MAC midwest archives conference

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Preserving the Documents of the Past and Making Them Accessible to the Future!

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July 2021

To the MAC community:

I want to take this space, my final column for the *MAC Newsletter*, as an opportunity to thank you for the trust you have placed in me to serve as your president for the past two years. While serving in a leadership role, one should expect a few surprises along the way. However, I think it might be fair to say that this term has been unlike any other.

All of those who have served in this role hope to leave MAC as a better organization. Yet, it is not the president who achieves this. It is you, the members, who participate in governance and leadership, volunteer for committees and plan our meetings, and respond to our surveys and calls for input. These are the actions that make MAC better.

A year ago, hundreds of you responded to a survey on professional development and your capacity to participate. The two minutes it took you to complete the survey was immeasurably useful in helping leadership plan out our activities and shift to online workshops. This resulted in two successful online webinars brought to you by our Education Committee. It has also helped us formulate the planning and delivery of the 2021 Annual Meeting and our 2021 Fall Symposium.

Through several different Council actions, MAC will offer more opportunities for volunteers. Based on the recommendations of the Financial Task Force, MAC will restart the Financial Committee and will launch a new committee focused on development. These will provide opportunities for members to join and be part of the process of

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maintaining MAC's financial health by forecasting and creating opportunities for new funding sources to support programming and monetary awards. Last fall, MAC Council also approved the formation of a committee to address advocacy and social justice issues as they relate to our profession and members. These will provide more opportunities to become involved and develop a larger pool of new leaders for MAC.

Finally, as president, I have had the amazing opportunity to work closely with a dedicated group of people who over the last 18 months have acted with one purpose in mind—guiding MAC through this pandemic and celebrating 50 years as a professional organization in 2022. I await the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and to meet the newest members of MAC and our profession at the spring 2022 meeting in Madison. And, like you, I am unsure exactly what that meeting will look like and wonder how we might serve those who have benefited from or prefer remote attendance, but I imagine that those planning this meeting and those of us looking forward to it might feel the same excitement, not unlike those involved with our first meeting 50 years ago.

I have served MAC nearly continuously for the past 13 years beginning on a program committee. It has been an honor. I am looking forward to stepping back and watching where you will take MAC going forward.

Sincerely,

Erik A. Moore

President, Midwest Archives Conference

Vice President's Column
MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

By Michelle Sweetser, Bowling Green State University

I am now halfway into my tenure, and what a year it has been! Even though Josh Ranger, who preceded me in this role, did a great job updating the VP manual, nothing about this year has been by the books. After a long delay due to contract negotiations with our 2021 conference hotel, the Program Committee sprang to work despite an extremely truncated schedule. In just six months, the Program Committee, along with other MAC volunteers and plenty of guidance from Debbie Nolan at AMC Source, planned and delivered our first ever virtual Annual Meeting. I hope you will agree that even though we were not able to meet in person, our line-up of plenary speaker Andrew W. Smith; the education sessions, posters, and tours (though virtual) from our colleagues; and vendor demonstrations was an excellent and affordable educational experience.

All presenters agreed to record their sessions, so the opportunity to extend your learning beyond the two days of Zoom meetings will continue. I encourage you to check out our newly established YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYInbuJ_RbJFdhjEuCPpJCw/playlists) for recordings as well as the MAC Annual Meeting Presentations site (https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/macmeetings/) for associated slides and handouts.

Please join me in extending thanks and kudos to Program Committee cochairs, Cara Bertram and Kayla Harris, as well as the other members of the Program Committee: Shiraz Bhathena, Anita Doering, Bradley Houston, Kathy Makas, Allison Neely, Shae Rafferty, Danielle Spalenka, and Anna Tunnicliff. Supporting their efforts were Vendor Coordinator Lisa Huntsha, Development Coordinator Ida Mangum, Public Information Officer Kyna Herzinger, and Webmaster Kate Dietrick, while AMC staff brought their expertise to Zoom webinar management and delivery. If there was any question as to whether "Archivists Respond," we clearly did!

Because time marches on, we can't rest on our laurels for too long; planning must continue for our other upcoming meetings and events. We are still monitoring the COVID situation and will make a determination later this summer about the format for the Fall Symposium (entirely virtual or a combination of a small in-person gathering with a larger virtual audience). Read more about the planning committee's deliberations elsewhere in this issue.

I'm also pleased to report that after much negotiation, we have finalized a new contract with the Madison Concourse Hotel to host MAC in Madison, Wisconsin, May 5–7, 2022. Not only can we celebrate a return to in-person events, but we will be celebrating MAC's 50th birthday as well. Local Arrangements Committee cochairs Cynthia Bachhuber and Katie Nash are working to reconvene their committee (we'd planned to be in Madison as I write this column). If you're interested in serving MAC as a member of the Program Committee, watch for a call for volunteers this summer. As we honor and celebrate MAC's founding, we have opportunities to creatively apply lessons from this year of virtual meetings to make future educational opportunities more accessible to all of our members and lay the groundwork for the next 50 years.

MAC Virtual Annual Meeting

By Kayla Harris, University of Dayton, and Cara Bertram, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Attendees from across the Midwest and throughout the United States came together for the Midwest Archives Conference's first virtual Annual Meeting on May 13 and 14. Plenary speaker Andrew W. Smith, Research Fellow at the University of Maryland's African-American Digital Humanities Center, discussed his work with Project STAND: Student Activism Now Documented, a radical grassroots archival consortia project that highlights student activism in marginalized communities.

Though the format was new, attendees enjoyed many of the same events and features of our traditional Annual Meetings, including virtual tours of colleagues' spaces and collections, poster presentations, and live sessions. The MAC 2021 Program Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in and attended the Annual Meeting, and we encourage you to watch for the next issue of the *MAC Newsletter* for a full recap!

Highlights from the Virtual Tours

Smithsonian Institution River Basin Survey Collections at Midwest Archeological Center, hosted by Nora Greiman. Collection photograph from the Midwest Archeological Center.

Introduction to the exhibition Bearing Witness: The Holocaust and the Jewish Experience at Miami University, *hosted by Alia Levar Wegner.*

Peaceful Coexistence: Zoned User Spaces in a University Archives Reading Room. A look at the spaces at the University of Wisconsin–Stout Archives and Area Research Center, hosted by Heather Stecklein.

Highlights from the Virtual Tours

Tour of the Teruo Okada Papers at Knox College, hosted by Micaela Terronez. Collection photograph from the Teruo Okada Papers at Knox College.

Awards and Scholarships
Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship for Students of Color

By Rebekah McFarland, Sisters of the Living Word

The Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship for Students of Color is dedicated to providing financial assistance to BIPOC students pursuing graduate education in archival administration and to encouraging ethnic diversity in the Midwest Archives Conference and the archival profession as a whole. The Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship Committee received three complete applications from which they unanimously agreed to award the scholarships to Yharnet Browne and Aparna Subramanian.

