

News from the Midwest

Assistant Editors: Alexandra Bisio, University of Oregon, and Lois Hamill, Northern Kentucky University. Please submit News from the Midwest items for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio to Alexandra at bisio@uoregon.edu and items from Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to Lois at hamill1@nku.edu. Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!

ILLINOIS

Chicago Public Library Special Collections

Chicago Public Library Special Collections is pleased to open the Rev. Martin L. Deppe Papers. Spanning six decades, Rev. Deppe's social justice activism began in the 1960s when he aligned his church with the civil rights and antiwar movements. He joined Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) as one of the founding ministers with its Operation Breadbasket program to negotiate fair economic practices in Chicago's African American communities. His work with the Chicago chapter of Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC) began with opposition to the war in Vietnam and went on to address a wide range of human rights and disarmament causes. All the while, Rev. Deppe was active at all levels of the United Methodist Church and championed numerous other groups and causes including the United Farm Workers, the Alliance to End Repression (AER), and opposition to the Gulf War. The online finding aid can be found at <https://www.chipublic.org/fa-rev-martin-l-deppe-papers>.

What is "plarn" in the archives you might be wondering? Well, plarn is made from plastic bags that have been cut into strips to form a plastic yarn ball. Every Wednesday in September, Chicago Public Library Special Collections partnered with members of Christ Bible Church, who provided the plarn material and taught participants how to make plarn mats for people experiencing

homelessness. Hosted in the Reading Room, reference librarians highlighted archival collections that showcased historic acts of kindness, including neighborhood photographs, speeches by Mayor Harold Washington addressing Chicagoans' charitable acts, and ephemera from the CPL World War I collection. Collectively, participants learned about historic acts of philanthropy and the many ways to give back and continue the cycle of goodwill.



Rev. Martin Deppe carries the Clergy and Laity Concerned banner during a Gulf War protest, 1990. Photo courtesy Chicago Public Library, Special Collections, Rev. Martin L. Deppe Papers, album 60/2.



Plarn in the Archives, Chicago Public Library, 2019

Northwestern University

2019 marks the 150th anniversary of Northwestern University's decision to admit women students. As is only fitting, the NU Archives and the library have played a lead role in the university's activities to address this anniversary and all that it implies. Key among the activities is the recent opening of the library's exhibit, *On the Same Terms: 150 Years of Women at Northwestern* (the title comes from the words of the board of trustees resolution on June 23, 1869, which agreed to provide women with an education "upon the same terms and conditions as young men.") The exhibit, on the second and third floors of Deering Library, runs through June 2020, and there is an accompanying catalog. The exhibit and catalog were curated by Janet Olson, assistant university archivist. For more about the exhibit, see <https://tinyurl.com/y3qolaje>.

Illinois Wesleyan University

Homecoming 2019 saw the opening of National Hall of Fame sportswriter Dave Kindred's papers. Kindred witnessed significant moments in history during his 60-year career, and he is still an active writer, so this collection will grow (see <https://bit.ly/35AJLR4>). The largest series include readers' correspondence and primary sources related to his two most popular books, *Sound and Fury* and *Morning Miracle*. Kindred also donated every issue of *The National*, a paper he cofounded, scrapbooks, and a pair of Muhammad Ali's boxing trunks. Homecoming also saw the opening of the 50-year-old Mark Evans Observatory time capsule. During the observatory's 1969

cornerstone dedication (see <https://bit.ly/2PGImSd>), Apollo 8 astronaut Col. Frank Borman donated a medallion the crew took on the first manned mission to leave Earth's orbit. We suspect an unhealthy interaction between a thermal battery and moisture caused damage to many other items found in the time capsule. This building's historical narrative now includes cautionary tales about preservation!



