catalog records."1

The Association of College and Research Libraries and the American Library Association had already embedded the critical nature of primary source literacy into their "Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education" (ALA 2000). However, the crucial nature of primary source comprehension and usage was given greater focus at the K–12 levels with the creation of the Common Core State Standards Initiative in the late 2000s (Common Core State Standards Initiative 2012), which standards were adopted by Ohio in 2010 (Common Core State Standards Initiative 2012). As Albanese (2013) and Lederle (2012) point out, the adoption of these standards in a number of states gave archivists/information science professionals and educators even more reasons to collaborate on projects that aided students in meeting the benchmarks related to primary source material comprehension and use.

In summarizing literature on the concept, it is presented here that archival literacy focuses on two key elements: 1) A foundation of the basic "find, use, incorporate" model of information literacy, and 2) An appreciation for the specialized navigation and instruction skills

## The Past is Prologue, Continued.

needed to use effectively an archive or special collection (i.e., archival intelligence [Yakel and Torres 2003] or primary source literacy [Archer et al. 2009]). Additionally, special focus on the role of primary source documents in research, learning, and general knowledge creation is fundamental to promote effectively the need for and appropriate incorporation of archival literacy into one's general knowledge base. These elements framed much of the development process for this researcher as she worked with the Ben Collection in 2012.

### Archival literacy and the Ben Collection

The archival literacy concept was first brought to my attention by Dr. Jodi Kearns, digital projects manager at the CHP and prolific educator and researcher in information literacy instruction, initiatives, and innovation. Many brainstorming sessions on how archival literacy could be incorporated into my work with the Ben Collection were had, and a roadmap for integration created. Both Kearns and I decided that because a certain portion of archival literacy as concept is related to being able to find and

use a collection in an archive, that exploring ways to make the collection more visible and findable to a wide user audience was a critical component of relating work with the collection from the perspective of enhancing this researcher's understanding of archival literacy.

Building on this notion, and in order to make the collection as useful as possible to as wide an audience as possible, visibility and findability were two major components promoted throughout the entire project, in addition to considerations made regarding best practices for increasing and diversifying use of the magazines in the collection. To that end, a number of decisions were made that some may consider unusual in traditional archival practice. However, these decisions ultimately paid off by enhancing the visibility and findability of the collection online, and resulted in a number of user contacts to the CHP about the collec-

tion from those who may not have found or heard of the collection otherwise.

As Kearns shared, to date there have been a number of different reference requests for specific elements from the collection. These include a museum
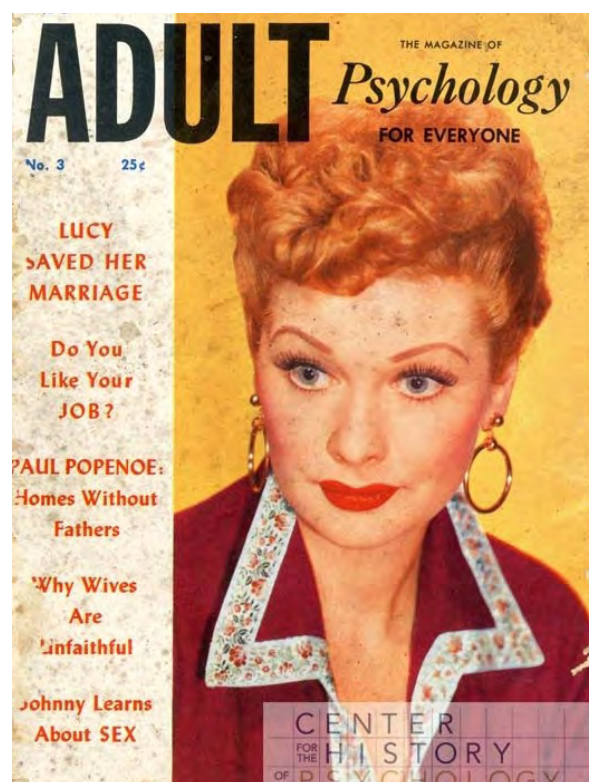


*The third issue of* Adult *magazine in 1953, "The Magazine of Psychology for Everyone," features articles on family and domestic issues, as well as general happiness within a career. Courtesy of the University of Akron's Ludy T. Benjamin, Jr. Popular Psychology Magazine collection at the Center for History of Psychology.*

employee who, in doing research on Konrad Lorenz, found an article written by Lorenz in one of the titles in the collection; a request from a researcher writing a cultural history of "staying single in America" who found an older article in a title in the collection called "Why Do We Always Pity the Unmarried Woman?"; and a psychology historian who came to browse the collection for a project on which he was working.

Additionally, as the magazines have been added to the CHP's on-site activities list that CHP staff members use in on-site classroom visits, educational interest and usefulness in the collection has also been promoted. Finally, as the cover art and illustrations for many of the titles in the collection often reflect the changing nature of America's social history, including the pulp art/graphic/comic illustration genre; titles with particularly riveting images are often on display at the CHP itself. The vibrant and alluring nature of these covers is a great attraction for CHP visitors, and some of the more interesting cover image examples have been included with this article.

