



Archivists Respond

2021 Annual Meeting
May 13-14
Virtual

MAC midwest archives
conference
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Schedule

Thursday, May 13

9 – 10 am CT 10 – 11 am EST	Virtual Tours (asynchronous)
10 – 11 am CT 11 am – 12 pm EST	Plenary: Andrew W Smith With introduction by Lae’l Hughes-Watkins and Tamar Chute, founders of Project STAND
12:30 – 1:30 pm CT 1:30 – 2:30 pm EST	Concurrent Sessions 1A and 1B
2 – 3 pm CT 3-4 pm EST	Concurrent Sessions 2A and 2B
3:30 – 4:30 pm CT 4:30 – 5:30 pm EST	Concurrent Sessions 3A and 3B

Friday, May 14

9 – 10 am CT 10 – 11 am EST	Posters (asynchronous)
10 – 11 am CT 11 am – 12 pm EST	Concurrent Sessions 4A and 4B
11:30 – 12:30 pm CT 12:30 – 1:30 pm EST	Concurrent Sessions 5A and 5B
1 – 2 pm CT 2 – 3 pm EST	Concurrent Sessions 6A and 6B
2:30 – 3:30 pm CT 3:30 – 4:30 pm EST	MAC Business Meeting

Plenary

Andrew W Smith



Andrew W Smith is a developer, designer, and writer working primarily with digital technologies and materials. His work brings immersive and interactive technologies such as games, digital storytelling, archival and interpretive websites, AR, VR, and digital collage into conversation with topics such as memory, resistance, environmentalism, Afrofuturism, and speculative fiction.

Andrew has held residencies and fellowships with Snap Inc., the University of Maryland College Park, and Amherst College. In addition to his work as an independent designer and developer, he currently works with the Immersive Realities Lab for the Humanities as well as the African-American Culture, History, and Digital Humanities program at UMD. He is a sometimes hobbyist, sometimes professional photographer and musician.

An introduction will be provided by Project STAND (Student Activism Now Documented) co-founders Lae'l Hughes-Watkins, University of Maryland, and Tamar Chute, The Ohio State University. [Project STAND](#) is a radical grassroots archival consortia project between colleges and universities across the country; to create a centralized digital space highlighting analog and digital collections emphasizing student activism in marginalized communities. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

Sessions

1A

Rapid Response Collaboration: Establishing a Community for Collecting During a Crisis

Greg Kocken, *University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire*

Jodi Kiffmeyer, *Chippewa Valley Museum*,

Cheryl Jiménez-Frei, *University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire*

Shane Carlson, *University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire*

Collaborations between archivists and public historians are transforming the acquisitions process for archival repositories. These collaborations help archivists establish deeper connections within their community and build public consensus of the value of archives as repositories of identity and memory. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted this recognition as projects to document its impact on our lives garnered significant attention.

As rapid-response collection efforts to document the pandemic emerged, three cultural heritage programs in Northwest Wisconsin began developing independent projects to record the local impact of COVID-19. An opportunity for collaboration emerged allowing these institutions to combine their strengths and build a stronger and more comprehensive collection. In April 2020, the Chippewa Valley Museum, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UWEC) Archives, and the University's Public History program launched a collaborative archiving project: "The Chippewa Valley Covid-19 Archive Project," which documents the pandemic through several complimentary strategies. Public history students collected oral history interviews and digital artifacts, museum partners solicited community-contributed content through its regional network, and the UWEC archives built a digital platform for harvesting and sharing content. The archive continues to grow as a valuable repository and pedagogical tool, used in several UWEC history courses, and partnering with global archiving project "A Journal of the Plague Year" to document the pandemic in the rural Midwest.

This presentation will examine the rewards and challenges of building this collaborative rapid-response collection. Panelists, representing the project partners,

will explore how each partner leveraged their own strengths and overcame obstacles to build a successful project.

1B

Lockdown Lemonade: Successful Projects Borne Out of Remote Work

Donica Swann, *The Urbana Free Library*

Kate Dietrick, *University of Minnesota*

Derek Webb, *University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*

Joy Novak, *Washington University in St. Louis*

Daria Labinsky, *Jimmy Carter Presidential Library*

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of libraries and archives, many archives professionals assumed that working remotely afforded them limited opportunities to effectively do their jobs. These intrepid archivists pivoted, and used the lockdown as an opportunity to pursue projects they always wanted to undertake but never had time to pursue.

