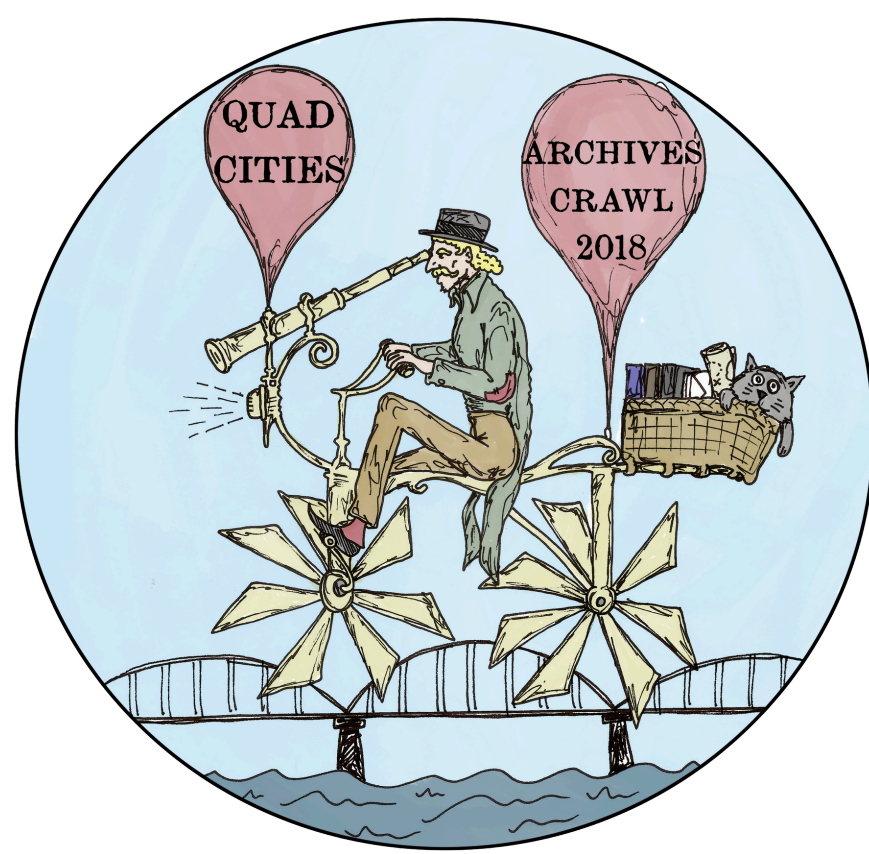


Goal

The Quad Cities is home to many different cultural and historical organizations. In 2018, a small committee of local library and museum professionals developed this community event to showcase the area's diverse collections and services. The event connects audiences from both sides of the Mississippi River as they visit exhibits to learn about local organizations' unique resources.

Committee members pick a captivating speaker that highlights the theme and draws attendance. Visitors are entered for a chance to win a raffle basket full of archival products, local publications, and swag.

Attendees can grab refreshments and tour the historic building or site. This event promotes the discovery of the hidden gems of the Quad Cities and surrounding region.



2018

Locations: Davenport Public Library, St. Ambrose University & Augustana College
Organizations: 15
Attendees: 190
Theme: Come See Our Stuff
Speakers: 3 tours and 6 presentations

Highlights

- 3 Locations - both sides of the river
- Multiple speakers at locations
- Passport and coloring pages
- Temporary tattoos and tiny buttons
- Buses as a travel option



QC Archives Website

Quad Cities Archives Fair: Collaboration in the QC

Kathryn Whalen: Special Collections Supervisor, Davenport Public Library
Onnica Marquez: Archivist, St. Ambrose University

Inspiration

1990 and 1991 Discover the Treasures of the Quad Cities
2018 Iowa City Archives Crawl



2019

Location: German American Heritage Center, Davenport, IA
Organizations: 25
Attendees: 147
Theme: Oktoberfest
Speakers: German Roots in the QC by Kelly Lao
Writing Women's Biography: Catherine D. Wentworth by Maryan Wherry
Managing Old School and Modern Army Archives by George Eaton
For the Love of Bix by Gerri Bowers

Highlights

- Alcoholic beverages for sale
- Raffle baskets
- Bigger buttons

Promotion

Facebook posts
Press releases to local media outlets
Local online calendars
Spot on local news channel
Weekly ad in paper
Google website



2021

Location: Butterworth Center, Moline, IL
Organizations: 24
Attendees: 100
Theme: Haunted QC
Speaker: Twisted Tales of the Quad Cities by Jeff Adamson

Highlights

- First historic house location
- Dedicated speaker location
- Snacks
- Event on the Illinois side of the river

Major Changes

Switching to one location instead of multiple
Single speaker instead of several
Event at historic house or site



2022

Location: LeClaire House, Davenport, IA
Organizations: 16
Attendees: 100
Theme: Architecture
Speaker: LeClaire House History by Karen Anderson

Highlights

- Speaker in period costume
- Beautiful day - had speaker outside
- Shortened fair time by an hour

Conclusion

The Quad Cities Archives Fair promotes collaboration between our organizations every year. But more importantly, it brings everyone in the community together to learn about local resources and collections. This is a valuable opportunity for historical and cultural organizations to engage in a free annual outreach event.

The outcomes include an increased awareness of resources in the area, for both professionals and community members. We have seen an increase in attendance at other events during the rest of the year. This is a great networking opportunity for all. We can meet new employees and individuals who have an interest in history.



2023

Location: Hauberg Estate, Rock Island, IL
Organizations: 25
Attendees: 200
Theme: Fall
Speaker: Translating Tombstones by Minda Powers-Douglas

Highlights

- Location featured two buildings
- High attendance by organizations and the general public
- Promoted on local news channel
- Huge buttons
- Popular historic site and speaker