



## SOA Council Statement on Racial Inequality and Black Lives Matter

**W**E AT THE SOCIETY of Ohio Archivists, are profoundly saddened and outraged by the numerous, unjustified deaths of Black men and women in our country. We grieve the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and countless more who have died because of police brutality fueled by hate. We grieve the brutal lynching of Ahmaud Arbery at the hands of vigilante white men, including a former police officer. We condemn the use of violence, vigilantism, and the weaponization of supremacy, and we denounce police violence against Black people.

As archivists, we know this problem is deeply rooted in the history and founding of our nation. It is also rooted in our institutions, including archives. We are committed to recognizing and breaking down systems of white supremacy within our own archives. For decades, the historical narrative has largely left out the stories of Black people in our country. Part of our work as archivists includes creating a space where we can collaborate and dialogue with those whose stories have been marginalized, ignored, and silenced. Our efforts and missions include learning from the past to prepare for the future. We can only do that if we include all voices.

Archives are not neutral spaces. We preserve ALL stories of our shared history, good and bad. We ask hard questions and have difficult discussions about our documentary past. In doing so, we are advocating for telling those stories, no matter how



uncomfortable or painful they are. We exist to ensure that the future may benefit by learning from the past.

The Society of Ohio Archivists asks all of our members to stand in solidarity with the Black communities across this country. We also hold ourselves and our members accountable to act beyond our statement today and to follow up with actions that demonstrate a willingness to center Black lives, because we recognize the inherent harm of decades of white supremacy. This is not a Black issue; it is a human rights issue. We believe none of us are free until all of us are free, and we seek justice for the centuries of abuse and systemic racism that have denied Black men, women, and children their heritage, dignity, equality, and far too often their lives.

*Black Lives Matter.*

**The Society of Ohio Archivists Council  
June 3, 2020**

### Inside This Issue:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>2</b> President's Message                    | <b>12</b> Feature Story:<br>The Great Disturbance                     |
| <b>3</b> SOA News                               | <b>15</b> Digital Discussions: DEAL<br>and You(r Digital Collections) |
| <b>5</b> Annual Meeting Recap                   | <b>17</b> News & Notes  |
| <b>10</b> Feature Story:<br>Suffrage Scrapbooks |   |



*Ohio Archivist* is designed and published  
for the Society of Ohio Archivists by the  
Ohio History Connection.

## OHIO ARCHIVIST

### Editor-in-Chief:

**Kayla Harris**

### Assistant Editors:

**George Bain**, *Features Editor*

**Jenni Salamon**, *Digital Discussions*

**Jessica Heys**, *News & Notes*

### Production & Design:

**Betsy Hedler**, *Production Editor*

**Kim Koloski**, *Graphic Design*

## SOA LEADERSHIP

### OFFICERS

#### President

**Adam Wantner, 2019-2021**

*Digital and Special Collections Archivist  
MidPointe Library System, Butler County*

#### Vice President / President-Elect

**Sherri Goudy, 2020-2021**

*Independent Archivist, Researcher and  
Writer*

#### Secretary

**Lily Birkhimer, 2019-2021**

*Digital Projects Coordinator  
Ohio History Connection*

#### Treasurer

**Lisa Rickey, 2020-2022**

*Archivist/Collections Manager  
Wright State University Libraries*

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Melissa Dalton, 2020-2022**

*Public Outreach Coordinator  
Greene County Records Center &  
Archives*

**Amy Rohmiller, 2019-2021**

*Associate University Archivist  
University of Dayton Libraries*

### EX-OFFICIO

#### Past-President

**Robin Heise, 2019-2020**

*Records Manager/Archivist  
Greene County Records Center and  
Archives*

#### Editor, Ohio Archivist

**Kayla Harris, 2018-2021**

*Archivist / Librarian, The Marian Library,  
University of Dayton*

## The President's Message

Dear SOA Members,

I hope you are healthy and well during trying and difficult times. As I write this message (mid-July), it already feels like ages since we held our first virtual conference. I can only imagine how far away June will feel by the time this is published in September. While the conference itself was different, it was still a success. I would like to thank Stephanie Bricking, Bill Modrow, and the rest of the EPC for rolling with the punches and putting together a great conference. I would also like to thank all our members, new and returning, for attending and providing valuable feedback. If you were not able to attend the conference while it was happening, you are in luck, as each presentation is available on SOA's new YouTube page, which can be found on the [website](#).



Next, I would like to welcome our new Officers, Sherri Goudy – Vice President / President Elect, Lisa Rickey – Treasurer, and Council Member – Melissa Dalton. I look forward to working with all you and am excited about all that we have currently started to do. A hearty welcome to Jen Baker and Amanda Rindler, who have been appointed as Co-Chairs, Jen as Advocacy and Outreach Co-Chair and Amanda as Marketing and Communications Co-Chair. Each will serve a two-year term starting this past June.

As SOA Leadership tries to act beyond our “Statement on Racial Inequality and Black Lives Matter” (which can be read in full in this newsletter), I ask that you join us. Please consider joining the SOA Task Force on Social Justice and Black Lives Matter or another of our committees. SOA can only accomplish what its membership puts forth. SOA provides plenty of rich and rewarding opportunities.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that October is Archives Month! The theme for 2020 is Centennial of Suffrage. Thank you to everyone who was able to submit images during such a chaotic and uncertain time. Due to the circumstances, A&O decided to bypass the annual image vote. However, a new poster will be coming, so no worries there. Also, with October comes the annual Ohio Local History Alliance conference, which has moved online this year. Like normal, SOA has teamed up with OLHA to provide a number of archive focused presentations – so keep an eye out for that.

Finally, please stay safe and healthy. I know not what our future, your present, holds, but I do know that if we act with kindness, consideration, and care that we will persevere. As we move further away from moments of reckoning, we cannot lose the focus. The struggle for social justice, equality, equity, civil rights, and the valuing of Black lives is continually ongoing. To quote Ibram X. Kendi “What we say about race, what we do about race, in each moment, determines what – not who – we are.”

**Adam Wantner**

*SOA President*

[awanter@midpointelibrary.org](mailto:awanter@midpointelibrary.org)

## 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.*

## 2020 JOINT FALL MEETING OF THE OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE AND SOCIETY OF OHIO ARCHIVISTS

# History is Happening Now!

By **Stephanie Bricking**, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County; **William Modrow**, Miami University  
2019-2020 Educational Programming Committee Co-Chairs

JOIN US ONLINE

**HISTORY IS HAPPENING NOW!**

OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE  
**Annual Meeting**  
OCTOBER 1-3, 2020

**OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE**  
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:  
**ohiotha.org**

\$40/member  
\$50/non-member  
\$20/student or unemployed

**QUESTIONS?**  
Contact Dr. Betsy Hedler  
Executive Secretary  
Ohio Local History Alliance  
ohiotha@ohiohistory.org or  
614-297-2538.