Kate Dietrick will discuss tackling nearly 14,000 agent records in a systematic, low-tech way after a 2016 migration to ArchivesSpace left the University of Minnesota with duplicate and dirty data.

Daria Labinsky will talk about a massive legacy descriptive metadata cleanup for thousands of images that were described incorrectly, in a racially insensitive way, or not at all.

Joy Novak will discuss the management and oversight of a large-scale, backlog metadata project that provided remote work to nearly one-third of Washington University Libraries' entire staff.

Donica Swann will discuss managing a remote project conducted by non-Archives staff members that included transcription of 50 oral histories and the digitization of 100 more, while simultaneously supervising Archives staff's efforts to create more digital content for users. Derek Webb will discuss how remote students and staff labored to repair the WTMJ TV News Archive, a collection of digitized 1950s-70s newsreels from a local Milwaukee television station.

Attendees will come away from the session with inspiration for projects that can effectively leverage the possibilities of staff working remotely, as well as an appreciation for the impact and value of work once deemed low priority.

2A

Taking Stock to Take Action: Using Survey Data to Develop Both Statewide and Local Initiatives for LAMS

Rachel Senese, *Georgia State University*
Janet Carleton, *Ohio University*

State agencies and archivists alike are looking for ways to connect and help one another as budgets shrink and demands for digital resources grow. This has especially been exacerbated by an increase in digital reference work caused by limited travel and projected decreases in budgets due to a loss of tax revenue accompanying the pandemic and associated economic downturn. The State Library of Ohio (SLO) crafted a survey to get an accurate depiction of the capabilities of Ohio LAM organizations to reformat and share their resources digitally. The data from this survey is not only valuable to SLO but to individuals as well, when making considerations for areas of partnership in meeting increased needs for reformatting in a largely virtual environment. SLO will be able to use the insights it provides to develop statewide programs supporting digitization and digital collections work in the near future while also building long-range framework for the same, while a group of archivists and librarians are creating tools that will help other institutions make informed decisions on the future of their digitization programs as well, in a collaborative environment. This panel will discuss the planning and implementation of the survey, how the survey results are currently and will be used, and lessons learned throughout the process.

2B

"Is anybody there?": The Impact of Transformed Archival Work and Educational Opportunities

Marian Matyn, *Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University*
Melinda Isler, *Ferris State University*
Kate Higley, *Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University*
Megan Badgley-Malone, *Michigan State University*

This session explores how two archivists and a student, functioned in new, successful ways, different from each other, during COVID-19. One archivist will discuss how

her small archives was an advantage to her during COVID, allowing her to reopen early, work mostly on campus, create a digital archives tour for her guest lecture for the class, digitize minority and immigrant images, and create new training and student working models. Another archivist will discuss how she planned and converted an on-campus 3-credit class to hybrid HYFLEX and on campus internships to digital. The student took the class and the digital internship and found both to be valuable experiences which will allow her to graduate on time, an important consideration with our mostly economically challenged students. For those attempting similar transformation projects, the presenters will discuss practical points they considered, what they did, and lessons derived from their experiences. Analysis of what worked well and what could be further improved and why will be provided.

3A

Community History in Minnesota during a Pandemic: What Comes Next?

Adam Smith, *Minnesota State University, Mankato*
Daardi Sizemore Mixon, *Minnesota State University, Mankato*
Rebecca Ebneth Desens, *Anoka County Historical Society*
Jenna Jacobs, *Hennepin County Library*

Three Minnesota cultural heritage organizations developed distinctly different community history projects to document the COVID-19 Pandemic. Anoka County Historical Society distributed monthly surveys asking questions relevant to the community at the time while encouraging the public to submit documentation for the archives. Hennepin County Library rapidly expanded its nascent web archiving program to capture websites of Minneapolis and suburban community organizations affected by and responding to the pandemic. Minnesota State University, Mankato developed a community history project that incorporated the international student experience to explore how our students and their families responded to the pandemic throughout the summer.

