

MAC midwest archives conference

n e w s l e t t e r

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

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President's Page

MAC midwest archives
conference

Why Are You an Archivist?

By Tamar Chute, President, Midwest Archives Conference



Why are you an archivist?

A lot of discussion recently, both online and within my university, has focused on burnout, the struggle to find joy in what we do, and the question of how to create a balance of work and home life. The questions and challenges are significant, and I have wondered, what is it about my job that is important to me? I've often been asked how I became an archivist, but very rarely why. Why am I an archivist?

Last March, my dean asked me to supervise on a temporary basis a division of subject librarians in addition to the archives. While hesitant at first, I accepted the position for four months with the thought that perhaps it would help me understand what drives me in my work life. In the end, I found the answer to my questions back in the archives.

Over several months, I learned a lot about subject librarians and the ways they are similar to and different from archivists. I was inspired by their commitment to teaching, and we came up with several ways to collaborate in the future. Most significant for me personally, I discovered that what I still truly enjoy is the archives part of my job. I do a lot of other things (countless meetings), but my joy is within the archives. I am at my best when I connect researchers with their family's past or create a presentation for the alumni club about the history of the football stadium. I like explaining why the public records law requires us to provide access to the records, even ones that someone years ago incorrectly marked confidential. I love to create exhibits to share archival materials with a

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wide range of people. And I am passionate about challenging others to see archives as essential and that the gaps in our collections must be rectified.

Doing the “archives” part is why I became an archivist, and it is still, along with the archivists I work with, the most important part of professional me.

So what matters to you? Why are you, or why do you want to become, an archivist? You may look at my list and shudder at the idea of doing any of those things. Perhaps your archivist side is what allowed you to take the next step toward administration or even outside the field. No matter your path, I strongly believe that being an archivist has shaped your journey. I hope MAC has been, and continues to be, a positive part of that journey.

Throughout MAC's 50th anniversary year, we have engaged with MAC's history and present. Perhaps you attended the Annual Meeting in Madison or participated in the hybrid sessions online. Or do you plan to be in Indianapolis for the Fall Symposium? Maybe you glanced through the timeline and read about MAC's history or saw the slideshow where members shared what MAC means to them. As we look ahead and plan for MAC's future, what should we offer to students and new archivists? What about those in the middle or nearing the end of their careers? Do you have ideas of how MAC can help the archivist in you?

I would love to brainstorm about the future of MAC or contemplate the next set of archival challenges. If you have suggestions, please be sure to send me a note or ask to jump on a Zoom or regular call. I'm always ready to talk archives and what comes next.

I hope you all have a wonderful fall and that we will see each other soon.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tamar Chute". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tamar Chute

President, Midwest Archives Conference

Vice President's Column

By Benn Joseph, Northwestern University

I am something of a procrastinator whenever it comes to writing projects—this is why I had such a hard time working exclusively from home early on during COVID. I'm very good at finding things around the house to fix or clean! So, even though I still work from home one day a week, certain writing projects like this column are something I need to do "on-site," so to speak, lest I find myself suddenly cleaning the kitchen or trying to fix a leaky faucet. Not that there isn't plenty to fix at the office, what with all the various projects and initiatives we're juggling (and I'm sure that goes for anyone reading this too).

As is tradition for the fall *MAC Newsletter*, I'd like to point out that I write these columns several months in advance of their publication. Right now, it's late July, and, as I enjoy the inferno that is outside, I also wonder how much more pleasant things might be in October, when the roar of the dehumidifiers in our stacks slowly subsides during their annual migration back to various winter locations for an extended hibernation period.

At press time, our Fall Symposium is not yet history, but I'd like to thank Jackie Shalberg and Bethany Fiechter as new record holders for the longest-standing coauthors of any MAC Symposium ever. Hopefully, three years is a record that will stand for a long time to come. They have done outstanding work in putting together the Fall Symposium at the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis, which I attended (or planned to attend anyway—did it actually happen?). Presenters Carey (Beam) Champion, Carrie Schwier, and Carol Street served up a highly anticipated (for years!) program on outreach, which has refueled attendees for the foreseeable future. Council met remotely over two days rather than in person during this time, which cut down on costs for the meeting itself, as well as on travel costs (and emissions!) for Council members. A back-of-the-napkin calculation says nearly one ton of carbon emissions may have been saved by this decision; not bad! But please don't ask how I came up with this number. Council meetings on Zoom may continue to be a thing for fall meetings going forward, although in-person meetings during the spring meeting will still also be a thing.

2023 Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois

We have a theme! The Program Committee has selected the theme "Dig Deep," which harnesses Chicago's association with deep-dish pizza to invite professional self-reflection and promote layered discussion. This theme may even offer some inspiration for the opening reception's victuals. Local Arrangements coauthors Pam Hackbart-Dean and Michael Bullington are digging into the deep-dish district to slice up some surprises for us. The Program Committee, cochaired by Kyna Herzinger and Matt Gorzalski, has put out the call for proposals, and I imagine by now has received some pretty good ones. Did *you* submit a proposal? The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held at the Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile, April 12–15. This is a great hotel with a fantastic location just one block from the world's largest Starbucks. Oh, and there's some shopping nearby too. Did I mention stopping at the world's largest Culver's on the way to Madison for the 2022 Annual Meeting? I hope to continue this trend in 2024.

2023 Fall Symposium, Louisville, Kentucky

Many more updates on the 2023 Fall Symposium will come but, at the time of writing, let it be known that coauthor Danielle Spalenka is formulating an excellent program, to be hosted at the Filson Historical Society in Louisville, Kentucky.

2024 Annual Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa

Of course, 2024 is still a way off, but, at this point, we can rest easy knowing the LAC is reprising its role with Rosalie Gartner and Hope Bibens as coauthors! As they've done this all before (for 2020) it should be smooth sailing. Depending on how you're counting at home, Rosalie and Hope may give Jackie and Bethany a run for their money as the longest-serving coauthors in history.

Are you interested in hosting a Fall Symposium or making a case to bring the Annual Meeting to your town? Send me a message!

MAC Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin “Moving Archives Forward” May 5–7, 2022

By Cynthia Bachhuber and Katie Nash

The theme of MAC 2022, “Moving Archives Forward,” was fitting for MAC’s 50th anniversary and first in-person conference since 2019! Attendees spent time together examining the past and looking forward. The Program Committee developed an incredibly diverse and innovative program for those in attendance. The Local Arrangements Committee spotlighted the breadth and depth of the city of Madison. Attendees showed up in solid numbers for both the in-person and virtual conferences. Attendees expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity to network with other professionals, share ideas, and talk through the many changes the last two years have brought to the profession. In the end, MAC hosted 236 members for the in-person conference and 96 members for the virtual conference.



The registration table, staffed by (l–r): Michelle Sweetser, Cynthia Bachhuber, Heather Sonntag, and Katie Nash

The conference kicked off on Thursday, May 5, with workshops, local tours, a few sessions, the MAC PALS reception, and an all-member reception at the Wisconsin Historical Society. The next two days, Friday, May 6, and part of Saturday, May 7, were filled with innovative, relevant, and meaningful programs and a poster session that were well attended both in person and virtually.



Poster session

The Education Committee—led by Carrie Schwier (cochair) and Hathaway Hester (cochair) and comprising members Sarah Cain, Ashley Howdeshell, Stefanie Hunker, Kathryn Kuntz, Ryan Leimkuehler, Tia Stinson, Matt Strandmark, and Katie Blank—provided attendees with a workshop on Thursday, May 5. “CLI for GLAM: A Bash for Absolute Beginners” gave total newbies a chance to gain competence and confidence using command line. At a time when tech solutions seem to be increasing, it was much appreciated to have a chance to slow things down and work together from the very beginning.

The tours were a real hit among in-person attendees and included a variety of places to visit both within the city of Madison and on the campus of UW–Madison. Traditional behind-the-scenes tours of local repositories included UW–Madison Special Collections, Wisconsin Veterans Museum, and the state-of-the-art Wisconsin State Archives Preservation Facility. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about First Nations of Wisconsin during the First Nations Cultural Landscape Walking Tour that took place on the campus. All tours were at full capacity, and some were able to add more attendees at the last minute.

While the plenary speaker, Margaret Noodin, was unable to attend in person, attendees were able to participate and learn from Dr. Noodin via livestream. Margaret Noodin received an MFA in creative writing and a PhD in English and linguistics from the University of Minnesota. She is professor of English and American Indian studies at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, where she also serves as the associate dean of the humanities and director of the Electa Quinney Institute for American Indian Education. She is the author of *Bawaajimo: A Dialect of Dreams in Anishinaabe Language and Literature* (Michigan State University Press) and *Weweni* and *What the Chickadee Knows* (both Wayne State University Press), both bilingual collections of poetry in Anishinaabemowin and English. To hear her work, visit <https://ojibwe.net>.



Plenary speaker Margaret Noodin

The Program Committee—led by Kahlee Leingang (cochair), Sarah Dorpinghaus (cochair), and Scott Brouwer (interim cochair) and composed of members Shelby Edwards, Matt Gorzalski, Sister Virginia Jung, Micaela Terronez, Anu Kasarabada, Brad Wiles, Amy Lisinski, Warren Lambert, Michelle McClellan, and Danielle Spalenka—developed an outstanding program (with over 20 sessions!) for attendees that included a variety of topics and a little something for everyone. The committee managed both in-person and virtual conference logistics, ensuring the program was smooth, informative, and responsive for all attendees.

The opening reception took place at the Wisconsin Historical Society, which houses one of the country's leading collections of North American history. Some highlights from the collections were on display in the beautiful nineteenth-century reading room, including early American newspapers, Stephen Sondheim's handwritten *West Side Story* lyrics, and papers from the Little Rock Nine. Attendees were able to enjoy these treasures and catch up with their colleagues over plentiful food and libations. We also all raised a glass to toast MAC's 50th anniversary.



WHS archivist Jenny Barth at the reception exhibit

The Local Arrangements Committee—led by Cynthia Bachhuber (cochair) and Katie Nash (cochair) and consisting of David Pavelich, Abbie Norderhaug, Dana Gerber-Margie, Meredith Lowe, Amy Rudersdorf, Emil Hoelter, Kate Slauson, and Jessica Hansen—would like to take the opportunity to thank all the MAC members who traveled to Madison and made this conference memorable. Bringing MAC to Madison has been in the works for years, and we were delighted to finally make it happen. We hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we enjoyed pulling it together for everyone! We hope you remember your time in Madison attending MAC 2022 fondly and return to visit Madison and experience everything it has to offer.

Awards and Scholarships

Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Students in Archival Administration

By Alessandra Liberati



Alessandra Liberati

I would like to begin by showing my appreciation for receiving this award. The Louisa Bowen Scholarship has helped me to further my knowledge of copyright and its impact on archives and their collection materials when it comes to digitization for accessibility and preservation.

In May of 2020, I graduated from Beloit College with a bachelor of arts in history and classical civilizations, focusing on the Middle Ages and ancient Rome

respectively. This was at the beginning of the pandemic, and I, along with thousands of other students, spent my last semester of undergraduate school using digital resources to complete my papers. This revealed to me the inconsistencies within the digital resources that were currently available, as opposed to those that were still only accessible in physical form.

Currently, I am a little more than halfway through my master's degree in library and information science at Wayne State University's School of Information Sciences, with a focus on archives and digital content management and a concurrent archival administration certificate. I am also still utilizing digital resources almost completely, as I am completing my program online and out of state.

I became interested in archives when I began volunteering at the Beloit College Archives, and the interest has been fostered since then through classes and various work positions. As I have moved forward from my undergraduate background in ancient history into the field of library science and archives, I have cultivated my interest and passion in information accessibility for all users. Throughout my classes at Wayne State University's School for Information Sciences, I have learned about the various methods and practices that go into digitizing materials. One of these classes revolved around copyright and its impact on the practice of digitizing materials. This has become an important point of knowledge for me as it pertains to my ultimate career goal of making archival collections accessible to differently abled users through the guidelines given by the Americans with Disabilities Act and beyond.

I believe that everyone deserves equal access to all knowledge, and this scholarship has helped me to get closer to achieving that goal.