INDIANA

Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields

The Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields announces the landmark acquisition of the Stephen Sprouse fashion collection and archives. One of the largest single gifts Newfields has received, it includes thousands of items of men's and women's clothing, accessories, audiovisual and photographic materials, business documentation, and press clippings. A fashion visionary, Stephen Sprouse

(1953–2004) is best known for his New York downtown scene-inspired clothing. The Archives, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, will seek funding and begin arrangement and description of the records over the next several years. The personal papers, business records, visual media, and by-product design materials (sketches, patterns, textile samples) will support care of the fashion and art collection in addition to providing a rich research corpus for design students, historians, and the general public. Joanne Sprouse and Brad Sprouse, Stephen's mother and brother, donated the archives and collection in memory of Stephen to honor his legacy.

Purdue University Northwest

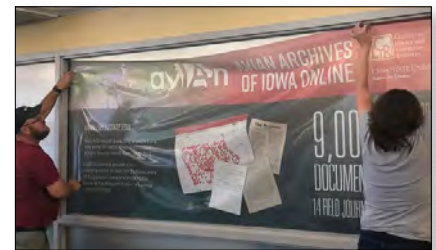
Oral History 2020 @PNW: the purpose of this project is to tell the history of Purdue University Northwest and to look ahead to the next milestone. A graduate class between the History Department, the Communications Department, and the University Archives is conducting oral history interviews with faculty, staff, retirees, and alumni of Purdue University Calumet, Purdue North Central, and Purdue University Northwest to understand the changes that have taken place over the past 40 years at the university. This initial class will help organizers to develop a plan to conduct regular interviews to better understand the university and give students an experiential learning project that will help them in the future.

IOWA

Iowa State University

A new exhibition, *"Our trip...will long be remembered": Following the Trail of a Bird Watching Road Trip*, opened September 19, 2019, and will

be up through August 2020. Many of the documents and photographs displayed in this exhibit are from the Walter M. Rosene, Sr. Papers and are available in digital form as part of the Avian Archives of Iowa Online (avIAN: <http://avian.lib.iastate.edu>), a web portal of Iowa ornithological primary sources supported by a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). The exhibit curators, Erin Anderson, avIAN project coordinator (Digital Scholarship and Initiatives), and Amy Bishop, rare books and manuscripts archivist (Special Collections and University Archives), gave a presentation on September 24, 2019, at the Ames Public Library that included behind-the-scenes details about the creation of the exhibition, its connection to avIAN, and how much primary source research goes into exhibitions.



ISU Printing Services installs the window display.



Erin Anderson (left) and Amy Bishop (right) after their presentation at the Ames Public Library

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Luther College

Through its Preservation Assistance Grants program, the National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded Luther College \$9,000. The funding will support a collaborative conservation assessment and long-range conservation plan for Luther's humanities collections, including the College Archives, Rare Books and Special Collections, Fine Arts Collection, and Archaeological, Ethnographic, and Numismatic Collections. In addition, the grant will fund a day-long preventive conservation workshop at the college, which will be open to local professionals. Together, the assessment, long-range conservation plan, and workshop will allow staff to collaborate across campus and create a sustainable preservation program, ensuring the preservation and continued accessibility of these collections.

KANSAS

Pittsburg State University

The Special Collections and University Archives at Pittsburg State University has just opened the Eugene DeGruson Papers for research. Eugene "Gene" DeGruson was the head of the Special Collections and University Archives at Pittsburg State University from 1968 until his unexpected death in 1997. DeGruson left behind over 25 linear feet of materials on his research interests, including the mining history of southeast Kansas and the socialist presses and activity that emanated from nearby Girard, Kansas, in the early twentieth century, including the *Appeal to Reason* socialist newspaper and the publisher Emanuel Haldeman-Julius and his

Little Blue Books. In the 1980s, DeGruson discovered that the 1905 serialized version in the *Appeal to Reason* of Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* was longer than the version that first appeared in book form the following year. In 1988, DeGruson published this longer version as *The Lost First Edition of Upton Sinclair's The Jungle*.