Yharnet Browne is a student at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota, with a passionate interest in community archives and underrepresented histories. Recently, Browne was able to assist at the George Floyd Global Memorial in Minneapolis, cleaning, rehousing, assessing, and creating an inventory of items coming into the collection. This experience, as well as being able to attend the panel "The Revolution Will Be Archived" hosted by @blackwomenradicals on Instagram last June, invigorated Browne, who writes, "I desire to be an archivist with resources to succeed in preserving documentation from historical moments, social movements, and underrepresented communities. With my master's degree as the theoretical backbone to archival administration, I hope to promote inclusion and recognition of diverse narratives by processing and understanding the materials in collections without bias. I wish to partner with community archives like those featured in the 'Revolution' panel to give power back to communities by owning their narratives and increasing sustainability of their collections." In addition to Browne's passion, she demonstrates a strong understanding of archival concepts and detail. Speaking of an assignment in which students were required to design a theoretical archive, one of Browne's recommenders writes, "her description, documents and plans were so plausible and detailed that I often forgot her institution was fictitious and the work was that of a student." The committee believes that Yharnet Browne will be an incredible asset to the profession and is happy to support her on her educational journey.

Aparna Subramanian is a student in New York University's Moving Image Archiving and Preservation (MIAP) program. She is interested in the ways in which an increased focus on media preservation and archiving can enhance India's cultural heritage and has done a great deal of work toward that end. With this in mind, Subramanian is no stranger to advocacy and outreach. One of her recommenders writes, "Aparna spearheaded renewed outreach to small historical organizations with hidden audiovisual collections on Long Island, Brooklyn, and Queens. She contacted over 50 organizations and managed to connect with nearly a dozen to help us pivot to a newly developed in-depth interview needed to continue gathering research information and identifying potential hands-on work. In addition, she organized our first project webinar and began the research for an audio digitization kit we will be using for select partners over the next year. Her work helped reinvigorate the project and move objectives forward." Subramanian's passion was made very clear in her application essay, as she discussed her focus on uplifting Indian cultural heritage and media. She writes, "India has a rich cultural heritage that has suffered from decades of disinterest in its preservation. I intend to advocate for a cultural shift in my country to focus on archiving and preservation, in order to prevent the loss of a vital facet of our history." The committee is pleased to be able to support Aparna Subramanian as she continues her archival education and work.

Awards and Scholarships

Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Students in Archival Administration

By Lynn Smith, NARA

The Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Students in Archival Administration is dedicated to providing financial assistance to a resident or full-time student of the MAC region who is pursuing graduate education in archival administration. The 2021 Louisa Bowen Memorial scholarship was awarded to **Karis Blaker**, a first-year master's student at both Loyola University Chicago, where she studies public history, and at Dominican University, where she is simultaneously pursuing a master of library and information science with a focus in archival resources

and services. While an undergraduate at the University of Michigan majoring in English and women's studies, she was a library assistant at the Donald Hall Collection in the Department of Film, Television, and Media. That work motivated her to pursue a career in archives and librarianship. Blaker has a passion for studying and preserving the lives and stories of remarkable women. She feels a deep desire and serious calling to accurately remember women's achievements and the obstacles they have overcome. Congratulations Karis!

Awards and Scholarships
Emeritus Membership Award

By Matt Gorzalski, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

The MAC Membership Committee is pleased to award **Elisabeth Wittman** and **Joel Wurl** with the 2021 Emeritus Membership Award.

The award recognizes those who have contributed to the success, growth, and visibility of MAC through committee work, programming, outreach, and governance. The award intends to recognize those who work behind the scenes for MAC, as well as those who have been honored by election to office.

Elisabeth Wittman

Elisabeth Wittman joined MAC in 1977. During her career, she held several archival positions in the Chicago area, at Northwestern University (1977–1979), the University of Illinois at Chicago (1979–1983), the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (1984–2009), and the City of Chicago (2010–2018) prior to retirement. Her extensive service in MAC includes multiple terms on the Local Arrangements, Nominating, Program, Presidents' Award, and Archie Motley Scholarship Committees. She was elected and served on Council from 1984 to 1986, as vice president from 1996 to 1998, and as president from 2005 to 2007. She has also presented at numerous MAC Annual Meetings. In her nomination letter, Cheri Thies credits Wittman with "the many who joined MAC due to her mentorship and glowing descriptions of the advantages of being a member, her unselfish sharing of knowledge to all who needed it, and her amazing friendship and support of her colleagues."

Joel Wurl

Joel Wurl joined MAC in 1981. He held archival positions at the University of Toledo (1981–1985) and the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota (1985–2006), and he became senior program officer for preservation and access grants at the National Endowment for the Humanities (2006–2020). He was a frequent session chair or presenter at MAC Annual Meetings and authored, edited, and coauthored over 25 publications throughout his career. He chaired the Program Committee in 1989 and 1997; served as a member and later chair of the *Archival Issues* Editorial Board from 1989 to 1993; and was elected to MAC Council for 1994–1996. He is remembered for his advocacy for underdocumented groups while employed at the Immigration History Research Center, which continued during his time with the NEH. As Chris Prom's letter of support states, his career demonstrated "a clear focus on helping others to succeed in their roles, and in valuing the diversity of thought, experience, background, and identity that make for strong organizations and society." Wurl was named Fellow of the Society of American Archivists in 2007.

Awards and Scholarships

MAC 2021 Presidents' Award: A Statement from
Amy Cooper Cary (Chair), Jennifer Johnson, and David McCartney

We have chosen not to make the Presidents' Award this year. In this pandemic year, we did not have sufficient nominees who qualified for the nature of the award, which is to recognize contributions by "individuals, institutions, and organizations not directly involved in archival work." However, as the three most recent former presidents of MAC, and as the judges for this award, we would like to recognize the exceptional nature of our current social and professional environment, and to reflect on our profession in this time of uncertainty.

First, we would like to recognize our professional colleagues this year. The global public health crisis, caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), has placed repositories across our region into circumstances that none of us could have foreseen. We have spent the year shifting our services from physical to virtual, supporting patrons who have suddenly found themselves teaching and learning online. We have done this when we, ourselves, have been required to be remote from our physical materials, unable to work with them or provide reference from them. We have experienced crises in our institutions that have reduced budgets, staff, and services. We have been faced with the challenges of working from our living rooms, kitchens, or basements. And, while we have enjoyed sharing stories about baking bread, doing yoga, taking walks, or any of the myriad things we've done to keep our spirits up, it is most important that we have found ways to survive. We have suddenly needed to devote time to schooling our children, taking care of parents, and supporting spouses, partners, friends, and neighbors. We have experienced a sea-change of constraints—personal and professional—that will likely impact our lives and our work for years to come. We have had to find a way through a crisis we never imagined, and we're tired, but even now we aren't yet done.