The annual Ohio Local History Alliance and Society of Ohio Archivists fall meeting will take place October 1-3, 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, OLHA has decided to move the conference completely online. This year's theme is *History is Happening Now*, and the conference will feature a wide variety of sessions that will interest Ohio archivists. SOA has a track of five sessions ranging from documenting personal experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensuring safe environments in archives and special collections, and more. Please join us!

### The SOA track includes:

- John Dewees from the Toledo Lucas County Public Library will be presenting, "Building a Community Photo Album." The Community Photo Album at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library is an endeavor to create a submission path by which the public can contribute born-digital content in a democratized fashion, while attempting to remove institutional bias. Dewees plans to discuss the mission and purpose, workflow, submission agreement, metadata, access, sustainability, and outreach during his presentation.
- Abigail Tayse from Kenyon College will be presenting, "#TogetherApart: Processing a Pandemic in the Kenyon Community." While working from home in Spring 2020, Tayse and other Kenyon College Special Collections and Archives staff created a community-sourced project to document personal experiences during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The project reached out to students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, and more to collect a range of digital materials to eventually become part of a public-facing collection in the institutional repository, Digital Kenyon.
- Kim Hoffman from Miami University will be presenting, "Safety First: Prioritizing Safe Practices for Conservation." Archives and special collections aren't usually considered dangerous. Yet, conservation labs, with their knives, equipment, and chemicals, can become an accident waiting to happen. How can we create a safe environment for ourselves and

our students? Though conservation labs pose obvious hazards, Hoffman will address lessons that practitioners from other specialties can apply to their own environments.

- Jen Haney Conover and Jenifer Baker from the Warren County Records Center and Archives will be presenting, "Let's Try This Again: Revamping Oral History at Warren County." An expansion on their presentation from the SOA/ALAO SCAig Spring 2020 workshop, Haney Conover and Baker will discuss how they revamped their oral history program and how organizations can learn from their mistakes.
- Corinne Johnson, Abigail Holman and Sophia McGuire from the Licking County Records Center and Archives, a 2020 SOA Merit Award Winner, will be presenting, "Restoring the Past for the Future." In 2019, the archives took on the task of cleaning and preserving historical records that had been neglected for decades in a courthouse attic. With help from an Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board grant, the department developed a plan and managed to salvage over 200 records for generations to come.

*The cost to attend all three days of the SOA/OLHA meeting is \$40 members/\$50 non-members/\$20 students or the unemployed. For more information about the fall meeting, please visit the [OLHA annual meeting page](#) or the [Society of Ohio Archivists's annual conference page](#). We hope you are able to join us virtually in October!*



## Archives Month 2020

By **Natalie Fritz**, *Clark County Historical Society Advocacy and Outreach Committee Co-Chair*

October is Archives Month and the 2020 theme for the Society of Ohio Archivists poster is “Commemorating the Suffrage Centennial: Ohio Women and the Fight for the Right to Vote,” for the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment on August 26, 1920. Early this year, archival repositories from around the state submitted images relating to Ohio’s role in the fight for women’s suffrage. Many Ohio women were at the forefront of the local, state, and even national scene for this long fight for the vote and full citizenship. The passage of the Woman Suffrage Amendment in 1920 was not the end of the fight because its adoption did not guarantee that all women could exercise their rights. It would in fact be years, and for some decades, before ALL women had the right to participate in elections.

We thank all those who submitted images for consideration and encourage everyone to look for the final poster in their mailbox in the fall.

With many events and activities limited this year due to COVID-19, archive-related events during Archives Month may be limited or virtual, but keep an eye out for information about local activities throughout the state.

### 2020 SOA/SCAIG WORKSHOP

## Opening Doors: Outreach with Archives and Special Collections

By **Rachel Makarowski**, *Miami University*

Society of Ohio Archivists and the Academic Library Association of Ohio’s Special Collections and Archives Interest Group (SCAIG) co-hosted the online workshop, “Opening Doors: Outreach with Archives and Special Collections,” on May 14, 2020. In this workshop, five presenters, from a variety of institutions, discussed their outreach efforts and provided their tips and tricks for improving outreach efforts, no matter the size of the institution and staff, to engage with the public and communities served.

The first speaker, Natalie Fritz of the Clark County Historical Society at the Heritage Center, spoke on the importance of developing and maintaining an online presence to engage with community members even with limited access to their collections. Steve Ammidown of Bowling Green State University walked participants through choosing the right social media platform for their needs and how to let those accounts go when it is time to delete them. Jennifer Baker and Jen Haney Conover discussed how they started their oral history program at Warren County Records Center and Archives, what they might have done differently to better promote their program and the benefits they have seen come out of the program. Rounding out the program, Miriam Intrator of Ohio University demonstrated how to move classes successfully online during this pandemic. She also taught participants the do’s and don’ts for creating virtual classes with special collections and archives so that they can start planning fall classes with faculty members with confidence.

The free webinar reached its capacity in less than a week, but the recording and presenters’ slides are available through the [SOA website](#).



## 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP

# Archiving 100 Years of Change

*Stephanie Bricking, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, and William Modrow, Miami University, Educational Programming Co-Chairs*

**T**he Society of Ohio Archivists held our first ever annual conference virtually by Zoom on June 16-17, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When the Educational Programming Committee chose the theme, “Archiving 100 Years of Change,” we selected it in honor of the anniversary of the 19th Amendment. We hope that even though we weren’t able to meet in person, we still were able to learn from one another through an excellent plenary and six informative sessions.

The Educational Programming Committee would like to thank Hollinger Metal Edge for sponsoring the SOA annual conference, as well as Ohio Humanities for sponsoring the meeting’s plenary speaker. The committee would also like to thank all of the presenters who were willing to pivot from an in-person meeting to a virtual environment so easily. And finally, the committee would like to thank Matt Schullek and Betsy Hedler from the Ohio History Connection, because without them, the meeting would not have gone so smoothly.

If you weren’t able to attend the meeting, you can read about the sessions below and visit the [SOA website](#) for the slides and recordings from the meeting.

## PLENARY:

### Finding Sex, Race, and Suffrage in the Archives: What I Found When I Looked for Helen Hamilton Gardener in the Library of Congress’s Manuscript Collections

*Speaker: Kimberly A. Hamlin, Miami University*  
*Session synopsis: Lisa Rickey, Wright State University*

In this engaging presentation, Dr. Hamlin shared some of her successes and strategies in researching the life of a scandalous “fallen woman,” the author and suffragist Helen Hamilton Gardener. She provided a background on “HHG,” as a framework for discussing challenges presented in examining topics such as gender, race, and sex, which are often not specifically listed as keywords or subject headings in finding aids. However, Hamlin pointed out, you can usually find “the good stuff” by searching for documents (especially correspondence) in the relevant time period. She provided several examples from Library of Congress manuscript collections she utilized in her research, including the papers of Woodrow Wilson, Edith Wilson, Joseph Tumulty, Adelaide Johnson, and Sen. John Sharp Williams. For instance,



Dr. Kimberly A. Hamlin, Associate Professor of History and Global Intercultural Studies, Miami University

scrawled across the top of one letter was the phrase “best destroy this letter,” which Hamlin said was “like catnip to a historian.” It was already clear that Dr. Hamlin loves conducting archival research, and she expressed her affection for it outright, saying, “My favorite place to be is nestled in the archives with a box of papers.” She also has great respect for the labor, often hidden labor, that archivists do to make that research possible: “I think archivists are pretty much the best people on the planet.”