Awards and Scholarships

Mark A. Greene Award for First-Time Meeting Attendees

By Jenny DeRocher



Jenny DeRocher

As a young professional who has worked at La Crosse Public Library Archives (Wisconsin) for four years, this was my first time attending a MAC Annual Meeting. I grew up in the Madison area, but earned my MLIS in Boston, and it was a surprisingly strange experience to attend a professional conference so near my hometown. It was as if I was looking at Madison under a new, archival gaze. In reflecting on the driving themes of each conversation, session, and keynote speaker at MAC, I noticed that Indigenous and queer folks were often centered throughout the conference as we together discussed archival practices, such as reparative description and collecting efforts. It was a bolstering experience for me to be surrounded by folks who have the same professional values as myself. I admired this clear intention of those who organized and designed sessions on these topics. I look forward to attending MAC in future years and to see where leaders in our profession push us to redefine our roles as recordkeepers and educators who can center decolonized and queer-informed practices.

One event that was particularly helpful in my own growth was the First Nations Cultural Landscape

Walking Tour of the UW–Madison Campus. This was led by Omar Poler, an enrolled member of the Sokaogon Chippewa Community who serves as the American Indian curriculum services coordinator in the Teacher Education Center at UW–Madison. This was the first event I attended on May 5, and it shaped the next two and a half days of the conference for me.

As the tour began, Omar asked each of us where we were from. After hearing that I was from La Crosse—a city that occupies ancestral Ho-Chunk land, like Madison—he tailored sections of the tour to me. He described the many attempted removals the Ho-Chunk faced, something that happened more than once over 100 years because the Ho-Chunk resisted by returning to their homelands each time. When he described the 1863 removal to Crow Creek Reserve (South Dakota), he asked us to imagine what it must have been like to walk from South Dakota back to Wisconsin in the wintertime. He looked at me and described the rolling bluffs surrounding La Crosse in the Driftless area, where many Ho-Chunk had to cross to reach their ancestral lands spanning across what we now think of as southern Wisconsin. Throughout the tour, Omar shared with us the primary sources he read in archives around the state. These sources gave him information on what the landscape looked like before colonization in the 1800s as well as details on what happened during the removals, reminding those of us on the tour of the power we hold as people working in archives.

This tour had particular impact because it was an example of how I, as a white archivist located in Wisconsin, might act to decolonize my programming and outreach, which are a large portion of my job at a public library archives. I guide walking tours regularly, host a monthly History Club, organize panels and lectures, and work closely with students year-round. I also write blogs, newspaper columns, and social media posts, and I create exhibits. My undergraduate education was in public history, which drives me to make history more accessible. Typically, that means telling the thousands—millions—of stories that can be found within our archives and inspiring folks to interact with primary sources themselves.

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The First Nations Cultural Landscape tour led by Omar Poler emphasized the importance of engaging with—and teaching from—decolonized frameworks. He helped me redefine my intentions behind the land acknowledgment I read before my programs and question the way I frame local history. He inspired me to ask my local Ho-Chunk neighbors (I use this word literally—the Ho-Chunk Nation Three Rivers House in La Crosse is across the street from the main library branch where I work) about what they wish our community knew about their history and

to find ways to incorporate this into my walking tours. Because their history is ultimately our shared history; La Crosse's history—no matter the topic—is entangled in our occupation of Ho-Chunk land. The removals, three of the eleven boarding schools that were located in Wisconsin, and the racist mascotting of Indigenous peoples by the city and the local sports teams are all part of the ongoing cultural genocide. In this way, the impact of this local history is entangled in our very identities and needs to be discussed for our communities to work on reconciliation.

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Awards and Scholarships

Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship for Students of Color

By Mary Lodu



Mary Lodu

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the 2022 Midwest Archives Conference Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship for Students of Color. I will be attending the University of Wisconsin–Madison this fall to begin my master’s in library and information science with a concentration in archives.

My interest in archives developed in 2011 after South Sudan gained independence from Sudan and became the youngest country in the world. My family fled to the United States in 1995, and, up until the secession, I had limited knowledge about Sudan’s long and complicated history. My eagerness to learn more led me on a

never-ending quest to uncover digitally available materials on Sudan, which has proven to be difficult at times. Due to the legacy of colonialism, the bulk of the records documenting Sudanese history are housed across institutions in London and Khartoum—rendering a significant portion of collections inaccessible to South Sudanese communities in the diaspora.

The Sudan Open Archive and Internet Archive are examples of digital libraries where I have cultivated my passion for working with digital collections in the last few years. For instance, I recently discovered a rendering of my family tree and a brief description of our tribe in a digital copy of the *Tribal Survey of Mongalla Province* (1921). Only two physical copies of this book are available in Minnesota, and I would not have been able to uncover this resource as easily without online access. Over the years, I’ve become increasingly interested in learning more about community-centered approaches to archives and digital technologies that enable wider access to historically and culturally relevant materials.

My journey in libraries and archives first began in 2017 as a project coordinator for Umbra Search African American History. Umbra Search is a digital library that aggregates materials documenting African American history and cultural life from archives, libraries, museums, and other repositories across the United States. I was also a digitization worker at the Hennepin County Library digitizing photographs that document housing and urban renewal projects in Minneapolis during the twentieth century. In my current role as an archival digitization technician at the Minnesota Historical Society, I’ve developed many valuable skills and connections that will help guide me through the next chapter of my education.

The Archie Motley Scholarship will allow me to focus on my studies without added financial stress, for which I’m grateful. My hope is to take full advantage of any and all opportunities that come out of this experience and to learn and grow from new challenges that I might face. Most important, I look forward to building and sustaining new connections and friendships with information professionals, not just in my graduate program, but in the Midwest Archives Conference community and beyond.

Awards and Scholarships

Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship for Students of Color

By David Satten-López



David Satten-Lopez

Thank you so much for the honor and support of the Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship for Students of Color. I am excited to continue to make my way in the field.

My interest in archives stems primarily from the power audiovisual artifacts have had over me. Through primary source materials such as political speeches, interviews, music, commercials, and often in what might be overlooked as paratext, I have found a feeling of historical intimacy that propels my further exploration. Often, in college, I'd find myself scrolling through the last pages of interlibrary loan to pick out minimally described mystery cassettes and VHS's. I'd catch myself deeply engaged and learning from these recordings, often struck by how closely they speak to the present. Most specifically, this came to the forefront of my experience while listening to media that documents, and often laments, US politics of the 1970s.

Since finding this passion in myself, I found myself pursuing paraprofessional roles in the field, trying to stay close to primary source materials. One was at a poetry archive, digitizing and preserving the recordings of poets reading their work. In another, I digitized and photographed 78 rpm (revolutions per minute) records. And, most recently, I built community relations and a web platform for Quaker manumission documents, supporting a more honest history of Quaker slaveholding and the lives of those they enslaved. Now, in the process of getting my master's degree, I continue to find perspective and hope in primary source materials. The hope is that these resources will continue to move me, and that, one day, I might help others to be moved.

My goal is to support the use and access of primary source materials, especially for educators and historians. I hope to pursue this goal between and through the fields of archives and digital scholarship. I intend to foster access to noncirculating materials in a myriad of ways, mindful of the diversity of computing and bandwidth capacities among our users. I wholeheartedly believe in the ability of primary source materials to sharpen our collective analyses, which I believe to be a fundamental, though insufficient, step in achieving any equity and reparation. I am excited to take on this moment, and challenge, in the field, to craft meaningful scholarship in which ethic moves through an awareness of the structural inequities of power of the present and past.

I am grateful to have the support of MAC and to strive to do my work in a way that will make my teachers, my mentors, and my communities proud.

Midwest Archives Conference Spring Council Meeting Thursday, May 5, 2022 8:00 am–noon (Central Time Zone)

In person: Tamar Chute, Michelle Sweetser, Jerice Barrios, Anne Thomason, Katie Blank, Daria Labinsky, Jennifer Ho, Carrie Schwier, Laurinda Weisse, Kate Dietrick, Greg Bailey, Jenna Jacobs, Benn Joseph

On Zoom: Jennifer Audsley-Moore, Sammie Morris, Megan Badgley-Malone, Lindsay Hiltunen

President's Report (Chute)

Fall Council Meeting Scheduling

Several people said that while they prefer in-person meetings, they do not believe we should have a travel requirement or recommendation as travel is challenging for many people and we want to make it easy for people to serve MAC and that it is an equity issue. The workshop topic is not always relevant to council members.

Chute agreed and said we would try two Zoom meetings for the fall of 2022. Sweetser said we could have up to a 10 percent reduction in attendance at the fall workshop without Council attending, but we could plan for that. We also do not want to take spots in the workshop away from other people.

DEI Statement

Chute put together a statement compiled from other sources including SAA. We will look at the statement and approve it in the fall.

- **Action:** *We will all try to review the statement by the end of May.*

The Ethics and Inclusion Committee will also need to review it once Council has offered feedback.

Liaisons for Publications and Education Committees

Morris volunteered to be the education liaison and Jennifer Audsley-Moore agreed to be the publication liaison.

- **Motion:** *Chute nominated Daria Labinsky as Nominating Committee chair.*

Council voted to approve Labinsky as Nominating Committee chair.

- **Motion:** *Chute nominated Elizabeth Engel as webmaster.*
Council voted to approve Engel as webmaster.

Future Considerations

Chute discussed the MAC mission, vision, and goals statements. Some questions to ponder include: If you go to the website, is it clear what MAC does? What does the next five years look like for MAC? What are our specific goals? Where do we want to go? There was discussion of negative experiences people have had with strategic planning and writing mission statements, though others have had positive experiences.

Morris suggested a simple explanation of what MAC is. A vision statement expresses where we are trying to go, and we are already doing that with our DEI Statement and Ethics and Inclusion Committee. Instead of a vision, we could provide a simple explanation of what we are. We could thus tweak the mission statement to specify these priorities.

We also discussed examining the history of MAC's mission statement.

- **Action:** *Chute will send a message to the Council list to see who wants to work on planning, vision, and mission.*

Website redesign remains an agenda item. Many still find it very complicated to find what they are looking for when they visit our website.

All manuals need review, and we need to make sure we have documentation of positions. A description in plain language about what each position entails would be helpful. Josh Ranger offered to help with this. Some questions to answer for potential volunteers: What does it mean to be on Council? What does it mean to be chair of a committee? What are we signing up for? We should state the amount of time needed for each position, not to scare people, but so they can make an informed decision. The manuals are for after someone accepts a position. We could also consider encouraging potential candidates to contact the current person in the position.

Sweetser discovered that MAC has a Meeting Coordinating Committee that nobody is aware of.

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Volunteer Spreadsheets

Kate Dietrick is our new volunteer coordinator. She has created two spreadsheets:

- **Spreadsheet for potential volunteers**—this one is for new members who may want to volunteer; people who filled out a volunteer form, and conversations with people. It also has a tab with people who ran for a position but were not elected. It is located in the volunteer coordinator folder and is not public.
- **Leadership spreadsheet**—this one breaks down all of leadership into positions, names, terms, liaisons, second term, needs attention—this person is rolling off soon, etc. and another tab with LAC, PC, etc. notes.

Another empty tab will fill up with legacy leadership—people who have had positions in the past. This might be a spreadsheet for the entire membership to see.

Bailey said that this spreadsheet will be very helpful to find the membership rep for each state.

Everyone thanked Dietrick for starting this task!

Dietrick pointed out we must acknowledge people who fill out the volunteer form so they know it is not going into a void.

Chute added that calls for volunteers on the listserv rarely work.

AMC Expectation/AMC Contract Review

The AMC contract had items out of date when Chute had to sign it. Joseph and Chute will start working on the contract. We should set clear expectations for MAC and AMC, particularly for hybrid situations, and make sure AMC is compensated appropriately for any extra work related to technology.

Vice President's Report (Sweetser)

Fall 2022 Symposium

- **Motion:** *Approve Fall 2022 Symposium rates at \$150 for members, \$175 for nonmembers, and \$75 for students.*

Council voted to approve Fall 2022 Symposium rates at \$150 for members, \$175 for nonmembers, and \$75 for students.

The Fall Symposium will be in person only. Sweetser reported that there are technical problems at the Indiana State Library that would make a hybrid meeting challenging, and speakers were also possibly

uncomfortable with a hybrid setup. Weisse suggested we might want to alternate between virtual and in-person workshops. Barrios suggested we be sure to publicize that the workshop is only in person. Morris agreed that participants may expect virtual in the future.

Society of Indiana Archivists is offering discount registrations for its members through a gift of \$750, which will give 30 people \$25 off; logistics will be worked out with AMC.

Spring 2023 Annual Meeting

Mike Bullington, cochair of the 2023 LAC, joined us for the discussion.