KENTUCKY

Archdiocese of Louisville

The Archdiocese of Louisville and the Speed Art Museum unveiled a recently conserved painting by renowned Kentucky artist Matthew Harris Jouett. Painted in Lexington in 1824 with apprentice, John Grimes, *The Dead Christ Mourned (The Three Maries)*, after Carracci is the largest and only known religious work by Jouett. When Jouett died in 1827, the painting, then valued at \$100, was auctioned. The painting came to Louisville's Cathedral of the Assumption sometime in the mid-1800s, where it remained for nearly 150 years. During a mid-1970s renovation, the painting was moved to the Cathedral Museum. During transport, the painting and original frame, likely by James D. McIntosh, suffered extensive damage. Archivist Tim Tomes led a campaign to restore the piece, which culminated with conservation of the painting by Cleveland-based ICA-Art Conservation and the frame by Gold Leaf Studios of Washington, DC. A comprehensive exhibit on view through May 2020 at the Speed Art Museum, Louisville, details the story of the inspiration, the artist, the provenance, and the conservation of this piece.



Painted in 1824, Matthew Harris Jouett's *The Dead Christ Mourned (The Three Maries)* is a copy of an early seventeenth-century work by Annibale Carracci. Photo by Ruby Thomas, The Record Newspaper.



Conservators, from left, Nina Bongolan-Vedsted, Andrea Chevalier, and Wendy Partridge do painstaking restoration work on the Jouett painting in this June 8, 2017, photo. Photo by John Seyfried, ICA-Art Conservation.

Eastern Kentucky University

Special Collections and Archives (SCA) tried something new this year for American Archives Month. In previous years, it hosted speaker events, where student researchers or university faculty spoke about archival projects they had worked on. This time, the archives hosted weekly "Pop-up Archives." Staff selected themes for each week, gathered a small collection of items based on those themes, and displayed them at different university locations. Themes included homecoming, the arts at Eastern Kentucky University, the campus, the circus, and Halloween. These pop-ups served as a way to

reach out to the university community and to showcase the scope of the collections. Candy, popcorn, peanuts, and SCA collection cards giveaways encouraged students to stop by the pop-ups.



Pop-up creator and oral historian Neil Kasiak and Archives Assistant Caitlyn Rabschulte pose with the circus-themed Greatest Collections on Earth pop-up.



Special Collections Librarian Debbie Whalen talks to students at the Greatest Collections on Earth pop-up.

University of Louisville

All extant copies of the *Louisville Leader*, an African American community newspaper published in Louisville from 1917 to 1950, were scanned from microfilm and added to the University of Louisville Digital Collections in 2013, at <https://digital.library.louisville.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/leader>. Unfortunately, the automated optical character recognition (OCR) was of very poor quality, due to the often faded, torn, or misaligned text on

the source images. Staff therefore crowdsourced full-text transcriptions of the local news and religious, educational, social, fraternal, and sporting activities articles to make them more easily searchable and spoke about the project as part of the “Crowdsourcing Transcription: Putting Users in the Driver’s Seat” panel at MAC’s 2013 Annual Meeting. As of October 2019, the *Louisville Leader* transcription project has been completed, resulting in the transcription of nearly 50,000 articles!

MICHIGAN

The Grand Rapids Public Library

The Grand Rapids Public Library’s History & Special Collections Department received a gift of significant importance from Michael Johnston, a longtime labor historian, in the summer of 2018. Johnston donated a large collection of local labor newspapers with dates ranging from 1955 to 2015. Included in the collection, which was recently fully digitized and made available online, are the publications *Grand Rapids CIO News* (1955–1958), *Grand Valley AFL CIO News* (1958–1968), *Grand Valley Labor News* (1968–2011), and *Work in Progress* (2011–2015). Patrons can now search the online collection by §§tion title, and date, as well as view articles in full. The digitized collection can be found at <http://grpl.advantage-preservation.com>. Thanks to Johnston’s gift, as well as financial support from the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation for digitization, anyone can now read these otherwise hard-to-find publications and research primary documents to better understand the history and current state of organized labor in Grand Rapids.