## SESSION:

### Digitizing Community Collections

*Presenters: Angela O’Neal, Cindy Lindsay, Nicole Sutton and Aaron O’Donovan, Columbus Metropolitan Library*  
*Session synopsis: Rachael Bussert, Dayton Metro Library*

In this session, Angela O’Neal, Cindy Lindsay, Nicole Sutton, and Aaron O’Donovan presented a case study of digital community collection development and the creation of an open-source digital submission tool at Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML).

O’Neal began the discussion with an overview of what defines

*(continued on page 6)*

a community collection and what this type of collecting has historically looked like at CML. Items have been added to these collections both in every day collecting and in times of crisis such as the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Lindsay continued the presentation by describing digital community collections at CML. They discussed digital collecting projects at other archival institutions that CML included in their research as staff began the development of a digital collecting tool.

Next, Sutton led a discussion on My Upload, the online tool developed by CML to collect digital items for community collections. My Upload was funded by a 2019 LYRASIS Catalyst Fund award. My Upload can be used to import individual and bulk files, submit user rights information, and streamline the metadata creation process for donors and CML staff. My Upload is open-source and will eventually be made available to other institutions.

O'Donovan ended the presentation with a discussion of metadata creation in My Upload. They explained how the simplified box for user-submissions provided staff with more complete and accurate metadata than the paper form that had been used for past submissions.

#### SESSION:

### Sharing Initial Steps on a Digital Preservation Policy

*Presenters: Brittany Hayes, Zoe Orcutt, University of Akron; Sidney Gao, James Van Mil, University of Cincinnati*

*Session synopsis: Ashleigh Minor, The Ohio State University*

Sidney Gao and James Van Mil from the University of Cincinnati, and Brittany Hayes and Zoe Orcutt from the University of Akron shared their experiences with the beginning phases of writing and implementing digital preservation policies at their institutions. The speakers began by introducing themselves and highlighting their backgrounds and experiences with digital preservation activities, emphasizing that they were mostly self-taught in the area of digital preservation, and had limited or no formal training on the subject. Gao reiterated that digital preservation is something anyone can pick up and implement at their institution, whether or not they have professional training or education in the area, and encouraged attendees not to be intimidated by it. Speakers introduced their institutions' digital repositories, software and services used, and a brief overview of the topical coverage of their digital collections.

They defined digital preservation and highlighted the "three-legged stool" model of digital preservation, composed of technology, organization, and resources, and how the three are crucial in fostering a successful digital preservation program. Gao discussed the importance of knowing the unique challenges of your institution before molding your digital preservation policy. She shared the tools they used to assess their institution's

strengths and weaknesses, including the National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA) Levels of Digital Preservation, and the Digital Preservation Capability Maturity Model ("Dollar" model). She recommended using multiple assessment tools to get a well-rounded and accurate assessment of your institution.

Next, the speakers shared an overview of the common challenges faced by both institutions in their assessment and policy building steps, including the reality of limited resources and staffing, working with legacy content, and deferring the work. They reviewed the impact of each of these common challenges on implementing policies and workflows around digital preservation, and how each institution has addressed those challenges. Van Mil discussed one of the more unique challenges the University of Cincinnati Libraries is also facing: accessibility. He shared how the library's culture of accessibility, after being sued by the Department of Education in 2014, drastically increases the costs associated with digitization, but solving accessibility problems was something they needed to address in their digital preservation mandate, noting that accessibility is digital preservation. Orcutt and Hayes shared the ongoing challenge of finding the right digital asset management system at the University of Akron, and shared an overview of how they are currently using CONTENTdm and Microsoft Sharepoint as placeholders.

Each institution shared where they currently are in the process of implementing digital preservation policies and workflows. They emphasized that knowing your institution's content and unique challenges is crucial to customizing your digital preservation policy to fit your own institution's situation. Attendees were waved off by Sidney Gao's cat at the end of the session.

#### SESSION:

### Oberlin's Women: A Legacy of Leadership & Activism

*Presenters: Ken Grossi, Alexia Hudson-Ward, and Heath Patten, Oberlin College*

*Session synopsis: William Modrow, Miami University*

The presenters from Oberlin College discussed how the Smithsonian gave them the inspiration to discover the role of women and alumnae at Oberlin College for their work in the Women's Suffrage movement, and how this intertwined with the important changes to Oberlin's co-education curriculum. Utilizing the resources in Oberlin's Special Collections & Archives, the presenters were able to trace the origins of change. These had their beginnings back in the 1830s. As alumnae, these women were able to make an impact outside of Ohio, participating in protests, politics and policy. This project also allowed the libraries to partner with faculty for teaching and research, create a social media presence, collaborate for fundraising opportunities, publish a calendar and curate a digital and travelling exhibit to share these remarkable histories.

(continued on page 7)

## SESSION:

**Crash and Burn: Learning from Failure**

*Presenters: Sarah Aisenbrey, Sisters of the Precious Blood; Collette McDonough, Kettering Foundation; Tina Ratcliff, Montgomery County Records Center & Archives; Amy Rohmiller, University of Dayton; Adam Wanter, MidPointe Library System*

*Session synopsis: Cate Putirskis, The Ohio State University*

We often share and present about successful projects and initiatives we've worked on, but not so often about projects that haven't been as successful. In this session, five of our colleagues did the latter, giving attendees insights into what had not worked in their particular projects, why it hadn't worked, and what they had learned from their experience. Collette McDonough (Kettering Foundation) discussed challenges in her organization with trying to introduce and build a digital archive; she outlined many setbacks she has encountered in past years, but shared the overall message that it is important for us to keep trying when we are working on project of value, even if we hear 'no' often. Sarah Aisenbrey (Sisters of the Precious Blood) shared her challenges in inventorying contents of archival collections, and the progress and limits she's encountered with using PastPerfect software for this work. Amy Rohmiller (University of Dayton) talked about two blog projects she had worked on at a previous job, and discussed that while both had been created with good intentions and support, neither was successful because neither became a high enough priority for those working on them. Tina Ratcliff (Montgomery County Records Center & Archives) talked about the tensions many archivists balance between wanting to do excellent work on everything, but often not having the resources, time, or other support to do so. Ratcliff encouraged folks to remember that failure on a project can actually be an opportunity to move your efforts in a new direction that ultimately is successful. Finally, Adam Wanter (MidPointe Library System) discussed a grant-funded digitization project that met multiple challenges and had to change scope because of insufficient planning at the project's beginning. Through all of these presentations and the ensuing panel discussion, two themes emerged that we can all learn from: failure is going to happen to all of us at some time, but failure also presents an opportunity to learn how to be more successful in our future endeavors.

