



## 2019 Fall Annual Meeting and Conference

# Local History is America's History

Stephanie Bricking, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

**T**he annual Ohio Local History Alliance and Society of Ohio Archivists fall meeting will take place on October 4 and 5, 2019 at the Crowne Plaza in Dublin, Ohio. This year's theme is *Local History is America's History* and the conference will feature a wide variety of sessions that may be of interest to Ohio archivists. Please join us!

Friday, October 4th will feature a full day of programming on the SOA track, and the Educational Programming Committee has planned sessions you will want to attend. The first SOA track session will be, "Where Were You the Last 200 Years: Building a Diverse and Inclusive Repository for Underrepresented Communities." This was originally presented at the SOA Annual Meeting, so if you weren't there to hear this great

session by Lori Harris and Gino Pasi of the University of Cincinnati, examining the obstacles and challenges associated with building an archive of African American medical history, now is your chance. The second SOA track morning session is, "Locating Local Manumission Records: Antebellum Ohio, the Journey North." Robin Heise from the Greene County Records Center and Archives, and Amy Brickey from History Works, Inc., will discuss this 2018 project that was completed with a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), to locate and document manumission records, emancipation records, and freedom papers for black men and women from five southwestern Ohio counties. The final SOA track session before lunch is, "Moving Archives: Experiences from Two

*(continued on page 3)*

2019 ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

LOCAL HISTORY IS AMERICA'S HISTORY

OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE  
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

in partnership with the  
Society of Ohio Archivists

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- |    |                                                         |    |                                                  |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | 2019 Annual Meeting: Local History is America's History | 16 | Digital Discussions: Accessing Web Accessibility |
| 2  | President's Message                                     | 17 | News & Notes                                     |
| 4  | SOA News                                                | 19 | Letter from the Editor                           |
| 13 | Feature: The Future of the Archival Past                |    |                                                  |



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## The President's Message

Dear SOA Members,

I am truly excited to have an opportunity to lead the Society of Ohio Archivists as President for the next year. I arrived in Ohio in 2013 as a new librarian at Wright State University. I had taken my first librarian position and knew very little about the state of Ohio, let alone the Society of Ohio Archivists; however, I was encouraged to get to know SOA and to run for a council position by my Wright State supervisor, Jane Wildermuth. I was elected and a whole new facet of Ohio opened to me.



Through the Society of Ohio Archivists, I have made connections with peers and mentors across the state. Since 2014 I have participated in a variety of events including Statehood Day, SOA/OLHA's joint fall meeting, presenting at the Annual Meeting and more. I have worked to maintain the SOA website and social media channels together with other SOA members. The Society of Ohio Archivists has provided me with a place to take on responsibilities, but also a place where I have been able to mature as an information professional, and I hope that SOA is able to provide a similar experience to all our members.

At our Annual Meeting in May 2019, we elected several new officers and members to council. Adam Wanter is SOA's new Vice President/President-Elect, Lily Birkhimer the new Secretary, and Stacey Lavender and Amy Rohmiller join as Council Members. Leaving us are former Vice President Janet Carleton, Secretary Kristin Rodgers, and Past-President Jillian Ramage. I would like to welcome the new council members and thank the outgoing ones for the service they have provided SOA.

I would also like to take a moment to extend my thanks to the Education and Programming Committee (EPC) for planning such a wonderful Annual Meeting. Kathleen D. Roe's plenary speech on the future of archives and how they can work to collect materials more inclusively and comprehensively than in the past was enlightening. If you were not fortunate able to travel to Akron, you'll find in this issue of *Ohio Archivist* session synopses written by EPC members, and you can view slides from presentations on the conference [website](#). This issue of the *Ohio Archivist* also includes lots of great information about the 2019 SOA / OLHA Joint Fall Meeting, upcoming plans for Archives Month, news from our colleagues, and more. I encourage you to read as much as you are able, as it is a great way to stay informed and connected with your colleagues and with the Society of Ohio Archivists.

As always, we are looking for members to actively participate in the Society of Ohio Archivists through our hard-working committees. I encourage you to visit our [committee page](#) to find a committee that suits your interests and talents. Please reach out to the listed committee chairs to learn more.

My presidency will last one year as we make the transition in our structure to ensure continuity in our leadership. There are many things I hope to accomplish, but I am always available to SOA's membership. If you have questions, concerns, or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

**Andrew Harris**

*President, Society of Ohio Archivists*

[andrewgharris@gmail.com](mailto:andrewgharris@gmail.com)

## SOA Mission

*Founded in 1968, the Society of Ohio Archivists' mission is to improve the state of archives in Ohio by promoting the archival profession and providing professional development and networking opportunities for Ohio's professional and aspiring archivists.*

## 2019 Annual Meeting *(continued from page 1)*

Repositories.” Christine Schmid Engels, Scott Gampfer, and Anne Kling from the Cincinnati Museum Center, as well as William Modrow from Miami University, will discuss their recent moves and provide practical tips for moving an archive.

After lunch, Virginia Dressler and Cindy Kristof of Kent State University will discuss new workflows to address copyright and privacy issues in their SOA track session, “Navigating Complex Issues in Modern Archival Collections: Privacy and Copyright.” Finally, the last SOA track session of the day will be, “Ask a Records Manager,” where a panel of records managers from a variety of institutions will be ready to discuss appraisal, retention, policy development, and more. Bring your questions to this popular session!

SOA members will also find plenty of sessions outside of the SOA track that may be of interest to them. Both Friday and Saturday include informative sessions on diversity, collaboration, deaccessioning, pest management, accessibility, and more. To find out about other sessions and events being offered at OHLA, download the [brochure](#).


This year’s meeting will also feature a pre-conference workshop on Thursday, October 3 (1:00-4:00 pm) at the Ohio History Center. This workshop, “NAGPRA and Beyond: Ethics around Human Remains, Cultural Objects, and Repatriation,” will review the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and how the law works in practice. Presenters Nekole Alligood,

NAGPRA Projects Officer, Delaware Nation; and Tyler Swinney, NAGPRA Coordinator/Tribal Liaison, Archaeology Collections, Cincinnati Museum Center, will discuss their own experiences with NAGPRA, from both the tribal and museums perspectives.

Attendees might also register for some of the special events at the conference. On Friday, there is an optional lunch and keynote address. This year’s keynote speaker is Nekole Alligood, Delaware Nation. She has been the NAGPRA Projects Officer for the Delaware Nation for the past two years. According to the [OLHA 2019 meeting brochure](#), Alligood’s “focus is Native material culture, but she is also trained to work with human remains, which has proven to serve her well in her repatriation work.” The luncheon on Saturday is for the Ohio Local History Alliance Outstanding Achievement Awards. These awards recognize projects, programs, and publications that support community history.

Registration and additional information is available [online](#). The registration deadline is Friday, September 20, 2019. After that date, all registrations must be completed at the door. Registration rates: SOA or OLHA members \$85, non-members \$105, students \$51. Friday or Saturday registration only: \$60 for members, \$75 for non-members, \$36 for students. The costs for optional lunches on Friday and Saturday are \$25. The pre-conference workshop member rate is \$30 and non-member rate is \$40. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Crowne Plaza, Dublin, Ohio, for those who may need overnight accommodations.

# Small Steps, Giant Leaps:



John Glenn climbs into Friendship 7, 1961. Ohio State University Ohio Congressional Archives.

## OHIO'S ROLE IN SPACE EXPLORATION

From Dayton's Wright Brothers who first took to the skies and sparked new innovations to Wapakoneta's own Neil Armstrong who became the first on the moon fifty years ago, Ohioans have played a major role in space exploration, developing new technologies traveling to space, and more. Stories of achievements that reached beyond our world can be found across the state in Ohio's archives.