And yet….

We have all sat in Zoom meetings with colleagues who are devising creative, comprehensive ways to provide information from their holdings to those who need it. We have seen brilliant outreach efforts being made to engage people who, of necessity, cannot come through our doors. We are discussing new digital projects, new ways to teach, new audiences for our materials. For those of us who are back in our repositories, we're finding ways to provide access to materials while keeping people safe. We are imaginative, creative, focused on the importance of our work, and aware of the critical need for the archival record in times of societal crisis. We are passionate, and we are resilient.

As we pass the one-year mark of the pandemic, we would like to recognize all of you. We would like to recognize all of the work that you've done in extenuating circumstances and the extra effort that you have all taken to make sure that people continue to have access to the archival record. Thank you all.

"Local Collections in the Digital Age"
November 4–5, 2021
Kansas City, Missouri

By Tara Laver, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, and Lindy Smith, University of Missouri–Kansas City

Archives in public libraries, colleges and universities, and historical societies are the loci of where local history is found. As part of their communities, they document and share what defines and characterizes a place. As the profession has more generally sought how to make the collections we build more diverse, inclusive, responsive, and relevant, approaches and tools have changed. More often than not, those tools and approaches involve technology in some way. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, perhaps at no time in our history have we been so locally focused but also so digitally tuned in and connected. With an emphasis on digital collecting and digital storytelling, the MAC 2021 Fall Symposium will focus on how the digital age and technology have changed what and how we collect and how we share those collections.

The program will open with a plenary by Dr. Andrea Copeland, chair and program director of library and information science at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis. Drawing from the 2017 book *Participatory Heritage* (Facet Publishing, 2017), which she coedited, she will share the benefits of and strategies for local individuals and groups and cultural heritage institutions partnering to preserve and provide access to the primary sources critical to ensuring comprehensive histories of communities through digital community archives. Follow-on sessions will focus on web archiving for local collections; how to conduct a successful history harvest; creating online exhibits from physical ones and involving community in the process to retell local history with an emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion; and various approaches to sharing local history and collections through podcasts, digital history sites, and virtual history trails.

Ironically, for a symposium so focused on the local, it may end up being decidedly not. More than 200 members responded to the April 2021 survey that sought to gauge the outlook for professional development funding and the ability to travel, preferences for virtual or in-person offerings and safety precautions in consideration of COVID, and expected price points for virtual symposia. The results showed much uncertainty, but there was a moderate preference for meeting online, which would open the event up to a much larger potential audience. At this point, we know that the meeting will not be exclusively in person. It will either be all virtual or a hybrid that allows members who want to meet in person to do so but also accommodates those who prefer to attend virtually, for whatever reason. If there is an in-person option, LaBudde Special Collections at the University of Missouri–Kansas City has graciously agreed to host physical attendees.

Another element to consider is cost. The Fall Symposia typically have higher registration fees than the Annual Meetings. This is in part because of the smaller audience that has been the hallmark of these meetings, a characteristic that contributes to the concentrated experience around a single theme. In addition, conversations in recent years about equity and the value professionals contribute combined with the miniworkshop format of many sessions have led MAC to provide honoraria to symposium presenters. With these costs in mind, an online or hybrid meeting has the added benefit of allowing for more attendees and lowering the cost to individuals, as compared to past events.

In consultation with the vice president, the Local Arrangements Committee will continue to monitor conditions to ensure a safe and educational learning opportunity. A final decision is expected in late summer, so please stay tuned as we invite you to come see KC, virtually or in person!

Between Council Actions

On March 3, 2021, Council unanimously approved registration rates for the virtual 2021 Annual Meeting as follows. All members voted.

- Members: $25/$40 (late)
- Nonmembers: $40/$55 (late)
- Students: free

On March 25, 2021, Council unanimously approved the MAC Antiracism Statement in Support of the AAPI Community. All members voted.

"The Midwest Archives Conference stands in solidarity with the Asian American Pacific Islander community within MAC, the Midwest, and the nation. Over the past year, the United States has experienced a dramatic rise in discrimination, hate crimes, and violence against those of Asian descent, including the heartbreaking murders of eight individuals—six of whom were Asian women—by a white male domestic terrorist that took place in Atlanta on March 16, 2021.

"These acts illustrate why we must dismantle white supremacy in our country and push past reactionary nationalism. Asian culture is not an amusement. Coronavirus is not the 'Chinese flu.' Asian women are not a fetish.

"Archives can be a force for opening dialogues around the history of such racism and misogyny. Archives can spotlight the damaging effects of hate, bias, erasure, and violence to society. Archives can battle systemic racism and xenophobia by providing context for predominantly white institutions in US society.

"Stop Asian hate now. Check your privilege. Offer your support. Be a resource. Serve your community in an ethical and compassionate manner.

"Here is a select list of national and local resources for AAPI folks and for others to support the AAPI community:

- 68 Ways to Donate in Support of Asian Communities (https://nymag.com/strategist/article/where-to-donate-to-help-asian-communities-2021.html) from *New York Magazine*
- up//root: Letter to Asian Diasporic Library Workers (https://www.uproot.space/features/letter-to-asian-diasporic-library-workers)
- Hollaback! (https://www.ihollaback.org) has partnered with Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC (https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org) to provide free bystander intervention training as well as offering de-escalation training
- Documenting the Now (https://www.docnow.io)
- Documenting in Times of Crisis: A Resource Kit (https://www2.archivists.org/advocacy/documenting-in-times-of-crisis-a-resource-kit) produced by the Society of American Archivists Tragedy Response Initiative Task Force"

On April 15, 2021, MAC Council unanimously approved the Madison Concourse Hotel contract for the 2022 Spring Annual Meeting. All members voted.

Archival Issues Update

By Brandon T. Pieczko, Archival Issues *Editorial Board Chair, Indiana University*

I hope this update finds you all safe and well. With the publication of *AI* 40.2 last winter, we have completed another two-year (four-issue) cycle of *Archival Issues*, which means that it's time for publication awards season! An ad hoc committee of archivists was assembled to determine which authors from that last two years would receive this year's Margaret Cross Norton and New Author Awards. For the Margaret Cross Norton Award, the committee selected Jacklyn Rander and Leigh Rupinski's article, "Telling Stories: A Case Study in Podcasting with Archival Resources," while Carey Beam and Carrie Schwier's article, "Learning in Place: The Teaching Archivist and Place-Based Education," was selected as winner of the New Author Award. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to Bethany Anderson, Harrison Inefuku, and Carol Street for generously agreeing to serve on this year's awards committee!

Production of the next issue of *Archival Issues* (41.1) is in progress, and we expect it will be published later this summer. The issue will include at least three full-length articles and several book reviews that have been accepted for publication and are currently going through the revision and editing process.