## SESSION:

**The Digital Helen Keller Archive Education Project:  
Teaching a Fully Accessible Online Collection**

*Presenters: Elizabeth Neal and Helen Selsdon, American Foundation for the Blind*

*Session synopsis: Brittany Hayes, University of Akron*

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) is committed to children's education and advocating for children that are blind and visually impaired. Their greatest champion was Helen

Keller (1880-1968) who bestowed the AFB her collection. With support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the AFB launched the Helen Keller Archive which is free and fully accessible online. The Helen Keller Archive has over 80,000 items including correspondence, speeches, press clippings, scrapbooks, photographs, architectural drawings, artifacts and audio recordings spanning from the 19th century into the 20th century. In their presentation, Elizabeth Neal and Helen Selsdon of AFB talk about Helen Keller's archival collection, it's accessibility features, the digitization process, and creating a curriculum for middle and high school students.

Making the Helen Keller Archive accessible for the blind and visually impaired is important. Accessibility will also improve a site's cross-browser and cross-device compatibility as well as lead to better discoverability and improved search engine placement. Transcripts are also vital in discoverability in that they make multimedia like video and audio clips usable for patrons who cannot see or hear. Transcripts can also be indexed by search engines as well. During the presentation Neal gave a demo on how someone would navigate the site with assistive technology and keyboard navigation.

Most of the people that worked for this archive are volunteers. Neal believes it is important to assemble a diverse team including people with disabilities. Volunteers helped with transcriptions and testing the website's usability. Regarding testing the website's ability, Neal noted that it is always revealing and it improves the website in least expected ways.

Digitization of the Helen Keller Archive was done with accessibility in mind. Selsdon described some of the techniques the vendor did including carefully defining image resolutions to allow for zooms and pans on each image and Optical Character Recognition which is a software program that converts an image to text.

In the last part of their presentation, Neal and Selsdon discussed bringing the Helen Keller Archive to the classroom and creating a curriculum for middle and high school students. The first lesson plan—Introduction to Digital and Physical Archives—and the second lesson plan—Primary and Secondary Sources—were launched in December 2019. It was pilot tested at M.S. 447 in Brooklyn, New York. Each lesson is intended to fit in one or two class periods and contains accompanying worksheets and links to relevant curriculum standards.

## SESSION:

**Experiencing War: A Project to Preserve and Make Accessible Oral Histories of World War II**

*Presenters: Nick Pavlik and Michelle Sweetser, Bowling Green State University*

*Session synopsis: William Modrow, Miami University*

The presenters discussed their digital project with 108 audio-

(continued on page 8)

visual oral interviews with World War II veterans. The interviews were done by students from 2000-2004 as part of a course assignment. An **Ohio History Fund** grant supported salaries and a vendor to assist with the digitization and transcription. Establishing work flows, editing criteria and evaluating digital hosting tools were the time-consuming efforts throughout the project. Through advertising and marketing the project received

great marketing – even a TV interview. The presenters shared many suggestions regarding the challenges and awareness for having proper permissions or legal paperwork – consulting an appropriate legal representative. These digitized oral histories capture the personal experiences from one of the world's most important histories.

#### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE:

**Stephanie Bricking**, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County (co-chair); **Rachael Bussert**, Dayton Metro Library; **Madeleine Fix**, Nationwide; **Brittany Hayes**, The University of Akron; **Betsy Hedler**, Ohio History Connection (SOA/OHC Liaison); **Collette McDonough**, Kettering Foundation; **Ashleigh Minor**, The Ohio State University; **William Modrow**, Miami University (co-chair); **Cate Putirskis**, The Ohio State University; **Anne Ryckbost**, Xavier University

## Ohio History Day Awards

By **Stephanie Shreffler**, University of Dayton, Awards Committee Co-Chair

Since 1999, SOA 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 2020 National History Day in Ohio-state level competition was held virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The junior award winners were Reena Ding, Sofya Lukacheva, and Colleen Schweninger for their website, "The Wild West Wonder from Western Ohio: How Annie Oakley Shot Down Barriers." They visited the Garst Museum in Greenville, Ohio, to research directly from primary sources about Annie Oakley. They also used historical newspapers, photographs, and letters to better understand Oakley's life.

The senior award winners were Elena Johnson and Reynolds Huard for their documentary, "The Athens Asylum." They visited Ohio University and the Southeast Ohio History Center to research primary sources about the Asylum, which included patient newsletters, photos, and reports. They also visited the Asylum themselves to better understand its history.

**Congratulations to the 2020 History Day Award winners!**



# Merit Awards and New Professional Scholarship Awards

By *Devhira Bennett Jones*, Lloyd Library and Museum, Awards Committee Co-Chair

**T**HE SOCIETY OF OHIO Archivists annually honors archivists and organizations that have contributed to the growth and leadership of archives in the state of Ohio. The SOA Merit Award is given to those that have by their excellence contributed to archives over the past year. The New Professional and Student Scholarship Awards to attend the Annual Meeting are presented to archival professionals with three years or less experience in the workplace and students enrolled in archives higher education.

The 2020 SOA Merit awards were presented to the two nominees, **Cate Putirskis** of Ohio State University and the **Licking County Records Center and Archives**. Ms. Putirskis is honored for her exemplary contributions to archival practices and the profession in the State of Ohio. She has developed and shared innovative approaches to technical services for archival collections as the manager of Archival Description and Access. Following archival theory and best practices, Cate leads a team that is dedicated to providing access to the Ohio State University collections through published EAD finding aids and enriching access to legacy collections. She has exemplified leadership through sharing her time and expertise to the Society of Ohio Archivists by serving on the SOA Council and committees. The Licking Country Records Center and Archives is honored for their admirable work in rescuing over 100 years of records stored in poor environmental conditions. The project extended from 2018 through 2019 in plan development, implementation, and conservation procedures. They recovered hundreds of historical books documenting the history of the Licking County Clerk

of Courts, Treasurer records, and Auditor archives. The team identified records of artifact and evidentiary value for permanent retention and storage. The Licking County Records Center and Archives has ensured that these primary sources will be available for public access for generations to come.

The New Professional honor was awarded to **Marisa Martin, Riza Miklowski, Zoe Orcutt, and Candace Pine**. Marisa Martin attended Gilmour Academy and is their Digital Content Producer. She aims to digitize the archives of the Academy and make them accessible in a museum setting. Riza Miklowski will begin work on the M.S. in Library and Information Science in the summer of 2020. She is an Archives and Special Collections Intern at the Oberlin College Archives and Special Collections. Zoe Orcutt earned a M.S. in Library and Information Science from Syracuse University and is the Library Research Assistant at the University of Akron University Libraries. Candace Pine merited a M.S. in Library and Information Science from Kent State University. She volunteered as an Intern at the Miami University Walter Havighurst Special Collections & University Archives. Due to the circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic and the absence of Student Scholarship applications the SOA leadership presented the four New Professionals applicants the awards of one-year membership in SOA, complimentary attendance at the SOA Virtual Meeting in June, and the opportunity to engage in professional development interviews with SOA leaders. Join the SOA leadership in congratulations to these outstanding Merit Awards and New Professional Scholarship Awards winners!

