

A Green New Deal for Archives

Eira Tansey, University of Cincinnati
May 20, 2022, Society of Ohio Archivists

Four key points

1. Risk to archives is inevitable and increasing because of climate change
2. The main line of defense against archival loss is people
3. We can learn from the precedent of the New Deal
4. We need a Green New Deal to ensure a future for archives

Key Point #1

1. Risk to archives is inevitable and increasing because of climate change
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Climate change and archives



Climate Risk Management

Volume 20, 2018, Pages 111-125

American archives and climate change: Risks and adaptation

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Highlights

- Climate risks to cultural heritage in archives are unevenly distributed across the U.S.
- Climate change will modify archive risk exposure in the future.
- Archivists need reliable and local climate risk information for planning.
- Climate risk analysis and mapping can inform adaptation efforts.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2018.03.005>

Hurricane Katrina

<https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna9316512>

SECURITY

Katrina victims face identity crisis

Birth certificates, marriage licenses and drivers licenses were washed away in the storm. Without the usual means for identifying themselves, Katrina's victims face another major obstacle to normalcy.



Former New Orleans resident Dean Jones gets help filling out an application for new identification from state employee Tiffany Allen at the River Center shelter in Baton Rouge, La., on Saturday. Jim Seida / MSNBC.com

Key Point #2

1. Risk to archives is inevitable and increasing because of climate change
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Closure of Georgia Archives

The New York Times

Budget Cuts to Hobble State Archives in Georgia



The Georgia archives has state-of-the art equipment, including four floodproof vaults in the building's core. Virginie Drujon-Kippelen for The New York Times

By **Kim Severson**

Sept. 26, 2012

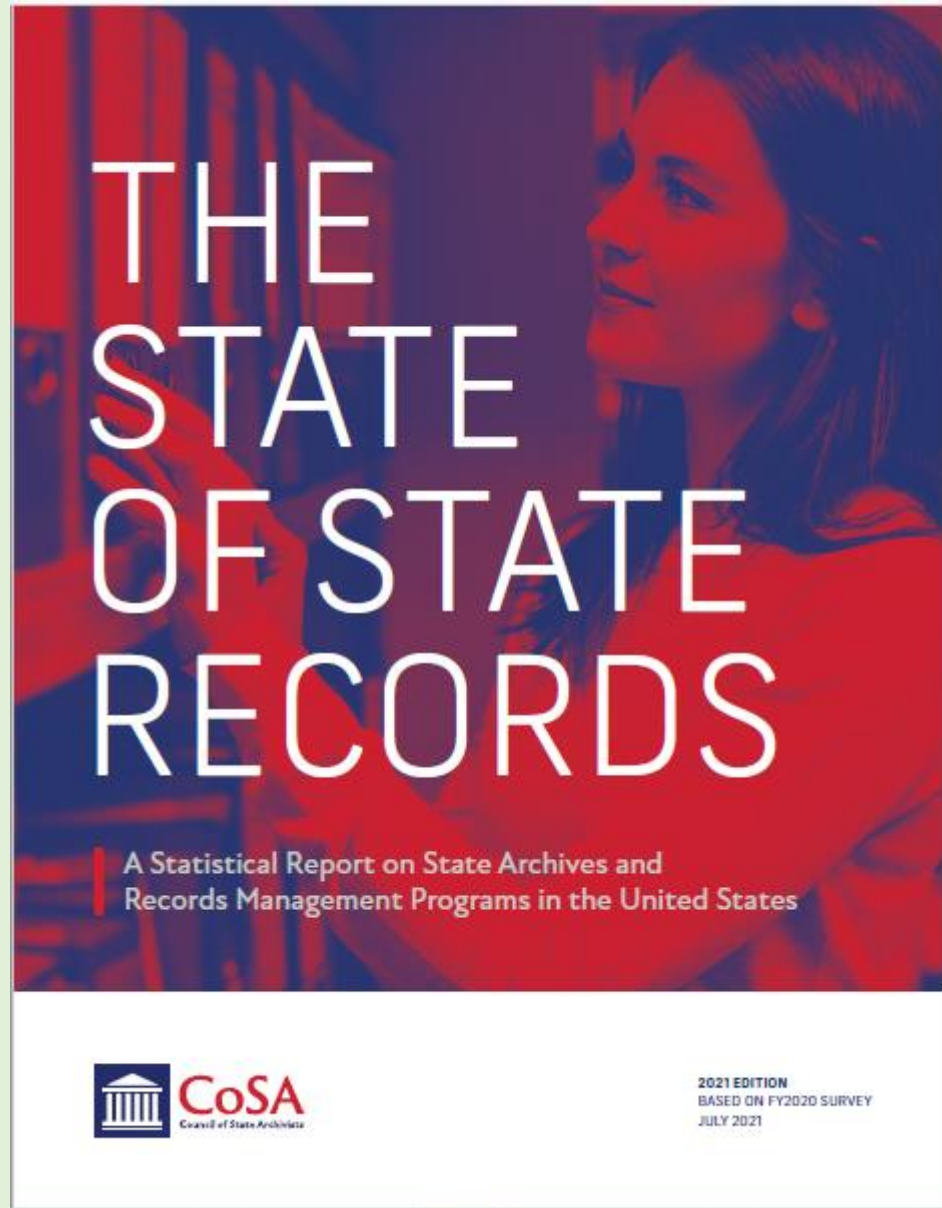
MORROW, Ga. — The Georgia Archives, which holds both historical curiosities and virtually every important state government document ever created, is about to become nearly impossible to visit.