Julie Tabberer, head of the History & Special Collections Department at the Grand Rapids Public Library stands next to labor historian Michael Johnston and fellow librarian Will Miner with Johnston’s donation of historical labor newspapers.

MINNESOTA

Hennepin History Museum

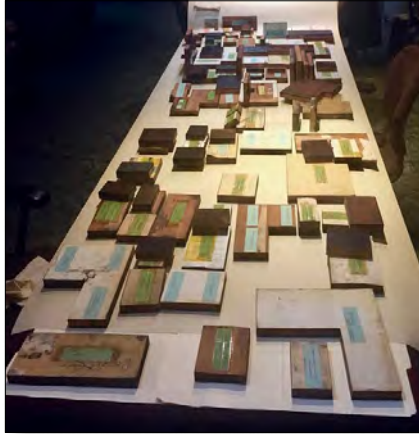
The Hennepin History Museum in Minneapolis has received a large grant from the Minnesota Historical Society through the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The Legacy Grant has enabled the hiring of four part-time processing archivists to appraise, organize, research, preserve, and rehouse 27 of the museum’s larger archival collections. With the objective of providing better access and awareness, DACS II finding aids have been created as part of the grant, as well as programming and short-term displays incorporating materials from the collections. Going forward, processing archivists will continue processing the remaining few collections, and also finish cataloging the 27 legacy collections into the current collections management system as the grant wraps up in spring 2020. This project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and

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Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.



Processing the Legacy Grant collections. Hennepin History Museum.

St. Olaf College

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded St. Olaf College a \$300,000 grant to support the construction of a new library vault to preserve the college’s special collections and archives. More than a million documents, images, and artifacts in the collections tell the story of Norwegian immigrants who settled the upper Midwest and founded St. Olaf in 1874. The NEH funding is a challenge grant to help generate at least \$900,000 in additional gifts for the project. The new 4,253-square-foot vault in St. Olaf’s Rølvaag Memorial Library will house several collections, including the holdings of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, the Shaw-Olson Center for College History (St. Olaf College Archives), and Rølvaag Library Special Collections. Currently, these collections occupy spaces with substandard or no climate control. Construction is scheduled to begin on the project in the summer of 2020.



Rølvaag Memorial Library is home to St. Olaf College Special Collections. Photo courtesy of Amy Boxrud.

MISSOURI

National Archives—St. Louis

Early in October, after five years and five weeks, work was completed on digitization of just over 37 million Selective Service System (i.e., “draft”) registration cards for the WWII generation of men mainly born between 1897 and 1929. This was a joint Project of NARA and Ancestry. At full strength, the team consisted of 12 Ancestry-contracted scanning technicians and five NARA employees. Most of the scanned images are already available on Fold3.com at <https://www.fold3.com/title/816/wwii-draft-registration-cards>, and all of them will be available at Ancestry.com by November 2020.

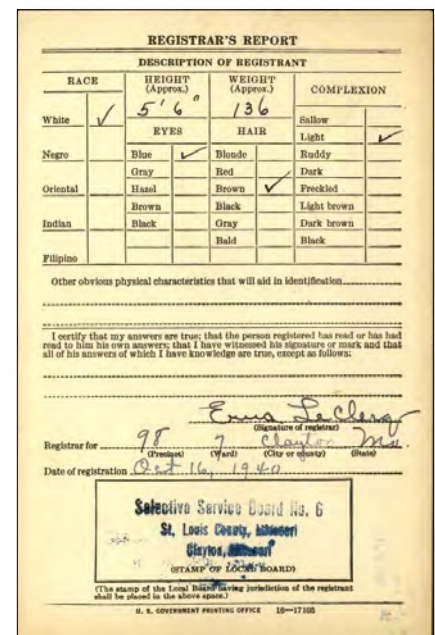
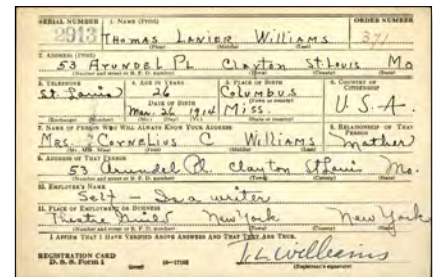
University of Missouri

