Knocking Down Walls and Reaching Out: Archives in Your Community

2016 Society of Ohio Archivists Annual Meeting

By Shelley Blundell, SOA Educational Programming Committee Chair

You are cordially invited to attend the 2016 Society of Ohio Archivists Spring Conference on Friday, May 20, at the Quest Conference Center in Columbus, Ohio. The Quest Conference Center is located in the popular Polaris region of Columbus. It offers convenient freeway access and a number of hotel and eatery options for those traveling from outside Columbus wishing to arrive early or remain in the area after the conference. Additionally, Quest's facilities provide just the right balance of professionalism and comfort, and conference planners continue to liaise with Quest staff members to ensure the day-of runs as smoothly as possible. For more information on Quest and to take a "virtual tour" of its facilities, please visit http://www.quest-centers.com/.

This year's theme, "Knocking Down Walls and Reaching Out: Archives in Your Community" focuses on integration efforts and collaborative initiatives between archives and the communities they serve. The dynamic and "hot button" nature of this year's theme has attracted a diverse array of presenters from archival and educational institutions around Ohio who are excited to talk about their novel projects and programs, and how what they have learned can help others looking to knock down walls and reach out in their own communities.

Plenary speaker Mandy Altimus Pond

This includes 1) The Ohio History Connection’s efforts to commemorate World War I during its upcoming centennial and how they are encouraging local historical societies to develop their own commemorations, 2) A presentation on the Western Reserve Historical Society’s longstanding commitment to helping Northeast Ohioans from ethnic and minority populations learn more about their past through a variety of programs and projects offered since the 1970s, 3) A collaboration between a library system and a historical society which led to the creation of a digital memory project to engage their community and preserve that community’s history, and 4) A presentation on the lessons learned from a collaborative (Continued on page 3)
Dear SOA members,

It is hard to believe the annual meeting is just around the corner! The Educational Programming Committee has been working hard to put together what I am sure will be a wonderful annual meeting. The meeting, *Knocking Down Walls and Reaching Out: Archives in Our Community*, will be held on Friday, May 20, 2016 at the Quest Business and Conference Center. This is the first time that the annual meeting has been held at Quest Conference Center so we hope you all enjoy the new venue. I am also looking forward to our plenary speaker, Mandy Altimus Pond from the Massillon Museum, who will share her experiences with community outreach and engagement.

In addition to the fantastic sessions, I do hope that you will be able to attend our annual business meeting upon the conclusion of the concurrent sessions. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to learn about the current initiatives and activities of the organization. Two topics that will be included as items for discussion are:

- **Support for the National Coalition for History (NCH)**
  In 2013 the SOA membership voted to renew its membership with NCH through calendar year 2016. This year we will revisit our commitment to NCH. To learn more about NCH, please visit, [http://historycoalition.org/](http://historycoalition.org/).

- **SOA’s 50th anniversary**
  SOA will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding in 2018. Please be sure to share any ideas for possible ways to commemorate this momentous occasion.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Treasurer, Emily Gainer, and council members Andrew Harris and Suzanne Reller for all of their hard work and dedication to SOA. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you over the past several years. Also, my sincere gratitude to all of our committee members and volunteers. Activities like the annual meeting would not be possible without your support. Thank you for all that you do!

Please take the opportunity to speak to me at the conference or reach me via e-mail or phone with your ideas, thoughts, questions and comments. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the annual meeting!

Sincerely,

Jillian Carney
President, Society of Ohio Archivists
jcarney@ohiohistory.org
archival literacy project between an archivist and local historical organizations, which led to the creation of primary source-focused classroom activities incorporating local government records.

In addition, a poster session featuring the work of archival professionals and university students will highlight even more exciting programs, projects, and initiatives underway in Ohio that seek to increase community buy-in and interest in the crucial nature of archives.

The theme is emblematized by this year’s plenary speaker, Mandy Altimus Pond, archivist for the Massillon Museum in Massillon, Ohio, and all around “wall knocker downer” within her own community. Altimus Pond will discuss educational outreach initiatives like the museum’s Brown Bag Lecture Series and its involvement in “The Big Read,” a multi-community literacy project, as well as community engagement events like “Do the Mu,” a family-friendly workshop series held at the museum the first Saturday of every month, and the annual Island Party, held in downtown Massillon outside the museum’s location and in collaboration with the broader city of Massillon. Altimus Pond has been instrumental in launching many of these initiatives as a means to continually connect the Massillon Museum to the broader Massillon community, and will be sharing what she has learned from these experiences, and what you and your institutions can do to create similar collaborative events within your own community.

Pond began her Massillon Museum career in 2004 after graduating from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. She oversees care and access to the Museum’s photographs, rare books, documents, and institutional items in the archives, as well as handling research requests in the Velma B. Erwin Research Room. Pond has produced documentary films for the Museum such as The Legacy of Steel, Adaptations, Seafaring Forefathers, Stark Naked Salon, The Greatest Generation, and Faces of Rural America. She has presented several times at Ohio Local History Alliance conferences on digitization, internship programs, and social media. Since 2012, she has traveled across Ohio to deliver her lecture on the sinking of the Titanic more than 45 times for more than 2,000 people, and has begun lecturing on World War I in honor that war’s centennial. Recently, she has been touring Ohio and surrounding states to talk about her book, Forced March from the Bulge to Berchtesgaden, a memoir about John Mohn, a WWII POW and Altimus Pond’s grandfather. Pond serves on the Massillon Historic Preservation Commission and the Charity Rotch School of Kendal Foundation Board.

As is true of many archivists, Pond is also involved in a multitude of personal passion projects and local community activities. Her speech will no doubt inspire creative endeavors in your own archival work, so be sure to join us for Altimus Pond’s plenary speech. Indeed, this year’s conference is sure to be both groundbreaking and informative for all who attend, so please consider joining us on May 20. Registration details are below.

Exciting changes for this year’s conference

The Educational Programming Committee has been working diligently to institute a number of changes to the format, pricing, and underwriting of this year’s conference to make it as accessible and inclusive to as many interested parties as possible.

This includes a tiered registration cost schedule, with an early bird online registration rate of $45 for SOA members, $65 for non-members, and $30 for students. Early bird deadline is May 2. Online registration costs between May 3 and May 13 by 5 p.m., when pre-registration closes, are $50 for SOA members, $70 for non-members, and $35 for students. On-site registration will be available at $60 for members, $80 for non-members, and $40 for students. A continental breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack is included in your registration fees. Please note: Due to catering restrictions, lunch cannot be guaranteed for those who register on-site. However, the Polaris region where this year’s conference will be held has many nearby lunch options. Registration opens Monday, March 7 – please visit http://www.ohiohistorystore.com/soa/2016-annual-conference.aspx to register online.

Although not a “new” idea, this year’s committee also revisited the option of sponsorship for various events at the conference to help offset conference costs and keep registration fees reasonable. Organizations can provide sponsorship at Gold, Silver, and Bronze levels. Additionally, the ever-popular silent auction, the primary fundraiser for student conference attendance scholarships, will feature donations from Hollinger, NASA, and other friends of the archival world, so please bring your cash/checks and bid generously for the great offerings available on the auction this year.

Finally, SOA has a new refund/cancellation policy for conference registrations. Cancellations for a full refund must be made before Friday, May 13, at 5 p.m. For cancellations made prior to this date, your registration fee will be refunded via the method of payment (e.g. credit card to credit card transaction, etc.), minus minimum processing costs if applicable. Please submit cancellation requests to ohioarchivists@ohiohistory.org. Cancellation requests must include the registrant’s name, email address, membership status, method of payment, and the total amount paid. Please allow 4-6 weeks for your refund to be processed. No refunds can be given for cancellations made after Friday, May 13, at 5 p.m.