The Moon Module, fabricated for NASA by the Goodyear Aerospace Corporation, was to provide future moon explorers with a home base for up to eight days. Goodyear Tire and Rubber records, 1960s. University of Akron, University of Akron Archives Services.



Astronaut Neil A. Armstrong, Apollo 11. Ohio native. National Museum of the United States Air Force.

ARCHIVES MONTH IN OHIO  
OCTOBER 2019

Ohio Archives Month is sponsored by the Society of Ohio Archivists and the Ohio History Connection. Visit us online at [www.ohioarchivist.org](http://www.ohioarchivist.org)

## Archives Month 2019

October is Archives Month and the theme for the 2019 Society of Ohio Archivists poster is “Small Steps, Giant Leaps: Ohio’s Role in Space Exploration,” in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing on July 20, 1969. In the spring, repositories from around the state submitted many wonderful images to be considered for the poster that demonstrated Ohio’s connections to the Space Race and space exploration. We want to thank everyone who submitted and encourage people to watch their mailboxes for the final poster.

In October, the updated 2019-2020 Ohio Archives Passport, which includes listings for Ohio archives, will be available on the SOA website. Keep an eye out for announcements about archival events happening during Archives Month and be sure to share information about your own local events happening throughout the month.

-From the Advocacy and Outreach Committee



## 2019 Annual Meeting Recap

# Invention and Innovation

By Stephanie Bricking, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County; Stacey Lavender, Ohio University; and Collette McDonough, Kettering Foundation

On May 16th and 17th, 2019, SOA held its 2019 Annual Meeting. This year's theme, *Invention and Innovation*, was inspired by the Annual Meeting's move to Akron, Ohio--the "City of Invention." Activities included two pre-conference workshops at nearby Kent State University, a Thursday evening mixer at the Cummings Center for the History of Psychology, and a full day of sessions on Friday at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn Hotel. The morning pre-conference had 25 attendees, the afternoon pre-conference had 27, and 28 people joined us for socializing at the evening mixer. Over 90 people came from across the state to join SOA in Akron for the Friday conference. Thank you to everyone who attended, and we hope you had a great time!

Our busy Thursday began with two well-attended workshops relating to born-digital materials. "Fundamentals of Born-Digital Archiving" ran from 9am-12pm, followed by "Beyond the Basics: More Concepts and Strategies for Digital Archiving" from 2-5pm. The workshops were taught by Dr. Karen Gracy and Dr. Heather Soyka, both of Kent State University. The workshops covered a wide variety of topics relating to archiving born-digital materials, including preservation tools, managing formats, and providing access, with the afternoon workshop building on the concepts covered in the morning. The Thursday evening mixer at the Cummings Center was held from 6-8pm. Attendees could not only eat snacks and mingle with friends and colleagues, but also explore the Center's exhibits and take a tour of the archives.

Friday morning began with a plenary talk by SAA past president Kathleen Roe, "Reimagining the Future of the Archival Past." Roe discussed the importance of building diverse collections that reflect a more complete view of our past, along with ways archivists can communicate the importance of their work to a variety of patrons and stakeholders while also creating stronger ties with their communities.

The plenary was followed by a full day of sessions, poster presentations, and mini-workshops. Topics covered included collaboration between departments and institutions, teaching with primary sources, processing methods, building diverse collections, records management, job hunting as an archivist, and more. Detailed descriptions of all sessions and posters are included below and all slides shared by presenters can be found on the [SOA website](#).

This year's meeting included a 90-minute lunch break, which included award presentations, the

SOA business meeting (moved back to the lunch hour after several years of being held at the end of the day), and ample time for attendees to eat and chat. This year's Merit Award winners were Missy Lodge, State Library of Ohio (retired 2018) and the



Attendees at the SOA pre-conference workshops.



Emily Gainer leads a behind-the-scenes tour of Cummings Center for the History of Psychology, University of Akron.

Ohio History Connection's Digital Services Department, made up of Jillian Ramage, Jenni Salamon, Phil Sager, Lily Birkhimer, Kristen Newby, and Duryea Kemp. New Professional Scholarship Award winners were Brianna Treleven, Andy Warhol Museum Archives; Elizabeth James, Marshall University; Lisa Smilnak, Cleveland State University; and Stacy Chaney-Blankenship, Ohio Wesleyan University Libraries. There was also a half hour afternoon break during which posters presenters were available to discuss their posters, mock interviews were conducted with those who signed up in advance, and more snacks were available.

This year's silent auction SOA was a success and we received

(continued on page 5)

donations from many new donors. Thanks to all the donors and bidders we were able to raise \$421 for the Scholarship Fund.

Items from our 20 donors included wine and cheese picnic baskets, books on local history, a signed copy of David McCullough's book on the Wright Brothers, tickets to the Akron Rubber Ducks, and so much more. We also had a two copies of Christmas memory Books on raffle. The good news is we will have two more memory books available in 2020, so if you did not win there is always hope for next year!

And finally, a huge thank you to this year's Educational Programming Committee. Their hard work putting out the call for proposals and creating the schedule, finding the venue and managing the logistics, along with planning all of the Thursday activities, made for quite a memorable meeting. This year's members were Karmen Beecroft, Ohio University; Stephanie Bricking, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County (Co-Chair); Rachael Bussert, Dayton Metro Library; Janet Carleton, Ohio University (Council Liaison); Madeleine Fix, Nationwide Insurance/National Underground Railroad Freedom Center; Betsy Hedler, Ohio History Connection (SOA/OHC Liaison); Stacey Lavender, Ohio University (Co-Chair); Collette McDonough, Kettering Foundation; Ashleigh Minor, The Ohio State University; William Modrow, Miami University; and Cate Putirskis, The Ohio State University.



The many items on this year's silent auction table.

# Ohio History Day Awards

Since 1999, the Society of Ohio Archivists has sponsored junior and senior division awards for Ohio History Day students whose projects demonstrate exceptional research and use of primary sources in at least two of the following formats: letters, speeches, diaries, contemporary newspaper articles, oral history interviews, documents, photographs, artifacts, or anything else that provides a first-hand account about a person or event. To win, students must cite their sources accurately in the annotated bibliography, and they must physically visit at least one research institution that houses the sources used. Award recipients receive a certificate and a \$100 cash award per winner (individual or group) in both the junior and senior divisions. To learn more, including a list of past winners, visit the [SOA History Day Awards page](#).

The National History Day in Ohio state-level competition was held on Saturday, April 27, 2019, at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. The Junior Division winner was Sylvie Trio from Walnut Hills High School, for her junior individual website, "Fernald: A Complex Legacy." The Senior Division winner was Daniel Wise from Shaker Heights High School, for his senior individual exhibit, "Triumph Shadowed by Tragedy: The Warner and Swasey Company."

These award winners are to be commended for their extensive use of primary sources!



Ohio History Day photographed Saturday, April 27, 2019. Senior Division winner Daniel Wise with SOA's Janet Carleton.  
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# 2019 Annual Meeting

## Session Synopses

### SESSION 1A:

#### Collaborative Projects

*Presenters: Laura Maidens and Jennie Thomas, Rock & Roll Hall of Fame; Victor Fleischer, University of Akron; Rebecca Larson-Troyer, Akron-Summit County Public Library; Toivo Motter, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens*

*Session synopsis by Collette McDonough*

This session followed our amazing plenary speaker and the room was packed with people ready to learn about collaboration. This session consisted of two different projects that included collaboration, the first within a museum and different departments, and the other within an entire community.

another, into one database that could work well for everyone's needs. This new collection management system will save time and will be especially helpful for collections that have different types of materials, such as objects and books. The new system offers many improvements over the old systems, including that they will no longer be tied to their desktop computer but will be able to use the management system from any connected device. Thomas and Maidens spoke on how important it was to clean up the data to make the migration as smooth as possible and that this is something they wished they had time for before the migration had started. Since this project is ongoing, we look forward to hearing about the finished product.