CoSA data



	2020 Census Pop	FY20 State Archives and RM Program FTE
California	39,538,223	31
Texas	29,145,505	38
Florida	21,538,187	41
New York	20,201,249	66
Pennsylvania	13,002,700	33
Illinois	12,812,508	45
Ohio	11,799,448	8
Georgia	10,711,908	28.25
North Carolina	10,439,388	69
Michigan	10,077,331	24

<https://www.statearchivists.org/viewdocument/2021-the-state-of-state-records-a>



Key Point #3

1. Risk to archives is inevitable and increasing because of climate change
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Historical Records Survey in Cincinnati and Cleveland



<https://ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p267401coll34/id/4239/>

<https://www.ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p267401coll34/id/5475>

HRS Survey Forms

(Worker's full name) _____ (Date) _____ (Form identification number) _____

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF WOMEN'S AND PROFESSIONAL PROJECTS
THE HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY, 1937
1734 NEW YORK AVE. NW.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

VOLUMES AND UNBOUND RECORDS FORM

County Cook State Ill.
Name of agency or office Dept. Public Service
(Office of custody) (Office which made the record, if different)
Address of office of custody 212 E. Superior
(Name of building, room number, street address)

1. Title River Improvement Contracts
(Give complete full title in quotes; assigned title, if any, in brackets. If record has had other titles, list them with dates or quantities or both)

2. Dates 1892-1931
(Earliest and latest dates; missing dates. Show exact date of breaks)

3. Quantity 3 vols. (1) 1 F.B.
(Number of volumes; file drawers; file boxes; bundles; other)

4. Labeling none
(Explain fully; years; numbers; letters; number of records so labeled)

5. Discontinued and missing records no other records found here
(If record discontinued, give reason and state whether same information shown in another record. Explain why records are missing, if possible)

6. Contents A record of river improvement contracts showing date; name of river; location or between what points; nature and kind of improvement; kind, quantity, and cost of material; cost of labor; name of contractor; terms & obligations; Also 1 F.B. of original contracts (1918-23)
(Purpose and general nature of record. Principal items of information shown. Summary of forms used in making record. If a very general or miscellaneous record, detailed information as to types of records contained and dates covered by their headings, etc. Unless contents of these records are described by other forms 12-13HR, such forms should be filled out and attached)

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HRS Survey Forms

W. P. A. Form 2011H

Margaret A. Welsh
(Worker's full name)

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
SURVEY OF STATE AND LOCAL HISTORICAL RECORDS: 1936

OHIO HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY
(Name of State)

CHURCH RECORDS FORM

(Leave this space blank)

1. County Hamilton City or town Cincinnati

2. Name of church Rockdale Ave. Temple Street address Rockdale and Harvey Avenues.
Rev. David Phillipson, D.D.

3. Denomination Reformed Jewish Date organized Jan. 18, 1824.

4. Date of lapse, if now defunct None.

5. Information as to previous buildings 1836 - Broadway near 6th; 1852 - 6th & Broadway;
1869 - 8th & Mound Sts.; 1905 - Rockdale and Harvey Sts.