Getting the most out of the conference

In addition to the fantastic presenters, we will have numerous sessions and networking opportunities throughout the day to ensure your conference experience is both valuable and pertinent to your professional development. Also, please consider attending the SOA business meeting where you can relax with a snack, hear the results of the silent auction winners and SOA’s spring elections, and learn about future events and continuing education opportunities currently under development as reports are presented by each committee within SOA.

I would like to thank the members of the SOA Educational Programming Committee who have worked continuously and conscientiously to produce a fantastic conference this year, and all on SOA Council who have provided advice and guidance. This includes Amy Dawson, Betsy Hedler, Camila Tessler, Cate Putirskis, Collette McDonough, Emily Gainer, Jacky Johnson, Jenni Salamon, Jillian Carney, Jodi Kearns, Karen Glenn, Lily Birkheimer, Liz Plummer, Natalie Fritz, William Modrow, and last but certainly not least, Suzanne Maggard. I am proud to be your chair, and to have had the opportunity to work with you on what I know will be an outstanding conference.

If you have any questions about the conference, please contact Shelley Blundell at blundell.shelley@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you.
For the fifth year in a row, the Ohio Local History Alliance and the Society of Ohio Archivists united for a joint conference in the fall of 2015. *Invitation to Innovation* was held October 2 and 3 at the Holiday Inn in Worthington, Ohio. The SOA track, which took place on Friday, October 2, included a mini-workshop on disaster planning, a session providing an introduction to digital curation, the opportunity to “ask an archivist,” an overview of the “I Found it in the Archives Contest,” and an introduction to grants for archives and local history projects.

The day began with the Ask the Archivist Panel, featuring archival experts answering questions on a range of topics such as digitization, electronic records, records management, and museum archives. Representing SOA on the panel were Lily Birkhimer, Digital Projects Coordinator at the Ohio History Connection, Robin Heise, Manager/Archivist at the Green County Archives, Jennifer Brancato, University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at Dennison University, Dan Noonan, Digital Resources Archivist at Ohio State University, and members of the 2015 ILEAD Ohio team: Elizabeth Allen, Jillian Carney, Shannon Kupfer, and Nathan Tallman. Sasha Griffin introduced the session and gave an overview of digital curation and preservation. Members of the ILEAD Ohio team discussed their project, “Preserve Digital Ohio,” the goal of which is to promote outreach and education in cultural heritage organizations within Ohio, especially small, volunteer-run organizations. The group exhibited their website at [http://preservedigitalohio.com](http://preservedigitalohio.com), which includes general information on digital preservation, information on finding vendors, and an explanation of standards and best practices. The site will also eventually include a tool for creating an inventory of your digital resources. Finally, Dan Noonan provided more detail on digital curation and explained that the “goal of digital preservation/curation is to maintain the ability to store, access, retrieve, render and use digital material in the face of rapidly changing technological and organization infrastructures, while maintaining the authenticity of the artifact.” Slides from the session are available on SOA’s website at [http://www.ohioarchivists.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Noonan_digital_curation_olha-soa-2015.pdf](http://www.ohioarchivists.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Noonan_digital_curation_olha-soa-2015.pdf). The slides also provide links to resources to learn more about digital curation.

As part of its track, SOA also highlighted Ohio’s 2015 “I Found it in the Archives Contest.” In conjunction with American Archives Month, Ohio institutions take part in a national contest called “I Found it in the Archives,” which allows researchers to tell their stories about successfully using archival collections. Aaron Buckles, the winner of the 2015 Ohio contest, told the story of finding the death certificate for his four times great grandfather, Daniel Burwell. Burwell lived in Franklin County, Ohio, his entire life, but Buckles had been unable to locate a death record for him. The staff at the Ohio History Connection Library and Archives was able to point him to the City of Columbus death records, and Buckles finally was able to fill in this gap in his family’s history. In addition, he found a wealth of information on Burwell’s parents and other family members from this one death certificate. To round out this session, Ken Grossi, Oberlin College archivist, gave a brief presentation on the contest in general, and Elise Kelly of the Greene County Archives provided an overview of the experiences of the Greene County Archives with the contest.

The final SOA-sponsored session focused on Grants for Archives and Local History Projects. Andy Verhoff, History Fund Grant Manager at the Ohio History Connection and Fred Previts, State Archivist and Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) State Coordinator provided overviews of the Ohio History Connections History Fund grant and the OHRAB regrant program. Both presenters discussed eligibility requirements for those interested in applying for the grants, and provided examples of people and organizations whose
proposals had previously been successful, as well as explaining why this was the case. Both Verhoff and Previts encouraged people in the room who were thinking about applying for grant money to ask questions about the process while in attendance, and offered valuable feedback on both the application and the selection processes. Finally, the presenters provided contact information for those involved in the grant funding processes who could answer additional questions from audience members, and encouraged everyone in attendance to consider applying for these grants, not the least reason for which being that it provides tangible evidence for the necessity of the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit program, funded through checkbox donations made on income tax forms in the state of Ohio.

There were many other great Alliance sessions of interest to SOA members at the OLHA conference, including a session by staff at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Jennie Thomas, Head Archivist, and Andy Leach, Director of Library and Archives, discussed their History Fund Grant project, 'A Day in the Life' of Jane Scott. Jane Scott was a pioneering female music reporter for the Cleveland Plain Dealer, and she is internationally known by bands and music fans alike for her forward-thinking and dynamic coverage of music revolutions, as well as her predictions about the success of emerging musicians (one of the most notable of which was Bruce Springsteen). This multifaceted project includes physical processing, digitization, programming, and crowdsourcing, and will result in a completely processed and partially digitized collection of Scott’s papers and other collected materials relevant to her career as a music journalist—including her extensive collection of “rock and roller” autographs and music press kits.

Other Alliance sessions addressed a variety of topics including educational programming, marketing, management, increasing diversity, engaging and accommodating people with disabilities, and discussions of historical events highlighted in Ohio local historical institutions. Many of the conference sessions were specifically geared towards local history organizations, museums, and small institutions with limited funding. There was also an intriguing keynote speech at lunch provided by Dr. Jarrod Burks, Director of Archaeological Geophysics with Ohio Valley Archaeology. Dr. Burks explained how he uses geophysical survey techniques like ground-penetrating radar to study details of Ohio’s rich archaeological past, and he provided examples of data compiled at Ohio earthwork sites.

The full program from the 2015 Ohio Local History Alliance Conference is available online at https://www.ohiohistory.org/OHC/media/OHC-Media/Documents/the%20local%20historian/2015mtg-brochure-electronic.pdf. Thanks to those attendees who live-tweeted the conference, even more information is available on Twitter at #OLHA2015.

The Educational Programming Committee would also like to thank the SOA Council members who assisted at OLHA by moderating the SOA sessions: Jennifer Brancato, Jillian Carney, Robin Heise, Suzanne Reller, and Judy Weiner.
I Found It in the Archives

Maybe an open house? There are a variety of activities for October. The more places that engage the public through activities, the greater impact our profession can make.

And it encourages you to plan some activities for October. The more places that engage the public through activities, the greater impact our profession can make through this program. What might your institution do? Small exhibit? A lecture? Event? The group will be asking for input on images to be used in the annual poster.

Mid-summer. Again, the plan is to present the state winner during the Ohio Local History Alliance/SOA joint fall meeting in October.

As this issue goes to press the Archives Month members of the Advocacy & Outreach Committees are at work setting the theme for our annual Archives Month events in October. Be on the lookout for more information which will be passed along. The group will be asking for input on images to be used in the annual poster. And it encourages you to plan some activities for October. The more places that engage the public through activities, the greater impact our profession can make through this program. What might your institution do? Small exhibit? A lecture? Event? May be an open house? There are a variety of possibilities.