Bullington and Pam Hackbart-Dean have been working with AMC to set a hotel and a date.

The Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile has been selected; it is very nice. The room rate is \$189, which is quite good for Chicago. Valet parking is \$60 a night, and we can inform people of other parking opportunities through parking apps. The other RFPs had much higher rates. Hyatt Centric had the lowest cost and is three blocks away from public transport. The committee is investigating a nearby art museum as the reception space. It was noted that this is a nonunion hotel.

It is asking for higher conference rates—\$100 more than Madison. The LAC has some concerns about fundraising and if its numbers are too ambitious.

Council discussed registration rates and income for the meeting—what are our priorities and goals? Do we want to break even? We want to have a hybrid conference, which will significantly increase our AV rates. Without that, we could save money, but it is a tradeoff. Our members want and expect a hybrid conference.

Council discussed subsidizing Chicago so that our registration rates will stay the same. We want to stay affordable and not exclude people. Several Council members expressed that MAC should subsidize the Chicago meeting.

Barrios recommends subsidizing and breaking even or coughing up extra money. If we value this event and coming to Chicago, we make it great. We will not go broke. We are comfortable enough financially that we can splash out once in a while. We have money to spend on our members! We are not saving money for an inheritance.

Everyone agreed that \$200 is too high for the conference. Consensus of Council is to support and subsidize the Annual Meeting in Chicago and to consider a \$150 registration fee. Council will decide in the fall on the registration fee for MAC 2023.

Council discussed that the first day of the conference is the last day of Passover, and we must closely look at catering to make sure we have appropriate food. The May dates were too expensive. Unfortunately, the April dates will be during Ramadan, so we should also consider any accommodations for Ramadan.

- **Motion:** *Sweetser put forth a motion to approve the Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile.*

Council approved the Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile as the location for the 2023 Annual Meeting.

- **Motion:** *Sweetser moved that the dates April 12–15, 2023, be approved for the 2023 Annual Meeting.*

Council voted to approve the dates April 12–15, 2023, for the 2023 Annual Meeting.

AMC and the LAC will continue planning now that we have hotel and dates decided.

Fall 2023 Symposium

- **Motion:** *Approve Louisville, Kentucky, as the location for the Fall 2023 Symposium.*

Council voted to approve Louisville, Kentucky, as the location for the Fall 2023 Symposium.

- **Motion:** *Approve Danielle Spalenka as a cochair for the Fall 2023 Symposium.*

Council voted to approve Danielle Spalenka as cochair for the Fall 2023 Symposium.

Topics of interest for Symposium: Nobody submitted a proposal for the Fall 2023 Symposium. Sweetser noticed that we had never had a Symposium in Kentucky, so reached out to Kentucky members. Danielle Spalenka was very interested in hosting.

Filson Historical Society is willing to offer its space for the workshop, and we can consider a virtual component. Spalenka is active in the Kentucky Council on Archives, which is meeting soon, and she will solicit ideas for the Symposium at the meeting. They will look at the 2021 survey results and have the topic ready for Council by fall.

If anyone has ideas, please send them to Benn Joseph.

Spring 2024 Annual Meeting

- **Motion:** *Approve Des Moines, Iowa, as the location for the Spring 2024 Annual Meeting.*

Sweetser reached out to previous cochairs, and they are willing to serve again. There is very good local support in Des Moines.

Council voted to approve Des Moines, Iowa, as the location for the Spring 2024 Annual Meeting.

- **Motion:** *Approve Rosalie Gartner and Hope Bibens as LAC cochairs for the Spring 2024 Annual Meeting.*

Council voted to approve Rosalie Gartner and Hope Bibens as LAC cochairs for the Spring 2024 Annual Meeting.

Vendor Coordinator Manual

Jenna Jacobs and Michelle Sweetser have put forth edits to the manual. Thank you, Jenna, for your hard work on this!

- **Motion:** *Approve edits to the Vendor Coordinator Manual.*

Council approved the edits to the *Vendor Coordinator Manual*.

Speaker Demographic Data/Speaker Agreements

Sweetser examined how to collect data about participants. SAA had a good model this year that we used to rewrite ours. We do not want people to have to identify themselves if they do not want to.

Questions have been added to the proposal form about how the proposal contributes to DEI.

- **Motion:** *Approve the changes to the session proposal form.*

Council voted to approve the changes to the session proposal form.

Discussion of Zoom Membership

- **Motion:** *Approve renewal of Zoom membership for foreseeable future.*

Council voted to approve renewal of Zoom membership for the foreseeable future.

Treasurer's Report (Barrios)

Barrios summarized the Treasurer's Report and announced there was no bad news. We have eliminated printing costs as we no longer have print publications. We have hired a bookkeeper, which is of great assistance to the treasurer.

(Continued on page 14)

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Every student who attended the Annual Meeting was reimbursed for their registration fee. Thank you to everyone who made this happen!

Secretary's Report (Thomason)

Thomason reminded people to carefully choose the email they want to access the Google Drive. She will get new Council members and committee chairs access by the end of the week.

Post–Annual Meeting surveys will be created using Google instead of various institutions' Qualtrics forms. Once ready, this will make the process easier every year.

Thomason reported the election was very challenging this year. We had several people drop out or decline positions. Moving forward, we should go back to calling nominees at the start of the process and when letting them know they won the election so we can answer questions the candidates might have. We also should contact the winners first in case someone declines the position. After all positions have been accepted, we can contact those who did not win.

Liaison and Committee Chair Reports

2022 Spring Meeting LAC and Program Committee Check In

Kahlee Leingang from the Program Committee joined the Council meeting. She reported that we have a well-rounded program with 30 submissions, 21 accepted, and 18 sessions in the end after some sessions combined. Several presenters did drop out, and others prerecorded sessions. This was our first hybrid conference, and coordinating the AV resources was very challenging. In the future, we need to clarify the role of AMC and the role of the PC. Council gave a huge round of applause for Sarah Dorpinghaus, Kahlee Leingang, and Scott Brouwer.

Greene Award

Chute requested that Council send in recommendations for a new chair.

We are working to fully fund the Greene award.

Presidents' Award

An award was not given this year. Last fall, there was a proposal to make changes to how the award is structured. We never received a final version. We will follow up on potential changes to how the award is structured and vote if needed next fall.

Bowen Scholarship

Lynn Smith reported that we may need more promotion as we did not have many applicants.

Council agreed to discuss if we can increase the award and do more advertising, as part of a comprehensive review of both the Motley and Bowen awards in particular.

We discussed having one letter of recommendation instead of two and whether it is necessary to view grades and check GPAs. We will look at the rules and see if we can remove the transcript requirement. Perhaps there is a way to certify the grades from the registrar. Smith does not include academic information in the reports that go to the archives.

- **Motion:** *Approve Lynn Smith for a second term as the Bowen Scholarship chair.*

Council voted to approve Lynn Smith for a second term as the Bowen Scholarship chair.

Motley Award

Council discussed the recommendation to remove the requirement for a recommendation letter. We have already lifted the geographic restrictions. This year we had nine applicants, most of whom were from the Midwest. McFarland requested asking how they heard about the scholarship, as a high school student applied.

There were still problems getting two recommendation letters for some applicants. Requiring two letters for a scholarship worth \$750 may be excessive. One recommendation letter may be enough.

Essays are more important than recommendation letters, though letters can be tie-breakers. Making them optional would make it harder for those who don't submit any.

- **Action:** *We will check the original documentation to see if we need to vote on only having one letter of recommendation, and we will also look into increasing the award. Council will discuss over the summer or in the fall.*

We need a new chair for the Motley committee as well as one more member.

Vendor Coordinator (Jacobs)

Jacobs had questions regarding registration for vendors. Generally, registration is included when a vendor buys a table. Nonprofit vendor tables are \$50—should we be including a registration with those?

Jacobs also asked about the many mail forms vendors have to fill out; an online form would be much easier. Jacobs will check to see what is actually needed on the form. This could be a form AMC makes so they pay at the same time or possibly a Google form on the MAC Google Drive. Currently, Jacobs sends out a letter that includes a link to the online payment form. Many vendors contact her first before submitting payment. Perhaps the registration forms can be consolidated.

There is no access currently to the backend of AMC. Barrios will check to see if Jacobs could get reports from AMC without asking AMC every time.

Membership Committee (Bailey)

Bailey summarized the membership report.

Bailey did not send out the announcement seeking nominations for the Emeritus Award. Bailey has set up a reminder for next year so this doesn't happen again. We did not award it this year.

Webmaster (Dietrick)

Dietrick reported that she changed some redundancy in top-level navigation, though there are still many problems to fix with the structure of the website. Dietrick linked statements MAC has made on the homepage. The Ethics and Inclusion Committee or the Social Response Committee may want to craft a web page to host these statements.

Development Committee (Gutierrez-Jones)

No report

Education Committee (Hester and Schwier)

The Education Committee is looking for three new members, preferably individuals working outside academia in the states of Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, the Dakotas, or Wisconsin.

- **Motion:** *Approve Ryan Leimkuehler as 2022–2024 cochair of the Education Committee.*

Council voted to approve Ryan Leimkuehler as 2022–2024 cochair of the Education Committee.

Report on Workshop Cancellations

Originally, two workshops were scheduled at the 2022 Annual Meeting out of the four proposals.

The DEI workshop on accessibility was canceled at the last minute because of speaker availability. This workshop may be rescheduled.

Budget for In-person Speakers Bureau Events in 2022–2023

The Speakers Bureau has been virtual over the last two years. Only one person applied this year. Some speakers are on hold because they want to have the workshop in person. People do want workshops in regions where there are not a lot of workshops. Council agreed that we should be fully in person for the Speakers Bureau.

Barrios reported that the Speakers Bureau automatically receives funding each year. The committee needs to create a speaker's agreement or MOU. They will work on it and have it ready for the fall Council meeting.

Local Arrangements Committee

LAC cochairs Katie Nash and Cynthia Bachhuber joined the meeting.

The meeting is going well; some people do not remember signing up for tours. There was one on-site registration for a vendor. Some last-minute signups for tours did not pay. Council applauded and thanked the LAC.

Public Information Officer (Herzinger)

- **Motion:** *Approve Megan Badgley-Malone as PIO.*

Council voted to approve Megan Badgley-Malone as PIO.

Council discussed training opportunities for the new PIO-in-training.

Publications (Labinsky)

Labinsky reported the Publications Committee is meeting after the Council meeting. They are rethinking advertising and PDF availability for archives.

Ethics and Inclusion Committee (Inefuku)

No report

Social Justice Response (Chute)

No report

Old Business

Nothing that we have not already covered

New Business

Three people who are leaving us: Chute thanked Sweetser, Blank, and Labinsky with gifts of buckeyes and much praise and thanks!

Meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Treasurer’s Report

By Jerice Barrios, Archives of the North American Province of the Cenacle

2021 Finances in Review

2021 marked another stable financial year for MAC. We ended in the red by \$4,514 mainly because the treasurer paid our 2022 Memberclicks bill (\$3,890) too early, so that it ended up as a 2021 expense. Also, we had extra-budgetary expenses because MAC engaged the services of a bookkeeper in September 2021. We hope that the expense of the bookkeeper may be offset by cost savings from the *MAC Newsletter* and *Archival Issues* transitioning to all-digital publication in 2022.

MAC smoothly navigated a year of all-online conferences. The expenses of the 2021 Annual Meeting and Fall Symposium were more than covered by registration fees, sponsorships, and vendors. MAC members gave generously to the general operating fund, the Mark A. Greene Emeritus Fund, and the student scholarship fund. We were able to offer free student registration for the 2021

Annual Meeting because of this generosity. 2021 was also a good year for our investments. From the end of 2020 to the end of 2021, our Lincoln Investments portfolio grew from \$287,178 to \$317,119, an increase of \$29,941.

Looking at 2022

The first quarter of 2022 went well. Registration for the 2022 Annual Meeting was robust, and membership numbers held steady. MAC members once again showed their incredible support for our student archivists: for the second year in a row, donations paid the registration fees for all students who signed up to attend the Annual Meeting. MAC celebrated its 50th anniversary by hiring a paid intern to help with a history project. The project budget included \$3,000 for salary and \$4,000 to pay University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Archives to digitize selected paper copies of the *MAC Newsletter*. We will use the Program Initiative investment fund to pay for this project.