## Welcome to the newly elected members of council!



VICE PRESIDENT / PRESIDENT ELECT

**Sherri Goudy**

Nerd Girl History Adventure



TREASURER

**Lisa Rickey**

Wright State University Libraries



COUNCIL MEMBER

**Melissa Dalton**

Greene County Records Center & Archives

# A CLOSER LOOK AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES' SUFFRAGE SCRAPBOOKS

## "Vote for Woman Suffrage!"

By Jolie Braun, The Ohio State University Libraries

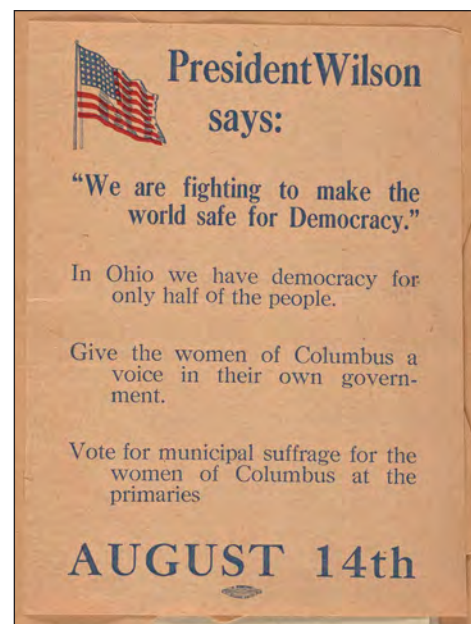
**T**HIS YEAR MARKS THE 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, and cultural heritage institutions across the country have been working on exhibits, programming, and digital content in honor of the women's suffrage centennial. Here in Ohio, it has been an opportunity for organizations to showcase the state's rich suffrage history and vital role in the national movement. Not only was Ohio the home of leaders such as Lucy Stone, Harriet Taylor Upton, and Mary Church Terrell, but it also was the site of Sojourner Truth's famous speech at the 1851 Ohio Women's Rights Convention and served as the headquarters of the National American Woman Suffrage Association during the early 1900s.

At The Ohio State University Libraries, one of our centennial projects has been to digitize suffrage materials in our holdings. Two items of note are the Library's suffrage scrapbooks. Both are part of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library (RBML), a special collections unit that collects, preserves, and provides access to primary source materials from medieval manuscripts to contemporary novels and zines. As curator of RBML's modern literature and historical collections, I first encountered the scrapbooks in 2018 during my initial research to assess what we had related to suffrage. After looking through the first few pages of one of the volumes, I was convinced they should be shared with a wider audience.

The two scrapbooks—one containing pro-suffrage materials, the other containing anti-suffrage items—collectively provide a window into the efforts and concerns of those involved in the women's suffrage movement as well as their victories and the opposition they faced. Both scrapbooks contain pamphlets, flyers, clippings, and other publications from the late nineteenth century through the early twentieth century.

The contents demonstrate the international reach of the movement, from items about Western states where women could vote to materials about suffrage in England, France, and Australia. Local efforts are represented as well, such as a handbill stating, "President Wilson says: 'We are fighting to make the world safe for democracy. In Ohio we have democracy for only half the people. Give the women of Columbus a voice in their own government.'" (A reference to the August 1917 election that saw women in the city gain municipal suffrage.) Several publications were distributed by the Woman Suffrage Central Committee in Columbus, evident from the organization's stamp found throughout the materials, and at least one pamphlet includes the additional stamp, "Vote for Woman Suffrage, September 3, Amendment No. 23," referring to the Ohio Suffrage Amendment of 1912.

The pro-suffrage scrapbook features a wide array of materials. Essays by prominent suffragists such as Alice Stone Blackwell, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman reveal that the vote was one part of a larger debate about women's rights, which also included discussions about equal pay, age of consent, marriage, property, and child labor laws. Beyond these articles are other fascinating pieces of ephemera. One example is Ida Sedgwick Proper's "The Anti-Suffrage Parade," a fold-out cartoon satirizing opponents of women's suffrage. Another is sheet music for Ethel Smyth's "The March of the Women," the anthem of the British suffrage organization the Women's Social and Political Union, small enough to carry in one's pocket to a protest. Although mainstream media often depicted suffragists as humorless scolds, a gag booklet suggests otherwise. "Do you know all the reasons why the ballot should not be granted to women? Here's the answer," consists of a series of blank pages with



This 1917 handbill encourages male readers to vote for women's municipal suffrage in Columbus, Ohio. Pro-Suffrage Scrapbook, Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, The Ohio State University Libraries

the last page declaring, "There aren't any!" Together, these items show the many ways that suffragists argued for the right to vote.

Many of the materials within the anti-suffrage scrapbook stress the potential consequences of women obtaining the right to vote, which these writers contended would negatively impact domestic life and the social order. A few articles highlight the militant tactics of British suffragettes, attempting to provoke anxiety about potential violence of the movement in America. One of the most notable items in the volume is a special anti-suffragist section of the newspaper *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* edited by prominent anti-suffragist Josephine Jewell Dodge.

Who made these scrapbooks? Unfortunately, RBML lacks provenance information. Given the prevalence of library stamps, it seemed plausible that the items had been collected by Library staff. When I spoke to University Archivist Tamar Chute about Ohio State during the early 1900s, she noted that many faculty

(continued on page 11)





Three of the twelve characters in Ida Sedgwick Proper's fold-out cartoon "The Anti-Suffrage Parade." Pro-Suffrage Scrapbook, Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, The Ohio State University Libraries

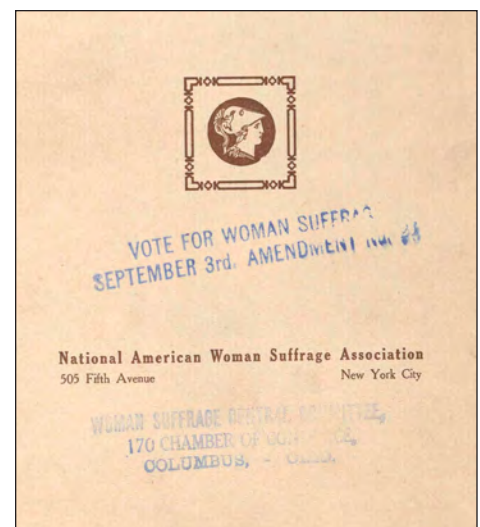
wives supported the cause and suggested that it also was possible that one had gathered these materials and donated them to the Library. Although we don't know the exact origin of these pieces, the scrapbooks show an engagement with the women's suffrage movement at the university and a recognition of the importance of preserving this part of American history.