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Your membership dues directly impact archives in the state of Ohio. During 2015, SOA provided:

- education and networking at the Spring Annual Meeting and the joint SOA/OLHA Fall meeting
- design and distribution of the Archives Month poster, “Both Local and Global: STEM Activity in Ohio”
- scholarships for three high school students at Ohio History Day
- access to The Ohio Archivist, the society’s online newsletter
- recognition to two outstanding individuals through the Merit Award
- support to the National Coalition for History through an organizational membership

SOA Membership Data

(Information compiled from the annual meeting membership reports)

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The following statements were given by the slate of candidates seeking election as officers or council members to the Society of Ohio Archivists in 2016. Voting will take place during the business meeting portion of the annual meeting to be held May 20th.

Candidates were asked to respond to the following question: **What are some of the most important themes/issues that SOA should address in the next 2-5 years?**

**Treasurer**
Mark Bloom

**Council (2 Seats)**
Ron Davidson
Sasha Griffin
William M. Modrow
Kristin Rodgers

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**Treasurer**
Mark Bloom
Archives Associate, Senior
The University of Akron, Archival Services

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I am honored to have been nominated to run for Treasurer. I am currently employed as the Archives Associate, Senior in Archival Services at the University of Akron, and am working on project management, maintaining an online presence, preserving and accessing various media formats. I enjoy working as part of a team, communicating and collaborating with others, taking projects to completion and ensuring we are moving toward our institutional goals.

I joined the SOA while in graduate school and have served on several committees including the Awards Committee in 2013 and the Membership Committee, 2013–present. As a professional organization with a diverse membership, SOA should continue to focus on the open exchange of information. We should provide opportunities for our membership to improve professional competencies through networking, conferences, and webinars or workshops. Collaboration with each other, allied professionals and other Cultural Heritage organizations, such as our joint conference with Ohio Local History Alliance, can be of great benefit to our membership and the people we serve. Programs such as “Archives Month,” “I found it in the Archives!” and Ohio History Day are valuable ways to make people aware of our repositories, resources, and our profession.

If elected treasurer I will work toward ensuring that our organization is financially sound through keeping accurate records and continued timely communication with the council.

**Previous Positions**

**Education**
M.L.I.S., Kent State University, 2006; B.A., History, Bowling Green State University, 1986

**Professional Associations**

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**Council**
Ron Davidson
Special Collections Librarian
Sandusky Library

As a Council member, I hope to contribute toward making SOA an even more important institution – both for the profession and its people, and for the preservation and promotion of history in Ohio. There are many issues that SOA could address in the next few years, with a two-pronged approach: to improve SOA as an institution, and to enhance our contributions to the support of Ohio’s heritage.

Institutionally, one of the most important tasks is to improve our membership recruitment and retention rates, particularly among students and others new to the profession. A larger, more diverse membership base will make SOA stronger and help to achieve other goals.

Among the methods we might use to boost membership could be to recruit more actively at colleges throughout the state, and particularly library and public history programs. One of the ways to enhance SOA’s exposure should include increased collaboration with related organizations, as we have done recently with the Ohio Local History Alliance. Shared activities (including meetings, workshops, informational sessions, etc.) could not only improve our recognition, but also promote the greater good of the profession.

To improve membership numbers, an organization must also improve incentives to membership. In this respect, SOA should seek to increase its offerings to members and other professionals – for example: by offering more encouragement to students to present papers and other research products in SOA events and publications; presenting more workshops on archival topics, particularly in cooperation with other organizations; or by offering assistance/consulting to smaller organizations and job seekers. Other membership benefits could be developed through consultation with members.

Perhaps most importantly, SOA should become a leader in advocacy for the profession and its people, as well as for the historical records of Ohio. We should consider following the lead of our larger sister organizations (e.g., SAA and MAC), and offer strong institutional support, when necessary, for positions on legislation and government policies relating to archives and historical preservation.

(Continued on page 8)
SOA is already an important organization for historical records keepers in Ohio. With membership support, we can increase its contributions to the profession and its people.

**Previous Positions**
- Museum Curator, Lakeside Heritage Society, Lakeside, OH, May-September, 1999

**Education**
- M.A., History (Public History concentration), Kent State University, 2000; M.L.S., University at Buffalo, SUNY, 1995; B.A., History, Michigan State University, 1982

**Professional Associations**

**Council**

**Sasha Griffin**
- University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian, Denison University

Even though the need for digital preservation has been around for decades, it continues to be a struggle for institutions to implement a solution, especially those with limited or no resources to allocate to new programs. While many of the technicalities have been figured out and standards and best practices continue to emerge, there is a growing gap for many who still just don’t know how to start. This gap includes the technical aspects, such as picking a software, buying equipment, and obtaining the technical knowledge. But it also includes cultural challenges, such as explaining the need for digital preservation internally, advocating for resources from administration, managing staff responsibilities and time, and more.

I would like to see SOA continue to encourage workshops, seminars, and continuing education opportunities to help institutions get started implementing effective digital preservation. There are already so many wonderful resources within our state, such as Preserve Digital Ohio, the DPOE training program, digital preservation consultants, local interest groups, and online resources that could provide that training. I think that it is important for SOA to make digital preservation training and accessibility a top priority for Ohio organizations, not only for technical standards and knowledge, but also for learning how to advocate and how to implement a policy change within an institution. This could include partnerships with other professional groups to bring major workshops into the area or even facilitating targeted discussions on the topic within our own organization.

**Previous Positions**
- Interim College Archivist, Luther College, Decorah, IA, 2014; Digital Archivist, Luther College, Decorah, IA, 2012-2014; Project Cataloging Archivist, Luther College, Decorah, IA, 2010-2012; Digital Projects, Byrd Polar Research Center Archives, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2010.

**Education**

**Professional Associations**

The Society of Ohio Archivists will continue to face many important and challenging, even changing issues over the following years, and I believe many of these issues will also be important themes for conferences, possible training/learning sessions, and a catalyst for moving the profession forward. Moreover, I believe, these will create new and exciting opportunities. Many issues are intertwined, but I believe advocacy, accessibility, and resources are important issues the SOA should continue to address.

Advocacy is of great importance as archivists, librarians and institutions must remain proactive representing the valuable work that is being done preserving histories while discussions of copyright, privacy and ownership of materials takes place at levels beyond archival institutions. Archivists must have and continue to have a strong voice in the changes or challenges to policies that affect the archival process, such as, the acquisition or digitization of materials.

There are many aspects of accessibility which archivists and institutions constantly encounter. Changes in technology, growth in born digital materials and an increasing demand for electronic reproductions of research materials will continually require changes to how archivists acquire, process and make accessible their collections.
The SOA can be at the forefront providing opportunities for increasing knowledge, encouraging collaborative enterprises, and increasing understanding for digital preservation while remaining the pivotal link for Ohio.

The need for resources will always be an issue facing archivists. Whether it’s staffing, space or funding the need to find more resources is an excellent opportunity for SOA members to share insights, campaign for more support and address the need for making priorities to the changing means that information is obtained.

Thus, many of these issues are not new to the challenges (or opportunities) of the SOA, and providing an organization for meeting these needs for archivists, librarians, and institutions and opportunities to participate in is what makes the SOA a vital and important organization.

**Previous Positions**

Rare Books and Manuscripts Librarian

**Education**

M.S., Library and Information Science, Florida State University, 1999; M.A., History, Florida State University, 1998.

**Professional Associations**


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**Council**

**Kristin Rodgers**

Collections Curator
The Ohio State University Medical Heritage Center

I believe the most important issue SOA should address is related to employment, specifically, how our organization can help advocate for proper salaries that accurately reflect the work we do as a profession. This advocacy could start with simply surveying the members of our organization to determine what pay range they fall into as well as how many years they have been in the position they are in. This information would go a long way for all of us to determine if we are being paid equitably across Ohio.

Another issue SOA should focus on is professional development for its members on the topic of digital and born-digital collections. Those of us who began in the profession prior to the technology boom in recent years are only now beginning to have to deal with more records that are born-digital. Though we could independently seek a Society of American Archivists course on the topic, I believe it is worthwhile for our organization to work to host one or more of these courses for our members.