William Modrow from Miami University presenting, "Discovering History through Diverse Collections."

Jennie Thomas and Laura Maidens, both of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, spoke about their project of merging three collection management systems into one. Their session was called, "Good Migrations: Blurring Lines between Library, Archives, and Museums." Their session was very relatable since many attendees organizations are facing the same problem of having more than one database within their organization. Thomas and Maidens discussed how this project, an ongoing endeavor, has meant that the library, archive, museum and IT staff had to work together to turn their three databases that did not talk to one

at the University of Akron; Toivo Motter, an educator at Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens; and Rebecca Larson-Troyer, a collections librarian at the Akron-Summit County Public Library. This session focused on how a variety of organizations could come together to work on a major commemoration project like the First World War. In total the project included 17 cultural institutions which, is very impressive that they were able to include the whole county and not just Akron. The project, Summit County in the Great War, used collections from all over the county and included creating a documentary called Lost Voices of the Great War, that

included voice actors reading copies of letters home. The collaboration also included events called Vintage Days where the public could listen to 1918 era music, and learn about life in the states and "over there." The majority of the session was spent talking on the voices of the Great War, which, according to Ms. Larson-Troyer, "was a great motivator for identifying materials that might help tell the story of Summit County's role in WWI," and also allowed their organizations to come together for one incredible project that "illustrate[ed] to the community the role our various repositories play in keeping these pieces of history for future generations."

### SESSION 1B:

#### Teaching in Archives

*Presenters: William Modrow, Miami University; Anne Ryckbost, Xavier University*

*Session synopsis by Rachael Bussert*

Archivists at academic institutions are often met with the task of teaching undergraduate students primary source instruction. In this session William Modrow, Head of the Walter Havighurst Special Collection, Preservation and University Archives at Miami University and Anne Ryckbost, University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at Xavier University, shared their experiences building primary source instruction, highlighting material from their collections that presented diverse perspectives and ethical issues within their institutions.

In his presentation, "Discovering History through Diverse Collections," William Modrow discussed his experience developing instructional sessions with a History faculty member for his twelve class sections, focusing on global histories. Instructional sessions included a worksheet with a set of general questions for each student to analyze the material. Modrow detailed his experience collaborating with instructional faculty and

*(continued on page 7)*



targeting specific courses for instruction.

In Anne Ryckbost's presentation, "There's a First Time for Everything," she drew from her experience as an adjunct instructor for a first-year seminar on Xavier history, a required course in the core curriculum. Ryckbost collaborated with two librarians to build instructional sessions that met the University's learning outcomes. The course was not discipline-specific. Students were introduced to information literacy skills as they were presented with materials from the archives that examined issues from the University's past, including race, gender, and economic privilege. Ryckbost shared the instructional team's experience creating and evaluating assignments that engaged students in the collections. Student completed assignments which included reflections, presentations, and a digital exhibit project.

### SESSION 2A:

## Alternative Approaches to Processing

*Presenters: Emily Gainer, Cummings Center for the History of Psychology; Lisa Rickey, Wright State University; Courtney Bishop and Mackenzie Sommers, The Ohio State University*

*Session synopsis by William Modrow*

Archivists face growing backlogs, staff shortages and continual demands from researchers. Emily Gainer and Lisa Rickey's session, "You get an A!: Teaching

Students to Process Archival Collections in the Classroom," was an informative discussion on solutions to these issues. They combined training students on using the archives while having them process archival materials. It was a brilliant opportunity to teach students the archival process and get collections processed. Each presenter discussed working with students, their goals for the classroom, some of the opportunities and challenges. Some highlights were that the students took pride in their work, they did excellent work, really being "into" it; and how they had the students do reflections sharing their experiences using Social Media.

Mackenzie Sommers & Courtney Bishop's discussion, "Thinking outside the Hollinger Box: Challenges of Avant-garde Collections at Ohio State University Libraries," was an informative session on processing avant-garde collections at OSU. These two Resident Librarians uncovered many backlogged materials from an "Art" collection which needed processing. Using DACS for describing the materials they were able to identify and process "trashpo" art creating better descriptions and finding aids. They discussed challenges as some of the artwork was in poor shape like a 20 yr. old pizza slice kept in a plastic bag; a set of biohazard materials and the typical dirt and decay found among backlogs of materials. As Resident Librarians they were able to increase their knowledge and skills doing background research on the materials for an "overall great experience."

### SESSION 2B:

## Job Hunting as an Archivist

*Presenters: Collette McDonough, Kettering Foundation; Margaret Breidenbaugh, Cincinnati Museum Center; Hannah Kemp-Severence, Case Western Reserve University; Gino Pasi, University of Cincinnati*

*Session synopsis by Ashleigh Minor*

Collette McDonough, archivist and library manager at the Kettering Foundation, discussed the job hunting process as an archivist, and tips for the job search, the application, and interview processes. The presentation highlighted the benefits of networking in the archives community, and using activities such as conferences to introduce yourself to others. Collette discussed the importance of internships and volunteering in order to gain experience to put on your resume, expand your network, and to secure quality references for future jobs. The presentation discussed what kinds of things to include and not include on resumes and cover letters, and provided a few examples. Where to find job postings, and tips for keeping track of multiple applications were discussed. Finally, Collette reviewed tips for the interview process, and what kinds of questions to be prepared to answer, what to practice in advance, tips on what to wear (make sure it fits you well!), and following up with handwritten thank you notes.

The second presentation centered around a discussion on the benefits of mentorships and hands-on internships in the archival profession. Gino Pasi, archivist and curator of the Henry R. Winkler Center for the History of the Health Professions at the University of Cincinnati Libraries, Margaret Breidenbaugh, senior library services assistant at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, and Hannah Kemp-Severence, library assistant for Special Collections at the Kelvin Smith Library at Case Western Reserve University, each shared their own non-traditional paths to joining the archival profession, specifically without an MLIS degree, and how having a mentor, completing internships, and advocating for their archival experience helped them secure positions within the field. Session



Mackenzie Sommers and Courtney Bishop from The Ohio State University.

(continued on page 8)

attendees shared their own non-traditional paths to the archival career. The discussion centered on the importance of real-world experience and how to reframe your background in innovative ways in order to be considered for positions that typically expect a more traditional background, particularly an MLIS or Masters in public history. Attendees stressed the importance of joining organizations, attending conferences and professional development trainings, and staying up on current trends in archives through email lists and publications. The value of an MLIS degree was discussed in comparison to the value of a certified archivist certificate in combination with hands-on experience and mentorships. The discussion briefly touched on how removing the MLIS requirement from the profession had the benefit of attracting individuals from more diverse backgrounds and experiences who may otherwise find the degree a barrier, particularly in the financial sense.

### SESSION 3:

#### **“Where Were You the Last 200 Years?”: Building a Diverse and Inclusive Repository for Underrepresented Communities**

*Presenters: Lori Harris & Gino Pasi, University of Cincinnati*

*Session synopsis by Stacey Lavender*

The group came back together after lunch for a second stand-alone session presented by Gino Pasi and Lori Harris, both from the University of Cincinnati. The talk focused on a programmatic effort made at the Henry R. Winkler Center for the History of the Health Professions over the last three years to create an archive of African American Medical and Health Professions. They discussed concrete steps taken, including changes in collecting policies and events and outreach activities that helped create and strengthen relationships with the community and identify potential donors. The session was followed by a discussion that included many in the audience sharing similar goals of increasing inclusivity in their collections.