In other news, last month the Editorial Board voted to adopt a new author name change request policy for *AI*. Nonexistent or outdated name change policies create unnecessary burdens that disproportionately affect transgender, nonbinary, gender diverse, married female, and Indigenous authors who are more likely to experience name changes during their professional careers. In cases where authors wish to change their name for any reason following publication in *AI*, MAC will update all digitally published content, metadata, and associated records under its control to reflect the requested name change. I, for one, am proud that MAC has joined a growing list of publishers who have responded to the call for a more gender- and trans-inclusive scholarly publishing environment. The complete policy can be viewed on the MAC website at https://www.midwestarchives.org/archival-issues.

As always, we welcome article submissions on a wide range of topics related to archives and special collections. To submit a manuscript or if you have an idea for an article you would like to discuss, please contact me at bpieczko@iu.edu, or visit our online submission portal at https://www.iastatedigitalpress.com/archivalissues/submissions.

News from the Midwest

ILLINOIS

Northwestern University Libraries

Northwestern Community Ensemble: Black Sacred Music and the College Campus (https://sites.northwestern.edu/nce1971) tells the origin story of Northwestern University's campus gospel choir. In 1971, a group of Black students established NCE in the Black sacred music tradition to provide a spiritual outlet, to create a space to connect at a predominately white university, and to engage in a Black cultural tradition. The online exhibit features archival materials from the Northwestern University Archives and clips from oral history interviews with the founders and early members of the student group. After 50 years, this music ministry still has a strong presence on campus and in the greater Chicago area.

IOWA

Iowa State University

In December 2020, Iowa State University received a grant from the National Recording Preservation Foundation to digitize 991 audio recordings of ISU lectures. The chosen selection spans 1970s–1990s, and the recordings were nominated based on their high cultural, historical, and aesthetic value, as well as on the endangered nature of magnetic media, the lack of access options for this medium, the high research value and demand for the selections, and the ability to share them publicly, free of restrictions. ISU completed this grant in June. Read more about

this project at *Cardinal Tales* (https://isuspecialcollections.wordpress.com/2020/12/15/nrpf-grant-awarded-to-digitize-isu-lectures). The digitized lectures are available at https://iastate.aviaryplatform.com/collections/1150 and YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxEspDNITCII6WWatDZT08QaCYORT1n1g). § ISU's most recent exhibit, *A Home Away from Home: The George A. Jackson Black Cultural Center*, opened in February in the Parks Library. Read more about this exhibit in the library newsletter (https://www.lib.iastate.edu/news/%E2%80%9C-home-away-home-george-jackson-black-cultural-center%E2%80%9D). Keep an eye out in the next newsletter for the digitized exhibit.

MINNESOTA

University of Minnesota Social Welfare History Archives

The Social Welfare History Archives at the University of Minnesota Libraries received a $10,000 grant from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society for a digital preservation and access project, Public Health in Minnesota: Digitizing Recordings of *A Public Health Journal* Television Program. The 12-month project will make over 300 recordings from the Minnesota Public Health Association records available online and bring the history of public health to a diverse audience of community members, scholars, and professionals. *This publication was made possible in part by the people of Minnesota through a grant funded* by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Any views, findings, opinions, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the State of Minnesota, the Minnesota Historical Society, or the Minnesota Historic Resources Advisory Committee.

MISSOURI

Carondelet Consolidated Archives

In response to Pope Francis's dedication of 2021 as the Year of Saint Joseph, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet's Consolidated Archives curated an online exhibit of artistic works created by their members that pay homage to St. Joseph, the patron of the Universal Church. The National Catholic Educational Association also promoted the collection on its website so that teachers and students across the United States could view and study these materials. The online exhibit is part of the Carondelet Consolidated Archives' digital collections website hosted by the Internet Archive. You can view these works and more at https://archive.org/details/carondeletconsolidatedarchive.

(Continued from page 13)

Photo courtesy of the Carondelet Consolidated Archives

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota State Historical Society

Charlie Russell and the Gnomes of Bull Head Lodge, written by Emily Crawford Wilson and illustrated by Montana-based artist Jeanne Bowman, is the most recent children's picture book available from the South Dakota Historical Society Press. Using history and art, Wilson crafts an afternoon of magical mischief, through a modern fairy tale based on the life of western artist Charles M. Russell (1864–1926). The story takes place deep in the woods of Glacier National Park, where artist Charlie Russell struggles to create his latest painting. With fellow artist Joe De Yong, he hikes into the wilderness to clear the cobwebs from his mind. Just as the artists disappear from sight, three gnomes—funny little creatures that Charlie built from twisted branches and birch bark—POP! POP! POP! to life. They know how to inspire Charlie's next masterpiece! Jumping down from the porch, they search the forest floor for just the right thing to jog his imagination.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee Public Library

Frank Zeidler was the last Socialist mayor of the City of Milwaukee (1948–1960) and continued to be an important local activist/leader. In the summer of 2019, Milwaukee Public Library began the process of appraising and organizing over 400 record cartons of his unprocessed materials. These materials were then integrated into the existing collection previously processed in the 1980s. This revealed that the entire collection would need reprocessing. In early 2020, due to the pandemic, work was paused; however work resumed in August, and now the processing of all 200 boxes is complete. While reviewing those unprocessed boxes, archivists also discovered 30 boxes of records of the Socialist Party, including local, national, and international branches. This created the next project: reorganizing and integrating those materials into the existing Socialist Party collection. Library staff are thrilled to finally see these collections open to the public and accessible for research.

University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Archives Department

This spring, the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Archives created an online exhibit, *The Immortal Magazine: A History of "The Little Review" Magazine and the Women behind It*. The exhibit highlights the history of *The Little Review*, a literary and art magazine active during the modernist era from 1914 to 1929 and delves into LGBTQ+ history by looking at the lives of its editors, Margaret Anderson and Jane Heap. The UWM Archives holds the records of *The Little Review* detailing the production of the magazine and the personalities of the celebrities who submitted work for publication. The magazine was known best for its publication of *Ulysses* by James Joyce and participation in the obscenity trial that subsequently banned the work in the United States, and this exhibit explores other controversies and achievements in the magazine's lifetime that are often overlooked. Visit the exhibit at https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bc4b2209f47249 24b93447363bd29a49.

Archival Resources on the Web

*Assistant Editor: Lauren White, University of Michigan. Contact Lauren at laurenashleywhite@gmail.com
if you would like to guest author a column or have a good idea to share.*

Putting LGBTQ History on the Map

*By Miranda Rectenwald, CA, Curator of Local History,
Julian Edison Department of Special Collections, Washington University Libraries*

Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis (http://library.wustl.edu/map-lgbtq-stl) is a digital project that uses maps to explore the region's lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans*, and queer communities from the end of World War II in 1945 through the passage of St. Louis's first gay- and lesbian-inclusive civil rights ordinance in 1992. Over 800 points are geocoded throughout the metropolitan area, mapping everything from marches in the streets to sporting events in the park and corner bars.