**Previous Positions**


**Education**

M.L.I.S. with Archival Studies Specialization, University of Pittsburgh, 2006; B.A., History of Art, The Ohio State University, 2005.

**Professional Associations**


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Over the past decade more and more archivists have become increasingly active advocates for the archival profession. And for good reason. After all, our profession is, in relative terms, a small one. But no one can better speak up for us than ourselves. To do this however does not mean we have to work alone. One realm into which we fit is the historical profession broadly considered. Here one of the best organizations—and arguably the best—for advocacy for the archival profession at the national level is the National Coalition for History (NCH).

NCH is a national organization, established in 1982, that works to advance the interests of a broad spectrum of more than 50 historically-related professional groups members across our country. There are several lead sponsors that include the American Historical Association (AHA), the Organization of American Historians (OAH) and the Society of American Archivists (SAA). Other membership groups covering the gamut of the historical field include the National Council on Public History (NCPH), the Federation of State Humanities Councils, the Oral History Association (OHA), and the Records Preservation and Access Committee (an umbrella for three main genealogical groups) as well as our Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA).

Given this large membership base, how should NCH’s member groups—both current and potential—best consider the role the Coalition plays or should play for them? Asked another way, what is the most appropriate analogy for the work NCH does or should do?

One analogy that comes to mind immediately would be your fire insurance company. But for me this has limitations. A better analogy is your community fire department! The fire department? Yes. Why? Well, the insurance agent does not come onto the scene until after a fire is involved or extinguished. Once out, the agent can make a payment for rebuilding but the damage is done, the loss may be tremendous, and one may have to rebuild the structure completely. The service that the insurance company provides is a responsive action while the fire department’s primary service is to provide preventive actions. The fire department’s services are multiple: they do inspections, they provide advice on alarm systems, they maintain hydrants, water lines and equipment, and most importantly they fight fires when fires start with the objective of minimizing damages.

Switching to NCH, it is analogous to small community fire departments that have two pumper trucks and one ladder truck; it does not currently have anything approaching an expensive ladder truck that can reach 10 or 12 stories high. It is, to state it bluntly, a bare bones operation working on a no frills budget. But NCH is out there working to inform and educate other important political and educational players with whom the historical community must interact in order to advance our interests. And it is making progress.

For the archival profession, one of the most significant achievements of the NCH was its help in the early 1980s with independence for the National Archives. As former Archivist of the United States Robert Warner wrote, NCH’s predecessor, the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History (NCCPH) and its executive director, Page Putnam Miller, had an instrumental role in the movement for the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Still, you surely ask, what are the things NCH has done recently and is working on now? To mention a few, it helped to authorize history and civics education in the K-12 curricula included in the "Every Student Succeeds Act" passed by Congress late in 2015, restoring a provision absent from the Elementary and Secondary Education legislation for several years. In Fall 2015 it worked with the Oral History Association to submit statements to the federal Department of Health and Human Services to exclude oral history projects from the purview of academic Institutional Review Boards (IRBs). In March 2015 it joined a letter calling for full disclosure of former Secretary of State Clinton’s official e-mail communications. And it is currently working with Members of Congress to create a Congressional History Caucus "to help promote an awareness of the subject on Capitol Hill." (See more on the NCH web site www.historycoalition.org.)

In the opinion of this archivist, NCH needs to have a greater amount of support from the overall community of historical organizations in order to move it from its current capabilities toward a greater significance and stature. And archivists need to take an active role in making this improvement come about. Why? Archivists, particularly those at a state-wide level such as we in SOA, have a stake in the fiscal well being of federal agencies whose basic purpose is to support and advance the appreciation of things historical and the preservation and interpretation of records and artifacts basic to our democratic cultural heritage. A primary agency here is the National Historical Publication and Records Commission (NHPRC) which administers grant funds that can (Continued on page 11)
be the lifeblood for projects that open up for use or enhance the interpretation of materials through both simple arrangement and description and high powered technological tools. But the NHPRC is not alone here. Other agencies that similarly provide assistance for our projects and programs include the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Whom do we expect to monitor situations that could take these organizations away? And what is the most efficient and cost-effective way to get this protection as well as to provide a focus on gaining a higher degree of advocacy to retain and expand the capability of these agencies?

This short essay is not meant to lay out all the answers. But the National Coalition for History is ready to serve as our fire department. The better the fire department the better chance there is for a lower rate for fire insurance. In whatever fashion we can best support it and its work, whether to follow its lead on issues such as recruiting an Ohio representative to join the Congressional History Caucus or to provide monetary support, we should make an effort to do this.

George W. Bain bain@ohio.edu is retired from the Ohio University Libraries. He served on the NCH Policy Board from 2014-early 2016 representing the Society of Ohio Archivists.

End Notes:


2 During the 2015 SAA annual business meeting in Cleveland Executive Secretary Nancy Beaumont remarked regarding advocacy that it would cost SAA alone $200,000 to have a proper staff person working in the nation’s capital. This happens to be the approximate budget for NCH currently, which means that providing support for NCH along with many other organizations is a remarkable fiscal bargain.

**Digital Guidance, Information, Tips And Lingo**

**Analog, Digital, Electronic...Oh My!**

By Daniel Noonan, The Ohio State University

When discussing managing and archiving records, several terms get tossed around in an attempt to differentiate between those records that are paper-based and those that have been created with—and can only be accessed through the use of—some form of technology. Paper-based records are frequently referred to as analog (which for the most part they are not), while computer created records are referred to as either digital or electronic (which they are); but keep in mind that not all electronic records are digital, the terms are not interchangeable.

A few years ago when I was teaching Foundations and Administration of Archives for Kent State, I set out to define analog and why it is supposed to pertain to paper-based records as a counterpoint to digital, only to find that almost no one in the archives and records management professions define analog in this manner. In this column, I will explore these terms and suggest a better pair of terms that not only more aptly describe the differences in these record types, but establishes a model that encourages the archives and records management professions to be less focused on the exoticness of things “digital” and more fully on all records that are dependent upon technology.

I consulted the following list of resources to frame this discussion. While not exhaustive, they provide a diverse representation of many of the most prominent archives and records management organizations and institutions:

Society of American Archivists’ A Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology (SAA)

ARMA International’s Glossary of Records and Information Management Terms (ARMA)

International Records Management Trust, Training in Electronic Records Management, Glossary of Terms (IRMT)

National Archives of Australia’s Glossary (NAA)

United Nations, Archives and Records Management Section, Glossary of Recordkeeping Terms (UN).

**Analog**

SAA defines analog but not an analog record; it notes that it is an adjective describing something that is “continuously varying in correlation to a physical process”

Similarly, the NAA sourcing their definition from the 2006 Macquarie Dictionary Online suggest that it is “A term describing any device that represents a variable by a continuously moving or varying entity such as a clock…” IRMT defines an analogue signal as “A continuous electrical signal that varies in amplitude or frequency in response to changes in sound, heat, light or other factors. Examples of record formats that contain analogue signals include photographs, older magnetic sound recordings or celluloid film.” By these definitions, it would appear that analog records are actually electronic records; there is no discussion of paper-based records save for photographs. Upon further investigation though, the UN suggests that while “Analog describes something that is continuously...” (Continued on page 12)
variable...[it also]...refers to non-digital materials such as paper records, audio-cassettes, and traditional silver-based photographs.”

And the ARMA definition for analog records provides similar examples, but also includes a specific second definition for “paper or micrographic records.” It would be interesting to know why the UN and ARMA believe the term refers to paper or micrographic records; the etymology does not support it. Standard dictionaries either define it as a noun—something having an analogy to or is similar to something else; or as an adjective—of or relating to a mechanism that represents data by measurement of a continuous physical variable. Maybe an in-depth literature review could shed some light on the etymological origins, or maybe it is just a malapropism that has become acceptable; but that is a research topic for another day.