6. Date present building dedicated or consecrated Sept. 4, 1905 Rebuilt No

7. Architecture, bells, inscriptions, special features of building Greek Roman Architecture, brick.
Inscription "My House shall be called a House of Prayer for all peoples."

8. First settled clergyman Dr. M. Lilienthal Tenure 1842 - 1854
Educational background Germany

9. Minute books Minutes of Trustees and Congregational meetings; 3 volumes;
(By years, volumes, file boxes, etc.)
1905 - date; previous records in storage.

10. Register books of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, members, deaths
Records of marriages and deaths back to 1824 packed in boxes in the basement.
No recent records kept of marriages, deaths.

(See reverse side)

SAS 1169/
SAS 1163, Historical
Records Survey,
Archives and Library,
Ohio History
Connection

Historical Records Survey in Cincinnati

GRAD
CD
3447
.A1
H55
1937
no. 31
BUHR

B 1,121,454

INVENTORY OF
THE COUNTY ARCHIVES
OF OHIO

NO. 31
HAMILTON COUNTY
(CINCINNATI)

Historical Records Survey
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Auditor, 365-72

137

365. LONGVIEW HOSPITAL BUILDING COMMISSION RECORD, 1916-24. 1 vol. Record of bills and accounts for the construction of a new addition to the hospital listing nature of work, name of firm supervising work, time and cost accounts. Alph. arr. by names of contractors. No index. Hdw. 74 pp. 16 x 13 x 1. C.C., aud. strm., bmt.