The suffrage centennial was a key motivation in digitizing the scrapbooks, but access and preservation played a part as well. Both volumes are fragile and consist of brittle, acidified paper. Making them available online means that the Library can provide access without putting a strain on the physical objects. Digitization was a significant undertaking, drawing on the expertise of a dozen staff across special collections, content and access, and IT. The most intensive part of the process was imaging the scrapbooks, which was overseen by Digitization Program Manager Amy McCrory. Using an overhead camera to photograph

the volumes prevented damage to the materials and allowed for close-up shots, making even the smallest bulletins with tiny print readable. Because of the curve of the scrapbooks' pages, Amy used a variety of props to get the items as flat as possible for OCR while still striving to retain some dimensionality that would convey a sense of them as artifacts.

The final result is high-resolution digital copies of two fascinating, century-old scrapbooks that reveal the anger, optimism, and labor in the fight for women's suffrage. Readers interested in exploring these volumes are encouraged to visit [The Ohio State University Libraries' Digital Collections site](#).

*Jolie Braun is the Curator of Modern Literature and Manuscripts at The Ohio State University Libraries, where she oversees the modern literature and history collections and provides special collections-based instruction.*



A close up of a scrapbook item that bears stamps of the Woman Suffrage Central Committee and a reminder "Vote for Woman Suffrage September 3rd Amendment No. 23." Pro-Suffrage Scrapbook, Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, The Ohio State University Libraries

# The Great Disturbance: The First to Leave and the Last to Return

By **Christine Engels**, Cincinnati Museum Center

**Features Editor Note:** This article grew from one of the presentations on "Moving Archives" that was part of the archival track at the Ohio Local History Alliance meeting in October 2019. It documents the very elaborate and detailed preparations required of collections staff coordinating and then living with a major, multi-year move.

IN 2014 THE VOTERS of Hamilton County approved a temporary sales tax to restore and repair Cincinnati Union Terminal. Opened in 1933 the terminal was long overdue for deferred maintenance and substantial infrastructure work. Since 1990 Cincinnati Museum Center (CMC) occupied the terminal and had grown from its beginning with the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, the Cincinnati Historical Society [now Cincinnati History Library and Archives (CHLA)] to include a Children's Museum and much more. This is my recollection of a ridiculously busy time for CMC as we emptied the terminal of collections, exhibits, offices, and workrooms. We had colossal goals to achieve and I remain utterly grateful for my coworkers' dedication and hard work.

Because of the size and complexity of moving an archives and library we wanted to move before everyone else in the terminal was moving. Despite its size, Cincinnati Union Terminal only has one loading dock. In August 2015 I began prepping the manuscript collection to move and my colleague Jim DaMico did the same for AV. The first collections to move were those stored at our Geier Collections & Research Center near the terminal in Queensgate. The archives backlog was there along with CMC's institutional archives and other collections. To optimize the space, we wanted to add compact shelving to the side of the room that still had static shelving. The Manuscript, AV, and Printed Works collection backlogs were placed on pallets, tracked, shrink wrapped, and eventually moved to the Union Terminal in November while we obtained offsite storage. CMC's institutional records were placed on more than one hundred carts and stored in the breakroom in the Geier building. While we did have to rent these carts while the new shelving was installed, it was worth it to maintain access to our records, which were used extensively in the restoration project by architects and engineers.

In early 2016 we placed the CMC Archives on the new shelves at Geier and turned our attention to moving out of Union Terminal. It took months to move all of the collections, some going to our Geier building and others going to long term storage. The collections in long term storage were inaccessible for three years. We could go and check on them but they remained shrink wrapped on pallets the entire time. While we did have to redo a few pallets that were too large and unwieldy, there were surprisingly few crushed boxes at the end of the move. We would have preferred the collections to be shelved but we did all we could to ensure their safety given our constraints.



CMC's institutional records remained accessible if needed while new compact shelving was installed. Photo by Scott Gampfer

The entire move was done in a remarkably low tech fashion. Anne Kling, Manager of Collection Databases, created our workflow for tracking every aspect of the move. Staff supervised at all times while the movers did the heavy lifting. We used checklists for each collection (Manuscripts, Printed Works, AV, equipment) which we then recorded in spreadsheets. We erred on the side of extra caution at all times.

In May 2016 we finished moving our offices to Geier permanently and began a two-year period of sort of being open while still closed. We did not take our decision to close the library during renovation lightly. There simply were not adequate facilities for us to be open to the public at our Geier building. That building had just become the new home for many of CMC's education and outreach staff so space was tight. We decided that the CHLA would only answer reference questions through email. We referred patrons to other local archives and libraries for basic regional questions and focused on helping people with our unique collection. We did more research for patrons than normal since they couldn't come in themselves. By 2018 we were settled in enough to allow select researchers into our very small reading room (seats 2) by appointment.

While we were closed to the public we were busy planning our new storage spaces and reading room at Union Terminal, while also attempting to process collections with limited workspace, and answering reference questions as best we could. Staff reductions and retirements dropped the number of people working in the library to just a handful. Thankfully our patrons were understanding of our situation and were quite patient with us once they realized that we were operating with only two people

(continued on page 13)



answering reference emails.

We felt badly for how inconvenienced researchers would be, but our own research was affected too. Most of CMC's exhibits were dismantled when we moved out of the building so we needed to create new permanent exhibits. This was challenging due to staffing but also because not all of our collection was accessible to us at that time. The Public Landing, a recreation of mid-nineteenth century Cincinnati's riverfront, was being updated and we also began planning two new history exhibits with a third in the beginning stages. It was not easy but ingenuity and teamwork can produce excellent results.

While we were closed we still offered advice to other organizations and institutions who wished to keep their own records. We continued to review potential donations which the owners kindly held onto until we were ready to take them. We also were planning a new offsite storage facility since the footprint of the CHLA at Union Terminal was reduced by over

20,000 sq. ft. The move from palletized collection storage to shelved collections in an offsite building took place in 2019.

Thinking back over the past five years, it is rather astonishing the amount of complicated projects so few of us were juggling. A multiphase move, while planning for new facilities, creating new exhibits, and helping our patrons remotely tested us in new ways but also made us rely on each other more than ever. Having good relationships and a solid reputation both within your organization and in the greater community proved essential. We had senior leadership's trust to work in the best possible manner we knew and we were grateful and respectful of that. We had a good rapport with our Security and Engineering teams which made any logistical or mechanical problems easier to navigate. We developed a very trusting relationship with Wessels Workplace Services and they handled all of our collection moves expertly. A good relationship requires you hear the other person and understand their perspective and motivations. When everyone involved understands the part that they play in each other's goals teamwork becomes second nature.