University Archives is celebrating its 50th anniversary. In August 1969, the university hired its first professional archivist to lead a committee charged with creating policies for an archives program that was approved the following February. Exhibits on display this fall in the university’s Elmer Ellis Library will highlight important documents from each decade of the university’s 180-year history and provide a historical overview of

the efforts to establish archives and records management programs for the Columbia campus and the University of Missouri System. Visit <https://muarchives.missouri.edu> for more information about the University Archives.



Musician Miles Davis



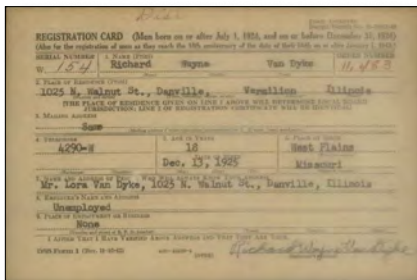
Writer Tennessee Williams



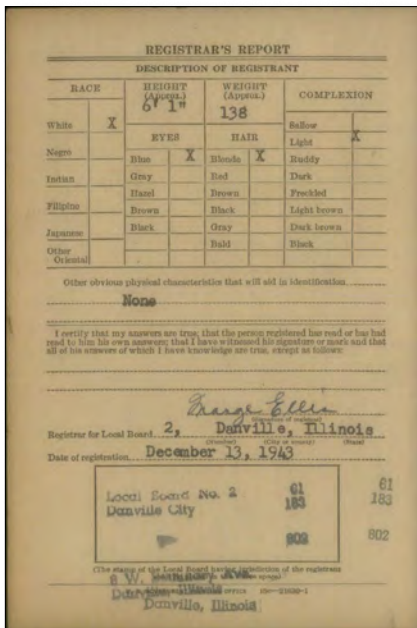
Musician Chuck Berry



Cartoonist Mort Walker



Entertainer Dick Van Dyke



Entertainer Dick Van Dyke

University of Missouri—Kansas City

The Special Collections and Archives Division of the Miller Nichols Library at the University of Missouri—Kansas City recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Gay and Lesbian Archive of Mid-America (GLAMA). Formed to collect, preserve, and make accessible documents and artifacts that reflect the histories of the LGBT communities in the Kansas City region, GLAMA has become the fastest-growing component of the division. The archive includes 72 named collections, 326 linear feet of manuscript materials, 1,769 books, and 4,097 magazines. GLAMA has informed projects such as a feature-length documentary on the struggle to pass an antidiscrimination ordinance in the early 1990s (www.theordinanceproject.com) and a class exhibit detailing Kansas City's role in the struggle for gay and lesbian civil rights before Stonewall (info.umkc.edu/makinghistory). A new website (www.umkc.edu/glama) was launched as part of the commemoration, featuring hours of digitized video content and over 75 oral histories.

NEBRASKA

University of Nebraska—Lincoln

The University of Nebraska—Lincoln Libraries has a new and exciting Data Lab in Archives & Special Collections! The lab is used for advanced scanning, audiovisual digitization, and data recovery. The equipment in the lab includes four Epson flatbed scanners, two professional VHS tape decks, three betacam tape machines, one LP turntable with digital conversion, one scanner for 8mm film, one audio reel tape player, a few cassette

tape decks, two Exabyte data tape drives, and various floppy and zip readers. There's also a dedicated computer running forensic tools to accession at-risk computer storage media. By expanding the technological capabilities of the archives, the lab is an opportunity to improve the reputation of the repository, connect with a broader range of potential donors, and attract born-digital collections.