Digital
SAV and ARMA define digital as representing information or data that is encoded in a binary code, i.e. ones and zeros. IRMT defines a digital record as one that is a “record maintained in a coded numeric format that can only be accessed using a computer system that converts the numbers into text or images that can be comprehended by the human eye;” while the NAA expands upon the concept to state that it includes both born digital records as well as those that are digitized.

Electronic
So far we have “analog,” which is a term typically misused to represent paper records and “digital,” which pertains to binary computing based records creation and access, but what about electronic? SAA describes electronic as “Utilizing devices that operate using electrical charge” and electronic record as “Data or information that has been captured and fixed for storage and manipulation in an automated system and that requires the use of the system to render it intelligible by a person.” While ARMA does not define electronic record (ironic in hindsight as I was one of the contributors to the edition referenced here), the IRMT, NAA and UN all describe it similarly to the SAA definition.

New Paradigm
It is clear that electronic records are a larger universe in which digital records are a sub-set. It is also clear that analog records may be electronic records—just not digital—and that paper-based records, for the most part, are not really analog. Therefore, what is a better way of addressing these concepts? To answer that question, I refer to our friends from the “land down under.” In 2002, Cassandra Findlay wrote an article, “Future proof: ensuring the long-term accessibility of technology-dependent records” that described the efforts of the State Records Authority of New South Wales (SRA-NSW) to develop a group of strategies, rules and tools for preserving technologically dependent records. Nearly fifteen years later the SRA-NSW continues to contribute to the discussion through their blog at http://futureproof.records.nsw.gov.au/.

When reading those words “technology dependent” it struck me that the discussion of analog/digital/electronic was not the correct framework. The professions would be better off using the more prosaic or mundane terms “technology dependent” and “non-technology dependent” especially as the term analog has mutated from meaning something that is technology dependent to one that also included records that are not technology dependent.

The Ohio Digitization Interest Group provides a face-to-face forum for exchange between seasoned and early career professionals alike as well as an opportunity for graduate students or interns to meet others working actively in their chosen field. Meetings are held bimonthly in central Ohio and include presentations on digitization and digital preservation followed by an open discussion by the membership.

OhioDIG began more than a decade ago as Columbus-DIG—the brainchild of four Columbus-area professionals—as a means for professionals working with the digitization of archives, records, and library materials to get together for networking and learning. Then, as even now, there were few staff per institution focusing on this work and often those staff felt isolated. What these pioneers soon found is that the need and desire to get together expanded beyond Columbus and hence at the very next meeting the group moved to serve more broadly, becoming OhioDIG. Right from the start the group brought staff together from across institution and profession types—including archives; historical societies; records centers; academic, special and public libraries; and vendors.

From summer 2005 through spring 2009 the group met three or four times a year, but then went on hiatus until resuming in November 2013. When the group began again, meeting times increased to six times a year, with the idea that more frequent meetings would enable those interested to attend at least a couple of times a year.

Why did OhioDIG stop meeting in 2009? The primary reason was that members from academic libraries and the Ohio Historical Society were occupied with the new OhioLINK Digital Resources Management Committee work on a shared DSpace repository. The DRMC met monthly in Columbus, 2008–2013, until the Digital Resource Commons project ended and was taken offline. As part of the DRMC’s dissolution, the DRMC Futures Task Force recommended that OhioDIG resume meeting to help continue the community of practice.

Who comes to OhioDIG? Looking at the data from the 14 recent meetings, 180 individuals have attended at least one meeting. Of those, nearly 30 were identified as “core” attendees, attending at least half of the meetings, while more than 90 attended at least 2 meetings. (Please see the pie chart for breakdown by institutional affiliation.) Beyond the meetings, nearly 200 subscribe to the OhioDIG Listserv.

OhioDIG Attendee Institutions

The meetings themselves are divided into different segments. Beginning at 10, coffee, tea, cookies, and other snacks are available as people trickle in, catch up with friends and colleagues, and meet new people. At 10:30 the presentation starts, running for an hour, including time for questions and discussion. After a break, in which the tables are moved into a rectangle, the group reassembles with their “brown bag” lunches for updates on major initiatives such as the DPLA in Ohio. And lastly, individual updates, when everyone has a chance to speak in the round robin. The meeting closes at 1 pm, with occasional in-house-tours or other groups meeting after. (There is no charge to attend, but there is a donation basket for the coffee and cookie fund.)

(Continued on page 14)
With the November 2013 meeting, the OhioDIG Planning Group developed an online registration form in order to insure the size of the group fit the meeting room. A secondary benefit to registration was that it served as a means to gather information from the registrants, including what topics they would like to hear about at future presentations, and an opportunity to volunteer to present. Presentations vary from the theoretical to the practical, with an emphasis on the latter. Presenters are often members of the group but other Ohio professionals volunteer as well.

As the express purpose of OhioDIG is to provide a relevant and accessible space for discussion for the digitization community in Ohio, it's helpful for the Planning Group to reflect on how presentations have matched the expressed needs of the participants. Looking at the participant response a few broad categories of interest emerge. It appears that participants look to OhioDIG for information about current best practices and resources for institutions of all sizes as well as methods to assess their own work.

The most requested topics fall into the broad category of best practices and include issues such as: content systems, copyright, equipment, preservation, project management, and metadata. Using the same method of categorization, looking at presentation topics already covered by recent OhioDIG programing reveals a fairly close alignment between interest and delivered programming. For example, topics relating to equipment and software make up more than 36% of the requests in the best practices category, and 47% of the best practices presentations given addressed this topic.

While this brief examination expresses a harmony between expressed need and program development, it likely directly speaks to the collaborative nature of OhioDIG itself and the way the meetings are designed. Providing a space for collegial discussion of real experiences, highs and lows, successes and failures, provides for an atmosphere of community that is reflected back in the decision making of the planning group. That certain subjects tend to repeat is also a reflection of the constantly evolving nature of the field. Because the nature of the programing tends towards presentation of real experiences, highs and lows, successes and failures, meetings are designed. Providing a space for collegial discussion of real experiences, highs and lows, successes and failures, provides for an atmosphere of community that is reflected back in the decision making of the planning group. That certain subjects tend to repeat is also a reflection of the constantly evolving nature of the field. Because the nature of the programing tends towards reporting on professional experiences rather than a prescriptive or workshop format, repeated topics will always be presented with a different spin and maintain their freshness and relevance.

But what about requested topics that show less representation? For example, there is a expressed interest in content systems that has been underrepresented in the programing so far. Two possibilities might be considered. The first is that, while content systems have been addressed in past programing, the heart of the presentations appears to have spoken more directly to other areas of best practice than to the content system itself. The second possibility is there could be discomfort in presenting what might be perceived as a recommendation or endorsement of a specific product, particularly when costs are continual and significant. Such topics tend to be more easily accommodated in free group discussion. Suffice to say that the absence of a particular topic in the presentation programming by no means indicates that the topic is not well covered by the group.

In addition to meeting, OhioDIG engages in ongoing initiatives. Three of these are the events calendar, field trips, and the digital collections analytics survey.

**Events Calendar:**
The OhioDIG Google calendar covers events in Ohio or in the region, related to digitization and digital preservation. Included are grant deadlines and training opportunities.

**Field Trips:**
Beginning in summer 2015, a new tradition was born—a “field trip” to a city outside of central Ohio. The 2015 trip destination was south to Cincinnati while 2016 will bring a trip north to Cleveland. While there, applicable area tours are offered in addition to the behind-the-scenes views of the host institution. The Cincinnati trip brought new attendees from the immediate area and a fresh experience to seasoned attendees from other parts of the state. The 2016 Cleveland trip is timed to coincide with the Folger Library’s First Folio Tour stop at CPL.