### SESSION 4A:

#### **Advocating for Collections Care**

*Presenter: Dyani Feige, Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts*

*Session synopsis by Cate Putirskis*

Dyani Feige led a detailed and informative mini-workshop on collections care advocacy. Feige defined advocacy for participants as support for a cause or policy, and then discussed what the differences are between preservation and conservation. Feige outlined important components of internal advocacy, which include advocacy for funds, time, people, support, and authority. She emphasized the importance of including preservation in an institution's mission statement or strategic plan, and the importance of creating and utilizing a comprehensive preservation plan that allows an institution to put preservation strategies into action. Performing a stakeholder analysis is critical for internal advocacy, and utilizing compelling stories to get a message across can often be an effective strategy. Feige also talked about external advocacy, pointing out that this is for all institutions, including non-profits. Feige discussed strategies to effectively utilize elected officials in an ethical and responsible way to further share an institution's needs and messages. Feige concluded the workshop by leading participants through an exercise assessing the advocacy needs at their own

institutions; Feige's handouts for this exercise can be found on the SOA website with other materials from this year's conference.

### SESSION 4B:

#### **An Innovative Approach to Records Management Training: Making Records Management Training Fun!**

*Presenters: Melissa Dalton & Robin Heise, Greene County Records Center & Archives*

*Session synopsis by Janet Carleton*

This fun and informative mini-workshop was just the thing to finish out a long and intensive day of learning. Presenters Robin Heise and Melissa Dalton began by sharing steps for planning, implementing, and evaluating a successful records management training fair. For the past 2 years they have provided training for non-records professional county employees on the ins and outs of legal records wrangling. In that time, they have shown remarkable success with 114 attendees, garnering great evaluations along the way. Then it was time to join the fun fair activities! Session attendees had great fun experiencing a small scale version of the training fair, trying their hands at the team sport of Records Ball (tennis balls sorted into “filed” or “trash” by tossing them into a container); Records Management Scavenger Hunt; Records Land (based on the Candy Land board game); White



Enthusiastic attendees play records management games.

*(continued on page 9)*

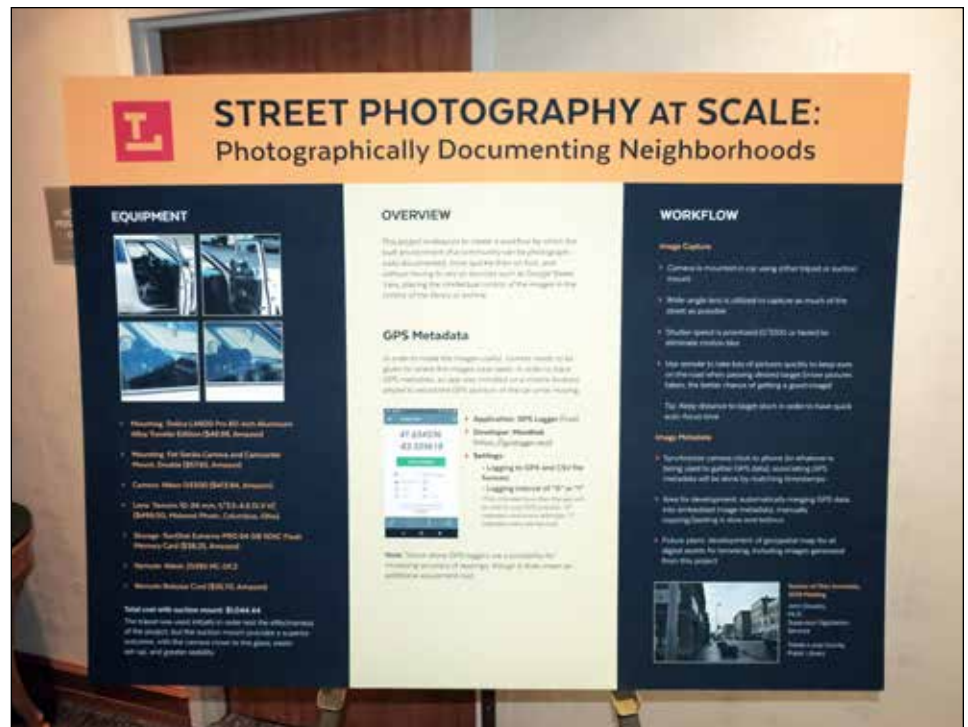


Board Challenge (race to sort magnets into RC3 needed or No RC3 needed); and my personal favorite, the Records Management Wheel (color coded question categories such as Data Security and Public Records). At the actual fair, the records management games would also be accompanied by information tables, and other stations including experience with wet records, cyber security knowledge testing, and more. Heise and Dalton definitely accomplished their goals in illustrating how records management training can be fun.

## Mock Interview Session

*Synopsis by Collette McDonough*

This year was the first time SOA offered mock interviews at the annual conference and even though we only had five interview, it was very effective. A big thank you to all the volunteers that offered to be the interviewer to help the archivists. The mock interviews went very well and we were able to provide these emerging professionals who pre-registered with successful experiences. One interviewer, Victor Fleischer said, "I believe the mock interview was a valuable learning experience for the interviewee as it exposed them to real questions asked in actual interviews and provided the opportunity for the interviewee to practice and polish her responses and interview skills." Not only did the interviewees get tips and feedback but it was an excellent networking opportunity and may even result in mentorship relationships. We wish these archivists all the luck in their careers.



"Street Photography at Scale: Photographically Documenting Neighborhoods," poster by John Dewees, Toledo Lucas County Public Library.

## Poster Presentations

*Synopsis by Stephanie Bricking*

This year's conference included three professional posters covering a variety of topics. Andrea Boehme and Lindy Smith of Bowling Green State University presented a poster on using their integrated library system, Sierra, to track the use of their non-circulating collections, called "Taming the Wiizard: Using Sierra to Circulate Closed Collections." John Dewees's poster, "Street Photography at

Scale: Photographically Documenting Neighborhoods," demonstrated the workflow involved in a project at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library to photograph a neighborhood from a moving vehicle to document change over time. Finally, Justin Bridges, Jacqueline Johnson, and Laura Stewart presented a poster called "Bust a Move: Beneficial Basement Discoveries," about successful collaboration across several disciplines, centered around the restoration of a bust at Miami University.

# New Leadership

*Welcome to new members of council, elected at the 2019 Annual Meeting.*

### PRESIDENT

**Andrew Harris**

Formerly Digital Initiatives Librarian,  
Wright State University

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Adam Wanter**

Digital and Special Collections Archivist,  
MidPoint Library System

### SECRETARY

**Lily Birkhimer**

Digital Projects Coordinator,  
Ohio History Connection

### COUNCIL MEMBER

**Amy Rohmiller**

Associate Archivist,  
The University of Dayton

### COUNCIL MEMBER

**Stacey Lavender**

Special Collections Librarian,  
Ohio University

# Merit Award Winners

Each year at the SOA Spring Meeting, the SOA Merit Award is presented to an individual or organization that has, by excellence in deeds, actions, or initiatives, improved the state of archives in Ohio over the past year. This year the Society of Ohio Archivists' Merit Award was presented to two recipients, the Ohio History Connection Digital Services Department, and recently retired Associate State Librarian for Library Development, Missy Lodge.