Other important skills we leaned heavily into were Adaptability and its close friend Patience. With so many moving parts it was inevitable that we would occasionally hit obstacles. By the end of the move we all had become adept at having extra backup plans in mind even when things appeared to be going well. Preparation is key to a successful move and that requires a keen eye for details. There was a colossal amount of work done by the CHLA staff that was tedious, like counting types and sizes of shelving units accumulated over the years, calculating the space we would need, checking boxes for durability and labeling, and so many other tasks. Without this pre-move work it would not have gone as smoothly as it did.

Throughout the period leading up to everyone leaving the terminal I attempted to help staff members as they sorted through their records. I went to people's offices, cubicles, and storage rooms to help them sort through and retain only what was necessary. Everyone was moving to smaller workspaces so the influx of records destined for CMC Archives was overwhelming and it arrived while we were moving collections. Often I found a pile of boxes at my door with a note but most people followed the guidelines I provided. We were beginning to sort through those boxes in early 2020, work which can hopefully resume soon.

We planned to reopen the reading room in July 2019 so in the spring of 2019 we hired a Library Manager, Jill Beitz, and library assistants. Since the collection was mostly no longer at Union Terminal we now had to hire couriers to page items for patrons. This also required a new set of protocols for requesting and handling items and a dedicated collections van. As we celebrated the library's reopening we were still moving collections to our offsite storage. This involved breaking down the pallets of boxes and arranging them in order on the shelves. This did go slower but since we had tracked everything we were able to piece the backlog collections back together again. This finished in November 2019 and we began inventorying the collection in January 2020.

(continued on page 14)



For shelf to shelf moves collections were moved in order onto carts, shrink wrapped, loaded into a truck and delivered to another building. Photo by Scott Gampfer



Everything had to be moved, including card catalogs, offices, and equipment. Photo by Scott Gampfer

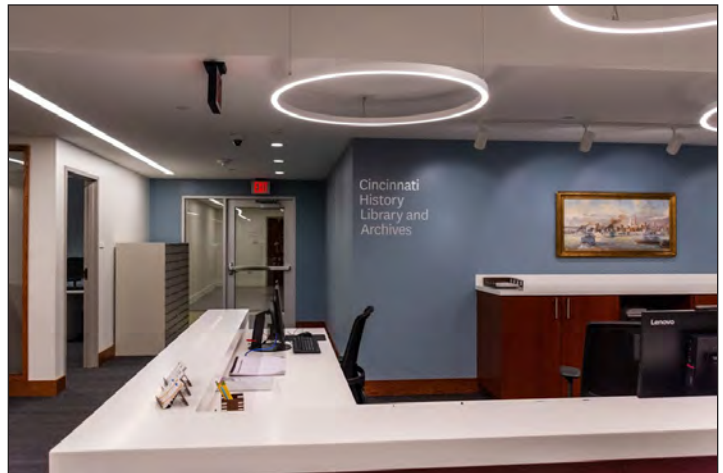
It would be irresponsible to not also mention the mental and emotional toll that this complicated and protracted move had on the CHLA staff. These years often felt like we were caught in a whirlwind, flying from one huge task to another and back again. By the end of the move we had learned to schedule our time more generously, building in days off. For the sake of everyone's health you should have breaks every few weeks when you're doing a protracted move, if possible. We were on a tight schedule to get out of the terminal but thankfully had more time for the return. Blessed to have a team and movers with a great sense of humor, we also allowed each other to express the exhaustion, frustration, or disappointments the day brought. In a way we almost had a siege-like mentality. We gathered at the beginning and end of the day to report on progress and also to check in on each other.

During this time several staff members were caring for elderly parents, several of whom passed away before the move was finished. We supported each other as best we could, but speaking from experience, it's hard to hold on to a semblance of normalcy when your workplace and family life are upended. I saw all of the small and large acts of kindness from my coworkers when my parents died and I try to extend that level of concern to those who are still caregivers or are struggling. Now as we try to reopen in a new fashion during the covid-19 pandemic we've found ourselves drawing upon the resilience and flexibility we developed over the years during "The Great Disturbance."

**Christine Engels** has been the Archives Manager at the Cincinnati Museum Center since 2011. She began her work with the Cincinnati Museum Center in 2007 as Assistant Archivist. Prior to that, she was an archivist at the American Jewish Archives. Engels is also active in regional and national professional organizations and is a past president of SOA as well as a Certified Archivist.



The neat and tidy end product is always worth the work. Photo by Scott Gampfer



The renovated reading room welcomed researchers back in July 2019. Photo by Scott Gampfer.

# DEAI and You(r Digital Collections)

By Jenni Salamon, Ohio History Connection

**D**IVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION (DEAI) have been on the minds of archivists and other cultural heritage professionals for a while, and likely even more so over the past few months with the rise of national protests against systemic racism. Some organizations have released statements in support of the Black Lives Matter movement (see SOA's at the beginning of this issue and on the [website](#)), and other marginalized groups, including LGBTQ people, immigrants, Muslims and people with disabilities. Taking a stand, while a vitally important first step, is just that—a first step, and ideally will be followed by actions that help fight the problem at its core, and lead to meaningful change. There are numerous ways that systemic discrimination needs to be addressed in libraries, archives and museums from the top-down, but what are some steps that we, as archivists, can take in our daily work?

## Self-Education/Reflection

- DEAI is complex, and implementing change on both an institutional and individual level will require research and reflection on tough topics such as implicit bias, systemic racism and white privilege. Read books or articles, watch documentaries and attend webinars produced by experts in these topics, and be open to challenging your own assumptions.
- Your journey does not have to be solo, so consider establishing a support network with a diverse group of trusted friends and colleagues for discussion, advice and recommendations.

### Resources

- [“158 Resources to Understand Racism in America” by Meilan Solly, via Smithsonian Magazine](#)
- [Anti-Racism Reading List via Ohio Wesleyan University](#)
- [The BIPOC Project](#)
- [Black Lives Matter](#)
- [The Institutional Diversity Blog](#)
- [Project Implicit](#)

## Collections

- Review your collection development policies and practices, and update them if needed to ensure your institution is intentionally seeking materials representing diverse audiences. Establishing clear collecting and digitization priorities will make it easier to create action plans and be held accountable.
- Examine the language used in your subject headings, metadata descriptions and other documentation to ensure your word choice is appropriate and sensitive. Establish guidelines so that everyone producing content is following the same standards.

### Resources

- [Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion Resources via American Alliance of Museums](#)

(continued on page 16)

## What is DEAI?

Source: American Association of Museums

### Diversity:

Diversity is all the ways that people are different and the same at the individual and group levels. Even when people appear the same, they are different. Organizational diversity requires examining and questioning the makeup of a group to ensure that multiple perspectives are represented.

### Equity:

Equity is the fair and just treatment of all members of a community. Equity requires commitment to strategic priorities, resources, respect, and civility, as well as ongoing action and assessment of progress toward achieving specified goals.