The project aims to document the history of people whose sexual and gender nonconformity has often meant that their stories have gone unheard, unrecorded, unarchived, and unremarked. It also intentionally highlights the role of race and racism—a topic that influences all aspects of life in St. Louis. Its goal is to put this intersectional history literally, and metaphorically, on the map.

Conveying information on a map provides viewers an easily relatable connection to history. It grounds past events with present locations and literally shows that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans people's history is interwoven through our entire region. The digital representation was a necessary tool, as in only rare instances do buildings still exist in these locations. This is mainly due to St. Louis's extensive pattern of "urban renewal" through building and neighborhood demolition, coupled with a previous lack of attention to LGBTQ history.

The idea to use geography to understand LGBTQ history was inspired by pioneering work done at the ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, University of Southern California Libraries, called "Queer Terrains" (https://one.usc.edu/queer-terrains). In 2015, a St. Louis project was proposed and received funding through a Divided Cities grant by the Washington University Center for the Humanities. I joined the team in 2016 and since then have worked in close collaboration with Andrea Friedman, professor of history and women, gender, and sexuality studies in the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as my library colleagues Jennifer Moore and Mollie Webb, in the GIS/Data Services Department. This combination of skills and disciplines—of historians, archivists, and GIS (geographic information systems)—has resulted in a project truly more than the sum of its parts. Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis first published in October 2017, and, with additional grant funds, a new version of the site went live in spring 2021.

Unlike many digital projects, Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis is not an online surrogate to an analog archives collection. It is a new creation, compiling information from multiple archives and oral histories. Through more than a year of research by the project team, a new collection was created—a sort of digital vertical file—providing basic data about LGBTQ history across St. Louis. And, while the project shares many similarities with digital exhibits (providing users with interpretation), the site also makes available a full set of the raw data allowing further research and adaptive reuse. Consequently, the entire project's files and output are being officially accessioned as collection #wua00474.

The Site

Visitors to the site begin at the page "Explore Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis," which offers options to browse a map or select various "guided tours" that provide curated experiences by topic. Clicking on each mapped dot reveals a box with basic information listing the location, address, dates of known existence, and primary type of space, such as bar, restaurant, social, business, political organizing, or bath house. These color-coded points can be toggled on or off using simple-to-click buttons. A more complex interactive map is also provided, which includes a keyword search and the ability to use geo-location to see historic points near the user's own physical location. Here a table of the location data can also be downloaded as a .CSV file.

(Continued from page 15)
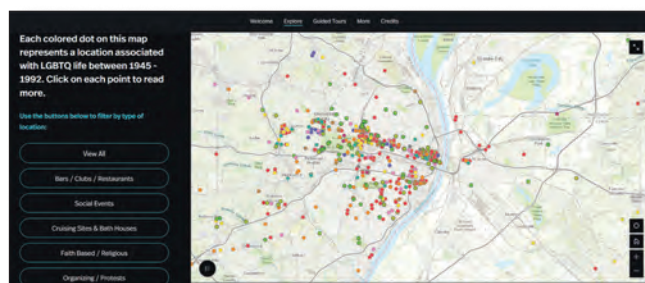
Screen image of the site landing page and interactive map, April 2021

As originally created, the site provided four interpretive essays ("The Impact of Segregation," "Sex in the City," "Beyond Gender Binaries," and "Divided by Violence") and one visual timeline ("Political Actions and Organizing"). While the topics were well received, anecdotal feedback from users indicated these essays were overwhelming and longer than most people were interested (or able) to read. The timeline format was appreciated, but it was difficult to navigate because it used a completely different template from all other pages.

To provide a better experience, updates made in 2020–2021 focused on providing shorter and more interactive pages that incorporate more images and video clips. As of April 2021, contextual information, described as "guided tours," is offered on five topics: "Connecting the Dots" (how LGBTQ life intersects with St. Louis's overall history), "Miss Fannie's Ball" (the area's longest-running Black drag ball), "Mor or Les" (a lesbian bar destroyed by arson in 1979), "Bill's Bar & Zebra Lounge" (highlighting the cultural role of Black bars), and "Forest Park" (the city's largest green space with many connections to LGBTQ history). The political organizing timeline was also redesigned to include more images, links, and an update to the same template.

The original, longer essays are still available, but are now presented as "extended (virtual) tours," providing an opportunity for a deeper look at how LGBTQ communities and cultures have developed and changed over time.

Digital Platform Pros and Cons

The Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis project is built on Esri's ArcGIS StoryMap. This program was selected for several reasons. First, Washington University already had a campuswide account making the program available to the project team. Many students and faculty across disciplines at the university use the platform, and we were able to hire two graduate students already somewhat familiar with the app. Although not open-source technology, ArcGIS is a well-documented system widely used and respected in the GIS field. The StoryMap application is especially designed to provide an interactive experience where viewers access mapping data with accompanying narrative text and images.
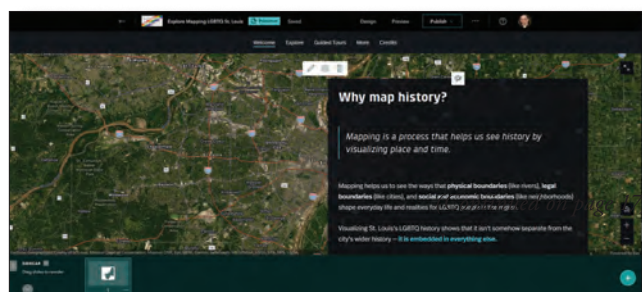
Editor view of the ArcGIS StoryMap interface, April 2021

The initial site (2017–2020) was built in the "classic" Story Map[1] application using Cascade templates. In 2021, expanded content and a new landing page were designed using the updated StoryMap interface. This version of StoryMap offers much easier design tools than the original version and greater support for embedded video, audio, and image galleries. The new application displays well on mobile devices and, most important, meets web-accessibility standards.

Esri has made extensive updates to the ArcGIS StoryMap tool since its inception and releases new features on a regular basis. It also offers monthly webinars featuring exemplary StoryMap users and provides a variety of how-to blog posts with tips for effective storytelling.

The chief downsides we have encountered with StoryMaps are the difficulty of archiving the final product and the lack of metadata accompanying images in the narrations. At Washington University, the Julian Edison Department of Special Collections utilizes various digital preservation strategies for born-digital content. Most websites are captured in conjunction with an Internet Archive account. Thus far, capture tools have not functioned well with ArcGIS StoryMaps, although, as this article is being drafted, we are planning to experiment with capturing the pages using Conifer. The lack of metadata for images remains an ongoing difficulty. While StoryMaps provides a caption

and alt text field for every image, these are never required and must be manually added for each image. It is also not possible to view the image file name (if uploaded) or web address (if linked) once inserted into the StoryMap. This makes updating or replacing images difficult and resulted in the need to maintain a separate spreadsheet of information for each StoryMap designed.