The Ohio History Connection Digital Services Department is honored for their exemplary service to cultural heritage organizations across the state of Ohio. The commitment of Jillian Ramage, Jenni Salamon, Phil Sager, Lily Birkhimer, Kristen Newby, and Duryea Kemp to providing exceptional service to their partner organizations and colleagues is peerless. The Digital Services team manages Ohio Memory, one of the most accessible platforms for sharing archival materials for a wide variety of organizations, providing exemplary support and always being willing to troubleshoot issues and discuss new possibilities. The team provides extensive outreach across the state by offering training, workshops, and consulting to organizations. The team members are highly active in the archival and cultural heritage community, and frequently present at conferences, provide leadership in numerous professional organizations and working groups, and are frequently involved in the planning of conferences. The Digital Services team is a tireless advocate for ensuring that the unique collections documenting the history of Ohio have a platform to be preserved and shared, and so it is fitting that the Society of Ohio Archivists presents the Ohio History Connection Digital Services Department with a 2019 SOA Merit Award.

Missy Lodge has been, throughout her career, a champion of cultural heritage and a visionary leader who fostered and developed programs to address the needs of archives throughout Ohio. Over the last several decades, her career's work has not only strengthened our community's understanding of the care of physical archival collections and cultural heritage objects, but it has also supported new approaches to revealing hidden collections through both description and digitization. A leader committed to teaching others to lead, a scholarly practitioner, and a principled guide, her unfailing, kind, wry professionalism has been a great example for all of us in the archival community in Ohio, and her keen sense of where the leading edge of practice could be found has made it possible for all of us to do better work together within our state. For her many years of contributions to the archival profession, it is fitting that the Society of Ohio Archivists presents Missy Lodge with the 2019 SOA Merit Award.



2019 Merit Award winners from the Ohio History Connection Digital Services Department: Lily Birkhimer, Jillian Ramage, and Jenni Salamon pictured with SOA Past-President Robin Heise. Not pictured are Phil Sager, Kristen Newby, and Duryea Kemp.



2019 Merit Award winner Missy Lodge with SOA Past-President Robin Heise

# New Professional Scholarship Winners



## Stacy Chaney-Blankenship

*Special Collections Librarian, Ohio Wesleyan University*  
**NEW PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The 2019 SOA Annual Meeting and conference provided me with an opportunity to learn about and discuss the past, present, and future of archives in Ohio. In particular, I valued the emphasis on diversity and outreach. As a new professional, having worked only seven months in the field, I appreciated the opportunity provided by the SOA scholarship to attend the conference, and would like to express my gratitude to those who made this possible.

Our opening plenary speaker, Kathleen Roe, provided lots of fodder for discussion with her informed ideas about the future of archives. I found myself scribbling away notes on the importance of comprehensive and representative collections as well as how to convey why we have what we have. She taught us the importance of explaining how archival objects can and should be more than just an item of interest, and how it's up to us to provide not only the context for it but also to advocate accordingly.

During my first break-out session, "Teaching in the Archives," William Modrow discussed "Discovering History through Diverse Collections," and Anne Ryckbost presented about a core entry-level university course she co-taught in "There's a First Time for Everything." Modrow showed examples of course assignments and collaborative efforts that helped him meet his goal of exposing Miami University students to materials they would never realize were in the collection, and how he worked to engage the students in the process. Ryckbost discussed the pros and cons of teaching a semester-long course at Xavier University, including how she and the other instructors structured the course

around special collections and institutional history, and also how they used the course as a platform for instruction in library and archival research skills (including an innovative way to incorporate the library's maker-space by having students make their own scrapbooks - with photo captioning as metadata - after looking at historical examples). I hope to incorporate some of their ideas into our student programming at Ohio Wesleyan University next semester.

I enjoyed learning in the other sessions I attended, as well. I thought Lori Harris and Gino Pasi provided carefully considered information during the afternoon plenary, "Where Were you the Last 200 Years? Building a Diverse and Inclusive Repository for Underrepresented Communities." They taught us not only about expanding collections, but donor relations and the impact that targeted collecting can have on an archive. I hope to apply some of their principles to the way I teach with, and exhibit my collections at Ohio Wesleyan University.

During the SOA lunch meeting, I learned more about the organization and its structure. I look forward to more participation in the group going forward. And I remain grateful to all who worked to make this conference possible.

The 2019 SOA conference provided me with a great opportunity to expand my knowledge base and make connections with other professionals working in archives. The chance to spend all day thinking and talking about archives is not a luxury I often get, and I look forward to more such continued conversations. Thank you, again, for this opportunity.



## Elizabeth James

*Archivist and Digital Preservation Librarian, Marshall University*  
**NEW PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP**

"Make haste slowly," is a common sentiment I think most archivists have encountered in the profession. It's a skill that doesn't come naturally to me, but one that I am learning to use more often. Conferences tend to make this saying more relevant than other times. I've found that attending conferences brings out the optimist and realist in us all: budding excitement about a new tool, project, or workflow to implement can soon be trampled by the demands of daily work. Keeping that fire alive and continuing to push to learn and do new things that test your personal and intellectual limits is a worthwhile charge that reaps benefits for researchers now and in the future.

I'm in the second month of my first official archivist position, so I'm almost as new to the profession as one can get. Though I've

had unofficial archives duties in other positions ("other duties as assigned" became a catch-phrase in those places) in addition to internships, this is the first time I've had the luck and joy to do exactly what I'm interested in full time. I've been told to slow down more often in the last month than I have in the rest of my life. Enthusiasm for the possibilities and potential projects is easy to have—convincing others that the project is worthwhile, finding the funds and time, and executing the project is something else entirely. I can't help remaining thankful that I have the benefit of a community of generous scholars who have been willing to answer all of my questions and commiserate over shared problems and brainstorm solutions.





## Brianna Treleven

*Ohio History Service Corps Member, Andy Warhol Museum Archives,*  
**NEW PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP**

As a former archives cataloguer and current Local History Member in the Ohio History Service Corps, I was grateful for the opportunity to attend the SOA Annual Meeting for the first time to network with professionals, hear the exciting projects Ohio institutions are completing, and learn how to navigate the challenges faced by archives professionals today. Most of the history-focused organizations I currently serve are understaffed and under-resourced, a problem familiar to many in the archival profession, and I left the meeting inspired by my passionate and resourceful colleagues and full of new ideas for outreach sites and for my post-AmeriCorps professional life.

I was glad to return to my alma mater, Kent State, for the digital archiving preconference workshop led by Dr. Karen Gracy and Dr. Heather Soyka. Although I had learned the basics of born-digital archiving in graduate school, the afternoon workshop delved into tools and resources that make the prospect of developing a born-digital preservation program a little less daunting.

The opening plenary speaker, Kathleen D. Roe, kicked off the Annual Meeting with an engaging and inspiring talk about the future of archives that touched on key issues many archivists are considering today. How do we diversify our collections? How do we create a more comprehensive picture of archival holdings in Ohio? How do we shift focus from the collections themselves to the impact of our collections? In a time when cultural institutions are increasingly committed to diversifying collections and creating more inclusive environments, the questions and challenges posed by Roe are ones we need to take seriously if archives, both large

and small, are to survive. She made it clear that the emphasis is on people: those whose stories are told in our collections, those whose stories are missing, those who use our collections, those who are personally affected by our collections. This is a necessary, albeit difficult, path to continued institutional and community support for our archives and collections.