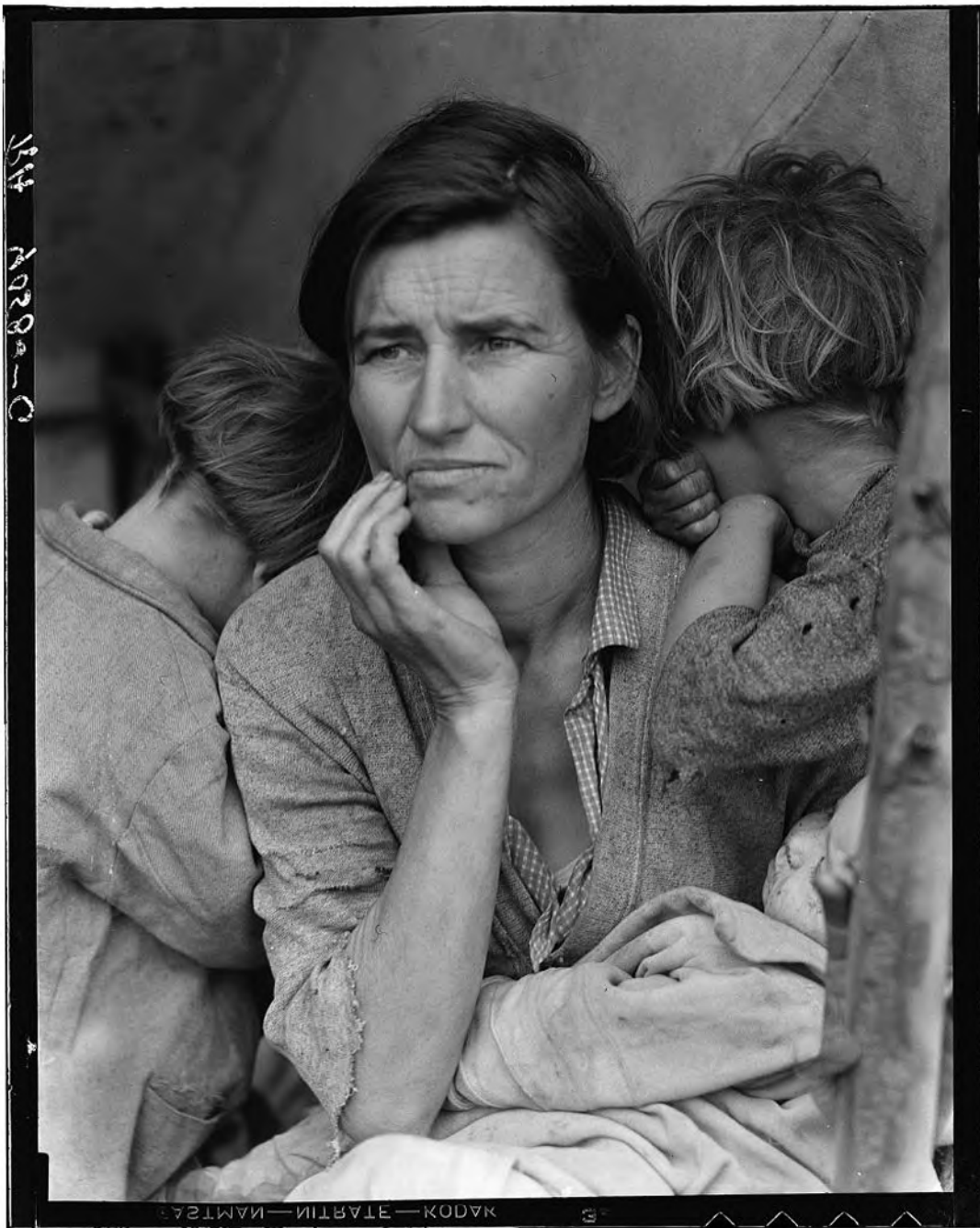
366. BIDS FOR TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL, 1928--. 4 bundles. Record initiated 1928. Tabulations of bids on buildings at tuberculosis hospital. Alph. arr. by names of bidders. No index. Hdw. and typed. 12 x 8 x 3. C.C., Rm. 109.

367. MINUTES, HAMILTON COUNTY TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL BUILDING COMMISSION, 1928--. 1 vol. Records minutes and proceedings of Hamilton County tuberculosis hospital commission. Record is kept in the auditor's office as he is an ex officio member of the commission. Chron. arr. No index. Typed. 600 pp. 16½ x 12½ x 3. C.C., Rm. 109.

Resettlement Administration/ Farm Security Administration

"Destitute pea pickers in California. Mother of seven children. Age thirty-two. Nipomo, California" 1936

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2017762891/>
<https://guides.loc.gov/migrant-mother>



Resettlement Administration/ Farm Security Administration



“Cheap partly-constructed houses lacking water and sewage, Lockland, Ohio” 1935

DOCUMERICA



“Car has just entered the safety lane at an auto emission inspection station in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio.” 1975.

Inspections began in 1940 and were made on a semi-annual basis until January, 1975 when they became an annual event. In addition to the safety check all light duty, spark ignition powered motor vehicles are hooked up to an exhaust analyzer and monitored for carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon emissions. Officials hoped to have 74 percent of the cars in Cincinnati and Norwood inspection by the end of 1975

Lessons from Ohio's Archivists: The Ohio Network

The Ohio Network of American History Research Centers



1. University of Akron
2. Bowling Green State University
3. University of Cincinnati
4. Kent State University
5. Ohio Historical Society
6. Ohio University
7. Western Reserve Historical Society
8. Wright State University