This presentation will discuss the logistics of how they organized and conducted their community history projects and next steps for those collections. Presenters will discuss processing primarily

born digital materials and making the collections available for researchers while navigating privacy issues to protect contributors. Each of these projects has spawned innovative thinking along with contributing to new directions and partnerships for the organizations including an emphasis on social justice initiatives.

3B

Improving Accessibility in Archival Spaces

Lindy Smith, *University of Missouri-Kansas City*

Veronica Denison, *Kansas State University*

Lauren White, *Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library*

Zachary Tumlin, *Cadence Group*

Some disabilities are apparent, but many are “invisible.” Rather than requiring someone to disclose a disability to request a needed accommodation, this session will discuss and demonstrate ways that all archivists can include accessibility in their work as a default practice, rather than an exception. Drawing upon the SAA Guidelines for Accessible Archives for People with Disabilities and the concept of Universal Design (defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor as “a strategy for making products, environments, operational systems, and services welcoming and usable to the most diverse range of people possible”), the speakers will share concrete changes that we can all make to enhance the accessibility of our reading rooms, online content, presentations, events, and profession. This session will cover accessibility and universal design practices for our users and colleagues so that more people feel welcome in archival spaces.

4A

Archivists Adapt: Off-site by Still Reaching Out

Rachel Seale, *Iowa State University*

Bryan Whitledge, *Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University*

Katie Jones, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Traci Robison, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

This panel demonstrates how presenters pivoted their outreach programs in 2020 to serve and educate their communities safely amidst pandemic shutdowns and restrictions. Learn how Iowa State University Special Collections & University Archives pivoted their Archives Investigations Honors Seminar to a hybrid course

format and adapted the students public presentations to an online event. Hear how the Clarke Historical Library brought their lecture series online. The Clarke Historical staff adapted their traditional lecture series, which took place in an auditorium on the Central Michigan University campus, and went virtual, making the most of web conferencing tools and targeted PR to reach audiences across the Great Lakes region. Many of us scaled down or shut down our exhibition programs. At the Archives & Special Collections, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries focus shifted to digital exhibits and promoting online resources through social media. Hear how cows, dad jokes, and #CornCobMan encouraged campus and community engagement on Twitter. Planning for an exhibits internship incorporated the need to work offsite, training and managing an undergraduate intern, and drawing from previously digitized archival items to produce a new digital exhibit.

4B

Documenting COVID-19: Successes, Challenges, and Opportunities

Greg Bailey, *Iowa State University*

Katie Nash, *The University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Jessica Ballard, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

Jolie Braun, *The Ohio State University*

The United States, and the world at large, are in the midst of a unique historical event. Much like the pandemic of 1918, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all aspects of life. Collecting, making available, and preserving the experiences of individuals and communities during the pandemic will provide researchers, scholars and the general public with valuable first-person accounts of how lives were impacted. Personal journals/diaries, photos, songs, poems, videos, oral histories, zines, and much more will provide a variety of perspectives and stories relating to the social, emotional, and intellectual experiences of individuals and groups.

Archivists from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Iowa State University, The Ohio State University, and the University of Wisconsin - Madison will share the projects launched by each of their institutions to document the students, faculty, staff, and communities outside of the university setting and how they were impacted by the pandemic. Each presenter

will provide an overview of their project, showcase types of materials collected thus far, discuss challenges and opportunities, and outline plans to continue documenting the pandemic.

5A

Supervising Staff Virtually: Discovering Innovative Methods to Assist Staff and Students Working Remotely During the COVID-19 Pandemic

April K. Anderson-Zorn, *Illinois State University*
Anne Stenzel, *Minnesota State University, Mankato*

Neal Harmeyer, *Purdue University*

Janice Unger, *The Henry Ford*

Rebecca Skirvin, *North Central College*

Sarah Lebovitz, *Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University*

As the COVID-19 pandemic shut down archival facilities across the country, managers raced to find projects that students and staff could successfully complete from home. This lightning talk will explore innovative ways five repositories took to keep their students and staff productive and engaged while working remotely. New projects included creating Wikipedia pages, audio transcription, working with online student newspapers, generating social media content, and developing a new remote practicum for students. These virtual projects kept their repositories operational and opened doors to future virtual projects that can be done outside of facility walls and continue to meet the organization's mission. Panelists in this lightning talk will share successes and reflections with the audience and hope to help spark new project ideas for those seeking ways to keep their own staff engaged while working from home.