The sessions I attended in the morning and afternoon echoed many of the sentiments expressed in the opening address, and it was refreshing to hear the speakers talk candidly about what worked, what didn't, and how they approached (or are still approaching) the challenges faced by many archival professionals. A strong thread throughout the day was the need for collaboration within an organization, with other organizations, and, perhaps most importantly, with the community. The projects discussed were largely made possible through collaboration and by focusing on their collections' stories and users. Our collections are important because of their impact, not just the treasures they hold.

The SOA Annual Meeting was an excellent opportunity to learn from talented professionals who gave me new ideas and hope for the small organizations I work with, especially those trying to address diversity and inclusion issues in their collections. As noted in the afternoon plenary session, diversifying is not just a collection issue, it's also a mindset issue. We need to understand how our communities view us and be ready to listen, and the meeting sessions and attendees made it clear the Ohio archival community is working toward this. To quote Kathleen Roe, "the future for the archival past is [ours] to create," and I look forward to learning more about the innovative steps my colleagues continue to take.



## Lisa Smilnak

*Digital Content and Special Collections Librarian, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University*  
**NEW PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP**

I am very grateful to have received one of SOA's 2019 New Professional Scholarship awards. It was wonderful to be immersed in a conference focused on archives, especially since I often need to spend time addressing tasks that my position requires outside the realm of archives and special collections!

Kathleen Roe's opening plenary session, Reimagining the Future of the Archival Past, was quite inspirational and led me to think in a completely different way about archival collections in terms of approach, outreach, and access. It never occurred to me

that we could be doing a disservice to the archival profession by 'playing the treasure card' and touting only our most 'valuable' documents or objects. It was also interesting to learn about the gaps in Ohio's historical records and how to address filling them. The other sessions I attended each offered useful takeaways that I plan to apply to current collections and future projects as well.

I greatly appreciate this opportunity to engage with colleagues from such a wide variety of roles and institutions—and to learn from their collected wisdom. I hope to be able to attend future SOA meetings where I can reconnect with these colleagues and help to welcome new ones.

# The Future of the Archival Past



*Kathleen D. Roe*

*Director of Archives and Records Management, (retired), NY State Archives  
Past-president and Fellow, Society of American Archivists  
Past-president, Council of State Archivists*

While ours is a profession with considerable historical foundations, it's useful to note that the National Archives was only established in 1934, after a 30-year advocacy campaign by J. Franklin

Jameson; the Society of American Archivists dates to 1936, and the Society of Ohio Archivists, like many other regional archival groups, was founded in 1968. Our history as a profession is really not all that long—85 years or less.

When I first became an archivist, now over 40 years ago, the “future” looked pretty chaotic and ruled by the phrase “this is the way we do it here.” Fortunately, many things have happened in that time period including: the “professionalization of archives” with such developments as guidelines and standards for archival practices; the creation in library schools and history departments of a distinct “archival education” based on theory and practice; expansion of our users beyond the “vaunted historian”; and the opportunities that technology offers from online catalogs/finding aids, to digital collections, and social media to managing the accompanying challenges of born electronic records in all their formats and with a multitude of preservation challenges.

Nonetheless, we need to not just sit back and congratulate ourselves on being superior to earlier archival colleagues. With time should come an increase in capacity, competency, and direction, and it's time we were more deliberate as a profession about the future of archives and archivists. One might write a considerable treatise in order to lay out all the things we need to do to ‘reimagine’ a future for the archival past, but I want to share thoughts on a couple things that need immediate attention by the Society of Ohio Archivists and our profession.

## Ensuring our institutions collect materials that reflect a comprehensive, inclusive past:

One of the issues from our archival past that needs critical attention is at the very heart of archives: what do we collect and does it provide a comprehensive representation of our society?

Collecting archival records in the U.S. really started with the “great collectors” like Jared Sparks or Peter Force who gathered the “great acts and thoughts” of the “great white men.” While the concepts of acquisition and appraisal were discussed, in our

profession's earliest years, it was often much a matter of what someone (who often came from historical training) thought might be of research value for scholars.

Fortunately beginning in the 1960s, the “new social history” movement motivated archivists to think about collecting beyond the “great white men” and “power brokers” in government, business, and society at large. And more recently there is much needed and increasing emphasis on ensuring a more inclusive, diverse archival record. That's an important and welcome vision for the future.

But it isn't easy to accomplish, and pushes us to assess needs and conduct our work differently. For example, what's the methodology behind determining what the documentation needs are? Let's just look at Ohio: Is there a list or resource identifying what topics, people, events, issues should be documented?

To make matters worse, we don't even know “for sure” who all in Ohio are collecting archival records, what the content is and how much they have. And then, how it relates to that “list” so you know what the gaps and weak spots are? In other words, what needs to be collected and how do we know that?

In the United States, we really don't know how many archival institutions exist in each state, or the quantity of records they hold, what the formats are, much less what the records are. If we don't know such basic data how can we imagine a future with a comprehensive historical record of our individual institutions, our communities, the state of Ohio or of the United States? We need to work from a basis of reality, not glittering generalities and good intentions. This doesn't take visionaries, it takes some plain old commitment and hard work.

Then when or if we do manage to effectively identify the gaps and areas in which we need to seek documentation, the methods archivists have used in the past need to be “reimagined.” As some of your colleagues have shared with you previously and will continue to stress, T. R. Schellenberg's principles of appraisal and acquisition may not work here. We need to collaborate with and in communities or areas needing to be documented. That means listening, finding different approaches, and most of all being a facilitator who helps to figure out a way to respectfully and effectively ensure that documentation survives. That could lead to “associated collections” that live outside our repositories (remember that not everyone feels comfortable or welcome or trusting, for example, of a predominantly white college campus library), to different kinds of terminology in description, or a change in the kind of reference services and outreach we do.

There is an increasing literature, real examples in your own

*(continued on page 14)*

state, and things like SAA's free webinar on cultural competency to check out.<sup>1</sup> And if we are going to "reimagine" the future of the archival past, one of the critical changes we need to address is ensuring we actually have a comprehensive, inclusive historical record. We've had 80 years of "do your own thing" history. It's time to get serious about this.

### Conveying information about archives in meaningful ways to a wide range of users, audiences, and supporters:

We keep this archival "stuff" for a reason—so it will be used to accomplish an incredible, almost limitless array of purposes. Traditionally most people, including archivists themselves, saw our role as supporting the work of historians, especially the "vaunted" historians. This is certainly another area where we need to reimagine how we talk about what we do and how we do it, if we want to be a purposeful profession.

We all cringe, if not break out into full-blown cursing, when we see news articles or posts on various social media using words referring to archives as "dusty" or that a person has "discovered" something wonderful that was "lost" in the archives. But we are too often complicit in creating an impression of archives and archivists that is less than salutary.

For example, a group of archivists were each interviewed by the New York Times for a piece subsequently titled "Leaving the Cloister of Dusty Offices, Young Archivists Meet Like Minds."<sup>2</sup> How much blame can we assign to the reporter, who was shown by the enthusiastic "young archivists" such things as Einstein's family teacup, a letter from George Washington to his tailor asking him to make sure the pants were more generous in the bottom and not too tight in the thighs, and the gangster Meyer Lansky's marriage license identifying his occupation as "auto rental." All amusing, even titillating, but what kind of impression does it make if that's the way we talk about our work? Let's each look into our own past and ask how many times we've done something similar. Ask yourself, who wants to hire professional staff, pay them appropriately, and fund their program well if it's just there to provide some "ooh ahh" moments or a good giggle?

We need to talk in terms of the value of archives, of why they are important. SAA launched an advocacy and awareness campaign several years ago called "Archives Change Lives" and I still firmly believe that we will not be successful until we can demonstrate that principle.<sup>3</sup> We need to talk about the outcomes of using archives, not the curiosities or famous people associated with our records.