Midwest Archives Conference 2022 Operating Budget

Income

Advertising	\$ 1,500.00	
Bank account interest	\$ 3.00	
Endowment Income—Bowen	\$ 750.00	
Endowment Income—Motley	\$ 1,500.00	
Endowment Income—Education Initiative	\$ 2,200.00	
Endowment Income—Program Initiative	\$ 7,000.00	
Gifts—Mark A. Greene Emeritus Scholarship	\$ 3,500.00	
Gifts—Operating Funds	\$ 500.00	
Gifts—Student Meeting Scholarship	\$ 750.00	
Journal Subscriptions	\$ 5,000.00	

MAC NEWS—Continued**Megan Badgley-Malone, Assistant Editor**

Meetings		
Annual	\$ 65,000.00	
Symposium	\$ 6,500.00	
2023 Annual Meeting	\$ 3,000.00	
Speakers Bureau (Ed. Init.) Fee	\$ 150.00	
Memberships	\$ 40,000.00	
Royalties	\$ 3,900.00	
Total	\$141,253.00	

Expenses

Administration	\$ 1,600.00	
Bank Charges	\$ 230.00	
Contract Services—Financial	\$ 5,700.00	
Contract Services—AMC	\$ 37,080.00	
Credit Card Fees	\$ 4,000.00	
Insurance	\$ 1,800.00	
Publications Expenses	*	*uncertain due to switch to all digital
Journal Awards	\$ 500.00	
MAC History Project	\$ 7,000.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 500.00	
Membership Renewal Mailing	\$ 985.00	
Meetings (Gross)		
Annual	\$ 59,000.00	
Symposium	\$ 5,500.00	
2023 Annual Meeting	\$ 2,000.00	
Scholarships	\$ 3,400.00	
Memberclicks	\$ 3,700.00	
Speakers Bureau	\$ 2,200.00	
Taxes/Annual Report to IL	\$ 25.00	
Vendor Coordinator	\$ 50.00	
Total	\$135,270.00	

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(Continued from page 17)

Balance Sheet 2021

Assets as of January 1, 2021		\$349,047.07
Bank of America Checking	\$ 61,868.47	
Lincoln Investment Accounts		
Program Initiative Fund	\$123,100.29	
Invested Reserve	\$ 56,480.01	
Bowen Endowment	\$ 38,156.33	
Mark A. Greene Fund	\$ 5,617.41	
Motley Endowment	\$ 63,824.56	

Assets as of December 31, 2021		\$374,473.89
Bank of America Checking	\$ 57,354.76	
Lincoln Investment Accounts		
Program Initiative Fund	\$136,226.56	
Invested Reserve	\$ 66,350.98	
Bowen Endowment	\$ 41,456.83	
Mark A. Greene Fund	\$ 5,582.95	
Motley Endowment	\$ 67,501.81	

2021 Excess Receipts Over Cash Disbursements	-\$4,513.71
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Between Council Actions

Council approved the following motion on July 28, 2022:

Council approved Rebekah McFarland as an election teller.

Council approved the following motion on July 28, 2022:

Council approved Jolie Braun as the Motley Scholarship Committee Chair.

Archival Issues Update

By Brandon T. Pieczko,

Archival Issues *Editorial Board Chair, Indiana University*

I hope this update finds you all well. The current issue of *Archival Issues* (vol. 41, no. 2) has been published and can be viewed online through our new digital repository: <https://www.iastatedigitalpress.com/archivalissues/issue/1167/info>. This newest issue features three articles on topics including conducting preservation assessment surveys of rare book collections, reexamining the contributions of pornographic materials to the archival record, and standards-based, primary source instruction in both K–12 and higher education classrooms. It also includes seven reviews of recent archival publications on a variety of topics important to the profession. As a reminder, this is the first issue of the journal to be published since MAC transitioned to a digital-only publishing model, so there will be no print edition going forward.

Our next issue, volume 42, number 1, is in progress. One article has been accepted by the Editorial Board for publication and is currently in the editing phase; eight publications have been sent out to reviewers by the publications review editor. We anticipate the issue will be published in winter 2022.

As always, we welcome article submissions on a wide range of topics related to archives and special collections and are always looking for new authors. If you have an idea for an article you would like to discuss, are thinking about reworking a successful conference presentation for publication, or have a manuscript ready to be reviewed, please consider submitting it to *Archival Issues*. You can contact me directly at bpieczko@iu.edu or visit our online submission portal (<https://www.iastatedigitalpress.com/archivalissues/submissions>). There is still time for your submission to be considered for our next issue!

News from the Midwest

*Assistant Editor: Lois Hamill, Northern Kentucky University.
Please submit News from the Midwest items to Lois at hamilll1@nku.edu.
Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!*

ILLINOIS

Augustana College, Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center

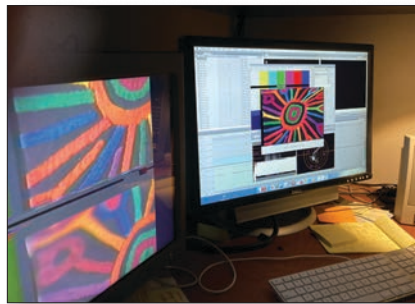
The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center celebrated its 40th anniversary this year. The center is an international research hub for Swedish American studies. The 40th anniversary symposium, “The Migration and Beyond: New Perspectives on Swedish-American Relations” invited four scholars (two Americans and two Swedes) to present on new topics in Swedish American studies. Talks included, among others: “Vikings and Dumb Blondes: The Construction of American Discourse on Nordic and Scandinavian Whiteness” and “An American Myth: Birth Control, Sex Education, and the Creation of the Swedish Sin.” Recordings are available on YouTube for a limited time at www.youtube.com/c/SwensonCenter.

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Media Arts

Minnesota Media Arts recently completed an extensive video archive project digitally converting the “Cable Arts Consortium Video Collection” comprising 60 3/4” U-matic video cassette programs. The process involved media asset cataloging, metadata collecting, converting to digital files, and, finally, creating a finding aid to share online. The collection, initially assembled for cable TV distribution, features arts and cultural programming from the late 1970s and 1980s.

Programs include works of visual artists, musicians, filmmakers, photographers, and poets, as well as dance and theater performances and sculpture installations. The digitized videos will be made available for reference and research through the Minnesota Media Arts repository. This project 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. For more information on this project visit <http://mnmediaarts.org>.



Digitization of analog videotape at Minnesota Media Arts for the Cable Arts Consortium Video Collection. Credit: Mark Stanley, Minnesota Media Arts.

MISSOURI

Lewis and Clark Discovery Expedition and Boat House

Now on display at the Lewis and Clark Boat House and Museum, a remarkably well-preserved dugout canoe offers a fascinating glimpse into trapping, hunting, and exploring in the late-eighteenth-century Ozarks. Miraculously, it was rescued from final indignity as a garden decoration by Larry and Judy Sifford of Branson West, Missouri. This rare example of a vessel crafted in the tradition

of Indigenous boat builders is extremely well preserved. Seeing the canoe in person, one appreciates the refinement and expertise of its design and construction. The key to its remarkable condition is Osage orange wood, the hardest and most naturally rot-resistant lumber in North America. Northwest Louisiana/southwest Arkansas is consistent with “the pre-settlement distribution of Osage orange, from which it was constructed,” notes Dr. Neal Lopinot, director of the Center for Archaeological Research at Missouri State University. Dr. Jack Ray and Dr. Lopinot oversaw radiocarbon dating to establish the canoe’s construction between 1777 and 1823 (68.2 percent probability). The builder apparently used a hollow tree as the raw material, making this dugout particularly unusual. At 13 feet long and weighing 175 pounds, the dugout was purchased by the Siffords in 2020. Larry Sifford acted on a hunch and had archaeologists confirm the age and significance of the little canoe, which has been placed on loan by the Larry and Judy Sifford family.



Missouri State Archives

The Missouri State Archives is pleased to announce the creation of a new collection on Missouri Digital Heritage. Civil War in Missouri features 221 items totaling 618 pages gathered from a dozen smaller collections, all nongovernmental records on the Civil War in Missouri. Letters provide insight into what families were going through during this conflict. The correspondence can be poignant, informative, disturbing, or all of the above. The collection also includes over 50 illustrations from contemporary newspapers such as *Harper's Weekly*. Photographs include portraits of soldiers, officers, and civilians. Every letter (except for one in German) is fully transcribed so that keyword searching is enabled and young researchers who may not be adept in reading handwriting of the era can appreciate the content and consider using the letters for upcoming National History Day projects. Visit <https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16795coll39>.



Sample from the *Civil War in Missouri* collection. Credit: Courtesy Missouri State Archives.

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City Art Institute, St. Louis Public Library

Missouri Remembers: Artists in Missouri Through 1951 is a freely available

digital resource documenting the stories and careers of various Missouri visual artists who have helped shape the artistic heritage of the state. Researchers from the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the Kansas City Art Institute, and the St. Louis Public Library worked collaboratively to add over 280 artists to the still-growing portal with entries based on research from artist files, library resources, local historian files, and archival materials. The project aims to aid users in the discovery of Missouri's rich artistic legacy and to shine a light on those artists who may have been looked over in the past. It was endorsed as part of Missouri's Bicentennial Commission in 2018, *Missouri Remembers* can be accessed at <https://missouriartists.org>.



Art class at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, early 1970s. Credit: Education Department Records. Record Group 32. Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Archives. Kansas City, Missouri.

State Historical Society of Missouri

The State Historical Society of Missouri has three new exhibitions in Columbia. *Mr. Pruitt's Possum Town* is on display through November 5, 2022, and presents a selection of photographs from 1920 to 1960 in

the segregated town of Columbus, Mississippi—known locally as “Possum Town.”



Lowndes County farmer Sylvester Harris with mule Jesse outside his home in Plum Grove community, February 1934. Otis N. Pruitt and Calvin Shanks Photographic Collection, UNC Wilson Library Special Collections.

In conjunction with *Mr. Pruitt's Possum Town*, *Picturing Missouri Sharecroppers* explores the 1939 sharecroppers' strike with images that share similarities with Pruitt's Mississippi photographs.



A group of evicted sharecroppers sits around a fire along Highway 61 in southeast Missouri, 1939. Arthur Witman Photograph Collection (S0836), State Historical Society of Missouri.

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A third exhibition celebrates the 35th anniversary of the National Women and Media Collection. *In Their Own Words* features the voices of important media women straight from their diaries, letters, and interviews. All exhibitions are free and open to the public during regular gallery hours. Located at 605 Elm Street in downtown Columbia, the Center for Missouri Studies galleries are open Tuesday–Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free parking is available. Learn more at shsmo.org.



Donna Allen, Marjorie Paxson, and Jean Gaddy Wilson with Western Historical Manuscript Collection associate director Nancy Lankford at the founding of the National Women and Media Collection in Columbia, Missouri, 1987. Marjorie B. Paxson Papers (C4078), State Historical Society of Missouri.

University of Missouri

The Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection presents *New Notables: Show-Me Queens*, an exhibit featuring the acquisition of garments worn by Missouri notables Ginger Rogers, Simone Esters, and Zachary Willmore. Gowns of legendary dancing queen Ginger Rogers highlight her Broadway career and traveling nightclub revue. Simone Esters is pageant royalty as Miss Missouri 2019–20 and second runner-up in the 2020 Miss America competition, as well as a world champion baton twirler. A gold-sequin evening gown and lace wedding dress are on display from Rock Bridge High School’s first male homecoming queen, Zachary Willmore, who is also a TikTok celebrity with over 1.1 million followers. His series “dancing every time I get dress-coded” features outfits that violated RBHS dress code and is a tool used to strike against fashion stereotypes and to deconstruct gender. The exhibit is displayed in Gwynn Hall on the University of Missouri campus through February 2023.



Gingers Rogers’s feathered gown (back detail) by Jean Louis (1975–80). Credit: Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection.

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota State Historical Society

The Cultural Heritage Center, which houses the South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre, is undergoing renovation now through 2025, just in time for the nation’s 250th anniversary. The renovation project will enhance storage for artifacts and archives, update staff areas, and reimagine the gallery spaces. The work should give the society another 20 years in the building. Recently, the renovation project moved from its conceptual phase to design development where costs are being calculated for updates. Collections will be stored off-site, but the Cultural Heritage Center will remain open and operational during the renovation. Next will be the conceptual phase for the revised exhibits with renovation getting under way early next year.



CHC Rendering Credit: ISG Architects

Archival Resources on the Web

Assistant Editor: Erin McBrien, University of Minnesota. Contact Erin at emcbrien@umn.edu if you would like to guest author a column or have a good idea to share.