5B

Documenting the Personal Records of the Modern Soldier in the Times of COVID-19

Edward Benoit, III, *Louisiana State University*

Allan A. Martell, *Louisiana State University*

Gillian A. Brownlee, *Louisiana State University*

In the 21st century, the advent of ubiquitous computing, web 2.0, and the explosion of humanity's digital footprint led to dramatic changes in how people

capture and preserve their experiences. While there is a fair amount of research about the archival practices of the general public, there is an emerging interest in understanding the archival practices among specialized groups, including military members. The Virtual Footlocker Project (VFP) addresses the lack of research on military members. The VFP is a research initiative that aims to understand and support active members and veterans in capturing and preserving their experiences of service. Supported by an IMLS grant, the VFP team conducted 22 focus groups with 99 members across all military branches. Originally designed as in person focus groups, the sessions switch to a virtual format due to COVID-19. This change broadened the study population to the entire U.S., rather than just a handful of states. Preliminary findings suggest record-keeping practices among active service members and veterans were informed by two fears: 1) the fear that the military may lose their records during regular bureaucratic operations and 2) the fear of losing materials during relocation between assignments. Addressing these fears is a challenge that can be tackled through conscious archival practice. The research team will highlight the preliminary themes and discuss proposed solutions to address these challenges.

6A

Connecting Communities and Building Collections: Archiving a Community's Resilience during a Pandemic

Kim Hoffman, *Miami University*

Rachel Makarowski, *Miami University*

Carla Myers, *Miami University*

Jacqueline Johnson, *Miami University*

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Miami University created the "Documenting the COVID-19 Pandemic Project," that established an archival collection centered around those in the local and institutional community. Participants were invited to create their record in any medium they could to express their feelings and experiences throughout the pandemic. While creating the project, the organizers faced various obstacles. Preservation planning became a daunting task, given the variety of physical and digital objects submitted to the collection that could be closed for up to fifty years. Through support from multiple stakeholders, the project coordinators were able to overcome these challenges, resulting in a collection

born completely through volunteers representing the resilience of the community in a time of global crisis.

This presentation will explore the opportunities and challenges presented by actively building a crowdsourced collection, and how the speakers minimized risks in its creation and preservation. Though the presentation will be framed around the experiences of a single institution, attendees will leave equipped with the knowledge to develop a community-born archival collection. Takeaways will include legal considerations around copyright and privacy issues. Attendees will also learn how to address preservation challenges working with archival collections that will be sealed for a significant amount of time.

6B

Building a Statewide Digital Readiness Community of Practice

Vicki Tobias, WILS / Recollection Wisconsin

Kristen Whitson, Recollection Wisconsin

Robin Untz, Lake Mills Aztalan Historical Society

Janean Mollet-Van Beckum, Washington County Historical Society

Recollection Wisconsin is partnering with WILS and the Wisconsin Historical Society to cultivate a community of Wisconsin local history practitioners engaged in digital work. Vicki Tobias and Kristen Whitson will relate their experiences launching this initiative, highlight real-life examples of post-custodial practice, and facilitate audience discussion around strategies to empower small organizations to steward their own cultural heritage. Two Wisconsin local history practitioners, Robin Untz and Janean Mollet-Van Beckum, will share their digital project experience and how participating in a collaborative community of practitioners informs their digital work. Our NHPRC-funded project, Building a Digital Readiness Community of Practice, helps small and under-resourced repositories grow and sustain their digital collections in an inclusive, equitable, and welcoming environment for peer-to-peer learning and mutual support around digital work. Information gathered through surveys, community conversations, strategic planning and research inspired this initiative to bring together and support local history practitioners by providing digital readiness resources, tools, and learning opportunities. A key component of this community is the Digital Readiness Levels, a tiered structure that

provides a pathway and resources to work through all aspects of the digital project lifecycle, using approachable language and appropriately-scaled practices.

Posters

Other Voices, Other Stories: Redescribing Records of the Milwaukee Open Housing Movement During COVID-19

James Sterner, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

2020 provided a host of new challenges for archives, resulting in cultural and technological shifts in how we complete our work. As a field student working at the UW-Milwaukee Libraries Archives during the fall semester of 2020, I was involved in reparative metadata creation for the archives' March on Milwaukee digital collections, which contain records on the civil rights movement and open housing marches in Milwaukee during the 1960s and 70s.