Every time someone comes into the archives and uses records, or gets them from you online, or via a reference interaction, it changes things. The change may be a small piece of knowledge that helps them connect to their heritage: Henry Louis Gates's "Finding Your Roots" provides great examples of

those connections, as he did when he showed the rapper Nas a copy of the bill of sale for his several-times grandmother. Nas's reaction is a visual and visceral demonstration of the impact of information found in archives, and I encourage you to check it out on the website for that program.<sup>4</sup> Or it can be information critical to ensuring someone is able to obtain military benefits. That's a real quality of life issue. Or maybe it's the teacher whose students scores improve 37% on the standardized state tests after she begins using historical records in the classroom to help students develop critical thinking.

There's really a simple formula for doing this:

#### **Who + used what + for what outcome**

That's not easy to do. I spent much of my SAA presidential year trying to get people to tell me good "stories" and provide good data of the outcomes of using archival records. And people struggled, but they did start to provide some real evidence that archives have value, that they can be used for a wide range of purposes. But it was disheartening to see how many times people just wanted to tell about the cool content of their records. That leaves us as a "treasures," not a "necessity."

### Strengthening our profession and its role in our communities and society:

How we represent what we have and what we do is essential to getting others to "reimagine" their view of archives and archivists. We all need to work hard to reimagine our conversations, our presentations, our media interactions so we demonstrate the value of our records, our institutions and ourselves as professionals.

I am perplexed by the contention that some colleagues have pressed that we need first to focus on gaining respect for the archival profession before we address demonstrating the value of archives. I don't think it's a binary choice, or linear where one has to happen before the next can be addressed. We need to do both simultaneously.

When the leadership and senior management of our governments, our institutions, universities, libraries, businesses, religious institutions, "get" that having an archives will bring value to their organization and help support their own functions, then the chances exponentially increase that the archivist can advocate for better compensation, resources, and a more visible role in the organization. And it's important to put forward the information along with the demonstration of the value of the archives, that it requires special advanced knowledge and training. That's something that we need to do before we ask for resources, and we need to do it regularly. Just as one example, how many of us have talked with the Human Resources department about ensuring the qualifications for archivists are appropriate and appropriately compensated? Too many of them think of archivists as historical file clerks, fixated on the ability to lift a 40 lb. box

(continued on page 15)

1 See the SAA Course Catalog: <https://www2.archivists.org/prof-education/course-catalog/cultural-diversity-competency>

2 <https://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/29/nyregion/archivists-bringing-past-into-future-are-now-less-cloistered.html>

3 See video "Archives Change Lives" <https://www2.archivists.org/advocacy/archiveschangelives> and sample stories: <https://www2.archivists.org/advocacy/archiveschangelives/readthestories>

4 <https://www.okayplayer.com/news/nas-henry-louis-gates-finding-your-roots-pbs-video.html>



## Feature Article

(which was a hot discussion on social media recently). And is compensation for archivists comparable to that for others in your organization who are required to have comparable degrees and expertise? Comparable to others in institutions of your size and type in your region or around the country?

Again to go back to what we don't know, but need to, we don't have current data on the number of people employed in archival positions, what the requirements for those positions are, what the compensation is, or the "terms of employment." The Council of State Archivists seems to have the only longitudinal data on salaries (which is for state archives), and SAA has tried to get funding for an archival census to update its last which is decades old.

Like the surfeit of data on archival institutions and their holdings, there is a lot we have "thoughts" on regarding the need for more understanding and respect for archivists, but not much hard data that would support efforts to promote our profession. It brings to mind an exhibit just shown on CBS about the International Spy Museum that has a mask that blocks the ability of a camera to pixelate the spy's face. Archivists are unpixelated faces for too many of our managers and colleagues, and even our users and our communities. So if we want to reimagine a future for archivists, we need to bring our profile in focus.

### Conclusion:

Many people love futuristic, dystopian novels, and conjecturing about the way things "ought to be," but in our workplaces and in our profession, we tend to shy away from actually taking the time and putting in the work that creating change involves. It is, after all, the future, and we are all haunted by the backlogs of the past, and the workload of the present. If we choose to go along

that path, then the archival profession will continue with modest, well-intentioned adjustments, and as our profession hits the 100-year mark and beyond, we'll look pretty much the same. Decent people trying to do decent things for decent reasons getting decent results. But it won't be what we could do, or more importantly, what we should do. We need as individuals, as institutions, and as professional organizations, to carve out the time to think about, and advocate for the future of our profession.

But advocating for our profession and our status as professionals is something too many of us seem to find "embarrassing" or feel uncomfortable with, or not in our competency, or think is somebody else's responsibility.

That's not true. It does take planning, time and dedication. And here in Ohio, you have a lot of advantages. Ohio has a long and complex history, sometimes for good, sometimes for ill, but it is not a sleepy state where nothing much happened. I've consulted in a number of other states in my career and I have to tell you that you have a solid base of strong repositories of varying types in Ohio—university archives, corporate archives, government archives, and places like the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Archives, and OCLC. Along with that you have a cadre of smart, capable archivists with lots of good information and capabilities.

You have some real possibilities for the future of archives and archivists in Ohio if you all decide to take a strong role in making that happen. So I will end by returning to my family's Ohio farmer roots, and as any good Ohio farmer will tell you, you have to till the soil, plant the seeds and do some fertilizing. You can be sure you won't get a crop from wishing it so, or railing against the weather or complaining about the next farm over. It's time for all of us to plant the seeds of a valuable, productive future for the archival past. I look forward to seeing what you produce!



### Rep. Steve Stivers Joins Congressional History Caucus

U. S. Representative Steve Stivers (OH 15th district) has joined the Congressional History Caucus during the 116th Congress. The caucus works to provide support for historically-related federal agencies and programs. Stivers is currently the only member of the Ohio congressional delegation in the caucus. Society of Ohio Archivists members are encouraged to contact their local representative and urge them to join the Congressional History Caucus.

U.S. Representative Steve Stivers

# Accessing Web Accessibility

By Digital Discussions Editor Jenni Salamon, Ohio History Connection

As cultural heritage professionals working in a digital environment, we're often thinking about how to increase access to our collections. Whether it's scanning materials for our online repository, promoting resources through social media, or creating digital exhibits, our goal is to increase the awareness and interest of our user community in both our institutions and our cultural heritage in general.

But it's not enough to simply "put it online"—while the internet is an amazing tool to share information equitably, not all access points are created equal. Our audiences not only bring a variety of life experiences with them to the internet, but bring diversity in physical and mental abilities as well. In order to accommodate these varying needs and achieve inclusivity in the products and services we offer, considering web accessibility is key. According to the **World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)**, "web accessibility means that websites, tools, and technologies are designed and developed so that people with disabilities can use them." This means users can perceive, understand, navigate, interact and contribute to the internet, regardless of their specific disability. In some cases, it may be required by law that your website is accessible, but even if it's not, a practice of inclusion and accommodation is not only good for your community, but for your organization too.

Factors impacting the accessibility of your website include: web content (what's

on the website), user agents (what's used to access the content), and authoring tools (what's used to produce the web content).

**W3C explains this relationship:** "for instance, web content needs to include text alternatives for images. This information needs to be processed by web browsers and then conveyed to assistive technologies, such as screen readers. To create such text alternatives, authors need authoring tools that support them to do so." Accessible design makes web content more agile and adaptable to a user's specific needs and wants, and even those without disabilities benefit.