Somewhere in the West: The Historical Geography of the Grand Rapids Dominican Sisters

By Jennifer Morrison, Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids



“Somewhere in the West: The Historical Geography of the Grand Rapids Dominican Sisters” title slide

The archives of the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids (DSGR) is excited to share its story map entitled “Somewhere in the West: The Historical Geography of the Grand Rapids Dominican Sisters” (<https://www.grdominicans.org/somewhere-in-the-west-an-archives-story-map-project>), focusing on its Michigan pioneer predecessors.

Incorporating early photographs with information from historic annals and other primary sources, including the diary of a sister born in Quebec a year after the American Civil War ended, “Somewhere in the West” depicts how the sisters first came to Michigan. These true pioneers relinquished basic human comforts and set out in boats and buggies into the freshly settled woods of the lower peninsula to be of service to the children and families in these new parishes. The work was hard and the conditions so poor that the sisters literally risked their health and even their lives on these missions. In doing so, they embodied the dying vision of their mother superior, who saw a vast peninsula “somewhere in the West” dotted white with Dominican habits.

Story maps are produced through an online application that combines text and images, and can include maps and other elements, to tell stories in a creative and interactive format. Introduced by professionals working in geography and cartography, they but have been adapted by people telling all kinds of stories. Some story maps actually contain no traditional maps, though all of them map information in one way or another.

Story maps typically start with a title slide, similar to the cover of a book, and then are navigated by scrolling. As the viewer scrolls, different elements appear in the order the creator arranged them, directing the eye and calling attention to each in a meaningful sequence. The most common elements are text and images, which the creator can combine or separate, enlarge or minimize, place in a central position or to the side, extend or feature briefly, or otherwise manipulate. In this way, the story map creator makes headings, transitions, normal narrative, captions, and other story components. Story map elements can also have functionalities such as automatic zooming, audio, or video. The experience is interactive for the viewer, who can decide which elements to engage with and for how long.

Several websites provide templates and tools for creating story maps at a user-friendly level. We chose ArcGIS (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com>), where the user creates an account with a password. Accounts are free for noncommercial use. ArcGIS has countless great resources to help with the process, including articles, how-to videos, instructional story maps, a blog, and a forum. Another good way to learn about story maps is by browsing the many varied examples in the website’s gallery.

Our story map began as a collaborative project between our archivists and a geospatial analysis class led by Dr. Mary Clinthorne at Aquinas College. Aquinas College, which celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2011, was founded by the DSGR. Geospatial analysis is the collection, processing, and rendering of information that has a geographic component to it.

In a previous class, Clinthorne directed her students to create a story map about campus trees (<https://aquinas.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=8462888a76ab412398783c6df05eef00>). While working on the tree map, Clinthorne contacted the Aquinas College archives to ask about resources that might be useful for her project. The uniqueness of a geospatial analysis class gave the Aquinas College archivist a welcome opportunity to prove the value of her collection to a broad

(Continued on page 24)

ARCHIVAL RESOURCES ON THE WEB—Continued

Erin McBrien, Assistant Editor

(Continued from page 23)

audience. She went out of her way to work with these students and to find and pull items with information about campus trees. The students and the professor were excited about these archival resources, and, as a result, the tree map contains an especially strong historical, primary source component.

Not long after, the Aquinas College archivist went to work in the archives of the Dominican Sisters. One of her first responsibilities there was to organize the sisters' annals.



Sisters at their mission on Beaver Island, Michigan, in the late 1890s

Beginning in 1927, sisters from Grand Rapids on remote missions were required by their communities to keep a record of their activities in journal form. Today, these firsthand accounts are an important document of the sisters' lives and work. Remembering Clinthorne's request to keep an eye out for materials for future class projects, the archivist noted that the annals met three important qualifications:

- They represent a good quantity of primary sources from a variety of missions (or locations), so they allow students to choose an individual piece of an overall collaborative project.
- They are rich with graphic materials, including photographs, artwork, and other visually appealing items essential for creating story maps.
- The annals tell a geographical story, that of the sisters' migration over time, that particularly appeals to this class.

Archivists for the DSGR were eager because the project would strengthen their relationship with Aquinas College, boost their patronage at least for the duration of the project, and leave them with an impressive promotional piece. The professor felt that the annals provided enough material for subsequent classes and that students could

add components in the future.

Marywood archivists and Clinthorne began working early in 2020 to plan the project. The task of the archivists was to provide access to the primary sources for a class of nine students who would visit both as a group and individually. This involved creating longer-term in-house workspace for the class, having enough staff to assist, and pulling some relevant materials in advance. Clinthorne developed the relevant geospatial aspect of the project and outlined the requirements for the assignment.



Sr. Mary Navarre, director of archives for the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids (left) and Dr. Mary Clinthorne, associate professor of geography at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids (right), plan the story map project.

A member of the DSGR leadership team and one of the archivists visited the Aquinas class early in the semester. The sister delivered an overview of the history and culture of the DSGR, and the archivist discussed how archives and old records are organized and used. Students seemed inspired and interested in the lives and work of the sisters, as well as the prospect of becoming history detectives by exploring early documents.

The next step was a group visit by the students to the archives at Marywood so they could examine materials to use in their story map. Unfortunately, timing worked against the project as the spread of the COVID-19 virus quickly necessitated both the cancellation of in-person classes at Aquinas College and the closing of Marywood to outside visitors. Immediately after, even the archivists who were not sisters and off-campus sisters were barred from the Marywood archives.

The project principals found themselves suddenly and

ARCHIVAL RESOURCES ON THE WEB—Continued Erin McBrien, Assistant Editor

unexpectedly separated and isolated, trying to learn new technologies and connect meaningfully with their work, whether that was their collection or their class. It seemed the project might have to be cancelled.

All parties were committed, however, and hesitated to give up at that point. A furious email campaign between the professor and the archivists followed. Two broad published histories of the community had been scanned and were made available to the students, but little else in the archives was digitized.

Crucially, one sister, who volunteered in the archives and lived on campus, still had access to the collection. She was quickly added to the email group. This on-campus sister, in her late eighties, was soon inundated with an unprecedented volume of urgent requests. The project planners as well as the nine students with separate and considerable needs for information and images all depended on her. Because she was not a trained archivist and had not been involved in the early planning, she sometimes had difficulty understanding the students' needs, but she became the lifeline for the project. She scanned and emailed primary sources to the students.

While students were inevitably affected by the changes in direction necessitated by the pandemic, all nine were able to complete their assignments. At the end of the semester in April, they presented their work to their professor, the archivists, and the sisters via Zoom.

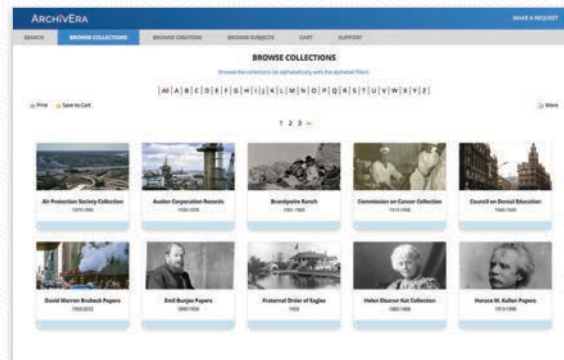
Once the Marywood campus reopened to staff, archivists were able to regain access to the collection and determined there were resources the students did not have access to that needed to be incorporated into the story. They spent the next few months adding to the research and the narrative and were able to share the final product that fall.

The story map was promoted internally among the sisters, on the sisters' website, on social media, and via local history organizations. Each time, new viewers saw the presentation and the archives received new research requests. The sisters continue to find new audiences and new opportunities to use the story map.

We hope you too will enjoy scrolling through "Somewhere in the West" (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/33fec23421f940f1af3c3951f7e401ac>).

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Contact Adriana Harmeyer at aharmey@purdue.edu if you would like to guest author a column or have a good idea to share.

Building a Community-Driven Digital Readiness Toolkit

By Kristen Whitson, WiLS

Recollection Wisconsin's Digital Readiness Community of Practice project officially began in 2019 with funding from the National Historic Records and Publications Commission (NHPRC), but the driving force behind the project has been the community itself formed over a decade of local history digital collections work.

Recollection Wisconsin is a consortium managed by WiLS (Wisconsin Library Services, an independent, nonprofit member organization) and led by six governing partners: Marquette University, the Milwaukee Public Library, the University of Wisconsin–Madison, the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and the Wisconsin Historical Society. As Wisconsin's hub for the Digital Public Library of America, Recollection Wisconsin brings together more than 600,000 digital cultural heritage resources from Wisconsin libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies. Our work often leads us to small and underresourced historical organizations, such as county historical societies staffed by volunteers or the local history room of a rural town's public library. Organizations ask, "We'd like to put our collections online, but they're not digitized yet. Can you help us figure out where to start?"

Beginning in 2019 and continuing until the end of 2021, Recollection Wisconsin and the Division of Programs and Outreach at the Wisconsin Historical Society coordinated community-driven digital readiness initiatives supported by Archives Collaboratives grants from the NHPRC. To develop a plan for the Digital Readiness Community of Practice, we collaborated to learn about digital collection development needs, goals, and gaps among the society's more than 410 local history affiliates across the state. This planning work was guided by public history practitioners and organizations most directly impacted by a lack of digital readiness, including local historical societies, county historical societies, historic house museums, and historic preservation organizations. Between July and December 2019, we undertook information-gathering and planning activities including a web-based survey, five community conversations, and three strategic planning sessions.

That strategic planning process told us that local history

practitioners lack the time, money, and expertise to feel confident in undertaking digital collections projects. These themes continued in our work with the community in 2020 and 2021, when attendees at our virtual Digital Readiness Fairs (<https://recollectionwisconsin.org/cop/digital-readiness-fairs>) confirmed that they felt stuck, lost, or overwhelmed in approaching digital collections. The fairs, held virtually in the summer of 2021, attracted 270 attendees from 50 different organizations and featured presentations from local history practitioners and invited experts, as well as opportunities for networking, conversation, and community building.

In conversation with a launch committee made up of local history leaders from around the state, we developed the "Digital Readiness Levels" (<https://recollectionwisconsin.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Digital-Readiness-Levels.pdf>), a framework for digital readiness based on the National Digital Stewardship Alliance's Levels of Digital Preservation. The levels are a structured roadmap for public history organizations to plan and sustainably grow their digital initiatives to improve access to collections. But the community asked for more. They wanted to know: HOW do we implement these "Digital Readiness Levels"? HOW do we make a project plan? HOW do we choose standards for digitization?

The community wanted a comprehensive, start-to-finish, step-by-step guide to digital projects (preferably in a format that could be downloaded and printed). In June 2022, after many rounds of editing and testing, we released a 100+ page pdf manual we called the *Digital Readiness Toolkit*, available in both print and web formats at <http://recollectionwisconsin.org/toolkit>.

In researching similar manuals, we found that there are many resources available from an academic or technical perspective, but very few resources for a nonspecialists. (One fantastic set of resources that served as an important inspiration and model comes from the Sustainable Heritage Network [<https://sustainableheritagenetwork.org>] managed by the Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation at Washington State University.) The toolkit is intentionally written to be clear, direct, and easily

understandable for amateurs and experts alike. To make this content as accessible as possible, we've repeatedly reviewed the language for reading level, aiming for an eighth-grade reading level, which is the average reading level of the American public. We also spent a lot of time combing through the documentation with our reviewers for any terms, acronyms, or jargon that might be intimidating, overwhelming, or not intuitive, and out of that effort, we built a large "Digital Readiness Glossary" (<https://recollectionwisconsin.org/digital-readiness-toolkit/digital-readiness-glossary>). We also designed a "Digital Project Planning Worksheet" (<https://recollectionwisconsin.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Digital-Project-Planning-Worksheet.pdf>) to guide practitioners through the planning process.

The development of the *Digital Readiness Toolkit* and related content has been a community-driven, iterative process. From designing the *Digital Readiness Toolkit*'s structure to the final testing steps, the end product has been created by and for Wisconsin's community of local history practitioners. The *Digital Readiness Toolkit* and associated resources are better, clearer, and more useful as a result.