**Promoting archival literacy by enhancing archival visi-**

**bility and findability**

As evidenced by the examples of reference requests shared above, I believe that some of these Ben Collection requests resulted from the collection's visibility and findability online, which is due in part to the non-traditional archival decisions made during the original integration of the collection into the CHP's archives.

One such decision in particular involved the catalog entry of subjects explored in each issue within the CHP's content management system, CONTENTdm. Rather than use Library of Congress Subject Headings or other archive-related cataloging systems (such as USMARC) when entering subject data, the decision was made to approach subjects from a more social perspective by using plain-language subject tags for subjects explored in each issue, as well as entering complete article titles, along with authors, within each issue's catalog record. This promoted findability of issues and subjects within the CHP's online collection and in general web searches. See the complete finding aid here at http://cdm15960.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15960coll10/id/585/rec/2.

Also, as much legwork had been done in terms of creating subject and index guides for the collection by Benjamin himself prior to handing over his collection to the CHP; these elements, too, were associated in CONTENTdm with the collection to allow for greater findability, visibility, and use of the collection (both in-house and virtually).

Lastly, in terms of elements which promote the findability and use of the collection, Kearns suggested that I create a rubric for information resource guides which could be tailor-made based on subjects of interest to researchers and that are covered in the collection. The rubric would be a template for archivists or others working with the collection to create subject-specific guides to meet different user needs, and particularly in the case of archivist/educator collaborations, could be created for use by students examining subjects covered in the collection. See an example of an information resource guide on adolescence created from the collection on the poster I presented at the SOA Annual Meeting in April, 2013 at http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/soa/images/d/d9/Blundell_soa_2013-

## The Past is Prologue, Continued.

04_poster_archlit.pdf.

Those who continue to work with the Ben Collection find new ways to promote the collection's usability, including showcasing titles from the magazine itself as a part of other archival displays on a variety of topics in psychology.



*Adult, a popular psychology magazine first printed in 1953, showcases its pulp art illustration style with a depiction of Tallulah Bankhead asking "What Makes Tallulah Tick?" Courtesy of the University of Akron's Ludy T. Benjamin, Jr. Popular Psychology Magazine collection at the Center for History of Psychology.*

Bringing together these rare, primary source documents (regarded by some as 'pulpy' in nature) with other, more reputable primary sources, is an excellent way for the CHP to continue promoting the importance of both primary source literacy as a standalone, and archival literacy as a whole. Sharing the archival literacy concept with current and future archivists

In pursuit of sharing the archival literacy concept with others in the field and encouraging professional discussion on the topic, I began brainstorming and collaborating with another researcher working on the collection, Dr. Leah Schmidt, in the summer of 2013. In her work with the collection, Schmidt took the original guide concept created by me and other materials in the collection (such as the subject index) and used the collection to formulate a practical, hands-on archival literacy assignment for her education students at

Kent State.

Schmidt asked students to complete a research assignment mapping current educational psychology concepts and scholarly literature to similar subjects explored in the collection, with fascinating results. In discussions about the project, Schmidt explained that her students gained a new appreciation for both primary source and archival literacy after completing the project, and this is something she hopes they will carry into their future work in education. Schmidt talks more about her work with the project in the accompanying article.

Based on mutual interest in the collection and the concept of archival literacy, we decided to share the tenets of archival literacy with a larger group of library and information science professionals. At the Academic Library Association of Ohio conference on October 25, 2013, We facilitated the roundtable discussion "Using Collaborative Strategies to Meet Common Core Primary Resource Requirements: The 'Ben' Collection and Archival Literacy."

In addition to sharing their work with the Ben Collection,

the opportunity to discuss archival literacy with professionals in archives and libraries was energizing to both of us. Additionally, brainstorming strategies for more collaboration and involvement between archives and educators was deemed invaluable by Schmidt and I, and such a conference was viewed as ideal for future opportunities in this area.

The small group who attended the discussion included archivists from two separate Ohio institutions, and they shared with attendees their own experiences and successes in reaching out to potential users beyond the archives. Their insight and the presenters' work with the collection allowed for a mutual exchange of ideas and practical applications for archival literacy in higher education settings.

Based on the positive reception to archival literacy received at the ALAO conference, I was encouraged to seek out opportunities to talk more about archival literacy, including with students at the School of Library and Information Science at Kent State. To that end, I gave a presentation on archival literacy to students in a "Foundations of Library and Information Science" course in fall 2013.

In the presentation, the archival literacy concept was introduced and discussed, my work with integrating archival literacy into the Ben Collection was shared, and students participated in a hands-on exercise wherein they explored local archival collections, discussed potential target audiences for different collections, and then brainstormed practical ways to reach out to these audiences and promote archival literacy through use of these collections. I found the presentation and discussion encouraging, and hope that the students in the class will continue to look for ways to encourage and incorporate archival literacy concepts and assignments in their future work.