Feedback

Our project team is always interested in hearing from users of the Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis site. Do you have history from this time period in St. Louis to share? Have you used the site with students or in a class? Have you noticed corrections needed or do you just have general questions? Please let us know!

You can contact the team on Twitter (@MappingLGBTQstl) or by email (mrectenwald@wustl.edu) or use the linked form (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqU4wTRO1fxm1YXm4x4i5CUccf-c0KzF4RFspjHWzT-csNjw/viewform?usp=sf_link) on the project site.

Links

"Explore Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis," http://library.wustl.edu/map-lgbtq-stl.

For background, sources and methods, see "About Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis," https://arcg.is/1evXKP.

For updates and announcements, follow us on Twitter https://twitter.com/mappinglgbtqstl.

Similar projects at other organizations

"Queer Terrains," ONE Archives at USC Libraries, https://one.usc.edu/queer-terrains.

Mapping the Gay Guides, a nationwide project, https://www.mappingthegayguides.org.

Kentucky Queer History, http://kentuckyqueerhistory.org/queer-kentucky-map.

An Everyday Queer New York, "The Maps," http://jgieseking.org/AQNY/the-maps.

Note

1. The original version of the program is spelled "Story Map" as two words, while the updated version is "StoryMap" without spaces.

Electronic Currents

Assistant Editor: Sarah Dorpinghaus, University of Kentucky. Contact Sarah at sarah.dorpinghaus@uky.edu if you would like to guest author a column or have a good idea to share.

Programmatic Challenges of Web Archiving: A Graduate Student Perspective

Adapted from a guest blog series for the SAA Web Archives Section

By Grace Moran, University of Illinois

There is a small window for preserving websites; finding a way to preserve them and ensure accessibility for end-users is one of the greatest challenges facing recordkeeping institutions today. This article details my efforts over this past academic year to develop, standardize, and envision a future for the University of Illinois web archiving program.

To start, a bit about myself. I graduated on May 15 from the iSchool at the University of Illinois with my MS in library and information sciences. I have been working for my supervisor, Dr. Chris Prom (associate dean, Office of Digital Strategies) since January 2019. Last year, he gave me the opportunity to transition from working on digital special collections and workflows to focusing on our young web-archiving program. Taking this opportunity led to an incredible learning experience that I want to share widely.

The University of Illinois has been an Archive-It partner since 2015. Prior to this, the library was running ad hoc event-specific web crawls with other technology and capturing content through a contract with the California Digital Library prior to 2015. The program has been inconsistent in its stewardship, with varying levels of support and staffing. This year, I was charged with evaluating the status of the University of Illinois subscription to Archive-It and the creation of a plan for its continued success. The culmination of the role was a final report outlining my accomplishments for the year, an evaluation of programmatic needs for the web-archiving program, and recommendations for the future of web archiving at the University of Illinois. The challenges facing a burgeoning web-archiving program are numerous and varied, ranging from policy to accessibility. With over 5 TB of data archived since 2015, the care and keeping of these collections is of utmost importance; the time invested by the University of Illinois Library must not be wasted.

My experience this past year made it clear that managing a web archive is no small feat. (Is this an obvious statement? Yes, but that doesn't make it any less true.) Two of the most urgent issues I have identified are metadata and access. The debate around metadata best practices for web archiving is not new. As it stands now, we don't have a standard for documenting archived websites. The OCLC Research Library Partnership Web Archiving Working Group has dedicated a tremendous amount of time to this issue (see Dooley, Farrell, Kim, and Venlet, 2018). Archival and bibliographic metadata standards don't fully account for the unique nature of websites, so some institutions have adopted a hybrid approach. The question remains whether or not a hybrid approach is sufficient. Is it necessary to create a new standard? Would this over complicate things?

What sort of description does Archive-It crawling technology support? The Archive-It platform has three possible levels of metadata:

1. Collection-level

2. Seed-level

3. Document-level

Our collections at the University of Illinois tend to have collection-level and seed-level metadata. At the minimum, the goal is to have collection-level metadata. Depending on the number of seeds (saved websites) in a collection, it is also common to implement seed-level metadata for an additional layer of description. The inconsistency of metadata below the collection level is due to a few factors. First, the labor of editing seed metadata takes enough hours without also creating document metadata—the law of diminishing returns. Second, what is/isn't a document on Archive-It remains unclear, prompting the question of what benefit there is in creating document-level metadata. The most urgent metadata need not only for the University of Illinois but for other collecting institutions is to create a consistent policy for description.

Deeply tied to the issue of metadata is that of access. How do we make sure that content reaches end-users? If a tree falls in the forest . . . no I'm not going to finish that; too cliché. You get the idea. My point is this: taking the time to preserve digital materials is

nearly meaningless if no one gets to enjoy the fruits of the labor. Currently, very few access points to University of Illinois web collections exist. One resides on Archon (our local archives online catalog) and leads directly to a lower-level collection on Archive-It: "University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Web Archives." Furthermore, the International and Area Studies Library, thanks to graduate assistant Nathan Sonnenschein, now links out to its collections in Archive-It. Otherwise, users must navigate to the public-facing Archive-It website and either search "University of Illinois" or stumble across one of our collections as a result of a search. We are not in any way alone in this; institutions all over are struggling with the idea of making collections searchable.

So, what's the solution? How do we implement an access system that doesn't overburden end-users? In my final report to the library, I recommended both short- and long-term solutions. Short-term, Archive-It allows subscribers to add a search bar to their own local discovery systems—with only a few lines of html—creating another method of discovery for researchers. This remedies the disconnect between local discovery systems and the Archive-It discovery system.

This simple, elegant, and quick solution would make a significant difference for researchers. A long-term, more involved solution would be to index all of our pages locally and work to allow full-text search of collections. In the era of Google, our users are used to full-text search that does much of the heavy lifting for them.

Policy and personnel are also central to web-archiving programs. Bragg and Hanna argue that policy affects every layer of a web-archiving program (Bragg and Hanna, 2013, 3). Based on my experience this past year, I believe institutional web-archiving policies must include the following among other things:

- A collection development policy unique to the institution's web-archiving program (a general organization-wide collection development policy does not suffice given the unique nature of the content being collected)
- A clear, centralized workflow outlining how crawls are to be run, troubleshooting documentation, and chain-of-command for web archiving
- A statement on copyright and ethics in web archiving (Niu, 2012)

(Continued from page 19)

Though it may be extremely obvious to some readers, it is worth saying: policy should be public. As someone who has worked for a public university, I am painfully aware of the importance of policy accessibility for our stakeholders. Furthermore, Belovari observes that this sort of information is also useful to researchers (Belovari, 2017).