In my proposed poster presentation, I will describe how the Black Lives Matter movement of 2020 impacted my approach to describing collections on systemic inequality in Milwaukee. While describing my approach to metadata creation, using the descriptive methods espoused by Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia, I will examine how archival redescription can allow for a new understanding of figures, events, and ideologies from the Milwaukee marches. I will also examine how principles of social justice and anti-racism can be applied in digital spaces. Finally, I will discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing affected archival workflows in 2020. In the case of the UW-Milwaukee Archives, the pandemic resulted in a new focus on digital projects and outreach, including my work in the March on Milwaukee collections.

Processing Physical Collections at a Distance:
Exploring the Future of Archival Internships
and Practicums in a (Mostly) Remote
Environment

Amber Watts, Fort Hays State University

While remote work and distance learning became less taboo and more of the norm in 2020, many archives supervisors, teachers, and students found themselves swiftly adjusting projects and workflows to continue collections work. However, with physical collections remaining on site, the prospect of how to maintain progress on these non-digitized collections presents an opportunity for exploration; not only a creative solution that promotes safe social-distancing needed in the current time, but also furnishes opportunities for archives students to obtain diverse experience and professional training while working remotely.

This poster presentation will explore the ways in which physical, non-digitized collections, could be processed in a remote work, or staggered work schedule environment. I will address the added benefit and importance of investigating this opportunity, as it encourages and supports collaborative partnerships between MLS, MSLS, and MLIS degree-offering institutions with organizations that may have been previously disregarded, due to being more rural or unavailable for a variety of reasons. I will also share possible technologies to support such a program, such as Trello, which assists with streamlining workflows while working remotely. My exploratory idea suggests that by first extracting the intellectual information from carefully selected, non-digitized collections, it is possible that a student physically handles the materials only once or twice a month for physical arrangement and rehousing. Otherwise, a student works remotely to develop the processing plan, inventory, intellectually arrange, label new folders and boxes, and create finding aids – while keeping themselves and the archival materials safe.

Learning New Skills During a Global
Pandemic: How to Develop Collaborative
Training Opportunities with Your Colleagues

Candace Pine, Miami University

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, many staff of archival and special collections institutions had to quickly adapt

to working in an online environment with limited or no access to their physical collections and facilities.

Although there were larger efforts made during this time to help colleagues on a national and international level learn how to teach, provide public services, and perform outreach in these newer virtual spaces, there was less visible focus on learning how to collaborate with colleagues to acquire new professional skills. However, the Visiting Manuscript Librarian at Miami University recognized this unique time as an opportunity to add an entirely new skill to her repertoire: how to catalog rare books. Enlisting the assistance of the Special Collections Librarian, they discovered how to both teach and learn cataloging in a completely online environment, with limited access to any of their institution's physical materials.

This poster will explore the training process these librarians developed to learn a new technical skill in a virtual environment, even though that skill is more traditionally taught in-person. The presenters will use examples from their personal experiences to demonstrate how the virtual environment was beneficial to both of them in the process of teaching and learning how to catalog rare books. They will discuss the problems they encountered, and examine how they were able to overcome those challenges with different online tools. The presenters will also include tips on how to best use this approach for learning a variety of archival skills from fellow colleagues.

Building a COVID-19 Web Archive with Grant
Funding

*Denise Rayman, Indiana University Purdue
University Indianapolis*

*Lyndsey Blair, Indiana University Purdue
University Indianapolis*

*Claire Drone-Silvers, Indiana University Purdue
University Indianapolis*

*Rhys Weber, Indiana University Purdue
University Indianapolis*

Grant funding can be a mixed blessing for archivists, and as the economic effects of COVID-19 reduce budgets for libraries and archives nationwide, our profession will see even greater reliance on “soft” money. While there are issues with the damaging effect of grants on the future of the profession, a more pressing concern is the burden that ongoing maintenance costs from former

grant projects place upon archival budgets. However, due to the Internet Archive's forward-thinking subscription model, web archiving is one project that can be completed with a one-time grant, even a small one, with little ongoing cost to the hosting archives. This makes creating a web archive around a current event an attractive and practical project within the limitations of grant funding. This poster will show how we created a web archive documenting COVID-19 in Central Indiana, covering how to pitch web archiving to a grantmaker, how to make appraisal decisions when gathering URL seeds, how to manage crawling within a limited data budget, and tools and techniques for managing this work between several people working remotely. We will also discuss certain pitfalls that we encountered and what other archivists can do to avoid them in the future.