Since my work with the Ben Collection began, and at every opportunity I have had to share my experiences with archival literacy as concept and practice, I've spoken to many colleagues in libraries and archives who share the sentiment expressed best by O'Toole, who states, "The past is prologue, you say? Well, yes."2 For this researcher, it is hoped that the "past" (i.e., primary sources in archives) is prologue for many more exciting collaborative endeavors between archivists and education professionals at a variety of levels in the future.

## Notes

1) Archer, Hanlon and Levine, "Investigating Primary Source Literacy," 4-5.

2) O'Toole, "Toward a Usable Archival Past: Recent Studies in the History of Literacy," 99.

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## By Leah Schmidt, Kent State–Geauga

I designed an assignment for my "Education in a Democratic Society" course, based on articles that discussed issues of education, found in the Ludy T. Benjamin, Jr., Popular Psychology Magazine Collection, which is housed at the Center for the History of Psychology, University of Akron. The articles selected were dated from the late nineteenth through the third quarter of the twentieth century. This assignment was designed to provide the students with the opportunity to explore an educational issue as expressed through the popular press, professional publications, and peer reviewed scholarly journals. It was expected that students would examine an educational issue/topic on a historical and contemporary basis, and that they would discover connections or similarities between past and contemporary beliefs, practices, insights, and problems. The assignment also provided the students with an opportunity to gain an understanding of archival documents, and an awareness of primary versus secondary source documents. Additionally, the students were provided with instruction (through a session with an academic librarian, and me) on how to find and retrieve the various resources. Finally, the students gained practice in summarizing their findings, and presenting their findings to their peers.

The formal evaluation of each student was a combination of both their presentation and their written summary, and was based on the following:

a) Was the student able to describe the educational issue, as presented in the popular psychology magazine collection?

b) Did the student locate and retrieve an article from *Education Week* dated after January 1, 2013, and a peer reviewed scholarly journal article (no date restriction), which addressed the same or similar educational issue as found in the popular psychology magazine?

c) Was the student able to express the educational issue through both historical and contemporary lenses?

d) Did the student adhere to the prescribed time limits as indicated in the assignment for the presentation?

e) Did the student follow the guidelines for the written summary, including APA formatting?

The general course evaluation of the assignment included the following:

a) Did the students gain an understanding of archival documents, and primary/secondary documents as shown through instructional interactions, discussions, and test questions?

b) What type of responses were made by the students towards the assignment?

c) Were there thought provoking and creative connections made by the students between the past and present?

Overall, the assignment using the Ludy T. Benjamin, Jr. Popular Psychology Magazine Collection was one of the most successful that I have used in a university classroom. Individually the students were engaged in the assignment, sought help from campus library staff when needed, and presented their findings in ways that were creative and interesting. Lively class discussions also provided evidence that this assignment had helped students to gain a more comprehensive view of contemporary educational issues by peering into the past.

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finding aid. A unique digitization project will be highlighted in a poster entitled "Digitizing Murder," while the use of social media to increase awareness during the celebration of anniversaries will be described in another. Also learn about practical solutions for dealing with the difficult medium of moving images and the preservation needs of Ohio's cultural heritage collections during this diverse poster session.

The SOA Spring Conference Program Committee has been hard at work since last fall to make this an outstanding conference. Committee members are Amber Bice, Stephanie Bricking, Jillian Carney, Gillian Hill, Jacky Johnson, Katy Klettlinger, Suzanne Maggard (chair), Liz Plummer, Nathan Tallman, Lisa Wood, and Angela Vanderbilt. If you have any questions about the conference, please contact Chair Suzanne Maggard. We look forward to seeing you on May 16!

## SOA TESTIMONIALS

### Silent Auction Supports Scholarships

Remember to bring your checkbook to the spring meeting to bid on Silent Auction items to benefit student and new professional scholarships. Among many enticing items, this year's silent auction will feature a Bell+Howell Sidekick Scanner donated by Pro Image Consultants and a gift basket that includes tickets to Zoombezi Bay courtesy of the Dublin Convention and Visitors Bureau.

*I find the friendships and the ability to network with other SOA members to be very valuable. It is also awesome to be able to catch up with other Ohio archivists at the Annual Meeting.*
—Jeremy Feador

*As a member of SOA, I find most valuable the comradery and information sharing between all of us. Everyone possesses some unique aspect of knowledge and is so giving—it makes our jobs easier!*
—Pam Eyerdam

*I love how accessible the Society of Ohio Archivists is. It is great to be able to network with my peers and attend the annual meeting (where I always learn something valuable) without incurring the travel costs of a regional or national conference.*
—Susan Miller Hernandez

*SOA helps keep me informed about what other archivists and archives around the state are doing.*
—Lisa Rickey

## MISSION

*Founded in 1968, the Society of Ohio Archivists' mission is to exchange information, coordinate activities, and improve professional competence in Ohio's archives and manuscript repositories. Membership in the society is open to the public, and we invite anyone with an interest in archives and manuscripts to join.*

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