- Drafts of the "Digital Readiness Levels" were reviewed by 25 digital projects colleagues, including the 11 members of our project's Launch Committee. The Launch Committee was made up of staff and volunteers representing cultural heritage institutions of varying sizes across Wisconsin.
- The "Digital Readiness Glossary" was requested by the community as a point of access to often-confusing terminology; the glossary was then designed and reviewed by the Launch Committee.
- Digital Readiness Fair participants were asked in postevent surveys if they would be willing to provide further direction and feedback for digital readiness resources; those who volunteered were included in rounds of content review.
- The "Digital Project Planning Worksheet," a key component of the *Digital Readiness Toolkit*, was reviewed by invited experts (Biz Gallo, Library of Michigan; Ann Hanlon, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee; and Tamara Ramski, South Central Library System) for structure, content, ease of use, and relevance. This worksheet was informed by a digitization planning workshop conducted for the Wisconsin Historical Society's Local History and Historic Preservation Conference. Workshop participants provided feedback

that reflected their desire for planning steps to be broken down as much as possible.

- Content created for the *Digital Readiness Toolkit* directly responds to questions received from the community during community conversations, surveys, and Digital Readiness Fairs.
- The Launch Committee dedicated several meetings to toolkit development, including identifying exemplary models (including the AASLH STEPS program and ICCROM's ReOrg workbook), identifying personas to articulate the toolkit's target audiences, and providing feedback on multiple drafts of the toolkit's structure, layout, and content.
- Five practitioners took the *Digital Readiness Toolkit* through a beta testing process in their own work. These beta testers had little to no previous experience with digitization initiatives and were a mix of paid staff and volunteers in their organizations.

The community-driven nature of the Digital Readiness project has been essential to ensure results that are the most useful and beneficial to the community itself. The continuous feedback loops have ensured that we at Recollection Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Historical Society don't get stuck in what we think is common knowledge in digital projects. Community members repeatedly asked us to back up, start from scratch, and clarify terms and concepts—steps we were happy to take to share digital collections practices and knowledge. By asking and listening to the people who can contribute to increased access in local history organizations, we can empower those community members.

A foundational concept for the Digital Readiness project is that expertise comes in many forms. Lack of advanced training in archives or library and information studies shouldn't be a deterrent for leading or participating in digital initiatives. That training is important, and we don't mean to deemphasize the importance of professional training and standards, but aiming for unrealistically high standards out of the gate can be a barrier for some people and organizations. While it's great if a practitioner has a degree in history or LIS, it's not the only or even the most important criterion when thinking about who plans or initiates a project to digitize and preserve a community's history. Restricting participation in digitization initiatives to those only those with advanced degrees unnecessarily excludes community members with unique voices and experiences to add to the historical record.

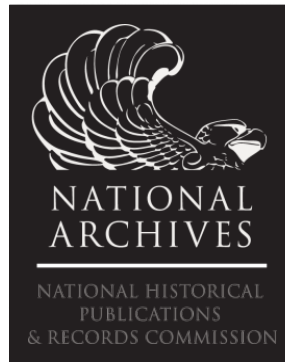
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What's Next?

We were pleased to advise the Community Archiving Workshop (CAW) of the Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) as it prepared its own Archives Collaboratives grant proposal for the NHPRC, Assessing and Addressing Digital Readiness for Audiovisual Collections. Beginning in May 2022, we are collaborating with CAW to incorporate guidance on audiovisual resources into the “Digital Readiness Levels.” We are thrilled by this opportunity to enhance our work and extend its reach both geographically, through AMIA’s partner network across the United States, and in scope, to better support the preservation of a highly at-risk category of content.

In addition, we are committed to working with the Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board (WHRAB) in its current NHPRC grant cycle to provide training in digitization project basics for local affiliates of the Wisconsin Historical Society. We will offer two WHRAB-sponsored in-person workshops in conjunction with the statewide Local History and Historic Preservation conferences in October 2022 and 2023.



Assistant Editor: Carol Street, University of Kentucky. Contact Carol at carolstreet@uky.edu if you would like to guest author a column or have a good idea to share.

The History of Medicine Collection at Ruth Lilly Medical Library

By Brandon T. Pieczko, Ruth Lilly Medical Library, Indiana University School of Medicine

The History of Medicine Collection is a special collection unit within the Ruth Lilly Medical Library located on the campus of Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis. As part of the Indiana University School of Medicine—the largest MD-granting medical school in the United States by enrollment—the mission of the History of Medicine Collection is to support the research, learning, and educational success of Indiana University students, faculty, and community members by collecting, preserving, interpreting, and providing access to unique materials documenting the history of medicine; medical education, training, research, and practice; and health and disease treatment and prevention in the state of Indiana and beyond. The collection includes archival records and manuscripts from Indiana University School of Medicine faculty and alumni, researchers, professional organizations, advocates, and practitioners in the medical and health-care professions; a significant number of medical instruments and other artifacts; audiovisual recordings in a variety of formats; and rare and early print books, periodicals, and other publications (1542–present) in multiple languages (e.g., English, French, German, Latin, Russian) on various subjects, including anatomy and physiology, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, pathology, pharmacology, psychiatry, military medicine, medical ethics, and public health.¹



Woodblock print illustration from Andreas Vesalius's De Humani Corporis Fabrica Libri Septem (On the Construction of the Human Body in Seven Books), 1934 reprint

Making Our Collections Discoverable

When I was hired in 2020 as the collection's first professionally trained archivist, I was tasked with building an archives program from the ground up. This included everything from writing our first collection development policy, to working through our backlog of unprocessed and uncataloged materials, implementing a collection management system, and promoting the collection through outreach to potential researchers and classes. While the majority of our rare books and other publications had previously been cataloged and were discoverable through the library's local catalog and WorldCat, the artifacts, manuscripts, and audiovisual recordings were for the most part completely undescribed. Describing, in some cases digitizing, and promoting those previously undiscoverable, nonbook materials became my primary focus during my first two years in the position despite the challenges presented by a COVID-19 pandemic-related shutdown that began about six weeks after I started in the position.



Civil War–era surgeon's kit featuring bone saw, screw tourniquet, tissue knife, metacarpal saw, retractor, and tenaculum

It is not uncommon for archival repositories to have plaques, awards, clothing, and other artifacts (realia) in their collections, and many of us are familiar with the unique descriptive and preservation challenges these materials can present. The History of Medicine Collection is home to hundreds of artifacts ranging in date from the late eighteenth to the early twenty-first century, including surgical and dissection kits containing objects such as saws, scalpels, tonsillotomes, forceps, hypodermic

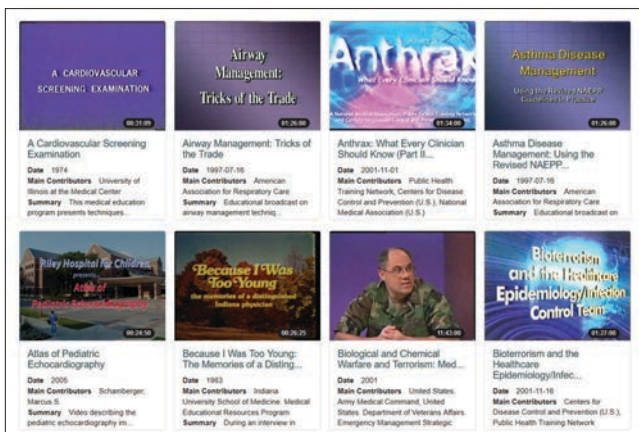
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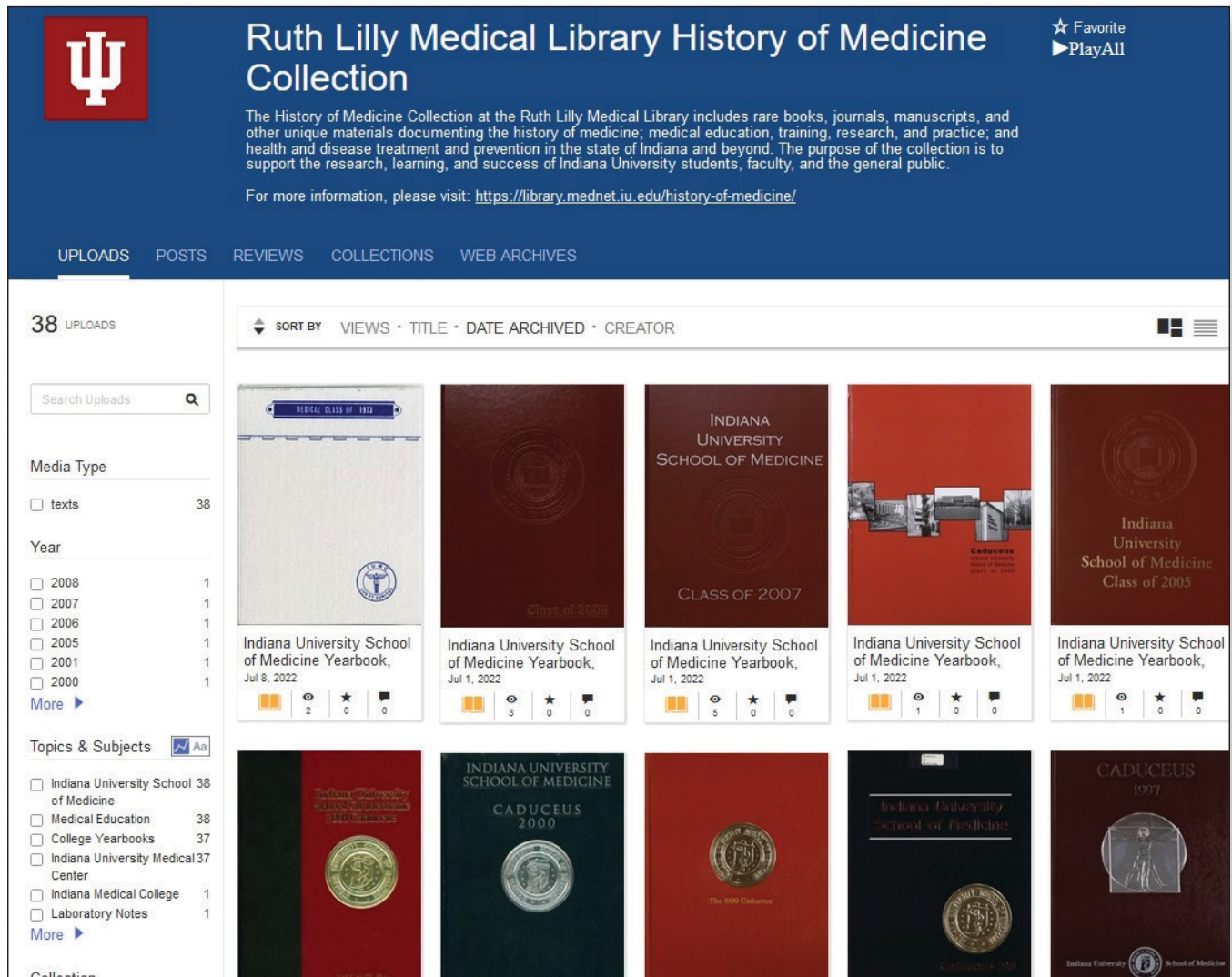
needles, probes, syringes, urethral sounds, and trepanning screws; diagnostic equipment such as microscopes, ophthalmoscopes, hemocytometers (for counting blood cells), sphygmomanometers (for measuring blood pressure), stethoscopes, and early blood sugar testing kits; as well medicine bottles, laboratory equipment, and even a life-sized model of a human skeleton. These items, most of which we have little to no provenance information for, do not lend themselves to minimal archival processing or hierarchical description. Our library was fortunate enough to be able to hire a local museum curator as a part-time, hourly contractor to accession, label, and create item-level descriptions for the artifacts in the collection, a task for which I did not have the required patience or expertise as an archivist with minimal museum experience. This artifact cataloging project is ongoing and will likely take several years to complete. Once the contractor has described an artifact on an accession sheet, I create a new accession record for it and add the detailed item-level description to an existing resource record for the artifact collection in ArchivesSpace. A DACS-compliant online finding aid for the collection is then updated to include the new item-level description in IU Archives Online, the centralized, ArcLight-based website archival repositories across the Indiana University system use to publish their finding aids.² This is the same method we use to provide access to finding aids for our more traditional manuscript collections as they are selected from the backlog for accessioning and processing.³ Additionally, to increase discoverability, we create a collection-level MARC record in the library's local catalog and WorldCat for each artifact and manuscript collection that includes a link to the online finding aid for the collection.