Amplifying Existing Collections with Oral Histories in a Virtual World: The Student Help Lived Experience Project at Queens College CUNY
Victoria Fernandez, *Queens College CUNY*
Annie Tummino, *Queens College CUNY*

In response to the challenges brought on by the onset of the pandemic, the Queens College Special Collection and Archives (SCA) created the "Student Help: Lived Experience" student fellowship, designed to be completely remote. The project is an initiative to further document the activities of Queens College students who participated in both the Virginia and South Jamaica Student Help Projects in the early to mid-1960s. The Virginia Student Help Project was an intensive education effort during the summer of 1963 in Prince Edward County, Virginia where public schools were closed for five years in massive resistance to integration. The Jamaica Student Help Project took place closer to home. Starting in schools near campus, it eventually engaged 500 Queens College student volunteers in tutoring more than one thousand educationally challenged, under-resourced students across New York City. For the proposed poster, the current fellow Victoria Fernandez will present the pros and cons of producing and archiving oral history interviews in a completely remote workspace while also using forms of participatory archiving that include the college's alumni networks. The interviews that are part of the Student Help: Lived Experience oral history project further highlight the connection between the

Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's and the social rights demonstrations in the United States during the last year from individuals still active in similar initiatives, as well as demonstrating how the action of conducting oral histories benefit archival institutions as complements to existing collections, all while being produced under unique circumstances.

The Archives Speakeasy Approach to Broadening and Building Community
Sarah Buchanan, *University of Missouri*
Shelby Catalano, *University of Missouri*

The ability to gather together in a room for conversation, space visits, advising, even one-on-one interviewing evaporated quickly in spring 2020. As the full extent of working from home to stay safe became an everyday reality, graduate student leaders decided to meet the moment and avail ourselves of the new tools not around during the last pandemic. Newly installed as officers of our campus SAA Student Chapter, we collaborated on a select set of activities that would leverage our interests, skills, and networks in the interests of peer mentorship and solidarity. This poster will illustrate how student archivists applied the principle of shared effort for shared gain in making the virtual transition an opportunity to cultivate fellowship among our members at a challenging time. We brought the speakeasy of the Roaring '20s into the year 2020 over the course of arranging and promoting virtual events - including a monthly newsletter seeded with content by each of our officers, Zoom sessions with university archivists, and micro-communications that engage and expand our audiences. Collaboration across timezones, experiences, and proximity to graduation allowed our Student Chapter to host quality activities on topics that are broadly relevant across our library and information science student body, with the added value of enhancing our own professional development and staying connected. Our work will share productive strategies for leading with creativity, balancing time commitments, and raising spirits at a time when all the old ways seem to be giving way to new ones on deck.

DPOE-N: Providing Professional Development Funding for Digital Preservation

Erin Barsan, *Pratt Institute*

Hilary Wang, *Pratt Institute School of Information*

“DPOE-N: Providing professional development funding for digital preservation,” will introduce the work underway on the Digital Preservation Outreach & Education Network (DPOE-N). Originally developed by the Library of Congress in 2010 as DPOE, the Library entrusted its pioneering program to Pratt Institute and New York University’s Moving Image Archiving & Preservation program in 2018 to further develop and support it into the future. To build on this promise, the schools established DPOE-Network (DPOE-N): a network of training resources available to cultural heritage professionals nationwide to enhance their digital preservation knowledge. Thanks to a generous grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in 2020, work has resumed on this important initiative with a significant focus on outreach and recruitment.

DPOE-N is motivated by the pressing need for archives, libraries, and museums to collect, preserve, and provide access to born-digital materials with the goal of fostering a professional network that will endure. This poster will showcase DPOE-N’s efforts to provide microfunds to archivists and other cultural heritage professionals for digital preservation training. It will also highlight DPOE-N’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic—allocating funding for emergency hardware support to small cultural heritage institutions in need of new hardware to ensure the persistence of digital collections.