What about personnel? Who should run a web-archiving program? How many people should be involved? Of course, this varies from institution to institution; however, my experience has made clear the need for a dedicated point person. This job could be

- A graduate web-archiving position, like my own, for 20 hours a week to coordinate crawls across units, run quality assurance, and populate metadata fields; or
- A civil service or academic professional position with at least a 50 percent appointment to web archiving. If an institution is looking to grow its web-archiving program, it should consider making this a 100 percent appointment for the first couple of years and then slowly transition the point person into additional activities related to digital strategies of the library.

If you are just beginning your program, you may find that a part-time position does not fulfill its needs. Additionally, long-term employees have the advantage of institutional knowledge and memory and therefore understand the administrative history of digital programs within the organization. Time is lost when retraining someone for a position annually or biannually is necessary.

Like any burgeoning field, web archiving presents a unique set of challenges. Investment of both capital and personnel now will save collecting institutions from later regrets when domains have gone extinct and the historical record is deprecated.

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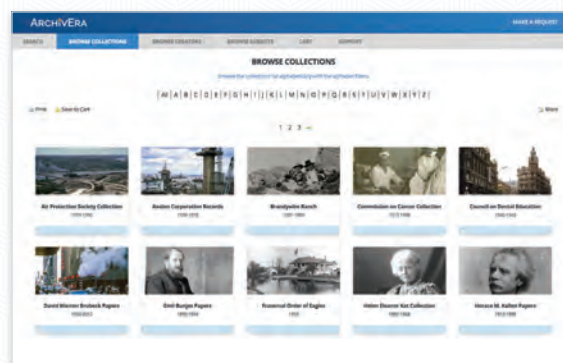
Other News

Reflections on an Archon-to-AtoM Migration

By John D. Thiesen, Bethel College

One of my major work-from-home archival projects during the COVID-19 lockdown of May–June 2020 was to conduct a migration of archival data from Archon to AccesstoMemory for a small consortium of Mennonite archives.

I started using Archon in February 2007, installed on a server here at Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas. I had been looking for something that would focus on public access for researchers rather than on internal archival management. (The other package available at that time, Archivists' Toolkit, focuses on internal management.) I had even been sketching out some database tables and other ideas to try to write something myself when I found out about Archon.

In late 2010 or early 2011, the Mennonite Church USA Archives, then located at Goshen College (Indiana), joined us in using our instance of Archon. Sometime in 2012, the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society, an all-volunteer organization, joined the "Mennonite Archival Commons." In March 2015, we moved the Archon instance from Bethel College servers to Libraryhost, where it had been at mac.libraryhost.com until late 2020. In 2016, the number of participants increased by one as the Mennonite Church USA Archives moved a portion of its collection to the denominational offices in Elkhart, Indiana, and the portion that remained at Goshen became the Goshen College Archives. Thus, four archives participated in the Mennonite Archival Commons.

As Archon was left behind during the creation of ArchivesSpace, we had quite a few discussions about migrating from Archon. We saw ArchivesSpace as rather neglecting the public interface and focusing again on internal archival management. I was influenced by negative evaluations of ArchivesSpace, such as that by The Ohio State University in 2016[1] and private communications from a couple of state archives and universities.

Because we are all lone archivist institutions (some archivists are less than one FTE, and Pacific Northwest is all-volunteer), we needed the public researcher interface much more than the internal management. Once I found out about AtoM, I installed it on an Amazon EC2 server to gain a bit of experience with it. At the same time, a consortium of Canadian Mennonite archives decided to use AtoM for making photographs available (Mennonite Archival Image Database). After a number of informal discussions, the US Mennonite consortium finally decided in 2019 to join with the Canadian consortium on its instance of AtoM to form the new Mennonite Archival Information Database (https://archives.mhsc.ca).

In addition to being a certified archivist since 1992, I have also worked in software development (and continue to do some software projects as a sideline to my archival work). Once we decided to migrate to AtoM, I began the process of migrating our data.

So that brings us to the technical aspects. No clean migration path exists from Archon to either ArchivesSpace or to AtoM. Because AtoM has a command-line bulk import process for EAD files, I concluded that the best approach would be to export and import EAD files. This was not as easy as it sounds, although I didn't encounter any insurmountable problems. But there's nothing like a data migration to reveal anomalies in your database, as I've found with other data migration projects I've done.

Archon has no bulk export to EAD that I was able to find. So, I wrote a Python program to download EAD files one at a time using the URL that is created if a human user clicks the EAD link. Because the URL contains the numeric collection ID, I could just loop through the IDs one by one and download the individual files. A couple of quirks occurred in this process that I won't go into here.

The next phase was to account for the various ways that Archon's EAD files don't match up with what AtoM is expecting, as EAD is a somewhat loose standard and can be interpreted in differing ways. There were two general categories of problems. I couldn't do much about data that Archon doesn't include in its EAD output (for example, Sort title). But, for things that are formatted differently in EAD (for example, some date formats and some unit Ids), I wrote a second Python program to modify the EAD files derived from Archon to reformat into the EAD sequence that AtoM was looking for.

(Continued from page 21)

We succeeded in uploading about 1,800 collections into the already-existing AtoM instance used by the Canadian archival consortium. We discovered some quirks as we tried the process, such as one finding aid that was gargantuan because of numerous scope and content notes at the item level. (It took several hours to upload.) But we got all of the collections loaded with relatively little manual editing afterward.

If anyone out there is working on an Archon-to-AtoM migration, I'd be happy to answer any questions I can. I also provided a more detailed technical description and copies of my Python programs to Dan Gillean at Artefactual, which manages the AtoM software.

Note

1. Morag Boyd, "Archival Management Systems at The Ohio State University" (PowerPoint presented at the Society of American Archivists Annual Conference, August 3, 2016), https://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/SAA%202016%20Archival%20Management%20Systems%20at%20The%20Ohio%20State%20University.pdf.

People and Posts

Paul Beck

Dr. Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm

Mark Thiel

Paul Beck is retiring after 23 years of service as the Special Collections Librarian at Murphy Library, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.

Lois Hamill is the university archivist at Northern Kentucky University where she heads the Special Collections and University Archives. She has been promoted to professor. Her third book, *Archives 101,* a practical ready reference written for people who care for historical records, photographs, and collections regardless of their professional education or institution type, was just published.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is pleased to announce that **Dr. Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm** joined Morris Library on January 2, 2021, as associate dean of Library Affairs, Special Collections Research Center. For the past two decades, Hamilton-Brehm developed digital and archival collections and exhibits for universities and public libraries across the United States, becoming a certified archivist in 2020. Striving to increase public access to our cultural heritage, she pursues education and preservation initiatives in collaboration with diverse institutional and community partners.

Mark G. Thiel retired February 15, 2021, as archivist for Catholic Native America Collections within Special Collections and Archives at Marquette University. As emeritus faculty after 35 years of service, he will assist in the transition of duties within the department and continue to serve on several related Native American advisory boards.