W3C's **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1** were released in June 2018, and describe a number of ways

to make content perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust (POUR). These strategies can range from the simple to the complex, and here are just a handful:

- Include text alternatives for non-text content by describing data, including labels, and adding short equivalents for images
- Add captions/transcripts for audio/video content
- Select background and foreground colors that provide enough contrast
- Allow users to adjust audio volume
- Provide clear titles for pages and organize content under descriptive section headings
- Ensure link text make sense out of content (i.e. link should say more than "click here")
- Provide clear instructions
- Ensure non-HTML content (e.g. other files uploaded to the website) are accessible
- Present information in a predictable way
- Allow compatibility with assistive technologies like screen readers, screen magnification software, and text readers

Your institution may already be working to improve web accessibility, but regardless of where you are in this process, there are numerous resources available covering the many whys and hows of web accessibility (see inset). As with any new and major undertaking, this should be approached strategically, but also with sensitivity so that your final results have a positive impact on all of your users.

## Types of Disabilities

**Auditory/Hearing:**  
deafness, hearing loss

**Cognitive/Intellectual:**  
learning disabilities, distractibility, inability to remember or focus on large amounts of information

**Neurological:**  
loss of some physical or mental functions which may change the way a person thinks and processes information

**Physical/Motor:**  
inability to use a mouse, slow response time, limited fine motor control

**Speech:**  
stuttering, muteness

**Visual:**  
blindness, low vision, color-blindness

## Sources and Further Reading

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## Individual Member News

**Amelia Fuller** accepted the position of Archivist at The Dawes Arboretum in March 2019 and is enjoying the beautiful scenery at the Arboretum Archives and Daweswood House Museum.

**Robin Heise**, Records Manager & Archivist of the Greene County Archives, has been appointed by Governor Mike Dewine to a three-year term to the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB). OHRAB is the central body for historical records planning in the state.

**Dr. Jodi Kearns** was named the inaugural Director of the Institute for Human Science & Culture (IHSC), the educational branch of the Drs. Nicholas and Dorothy Cummings Center for the History of Psychology at the University of Akron, which is scheduled to hold its official opening this Fall. The other branches are the National Museum of Psychology and the Archives of the History of American Psychology, where Jodi continues her service as Manager of Digital Projects. The IHSC offers courses for the University of Akron, including an undergraduate certificate in Museums and Archives. It houses gallery space available to students and the community, and a

library currently holding a **collection of 200,000 postcards** and a collection of Germanic and Slavic language cultural books.

**Michelle Smith**, CA, has recently joined the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Archives. Michelle is a Cincinnati native, alumna of Ursuline Academy, and is very excited to be back in her hometown after a few years working in upstate New York. She received a BA in Comparative Religious Studies from The Ohio State University, and earned a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) from Kent State University in 2011. Michelle is also a Certified Archivist and holds a Digital Archives Specialist certificate. She was most recently the Collections Archivist at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, and has previously been an archivist at the American Jewish Archives and Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

**Erin Wilson** became the Digital Imaging Specialist and Lab Manager at Ohio University Libraries in April. In this position she joins OUL's Department of Preservation and Digital Initiatives and is working collaboratively to increase our capacity for high quality cultural



Michelle Smith

heritage imaging of the Libraries' special collections. Previously Erin worked at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County as the Digital Services Assistant.

Archival Services of University Libraries at The University of Akron is pleased to announce that **Theodore Mallison** and **Zoe Orcutt** recently joined the staff as part-time Library Research Assistants to assist with projects relating to the University's upcoming sesquicentennial celebration.

## Institutional Member News



Greene County Archives Staff

The **Greene County Archives** held an event for the opening of the 1969 Greene County Jail Time Capsule on June 21, 2019.

The event drew over 100 attendees, and close to

2000 views online. The time capsule contained 21 items, including items such as sheriff badges, a buckeye seed, lists of various county employees, and a historic photograph of a former Greene County sheriff. Images of all the items are on the [Greene County Archives Flickr page](#). Additionally, you can read a short blog about the event by visiting the [Greene County Blog](#) page.



Sheriff's Badge from Greene County Jail Time Capsule

(continued on page 18)





Cover of Writers' Bloc, Oberlin College, Fall 1985 (© Oberlin College)

The **Oberlin College Archives** published a new web access project for its student publications collection, comprising nearly 200 print titles ranging from 1858 to the present. This stage of the project involved digitizing one cover of each title, and content analysis of entire runs of titles by Kira Zimmerman, Archives Student Assistant. Kira wrote in-depth summaries and assigned genre terms and tags of her own devising. Archives staff added additional metadata, including controlled vocabulary terms. Digitization of some or all of the contents of selected titles may be done at a later time. For now, this project provides critical access to an important collection for student life, activism, community, creativity, identity, literature, humor, journalism, politics, environmentalism, and more at Oberlin College for over 160 years of its history. The digital project may be accessed from **Oberlin College Student Publications**.

**Archival Services of the University Libraries at The University of Akron** recently curated two new exhibitions. *Akron and the Women's Movement: An Exhibition Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment* utilizes historic photographs, documents, and artifacts from the repository's robust **collections** to tell the role Akron and Ohio played in the women's movement. It is on display through the end of the year in the lobby of Archival Services located in the Polsky Building in downtown Akron. *Waving the Red, Black, and Green: Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association in Akron and Barberton*, opened on June 30th at the Dr. Shirla R. McClain Gallery of Akron's Black History & Culture at The University of Akron. Curated by Stephanie Sulik, a PhD candidate at the University of Texas at Arlington and practicum student at Archival Services, the exhibit uses photographs, newspapers, maps, and memorabilia from Archival Services and other repositories to explore how African Americans in Akron and Barberton embraced Marcus Garvey's call for self-determination, race pride, and African redemption in the face of European colonialism and joined the largest movement for Black Freedom in the twentieth century. For more information please contact Archival Services at 330-972-7670 or at [archives@uakron.edu](mailto:archives@uakron.edu).

## Assistant Editor Needed- Newcomers Column

The *Ohio Archivist* is currently seeking an Assistant Editor to lead the Newcomers column for a term of two years, starting with the Spring 2020 issue. The idea for this column came from former *Ohio Archivist* Editor, Janet Carleton, as a place to include the voices of students and new professionals. The first column ran under former Editor Gino Pasi in Spring 2015 and has had several great leaders since then. If interested, please contact Kayla Harris at [kharris2@udayton.edu](mailto:kharris2@udayton.edu). Thank you for considering serving your organization in this valuable way!

## Letter from the Editor

I'm currently writing this while my oldest two children (4 years old and 2 years old) are napping and my newest arrival is dozing in a swing. This issue of the *Ohio Archivist* is a bit smaller than usual, but I hope you will forgive me, given the timing of production on this issue. On July 8th, Andrew (SOA president) and I welcomed our third son, Arthur. We're fortunate to be spending the month of July all together as a family of five, but as you can imagine, there is very little time to devote to other activities.

As advertised previously in this publication, I am currently seeking an Assistant Editor for the Newcomers column. Our previous Assistant Editor, Karmen Beecroft, has left Ohio and is now the Digitization Coordinator at Illinois State University. We all wish her well in that role! I would like to thank Karmen for her work on this column, as it is so important to bring a voice and focus to our newest in the profession. The mentorship and community that we have here in Ohio is what makes the Society of Ohio Archivists stand out in the field among our peers and so I hope you will consider serving your organization through this position.

Thanks for reading this issue of *Ohio Archivist*!

Kayla Harris  
[kharris2@udayton.edu](mailto:kharris2@udayton.edu)



**Kayla Harris**  
Librarian/Archivist,  
Marian Library,  
University of Dayton



Arthur Harris, future  
archivist and SOA  
member.



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