### Accessibility:

Accessibility is giving equitable access to everyone along the continuum of human ability and experience. Accessibility encompasses the broader meanings of compliance and refers to how organizations make space for the characteristics that each person brings.

### Inclusion:

Inclusion refers to the intentional, ongoing effort to ensure that diverse individuals fully participate in all aspects of organizational work, including decision-making processes. It also refers to the ways that diverse participants are valued as respected members of an organization and/or community. While a truly “inclusive” group is necessarily diverse, a “diverse” group may or may not be “inclusive.”



- **Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives via Society of American Archivists**
- **Homosaurus, an international LGBTQ linked data vocabulary via Digital Transgender Archive**
- **The Inclusive Historian's Handbook**
- **"Native American collections in archives, libraries and museums at the University of California, Berkeley"**
- **"Writing about Slavery/Teaching About Slavery: This Might Help" community-sourced document by P. Gabrielle Foreman, et al.**

## Outreach

- Cultivate relationships with underserved audiences to learn what they want and need from your cultural heritage institution, and use that information to shape internal policy and public outreach.
- Work with members of these audiences to develop educational materials and curate exhibits (virtual or in-person) highlighting their stories. A **"nothing about us without us"** strategy will increase the success of your efforts to the new audiences you want to reach, and help bridge knowledge gaps *for your existing audiences*.

### Resources

- **Community Building via National Museum of African American History & Culture/Smithsonian Institution**
- **Native Knowledge 360 via National Museum of the American Indian/Smithsonian Institution**
- **Racial Equity Tools**

Little steps are often needed to precipitate big change, and the ones suggested above are just a start. As archivists, we're committed to preserving the history of our community, and it is our responsibility to ensure we're preserving the history of our entire community, respectfully and equitably.



## Individual Member News



**Dawne Dewey** retired as Head of **Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries**, at the end of May 2020, with 31 years of service at Wright State. Among the many achievements throughout her long and exciting career, Dawne has served as President of the Society of Ohio Archivists,

first chair of the Miami Valley Archives Roundtable, and Director of Public History graduate study at Wright State. She recently shared reflections on her career with the **Wright State News Room** and **Dayton.com**.

**Lisa Rickey** and **Toni Vanden Bos** have recently completed the successful renewal of their **Digital Archives Specialist (DAS)** certifications from Society of American Archivists. **Kayla Harris** completed the certification for the first time.

**Jane Wildermuth** has been named the new Head of **Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries**, as of July 1, 2020. Jane was previously the head of the **Wright State University Libraries' Digital Initiatives and Repository Services** department, which has now been merged with Special Collections and Archives under her leadership. More information is available in the Wright State News Room **announcement**.



## Institutional Member News

### Cleveland State University's Michael Schwartz Library Special Collections

A crowd-sharing project has been beneficial for **Cleveland State University's Michael Schwartz Library Special Collections** area while the staff have been working from home during the Covid-19 pandemic. During the move of Special Collection's CONTENTdm database to OCLC in 2019, uploads to Cleveland Memory had to be put on hold. Meanwhile library student assistants continued to scan additional images, creating a backlog of digital images needing cataloging. To help reduce the backlog, volunteers were recruited over Facebook and set up with a Google Drive method of cataloging backlogged images. Using Virtual Private Network (VPN) access to the library's servers, digital files were moved to Google Drive folders, examined for what work each required, and distributed to a progression of folders to iron out each type of correction. Cataloging was performed using a Google Sheets spreadsheet, backed up with on-line instructions. Still in its early phases when the coronavirus struck, the Google based processing method was easily switched to supporting staff and students working remotely. In some instances, this method could be used by Cleveland Memory's many partnering institutions, remotely adding their own images. It has worked effectively in these trying times and more information about this system is available from Bill Barrow, at [w.barrow@csuohio.edu](mailto:w.barrow@csuohio.edu).



### Defiance College

**Defiance College** was awarded a grant by the Council of Independent Colleges under its **Humanities Research for the Public Good** program, titled, "I Am An American: Exploring 20th and 21st Century Immigration Literature in Northern Ohio." It will educate Defiance College students on the problems and experiences of immigrants in the early 20th century and today, using documents already digitized in our **Defiance College Memory site**. The tracts on that page of the site are from **Schauffler College**, formerly of Cleveland; Defiance holds Schauffler's archives. The tracts promote Schauffler's students' work with immigrants in Cleveland and beyond in the early 1900s. Defiance College students will read the tracts and related immigration materials, and then work with a local agency which aids immigrants in the 21st century. The grant was to have begun in Fall 2020, but because of the Covid pandemic, has been postponed to Fall 2021.

(continued on page 18)

## Mount St. Joseph University

As part of its Centennial celebration in 2020, **Mount St. Joseph University** has digitized a complete run of The Seton Journal, the school's student newspaper from 1923-1970. After receiving a grant from the **SC Ministry Foundation's Sister Elise Fund**, the Mount made the collection available to the public through **Ohio Memory**. The Seton Journal not only provides a look into the lives of the young women educated during the Mount's first fifty years, but also documents the work of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, the University's founders, and their mission to provide higher education opportunities to women. In addition, the newspaper captures the societal shifts of twentieth century America through the changing lives

of young women at a small Ohio college. The Seton Journal collection can be viewed in its entirety [here](#).

## Ohio Digital Network

As of Summer 2020, the **Ohio Digital Network** is sharing over 230,000 digitized items through the **Digital Public Library of America**, and the contribution continues to grow. 24 Ohio institutions with special collections of all sizes are currently participating, and with more in process, to join in the over 38 million freely available digital items on DPLA. Participation is free, so if you are interested in adding a special collection to DPLA, contact us at [info@ohiodigitalnetwork.org](mailto:info@ohiodigitalnetwork.org).

## Letter from the editor

I want to take a moment to thank all of the many contributors to this issue of the Ohio Archivist. There are not adequate words to describe 2020 so far (and as I write this in July, it's hard to predict what things will even look like when this issue is published) but I am so proud of the work of my colleagues across Ohio.

If you are interested in contributing your stories, accomplishments, research, or ideas to the Ohio Archivist please see our [submission guidelines](#) for more information, or email me ([kharris2@udayton.edu](mailto:kharris2@udayton.edu)) directly.

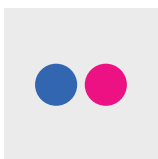


Ohio Archivist is edited and published for the Society of Ohio Archivists by the Ohio History Connection.

## Connect with SOA



Get the latest news about SOA and the archivist profession in Ohio! Join us on the SOA Listserv, Facebook group, and LinkedIn group.



Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/ohioarchivists](http://www.flickr.com/photos/ohioarchivists)

Pinterest: [www.pinterest.com/ohioarchivists/](http://www.pinterest.com/ohioarchivists/)

SOA website: [www.ohioarchivists.org/](http://www.ohioarchivists.org/)

Twitter: [twitter.com/ohioarchivists](https://twitter.com/ohioarchivists)