**Digital Collections in Ohio Analytics Survey:**
The purpose of this survey, envisioned and managed by Marcus Ladd, is to explore the use of digital collections in Ohio. In doing so it will provide a base for assessing the access and use of collections. Although targeted towards OhioDIG members, anyone working in developing digital collections for libraries, museums, and archives in Ohio is asked to participate in answering questions that involve digital collections’ analytics. All submissions are anonymous. The current survey is for calendar year 2015 and closes on May 1. Access the survey at: [http://goo.gl/forms/3k9euXhQzS](http://goo.gl/forms/3k9euXhQzS).

In conclusion, OhioDIG holds a unique place in Ohio, cutting across all institution types and bringing digitization and digital preservation professionals together to share knowledge and opportunities for collaboration. We hope that you will join us.

Janet Carleton and Miriam Nelson are employees of Ohio University Libraries in Athens, Ohio. Carleton is digital initiatives coordinator; Nelson is head of Preservation.

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Feature Article Continued from Page 14

Three in One Day: An Archive Tour
By Carole Burkett,
Student, Denison University

I had the pleasure of meeting the author of this article, Carole Burkett, during her visit to the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County in August 2015. This column provides insight into how we as archivists can assist undergraduate students who are considering a career in archives and special collections. Opening the doors to our archives can open the eyes of future students to our profession.

– Stephanie Bricking, Newcomers editor

See http://ohiodig.org for upcoming meeting information, past presentation materials, events calendar, Listserv subscription, and resources.

2016 Meetings
2/5 Equipment: Book Scanners – Ohio History Connection
3/9 Digital Preservation: Tools – Ohio History Connection
5/24 Denison Showcase – Denison University
7/7 The Digital Hub – Cleveland Public Library – Field Trip
9/? Assessment – Columbus Metro Library
11/? Managing Practicum and Other Student Workers – State Library of Ohio

OhioDIG Founders
Susan Allen, Worthington Public Library
Laurie Gemmill Arp, OCLC (now LYRASIS)
Mary Manning, Medical Heritage Center, The Ohio State University (now University of Houston Libraries)
Angela O’Neal, Ohio Historical Society (now Columbus Metropolitan Library)

OhioDIG Planning Committee
Lily Birkhimer, Ohio History Connection, 2013–
Jillian Carney, Ohio History Connection, 2013–2016
Marcus Ladd, Miami University, 2014–
Shannon Kupfer, State Library of Ohio, 2014–
Amy McCrory, The Ohio State University, 2014–2016
Jenni Salamon, Ohio History Connection, 2016–
Rachel Senese, Cleveland Public Library, 2016–
Nathan Tallman, University of Cincinnati, 2013–
Adam Wanter, MidPointe Library System, 2016–
Jane Wildermuth, Wright State University, 2013–

As an undergraduate student worker in Denison University’s Archives and Special Collections, my knowledge of the archival world extended past our dark and cozy seventh-floor space only as far as the stories from Sasha Griffin, Denison’s archivist. Determined that we see more of what the archival world had to offer, Griffin took another student worker and I on a repository tour of three archives found in nearby Columbus in July 2015.

State Library of Ohio
We began our day at the State Library of Ohio where Digital/Tangible Media Cataloguer, Shannon Kupfer showed us through the public stacks and the collections in the back of the library. As we looked through the eclectic collections housed in the former factory building in the city’s Italian District, the questions that proved most useful were those that established boundaries and basics. The State Library provides many digital services for all libraries in the state, including the book circulation program OhioLink, as well as training and other services for local libraries. As a former local library assistant, I had used these tools from the other end. I was surprised to find all these services housed in the same place and impressed with how smoothly the library science aspect blended with the archival aspects of the State Library.

(Continued on page 16)
The physical material that the State Library collects includes both regional federal documents and Ohio state agency documents. Kupfer explained which material is collected in specific other places, such as county repositories and the Ohio History Connection (formerly the Ohio Historical Society), which had been unclear to me before this visit. Kupfer also showed us a wall of little wonders usually displayed for visitors, including the first volume of accessions to the library and a small volume from the first state librarian, John L. Harper, which recorded weather conditions over many years of his life.

Our visit concluded with a tour of the public stacks and a brief discussion of the partnership with the Kent State School of Library Science and Information. As one of the few graduate programs available in the area the possibility of applying to Kent State had come up in conversation with Griffin, a graduate of the program herself. Seeing this facility and the conversations about internships, classes, and jobs that it inspired showed archival training as a reality rather than a concept. By the time we said our goodbyes over a hand-painted volume of the nests and birds of Ohio, a distinct characterization of the State Library had appeared: a resource and record of the state’s relation to the federal level, specifically through services to the library system and members of the state government, but by extension to all Ohio citizens.

Ohio History Connection

The afternoon brought a tour of the State Archives and Library at the Ohio History Connection under the guidance of Liz Plummer, head of Research Services. Accessibility seemed to be a clear priority, from the location of the archives itself in the Ohio History Center in central Columbus to the arrangement of the reading room itself. After the darkness of the rest of the Brutalist building, the beaming skylights of the reading room felt like a relief. The material on the shelves was just a fraction of the archives, and so the shelf space here was awarded to only the most frequently used reference materials, largely city directories and military catalogues. The variety of available resources extended far beyond these, however, including birth, death, land, and marriage records for as much of the state as possible. The best questions we asked here were those of function: Who used the reading room and for what was the information usually used? The answers ranged from professional researchers for hire to ordinary citizens researching their genealogy. My knowledge of careers widened beyond physical library and archive buildings as I imagined the thrill of the chase for a professional researcher.

Research tables surrounded a reference desk with more than one imposing scanner. These high-quality scanners are part of what make the State Archives and Library a hub for the Chronicleing America Newspaper Digitization Program, which aims to digitize all newspapers printed in America. Even within our university archive at Denison, the digitized student newspaper provides a starting point for any research; with the availability of this many records, the process of local research could be entirely changed. Later, our conversation in the car turned to the hubs around the country, and similar digitization projects that would bring archival materials into Internet availability.

Ohio History Connection Archives/Library stacks. Photo courtesy of Ohio History Connection.

As we descended into the stacks, we passed a humming microfilm research room and passed into the storage for the material not displayed. In addition to a massive repository of information declaring the entire lives of generations of Ohioans, these rooms contained the finer details of these lives as well through various manuscript collections. Plummer showed us correspondence between Ohio college students and their families telling years of stories.

If the buzzing microfilm room and busy research librarians could be taken as signs, it seems as if the State Archives and Library was designed to make individual research as smooth as possible. The idea of a state resource that can answer any citizen’s curiosity is an appealing one. Though I was eager to see the Ohio State University facilities, I felt a twinge of regret that I couldn’t spend the rest of the afternoon in the rich quiet of the reading room, searching for clues to our local Licking County history.

The Ohio State University

A visit to the Thompson Library at The Ohio State University and the University Archives on West Campus proved a most striking contrast in scale to the single floor of the library which, before this tour, I had thought of as an ordinary archive. University Archivist Tamar Chute showed us the Thompson Library at the heart of the campus, recently renovated and quite incapable of holding the massive collection. Instead, it serves as an interface between the library and the public. The display spaces were gateways between the public and the archives themselves, housed in a facility across the Olentangy River which we later toured. The innovation of display was impressive, including an interactive branching graphic that displayed recently used search terms.

A gallery in the Thompson Library filled with odd-shaped display cases, one from each collection, is a visual reminder of the specialization in the Ohio State Libraries. The collections, housed throughout the Thompson Library and at the University Archives site on Kenny Road, are separated not just by content but by location. The storage challenges created by thousands of boxes and artifacts—from ice cores from the Byrd Polar Research Center in central Columbus to the arrangement of the reading room, searching for clues to our local Licking Count
Center archival program to hundreds of original art pieces for the Billy Ireland Cartoon Museum—were answered only by multiple facilities. The Ohio State collection is a far larger scale than the band uniforms, dining hall dishes, and old-fashioned laboratory equipment that I am fond of in Denison’s archive.