GUIDE TO PRIMARY SOURCES IN OHIO LABOR HISTORY

Compiled by Roger A. Meade and Marjorie J. Myers

Ohio Labor History Project
Ohio Historical Society

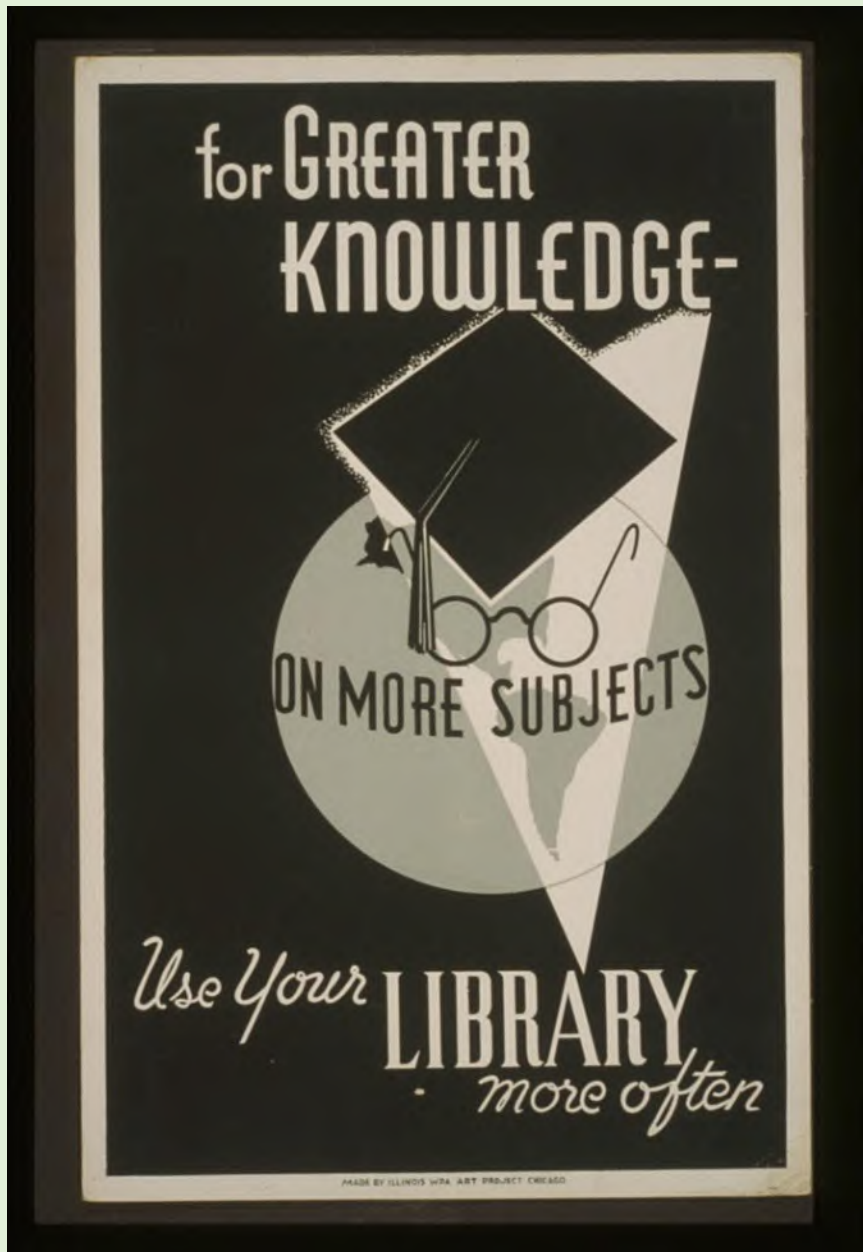
Lessons from Ohio's Archivists: Ohio Labor History Project

Key Point #4

1. Risk to archives is inevitable and increasing because of climate change
2. The main line of defense against archival loss is people
3. We can learn from the precedent of the New Deal
4. **We need a Green New Deal to ensure a future for archives**

A Green New Deal for Archivists

1. Establishing appropriate archivist and records manager staffing for archives with vital records
2. Partnering with emergency management and planning authorities for adaptation and inland migration
3. Archivists as research partners for policy decisions
4. Data management partnerships with scientists
5. Bioregional documentation strategies



WPA Illinois Art Project, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3f05175/>



Aaron Hughes, <https://justseeds.org/graphic/warehouse-workers-for-justice-earth-day-to-may-day-day-7/>