Increasing Access through Digital Initiatives

In addition to improving our descriptive practices for the History of Medicine Collection, we have also been able to increase discoverability of and access to the collection through various digital initiatives. In early March 2020, just days before our library closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we sent out the majority of the analog audiovisual recordings from the History of Medicine Collection to a vendor for digitization as part of Indiana University's Media Digitization & Preservation Initiative (MDPI) project to digitize thousands of audio and video recordings in over a dozen formats, mostly from archives across the university system. The university-wide project began in 2015, and we were able to get in on the tail end of it just before it officially closed in 2021.⁴ The digital surrogates created during the project, as well as additional born-digital audiovisual recordings acquired since then, were made available for direct streaming through IU Media Collections Online, an Avalon-based digital repository developed specifically to provide access to media digitized as part of the MDPI project. Since November 2020, we have uploaded over 160 items to Media Collections Online, including public health, disease awareness, and emergency preparedness programs produced by local, state, and national organizations; demonstrations of dissections and surgical procedures developed to inform medical student education; recordings of guest lectures on history of medicine and medical humanities-related topics sponsored by the library, and student and faculty presentations from the School of Medicine's annual Medical Education Day conference.⁵ This initiative has not only improved the discoverability of AV items from the History of Medicine Collection, it has also raised the overall profile of the library by increasing our level of involvement in providing access to the scholarly products generated by students and faculty researchers in the School of Medicine. The medical library was already doing this for article preprints, presentation slides, posters, and other static materials through our campus's institutional repository, but now we are also doing it for dynamic video recordings of conference presentations.



Video recordings from the History of Medicine Collection in IU Media Collections Online



IU School of Medicine yearbooks in the Internet Archive

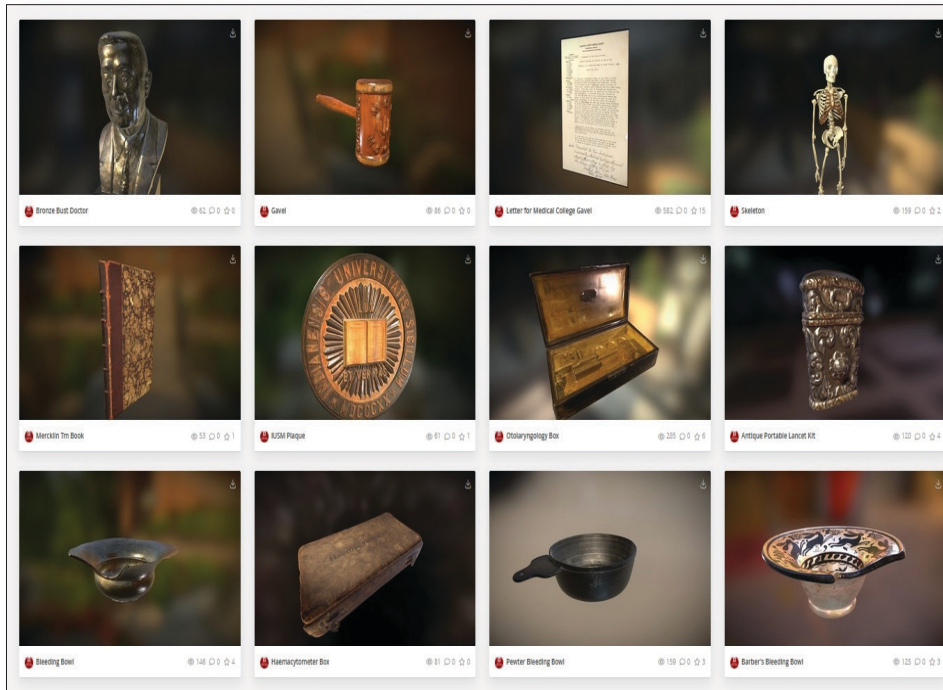
In summer 2022, in an effort to improve the discoverability of print materials in the History of Medicine Collection, we started contributing select digitized items to the Internet Archive. To date, we have made 37 issues of the IU School of Medicine yearbook and a pathology lecture and laboratory notebook that was recently digitized available in the Internet Archive.⁶ In the near future, our library intends to become a contributing partner to the

Medical Heritage Library, a collaborative digitization and discovery organization comprised of some of the world's leading medical libraries that provides open online access to history of medicine resources through a distinct collection in the Internet Archive.⁷ Joining the Medical Heritage Library will go a long way toward improving the visibility of digital resources in the History of Medicine Collection.

(Continued on page 32)

MIXED MEDIA—Continued
Carol Street, Assistant Editor

(Continued from page 31)



3D models of History of Medicine Collection artifacts in Sketchfab

Finally, we have also been experimenting with using photogrammetry scanning equipment and software to create 3D models of artifacts from the History of Medicine Collection that researchers and learners can interact with dynamically online through a web browser or download and view using VR software on their own computers. Some test items have been uploaded to a designated collection in Sketchfab, the 3D modeling platform the Ruth Lilly Medical Library also uses to provide access to the annotated and color-coded anatomical models it creates for School of Medicine students and faculty.⁸ To date, we have uploaded models for 12 artifacts of various sizes to the collection and plan to expand this digital project in the near future to include some of our recently cataloged artifacts from the History of Medicine Collection.

NOTES

1. For a detailed summary of the resources available in the History of Medicine Collection, visit our research guide at <https://iupui.libguides.com/rmlhomresources>.
2. Though I consider myself a lone arranger, I am fortunate to be part of a large university system and therefore able to utilize the technical infrastructure and support that it provides to smaller libraries and archives like mine. Indiana University–Bloomington

Libraries, in collaboration with a working group made up of representatives from various campuses, adopted ArchivesSpace for managing archival collections and collaboratively developed and implemented ArcLight (a project initiated by Stanford University Libraries) for the online delivery and discovery of archival finding aids.

3. Ruth Lilly Medical Library finding aids, “Indiana University Archives Online,” <https://archives.iu.edu/repositories/ruthlillymedical>.
4. To learn more about “Indiana University Media Digitization & Preservation Initiative,” visit <https://mdpi.iu.edu>.
5. Ruth Lilly Medical Library collections, Indiana University Media Collections Online, “Collections,” <https://media.dlib.indiana.edu/collections?filter=Ruth+Lilly+Medical+Library>.
6. Internet Archive, “Ruth Lilly Medical Library History of Medicine Collection,” https://archive.org/details/@ruth_lilly_medical_library_history_of_medicine_collection.
7. To learn more about the Medical Heritage Library, visit www.medicalheritage.org.
8. Ruth Lilly Medical Library, “History of Medicine Collection,” IU School of Medicine, Sketchfab, <https://skfb.ly/owtsB>.

Up-and-Comers

Assistant Editor: Meredith Lowe, University of Wisconsin–Madison. Contact Meredith at mclowe@wisc.edu if you would like to guest author a column or have a good idea to share.

One Library, One Chicago

By Erik Henderson, Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection, Chicago Public Library

My journey into the archival profession has brought me back to my hometown and the community library I attended as a youth with my aunt and cousins. I currently work as an archival specialist for the Chicago Public Library's Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection. I had a brief chance to brush shoulders with Beverly A. Cook, an archivist and librarian with over 30 years of experience, who was integral to the growth of the Harsh Research Collection (HRC).

I was able to absorb knowledge, witness challenging decision-making, and ask—many annoying and nagging—questions of someone with more years of institutional knowledge and experience than I have lived. Each day as it crept up to Ms. Cook's retirement, I began to become more and more overwhelmed at the thought of our department losing such a valued member with a vast skill set and knowledge. Luckily, she took me under her wing for the last two months of her tenure with the HRC. Maybe this is just the person she is, caring and wanting those she knows to succeed and reach their full potential.

Ms. Cook wanted me to assist her in processing the papers of a gentleman named Leland B. Elder Jr., whose career at Chicago Public Library (CPL) began in 1984 and lasted until 2016. Like any rookie employee seeking to impress their veteran coworkers, I jumped in head first. Through this experience, she encouraged me to communicate with her deliberately throughout the process by asking questions. As a young archivist, the time we spent deciding the arrangement and series titles and discussing how I could strengthen the historical note has proven to be invaluable. I am extremely fortunate to have had time with Beverly Cook.

Leland B. Elder Jr. was born in Chicago, Illinois, on September 26, 1955. He spent the majority of his childhood in the Morgan Park and Washington Heights neighborhoods. He graduated from John Marshall Harlan High School in 1973. He had a brief stint at Shaw University from 1973 to 1974 then moved back to Illinois in 1974, where he finished his undergraduate education at Illinois State University in 1976.

Not needing a break, Elder enlisted in the United States Air Force, serving four years, 1977–1981. Upon his return from the air force, Elder enrolled at the University of Illinois Chicago, earning his master's in mass communication. Shortly after finishing at UIC, Elder obtained a CPL internship, which turned into an offer for a position in the Office of Public Information in 1984, making him the second Black American named to the department at the time.

Early in Elder's career, he was responsible for developing contacts with print, television, and radio news reporters, directors, and producers to further CPL ties with local and national level media coverage outlets. During that time, he would also accompany the library staff photographers on assignments to set up photo opportunities and write photo captions for media releases.

More duties emerged as Elder ascended through the CPL ranks. He began contributing to the CPL monthly staff newsletters. He edited and wrote for newsletters such as *CPL Newsletter*, *CPL Matters*, and *CPL Insight*. The latter of the newsletters publicized the selection process for library materials and spotlighted the overall construction of the new Harold Washington Library Center located in central downtown Chicago, which was dedicated to the first Black mayor of Chicago on October 4, 1991, and opened on October 7, 1991.

(Continued on page 34)

(Continued from page 33)

**THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY
HAROLD WASHINGTON LIBRARY CENTER
FACT SHEET**

DEVELOPER: THE SEBUS GROUP
Sohal Associates Partnership
Hammond Beatty & Babka
A. Epstein and Sons International, Inc.
U.S. Equities Realty, Inc.

GROUND BREAKING: October 13, 1988

SCHEDULED COMPLETION: First quarter 1991

COST: \$144 Million

TOTAL NUMBER OF STORIES: Ten floors plus basement

HEIGHT: From grade to cornice line: 125'
From grade to top of vault: 182'

BUILDING MATERIALS:
ROOF: Metal with steel and metal deck
FACADE: Granite and brick (masonry back-up)
STRUCTURE: Concrete frame floors 1-9, steel frame floors 10 plus roof

TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE: 750,000 gross supported square feet

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION:
FURNISHINGS: Floor: Concrete slab with terrazzo, marble carpet and carpet tiles
Walls: Plaster, marble, and natural finish maple, and gypsum board in a coordinated wall-system wall
Ceiling: Bands of painted gypsum board, flat in areas and vaulted in areas, with 2' x 2' lay-in acoustic tile between gypsum board areas
Furnishings: Coordinated with the interior finish materials such as natural finish maple for seating and millwork, polished stone for counter and table tops

BUILDING SYSTEMS: Cellular floor for computer and communications systems. Building also complete with security, energy management, and fire protection systems

HVAC: Electric resistance heating, variable air volume air distribution system

DESIGN/BUILD INSIGHT

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Leland Elder
Editor

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Office of Public Information
The Chicago Public Library
1204 West Van Buren Street
Chicago, IL 60607

Samuel F. Morrison
First Deputy Commissioner/Chief Librarian

John B. Duff
Commissioner

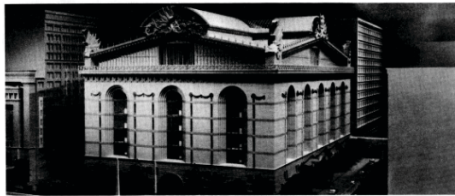
James W. Compton
President, Board of Directors

Eugene Sawyer
Mayor, City of Chicago

Photos provided by the SEBUS Group

INSIGHT
DESIGN/BUILD

THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY FALL 1988 THE HAROLD WASHINGTON CENTER



**GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY
FOR NEW HAROLD WASHINGTON
LIBRARY CENTER**

Chicago Public Library officials have announced that the groundbreaking ceremony for the new \$144 million Harold Washington Library Center will be held on Thursday, October 13, 1988, beginning at 10:30 a.m., at the site location on State Street between Congress Parkway and Van Buren Street.

The new Central Library will be constructed by the SEBUS Group, the winning team of the Library's recent Design/Build Competition.

Commenting on the anticipated groundbreaking ceremony, Library Commissioner Duff said, "This occasion symbolizes the first real step towards construction of a new Central Library for the City of Chicago. Months of preparation by Library staff, our Board of Directors, the City's Departments of Planning, Public Works, Purchasing, the Corporation Counsel, and representatives from the SEBUS Group have gone into the realization of this event. At this point, it is now only a matter of time before Chicago has the world-class library it deserves."