This scale comes with its own problems, however, as Chute discussed the difficulty of making such an abundance of items readily accessible to the public, and informing people about the variety of material available. An exhibit space provided an in-depth look at the work of Ohio author James Thurber, and would rotate its content. As Chute described that the displays would be designed by archives employees, graduate students, and interns, I imagined enjoying such a visual challenge; fitting material and information about a complex collection into a single room. Thompson Library seemed full of these kinds of corner delights, artifacts on display sprinkled throughout, an example of an archive making itself known to the community it records.

The depository at the University Archive on West Campus is a towering warehouse of a building, with aisles so large and long that the material can only be accessed by a moving forklift. Even that was not the extent of the collection; Chute discussed recent and future projects of moving material into contracted off-site storage. Though this solved a certain number of the space-related problems that an ever-accumulating archive seems to have, it presented interesting challenges around organizing the material throughout such a move and making it available even at its remote location in the Denison archive, the most remote storage we have had extends to the basement of the next building over and our biggest move has been from the seventh floor of the library to the ground floor, which is why it was so surprising to see the scope of problems that arise in archives with so many materials like the one at OSU.

Reflecting on the Tours
Each archive is shaped by the material inside it, by the archivists who tend and cultivate it, and by the space available over time. At all three archives, an open public reference space provides crucial balance to the ample collections of material and allows the material to be accessible, as well as preserved in good condition. The distinguishing aspects of these archives are the use of the space, the kinds of material, and the magnitude of the collection, which provide a scale and perspective for the different facilities. Though I had started that day in July with general questions about each location, going to the archives themselves proved that there is no single approach to touring an archive, and no single question which will uncover the personality of the collection and the archivist who cares for it.

These tours inspired only more curiosity for me, and I later toured the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County and the University of Cincinnati’s Archives and Rare Books Library in August. All of these visits, as well as my attendance at the Society of Ohio Archivists’ meeting last May, helped me understand and get to know the welcoming community of archivists and the variety of opportunities available in the field.

Carole Burkett is a senior at Denison University and currently works in the university’s Archives and Special Collections.

Interested in contributing to Newcomers? Contact Stephanie Brickling at Stephanie.Bricking@cincinnatilibrary.org.
Margaret Burzynski-Bays was appointed Archivist at University Hospitals of Cleveland in December 2015. She joins the staff of University Hospitals as it celebrates its 150th anniversary. Previously, Ms. Burzynski-Bays served as the Curator of Manuscripts at the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland.

Jessica Cromer has been working as an archives contractor at the Charles F. Kettering Foundation (Dayton) since April 2015.

Jeremy Feador, team historian for the Cleveland Indians, was recently the subject of a three-part Indian News blog post by reporter Jordan Bastian. Feador works with many documents and artifacts, including Larry Doby’s 1947 contract, textual and three-dimensional artifacts that tell the playing history of ace pitcher Bob Feller, and a chalked blackboard that has the lineups for the last game played in old Municipal Stadium.

Andrew Harris, Metadata Librarian at Wright State University Libraries, has achieved the designation of Certified Archivist from the Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA), having passed the exam in August 2015.

Stephanie Kays joined Wright State University Libraries, Special Collections & Archives, as Archivist and Reference Manager in November 2015. Kays was previously Archivist for Collections Management at the University of Oregon.

Gino Pasi recently accepted the position of Archivist and Curator for the Henry R. Winkler Center for the History of the Health Professions, University of Cincinnati Libraries. Pasi was previously Archivist and Collections Manager at the Wright State University Libraries, Special Collections & Archives.

Lisa Rickey and Toni Vanden Bos, archivists at Wright State University Libraries, Special Collections & Archives, have completed the SAAs Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) certification, having passed the final comprehensive exam in August 2015.

Defiance College
Court News Ohio, a communication service of the Ohio Supreme Court, visited the Defiance College campus recently to do a feature video on the Hermann Wiebe collection of Ohio courthouse paintings housed in the Pilgrim Library. Wiebe created oil paintings of all 88 Ohio county courthouses, plus the Ohio Statehouse. The story, which can be viewed online, features interviews with director Michelle Blank, archivist Barb Sedlock, Judge Joseph Schmenk, and Hermann’s son, Harry Wiebe.

A poster from the Defiance College Archives has been included in a new book, George McGovern and the Democratic Insurgents: the Best Campaign and Political Posters of the Last Fifty Years, by Hal Elliott Wert, a professor at the Kansas City Art Institute. Metadata and Archives Librarian Barb Sedlock discovered the poster when processing some papers from the archives storage area and thought the graphics were interesting enough to write about on the Library’s Pilgrim’s Progress blog. Wert came across the DC blog post in early 2014 and contacted Sedlock to ask whether he could include it in the book. After an unsuccessful effort to track down the artist “Gray,” the Library gave permission to include the poster. It appears on page 131 of Wert’s book, along with a second poster by Gray, which Wert bought at auction, for a different McGovern benefit held at the roller rink in nearby Bryan, Ohio. Wert assigned this caption for the Defiance College poster:

“Gray’s hand-drawn cartoonish poster for the Defiance College benefit is in the California psychedelic style. His caricature of an elephant-nosed war-mongering Nixon is a good example of counter-culture humor. Unfortunately nothing is known of the artist who may well have done many other posters for McGovern campaign events in Ohio. Gray’s posters seldom surface, but the rarest is a small hand-lettered poster by an unknown promoter for Bruce Springsteen’s benefit concert for McGovern in Red Bank, New Jersey...”

Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) Ohio
In April 2015, the State Library Board awarded an LSTA grant to Columbus Metropolitan Library to act as administrator and lead implementer for a “DPLA in Ohio Planning Project.” The project will develop a plan for Ohio cultural heritage institutions to participate in DPLA through creation of an Ohio Service Hub. In December 2015 the State Library hosted the DPLA Symposium where over 100 attendees learned about DPLA, heard the results of the statewide digital collections survey, and discussed next steps for Ohio’s involvement in DPLA. At the Symposium, it was announced that the State Library would serve as the lead organization for a three-year DPLA prototype. Details are still being developed in collaboration with the State Library Board, the DPLA Consultants, and the Ohio DPLA Steering Committee. More information on the project can be found at http://dplaohio.org. Questions should be addressed to Missy Lodge, mlodge@library.ohio.gov.
Kent State University Libraries

Over 100 reel-to-reel audio recordings pertaining to the May 1970 Kent State shootings and their aftermath are now accessible through the Kent State University Special Collections and Archives' digital repository. Some of the recently digitized items include previously inaccessible audio recordings of radio call-in forums, a speech by University President Robert I. White the day after the shootings, a press conference with six students who met with President Richard M. Nixon just days after the shootings, the Scranton Commission hearings, and a speech made by Dick Gregory at the Kent State Memorial Service in 1971.

The digitization project started in spring 2015, after the Kent State University Libraries were awarded a $2,000 Ohio Archives Grant for the proposal, "Providing Access to the Kent State Shootings Audio Archive." The Ohio Archives Grants are funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, an arm of the National Archives and Records Administration through their State and National Archival Partnership Grants program. Kent State University Libraries faculty members Cara Gilgenbach, Virginia Dressler, and Lael Hughes-Watkins prepared the successful proposal.

Gilgenbach, Head of Special Collections and Archives noted, "As we head toward the 50th anniversary of this pivotal event in American history, we seek to provide expanded access to unprocessed portions of the collection, especially audio-visual materials, which are highly sought by researchers." The audio recordings are available online and are accessible worldwide.

For more information, contact: Cara Gilgenbach, Head of Special Collections and Archives, Kent State University Libraries, cgilgenb@kent.edu, 330-672-1677, or visit Special Collections and Archives online exhibits.

Lloyd Library and Museum

(Cincinnati)

A new exhibition, The Wonderful World of Woodcuts, is currently running from March 14 through June 3, 2016. This art exhibition by Ken Marshall, a modern-day woodcut artist, features Ken's blend of modern style with retro method to present a unique and bold vision.