OHIO

Bowling Green State University

The Music Library and Bill Schurk Sound Archives at Bowling Green State University are pleased to announce the creation of a new collection of regional music and related culture called the Northwest Ohio Independent Culture Archive (NOICA). Dedicated to underground music in northwestern Ohio, the archives will collect photographs, sound recordings, videos, oral histories, 'zines, posters, flyers, and other related artifacts. The new collection will be unveiled to the public during the 7th Annual Ray Browne Conference on Popular Culture Studies at Bowling Green State University, March 6–7, 2020.



Bill Schurk (left) and John King, graduate research assistant

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SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota State Historical Society

The South Dakota State Historical Society has released a paperback edition of *The Christmas Coat: Memories of My Sioux Childhood*, past winner of an American Indian Youth Literature Award. Written by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, *The Christmas Coat* shares a story from the author's childhood on the Rosebud Indian Reservation as the Driving Hawk family prepares for the holidays. Virginia dreams of the new coat that might arrive in Theast boxes—parcels of clothing from churches in the eastern United States—but knows she may not have a chance for a coat this year. Her father is the village Episcopal priest, and her family must choose from the boxes last, because, as Mama always says, “The others need it more than we do.” Praised as an “authentic portrait of Sioux childhood and Christmas traditions,” the book illustrates the themes of generosity and unexpected joy and speaks to readers of all ages as Virginia is reminded of the importance of community.

WISCONSIN

Marquette University

When your repository is home to one of the foremost literary manuscript collections in the world, how do you measure the impact that the author has had on contemporary culture? In an effort to document J. R. R. Tolkien fandom, the Department of Special Collections at Marquette's Raynor Memorial Library is building a collection of brief testimonials from Tolkien fans, with an ambitious

goal of 6,000 interviews. The three-minute interviews ask, “When did you first encounter the works of J. R. R. Tolkien?” “Why are you a Tolkien fan?” “What has he meant to you?” Users as well as potential interviewees may access the digital collection and learn more about the process itself at <https://tinyurl.com/y5cvzbog>. If you have a story to tell about how you came to read Tolkien and why he's important to you, please #JointheMuster and schedule an interview at <https://www.marquette.edu/library/archives/tolkienfandom.php>. Feel free to share the digital collection <https://tinyurl.com/y6e7p5vt>—it is a fascinating look into the depth of meaning that Tolkien's works have in today's literary culture. Careful consideration has been given to privacy issues for donors under 18.

Northwestern Mutual

Northwestern Mutual archives is excited to share the news of its recent recognition, the Governor's Archives Award for Archival Achievement. This award recognizes a historical records repository that has made an outstanding contribution to the archival profession, or a notable achievement of value to the archives community, its patrons, or constituents. The archives is currently focusing its efforts on creating engaging programs for employees, increasing knowledge of company history through exhibits, growing and maintaining the collection of historical records, and demonstrating the importance of Northwestern Mutual in the history of Milwaukee. State Archivist Matt Blessing presented the award on October 7, 2019, as part of Wisconsin Archives Month.



*Amy Gnad and Will Tchakirides,
Northwestern Mutual*

University of Wisconsin–Madison

University alumni return each summer accompanied by their grandchildren to participate in Grandparents University, an intergenerational learning experience organized by the Wisconsin Alumni Association. This year, the University Archives, through its oral history program (OHP), partnered with the Wisconsin Energy Institute (WEI), a Grandparents University supporter, on the topic of climate change and energy issues. OHP and WEI staff trained the children to conduct oral history interviews of their grandparents to capture their thoughts on these important topics. This collaboration resulted in oral history interviews, excerpts of which appear in a WEI online audio story (<http://bit.ly/35hZEvI>). The interviews will be online through the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections in early 2020.