Library Board President Compton also stated, "The Harold Washington Library Center will be the largest state-of-the-art public library in the country. Library and City officials have worked many long hours to make this dream of a state-of-the-art library a reality. I commend the efforts of all the people who got the job done."

**THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY
HAROLD WASHINGTON LIBRARY
CENTER**

First and foremost, the Harold Washington Library Center is a library that is public in the truest sense: in its architecture, function and urban design. It puts people first.

The building accomplishes that mission through its blend of classic architectural design and advanced interior systems, creating a historic grandeur with all the efficiency and durability that modern material can provide.

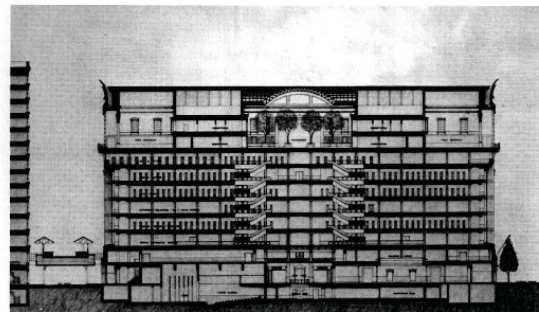
ARCHITECTURE

The Harold Washington Library Center will be easily recognizable as "Chicago's Library," not only because it delivers a site to house written treasures, but also because it facilitates public access.

The classicism of its architecture conveys both history and familiarity as well as the world-class dignity befitting an institution which is to stand so prominently for the citizens of Chicago and the late Mayor who once represented them.

While fulfilling its role as a creative expression of civic dignity, the library's design makes it a public building — in every sense user friendly, understandable and functional.

continued on page 2



Cutaway floor plan

Harold Washington Library Center
continued from page 1

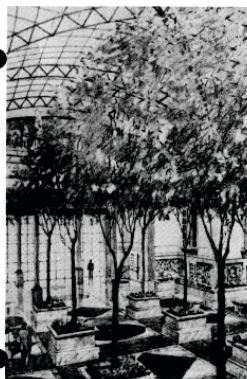
The library's polished granite walls are accented by classic ornamentation. Together, they produce an overall sense of contemporary coloration and provide the basis for a classic "look" that implies the tradition of Chicago architectural excellence and forward thinking.

A sheer glass facade along Plymouth Court and multi-story windows along State Street provide for interaction between the library and the outside world.

FUNCTION

The Harold Washington Library Center connects three distinct but interrelated sections:

- A grand lobby entranceway that serves to welcome the general public through a spectacular three-tiered atrium which directs library users to the core of the library itself.
- Six floors devoted strictly to library functions. These self-contained floors are treated, both architecturally and technically, as distinct units. Highlighted by a separation of classic study alcoves (east) and library shelving (west), the building serves to:
 - ...protect the valued collections of the library



Winter Garden

...facilitate access to the knowledge those collections contain

...and enhance the efficiency of both library operations and library use.

- A two-story administration penthouse to be anchored near a dazzling Winter Garden that includes restaurants and other open public spaces for both the public and library staff.

Thick double-wall construction conceals the library's air requirements while also serving as the location for advanced telecommunications, power and duct distribution.

The double-wall construction also is incorporated into the outer envelope for a thermos-bottle type effect. This meets not only the rigorous environmental needs of the library collection, but also provides strong acoustical insulation as well.

The clear structural anatomy of the building is further enhanced by location stairs, ducts and risers to the perimeter to create a building envelope which facilitates humidity and temperature control in the library.

The building is designed with ultimate flexibility. Floors are large and unbroken, facilitating the ability, in the future, for changes to the interior layout.

The design also incorporates numerous skylights and windows to enliven departments.

URBAN DESIGN

The Harold Washington Library Center fills its site at Congress Boulevard completely. In so doing, it works within the Burnham Plan which established Chicago as one of America's most beautiful cities.

The urban design reinforces Congress Parkway, the original main axis of Burnham's plan, with a major landscaping effort highlighted by:

- Treeplanting along Congress Parkway;
- A pedestrian bridge connecting the library to parking south of Congress;
- Redevelopment of the parcel at State and Congress to create a small urban park that forms an appropriately scaled setting for the library's main south facade.

The design/build proposal submitted by the SEBUS Group combines the ultimate in space-age technology with a classic architectural style befitting this cultural institution. Looking to the city's architectural heritage as a foundation, the new Library includes technology that will carry the structure well into the next century, and beyond, for generations of Chicagoans to use and enjoy.

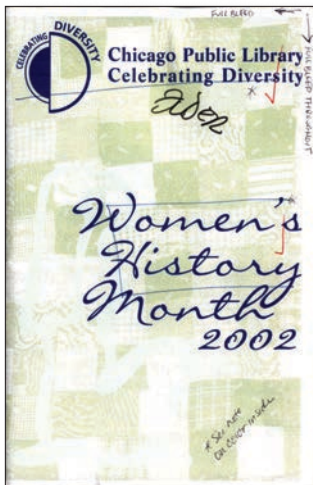
**NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY
SPECIAL FEATURES:**

- Orientation theater at main entrance
- Teletext guides to services and calendars of events
- Hands-on microcomputer center
- Independent learning center for adult learner
- Language learning center
- Satellite dish for international TV reception
- Multi-media "islands" spotlighting high interest collections such as travel, careers, Chicago authors, and theater
- Current bestsellers, popular paperbacks, and new biographies arranged for casual browsing
- Recreational reading in 90 foreign languages
- Computer Assisted Reference Center with expanded retrieval capabilities utilizing state-of-the-art technology; one of only a few in public libraries in the country
- Innovative child development and education center
- Online information services in all subject areas, including specialized legislation services, patent information, and newspaper and magazine indexes
- Chicago performing arts archive and Chicago Blues collection
- Public access online periodical and newspaper indexes
- Largest publicly accessible sound recording collection in Midwest
- Library staffed copy center, in addition to coin-operated copiers
- Kurzweil Reading Machines to translate printed words into speech for visually impaired
- Rental typewriters
- Audio loops for the hearing impaired in auditorium and meeting rooms
- Group study/seminar rooms
- Outside drive-up windows for pickup and delivery
- Fully accessible to the handicapped
- Auditorium seating 400
- Video theater
- Restaurant and Library store

Down the line, Elder became a vital member of the library's Celebrating Diversity (CD) committee. One of his duties on this committee was to oversee the marketing and advertising of CD events. That included writing and editing press releases and outreach materials for Celebrating Diversity programs such as pamphlets for Women's History Month.

Elder wrote the press releases to give to local radio and news outlets as well as to community and citywide partners of the Chicago Public Library. Today, the Celebrating Diversity program has developed into one of CPL's major annual celebrations lasting the majority of a given year. Throughout the year, CPL highlights a number of cultural, ethnic, and underrepresented people starting in African American History Month in February. The rest of the Celebrating Diversity honorees are as follows:

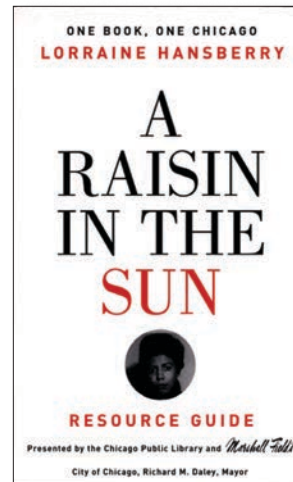
- March—Women's History Month
- April—Poetry Month
- May—Asian Pacific Heritage Month
- June—Pride Month
- July—Diversability Pride Month
- September/October—LatinX Heritage Month
- October—Polish American Heritage Month
- November —Native American History Month



Women's History Month 2002. Leland B. Elder, Jr. Papers [Box 17, Folder 15], Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History and Literature, Chicago Public Library.

As a senior member of CPL's Marketing Department, Elder's responsibilities further expanded to tasks such as developing partnerships and comprehensive media lists with many of Chicagoland's print and electronic media representatives. Moreover, he took on extended duties,

including writing more elaborate and program-specific press releases promoting CPL programs, services, authors, and other events as well as visiting them.



The A Raisin in the Sun resource guide was created to support reading annotations for the citywide discussion. Leland B. Elder, Jr. Papers [Box 18, Folder 13], Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History and Literature, Chicago Public Library.

One of his extended duties was helping to create and implement the citywide book club advertising campaign One Book, One Chicago, which launched in fall 2001. One Book, One Chicago is an opportunity to engage and enlighten community members and to strengthen our sense of community through reading. In 2013, One Book, One Chicago launched an expansion to the program. The expansion entailed moving to two book selections annually with programming in spring and fall. Ultimately, the many well-managed tasks, responsibilities, and accomplishments were ongoing, as were the progressive challenges that Elder continued to meet until his well-earned retirement in July of 2016.

Chicago has a long history of being a segregated city; however, a variety of ideas has been implemented to combat that. The Chicago Public Library set programs in place to highlight our individuality while bringing Chicagoans together as one. With the 150th anniversary of the Chicago Public Library coming up next year, it seemed fitting to highlight this collection. Leland Elder Jr. played a key role in the creation and dissemination of outreach materials for the One Book, One Chicago program, which aimed at bringing community members closer to each other through literature.

(Continued on page 36)

UP-AND-COMERS—Continued
Meredith Lowe, Assistant Editor

(Continued from page 35)

Today, housed at the Carter G. Woodson Regional Library in Washington Heights, the Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection is the largest African American history and literature collection in the Midwest and continues to document the Black experience in Chicago. The Harsh Research Collection was founded in 1932 as the “Special Negro Collection.” Vivian Harsh was the Chicago Public Library’s first Black branch head and the originator of an acclaimed collection of African American history and literature that contains everything from manuscripts by Langston Hughes and Richard Wright to the Path Press Archives (<https://www.chipublib.org/fa-path-press-archives>) and the personal papers of prominent figures such as Robert Sengstacke Abbott, founder of the *Chicago Defender* in 1905 (<https://www.chipublib.org/fa-abbott-sengstacke-family-papers-2>).

People and Posts

Assistant Editor: Greg Bailey, Iowa State University. The MAC Membership Committee invites members to share positions, appointments, and honors in the People and Posts column. Please send items to Greg at gtbailey@iastate.edu. Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!

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MAC Contacts

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Tamar Chute
University Archivist
Ohio State University
chute.6@osu.edu

Vice President (2022–2024)

Benn Joseph
Head of Collections Services
Northwestern University
benn.joseph@northwestern.edu

Treasurer (2022–2024)

Jerice Barrios
Archivist
Archives of the NA Province of
the Cenacle
cenacle.archives@gmail.com

Secretary (2021–2023)

Anne Thomason
Director of the Library
Knox College
annera23@gmail.com

Council

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University Archivist
Michigan Technological University
lehalkol@mtu.edu

Jennifer Ho (2020–2023)
Archivist
California State University San Marcos
jho@csusm.edu

Jennifer Audsley Moore (2022–2023)
Archivist
National Archives at Denver
jennifer.audsley@nara.gov

Sammie Morris (2020–2023)
University Archivist
Purdue University
morris18@purdue.edu

Laurinda Weisse (2022–2025)
University Archivist & Digital
Repository Manager
University of Nebraska at Kearney
llweisse@gmail.com

Ex Officio Council

Archival Issues Editor

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Digital and Special Collections
Librarian
Ruth Lilly Medical Library
Indiana University School of Medicine
bpieczko@iu.edu

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Archival Processing Specialist
Northwestern University
natalia.gutierrezjones@northwestern.edu

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University Records Manager
Kansas State University
rleimkue@ksu.edu

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Outreach and Public Services Archivist
Indiana University–Bloomington
clschwier@indiana.edu

MAC Newsletter Editor

Adriana Harmeyer (2021–2023)
Archivist for University History
Purdue University
aharmey@purdue.edu

Membership Committee

Greg Bailey (2021–2024)
University Archivist
Iowa State University
gtbailey@iastate.edu

Public Information Officer

Megan Badgley-Malone (2022–2024)
Collections & Outreach Archivist
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badgle10@msu.edu

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jjacobs@hclib.org

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engelel@shsmo.org

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rmcfarland@slw.org

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cooperv2@nku.edu

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lynn.smith@nara.gov

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As of November 2021, both the *MAC Newsletter* and *Archival Issues* have moved to electronic distribution only. This is our effort to reduce costs, become more environmentally friendly, and produce publications that are more accessible to people with disabilities.