Smith Library of Regional History

(Oxford)

The Smith Library of Regional History, a division of Lane Public Libraries, has moved to a new, larger facility. Now located at 441 S. Locust Street in Oxford, the new library has 3,490 square feet of dedicated space, plus restrooms, meeting rooms, and conference rooms shared with a full-service public library in the same building. The architecture firm was SHP Leading Design, and the general contractor was Mark Spaulding Construction Company. The new Smith Library includes a larger reading room, an environmentally controlled archives room, a well-appointed office, a waterless fire suppression system, and an enhanced conservation lab in an enlarged workroom with well-designed space for staff, interns, and volunteers. Several pieces of Art Deco furniture complement the 1938 theatre murals that were permanently installed in adjacent space, and one wall is reserved for changing exhibits. The Smith History Library collects books and periodicals, cemetery and church records, city and township archives, club and organization records, school and business histories, maps and atlases, county histories and regional biographies, travel journals, area newspapers, historical fiction, manuscripts (letters, diaries, scrapbooks, family histories), historic photographs, and oral histories. The Library is now better able to fulfill its mission to collect, preserve, and disseminate information on the history of Oxford, Butler County, and southwestern Ohio. For additional information, visit the Smith Library website.

Wilmington College

The Wilmington College Peace Resource Center (PRC) is thrilled to join the Society of Ohio Archivists and extends its greetings to all SOA members and readers. In January 2015, Wilmington College hired Dr. Tanya Maus as the new Director at the PRC. She is delighted to work with talented interns and students to reactivate the PRC’s internationally and nationally valuable collection of atomic bombing materials. The collection comprises "The Barbara Reynolds Papers," a unique archive of primary sources regarding the Japanese experience of the atomic bombings, as well as the many global anti-nuclear and peace movements that resulted during the 1950s-1970s. In fall 2015, an Antioch College Cooperative Intern joined the PRC and created an OhioLink Finding Aid. The PRC then applied for a MARC organization code so that its archive will be searchable on OhioLink. The PRC also holds a valuable collection of Japanese-language monographs regarding the atomic bombings from the 1950s-1970s, many of which are otherwise available only in Japan. In summer 2015, the PRC received a Clinton County Community Fellowship to host an intern with Japanese-language capabilities who began the process of cataloguing the Japanese-language monographs on WorldCat. Interns have also begun to survey the PRC's photographs, slides, 16-mm films, and material artifact collection in order to apply for grants for further digitization and proper storage. The PRC is excited about its new affiliation with SOA and the knowledge it has provided in order to achieve its goals. For more information please contact prc@wilmington.edu.

Ohio Grant Opportunities

Ohio Humanities: Heritage Tourism Grant

Draft Due: Sunday, Apr 24, 2016
Application Due: Sunday, May 15, 2016

Ohio Humanities considers applications for tourism projects designed to explore the history, highlight the culture,
and foster the appreciation of local assets. Proposed projects should work toward enhancing community life and focus on tourism as a learning opportunity for travelers and local residents. - Planning Grants (max $2,000): These support planning activities that help communities convene stakeholders to assess potential projects, consult with humanities professionals, and identify regional themes. - Implementation Grants (max $10,000): These are available to help build sustainable cultural tourism initiatives. [link to website]

Ohio Humanities: Quarterly Grant
Draft Due: 
Sunday, April 24, 2016
Application Due: 
Sunday, May 15, 2016
Draft Due: 
Sunday, July 24, 2016
Application Due: 
Monday, August 15, 2016
Applicants should plan to submit a draft up to three weeks before the final deadline. Applicants will be notified within six weeks after the final deadline. [link to website]

Ohio Humanities: Planning Grant (mini grants)
Application Due: 
Sunday, May 1, 2016
Wednesday, June 1, 2016
Friday, July 1, 2016
Monday, August 1, 2016
Ohio Humanities considers mini grants on a monthly basis. The deadline for a completed application is the first business day of the month at least eight weeks before the start date of a program. For example, the completed proposal for a project starting no earlier than March 1 would be due to Ohio Humanities by January 1. - Applicants will be notified of the funding decision within three weeks of the submission date. [link to website]

Ohio Humanities: Media Grant
Draft Due: 
Wednesday, June 1, 2016
Application Due: 
Friday, July 1, 2016
Ohio Humanities defines media as documentary projects with humanities content that are produced for public distribution. - Ohio Humanities considers media grants twice each year. Applicants should plan to submit a draft one month before the application deadline. - Applicants may only apply at the media production grant deadlines. See website for deadlines. [link to website]

Ohio Humanities: Major Grant
Draft Due: 
Wednesday, June 15, 2016
Application Due: 
Friday, July 15, 2016
Ohio Humanities considers major grant proposals twice a year. See website for deadlines. - Applicants for all major grants should plan to submit a full draft to Ohio Humanities staff one month prior to the deadline. - Applicants are notified of funding decisions within three months of the submission date. [link to website]

GRANT NEWS:
Ohio Awards
Delaware County Records Center and Kelleys Island Historical Association Receive 2015 Achievement Awards from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board
The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) is pleased to recognize the Delaware County Records Center and the Kelleys Island Historical Association as its 2015 Achievement Award recipients. The OHRAB Achievement Award recognizes significant accomplishments in preserving and improving access to historical records, in any format, by an Ohio archival institution.

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Thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedules to stop and read the Ohio Archivist. Its publication is not possible without the assistance of many individuals and I would like to single out just a few in this issue.

Since the spring of 2010, Tutti Jackson has functioned as the Design Editor for our publication. Then, she was a Project Curator in the Education and Outreach Division at the Ohio History Connection (OHC) who also provided publication design assistance not only to the SOA, but also to other OHC partner organizations. In 2013, she moved on to the Research Services Department of the Ohio History Connection as a Reference Archivist. Unfortunately, she will no longer serve SOA in a design capacity. Thank you Tutti for your hard work, kindness, and for making sense of the chaos over the last several years. You will be missed. Enter Rosa Rojas and Betsy Hedler!

The new Design Editor for the Ohio Archivist is Rosa Rojas. Rosa is Senior Graphic Designer at the Ohio History Connection and began her position there in 1995. Since then she has completed exhibit graphics for Fort Ancient Museum, the Fort Meigs Visitor Center and blockhouses, Armstrong Air and Space Museum, Campus Martius Museum, Fort Hill Museum, Flint Ridge Museum, as well as temporary exhibits at the Ohio History Center.

Her on-going projects include the design of wayfinding systems, and exterior signs for OHC and partner sites. In addition to the Ohio Archivist, Rosa also designs the Ohio Local History Alliance’s newsletter, The Local Historian, and also the Ohio Academy of History Newsletter. She holds a bachelor of fine art degree from The Cooper Union in New York, and a master’s in nonprofit management from Regis University in Colorado.

Assisting Rosa with our publication will be Production Editor, Betsy Hedler. Betsy has worked at the Ohio History Connection since 2004 and currently is Coordinator, Partnerships, and Youth Coordinator for Ohio History Day. Betsy wrote and received three National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History and Culture grants, and continues to serve as project director for each of these grants. In addition, she coordinated eight Teaching American History grant projects between 2004 and 2013, and was responsible for researching OHC collections for primary source materials for classroom use; providing hands-on training for teachers and students in the use of primary sources; and providing primary source resources to teachers in a variety of formats.

Betsy has worked closely with historians and educational professionals throughout the state of Ohio, not least in her position as the OHC liaison to the Ohio Academy of History, the Ohio Council for the Social Studies and the Society of Ohio Archivists. She holds a Ph.D. in Canadian-America History from the University of Maine. Welcome Betsy.

And one last thing! Rosa’s addition to the team this spring brought with it a refreshing new format and some visual changes to our publication. We hope you like the new design and we look forward to your continued readership.

Editor, Gino Pasi