Associate Professor **Eric Willey**, Milner Library, received approval for a sabbatical leave for fall 2021 semester. During his sabbatical, he will investigate integrating the creation of Wikidata items for scholarly and creative research by university faculty and graduate students with standard cataloging workflows.

In Memoriam:
James William Craven
(1931–2020)

James William Craven ("Jim") was born October 17, 1931, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and died there at his home on September 17, 2020. Jim was the younger son of George and Elsie Craven, immigrants from Yorkshire, England. Jim graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1949 and then entered an apprenticeship at the University of Michigan Bindery, beginning 62 years of employment with the university, the longest of any staff member. His employment was interrupted only by service in Korea and Japan from 1951 to 1954 with the United States Army.

Upon his return, Jim resumed work at the bindery, completing a seven-year training program as a journeyman bookbinder, and in 1964 becoming its supervisor. In 1974, Jim took a newly established position as restoration specialist, conservator, and fine bookbinder at the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library. He worked for the four university repositories for rare books and documents: Michigan Historical Collections, the William L. Clements Library, and the rare book collections of the graduate and law libraries. In this work, he mentored many students and volunteers who themselves went on to have distinguished careers in the art of document conservation.

One of Jim's most significant tasks was to lead the design and installation of a state-of-the-art conservation laboratory when the Bentley Library expanded its building. Jim gave very popular tours of the laboratory to donors, students, and dignitaries, as well as lectures on conservation and antique bookbinding. Upon his retirement in 2012, Jim was recognized by Francis Blouin Jr., the director of the Bentley, as a "master craftsman . . . whose work was always impeccable to the very highest standards, worthy of the great treasures entrusted to us by the various libraries at the University."

In addition to Jim's work in document conservation, he developed specialized expertise in library disaster response. In 1981, following a fire that destroyed the University of Michigan Economics Building, Jim supervised the complicated materials recovery process after the disaster, utilizing the vacuum chambers at the University of Michigan Aerospace Building and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, ultimately enabling the substantial recovery of many irreplaceable books and documents.

His obituary can be viewed online at https://obits.mlive.com/obituaries/annarbor/obituary.aspx?n=james-william-craven&pid=196892072.

New and Returning Members

ILLINOIS

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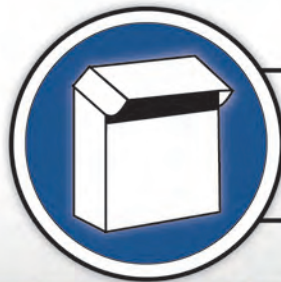Miami University

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Door County Historical
Museum and Archives

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OUT-OF-REGION

Valeria Estefania Davila Gronros
Oregon State University Libraries
and Press

MAC Contacts

President (2019–2021)
Erik Moore
University Archivist
University of Minnesota
218 Elmer L. Anderson Library
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Phone: 612-625-5756
moore144@umn.edu

Vice President (2020–2022)
Michelle Sweetser
Head Librarian, Center for Archival
    Collections
Bowling Green State University
1001 East Wooster Street
Bowling Green, OH 43403
Phone: 419-372-8085
msweets@bgsu.edu

Treasurer (2020–2022)
Jerice Barrios
Archivist
Archives of the NA Province of the
    Cenacle
205 West Monroe Street, Suite 210
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: 312-544-8204
cenacle.archives@gmail.com

Secretary (2019–2021)
Jennie Thomas
Director of Archives
Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum
2809 Woodland Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44155
Phone: 216-515-1942
jthomas@rockhall.org

Council
Jennifer Ho (2020–2022)
Archivist
California State University San Marcos
333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road
San Marcos, CA 92096
Phone: 760-750-4000
jho@csusm.edu

Sammie Morris (2020–2023)
University Archivist
Purdue University
504 West State Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907
Phone: 765-494-2839
morris18@purdue.edu

Tara Laver (2018–2021)
Archivist
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
4525 Oak Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Phone: 816-751-1216
tlaver@nelson-atkins.org

Katie Blank (2019–2022)
Digital Records Archivist
Marquette University
Raynor Memorial Libraries
PO Box 3141
Milwaukee, WI 53201-3141
Phone: 414-288-8741
katherine.blank@marquette.edu

Daria Labinsky (2019–2022)
Archivist
Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and
    Museum
441 Freedom Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30307-1498
Phone: 404-865-7100
daria.labinsky@gmail.com

Ex Officio Council

***Archival Issues* Editor**
Brandon T. Pieczko
Digital and Special Collections
    Librarian
Ruth Lilly Medical Library
Indiana University School of Medicine
975 West Walnut Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Phone: 317-274-7194
bpieczko@iu.edu

Development Coordinator
Ida Mangum (2019–2021)
Assistant Archivist
University of Kentucky
Margaret I. King Library
179 Funkhouser Drive
Lexington, KY 40506-0039
Phone: 859-323-4569
ida.lucille.sell@uky.edu

Education Committee
Amy Bishop (2019–2021)
Rare Books and Manuscripts Archivist
Iowa State University
403 Parks Library 701 Morrill Road
Ames, IA 50011-2102
Phone: 515-294-8807
aebishop@iastate.edu

Hathaway Hester (2020–2022)
Manager of Association Archives
National Association of Realtors
430 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611-4087
hathawayhester@gmail.com

***MAC Newsletter* Editor**
Adriana Harmeyer (2021–2023)
Archivist for University History
Purdue University
504 West State Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907
Phone: 765-494-2263
aharmey@purdue.edu

Membership Committee
Matthew Gorzalski (2019–2021)
University Archivist
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Morris Library
Mailcode 6632
Carbondale, IL 62901
Phone: 618-453-2225
m.gorzalski@gmail.com

Public Information Officer
Kyna Herzinger (2018–2020)
Archivist for Records Management
University of Louisville
University Libraries
Louisville, KY 40292
Phone: 502.852.6302
kyna.herzinger@louisville.edu

Vendor Coordinator
Lisa Huntsha (2019–2021)
Swenson Swedish Immigration Research
    Librarian and Archivist
Augustana College
Denkmann 134
639 38th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201
Phone: 309-794-7496
lisahuntsha@augustana.edu

Webmaster
Kate Dietrick
Archivist, Upper Midwest Jewish
    Archives
University of Minnesota
Elmer L. Andersen Library
222 21st Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455
diet0134@umn.edu

Committee Chairs

**Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship
for Students of Color**
Rebekah McFarland
Certified Archivist
Sisters of the Living Word
Arlington Heights, IL
rmcfarland@slw.org

**Mark A. Greene Award for First-Time
Meeting Attendees**
Vicki Cooper
Records and Information Manager
Northern Kentucky University
106B Steely Library
Highland Heights, KY 41099
Phone: 859-572-5742
cooperv2@nku.edu

**Louisa Bowen Memorial Graduate
Scholarship**
Lynn Smith
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Amy Cooper Cary
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    University
amy.cary@marquette.edu

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❏ New Membership   ❏ Change of Address   ❏ Renewal

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