By presenting at MAC 2021, DPOE-N hopes to expand its network and inspire many attendees to apply for funding so that they may better steward the born-digital materials in their collections that form the archival records of our future. You can learn more online at dpoe.network.

Small Archive Projects in a Pandemic: Entertaining America

Tara Bradshaw, *Digital Watauga*

Jennifer Woods, *Digital Watauga*

Sai Estep, *Digital Watauga*

The Digital Watauga Project, a community digital archive created through a partnership with the local historical society and public library, is based in rural Watauga County, North Carolina. Similar to every institution last spring, we quickly found ourselves reconfiguring operations to fit a world where remote work became the norm. One remote task we undertook was a crowdsourcing project to identify individuals and businesses from images created by a late local photographer, Palmer Blair. His project, “Workers of Boone,” consisted of 399 images of people in various professions throughout Watauga County during the 1950s. Through crowdsourcing via social media we discovered that the community was eager to engage, help, and connect. Just as people were finding entertainment and comfort in familiar past-times, they seemed to find comfort in seeing old friends and places from the past. Our poster will illustrate the growth in engagement our project has experienced since the community was issued the first stay-at-home order. Our overall goal is to demonstrate the necessity of crowdsourcing as methods of community engagement and archival description, especially during a time when remote activities are vital for health and safety, but also generally when it comes to digital entities such as ourselves. We intend to illustrate the ways in which, during crowdsourcing, our users became more engaged, our descriptions more specific, and our user base wider. Overall, we plan to show that crowdsourcing can form a symbiotic relationship with the community by providing entertainment while gathering information with little to no cost.

Minnesota Methods: Rethinking Appraisal at the Minnesota Historical Society

Kathryn Hujda, *Minnesota Historical Society*

The Minnesota Historical Society’s struggle to provide timely access to the large amount of materials it acquires has been well-documented in archival literature. Methodologies such as MPLP and the Minnesota Method, conceived by archivists while

employed by the Minnesota Historical Society, were both conceptualized in response to an expansive documentary universe with limited institutional resources.

Despite the wide-ranging impacts of MPLP and the Minnesota Method on the profession, the Minnesota Historical Society has continued to struggle to match its resources to its large collecting purview. By 2019, this dissonance has contributed to an accessioning backlog of approximately 3,000 linear feet of materials with very little physical or intellectual control.

In recognition of this ongoing dissonance, curatorial staff have been reassessing the Minnesota Historical Society's approach to appraisal. This poster will introduce a working draft of the institution's revised appraisal criteria in conversation with methodologies put forth by Mark A. Greene, Dennis Meissner, and Todd J. Daniels-Howell, and as well as new approaches to appraisal and accessioning developed by archivists such as Thomas Hyry, Diane Kaplan, and Christine Weideman. The poster will also provide examples of tools created in order to consistently apply the new appraisal criteria and outline next steps for applying the criteria to backlogged collections.

From DOS Til Dawn: Preserving Digital Content on a Removable Media with Limited Resources
Dillon Henry, *University of Missouri-Kansas City*

The University of Missouri–Kansas City (UMKC) Special Collections and Archives (SCA) holds a variety of born-digital content, including content on removable media in a wide array of formats from 5.25-inch floppy disks, to Zip disks, to DVD-Rs. Preserving this content presents a unique set of challenges, particularly as hardware and software become outdated seemingly as soon as they are introduced, and limited funding and resources only compound these issues.

In October 2018, SCA created a grant-funded Digital Curation Fellowship position to address the challenges of providing long-term, sustainable access to born-digital content on legacy media. With guidance from the Head of Digital Archives & Stewardship, I have developed policies and procedures for imaging, extracting metadata, and providing meaningful and

sustainable access to these materials. Working through our massive backlog, I have taken a patchwork approach—experimenting with various free and inexpensive tools to fulfill different functions—as many other institutions with limited staffing and resources must do.

Increasing Access to Materials through the Wikimedia Foundation and DPLA
John Dewees, *Toledo Lucas County Public Library*

In May of 2020, the Toledo Lucas County Public Library partnered with the Digital Public Library of America, through Dominic Byrd-McDevitt, the DPLA Data Fellow, on a new project to duplicate copyright free digital resources available in CONTENTdm and upload them into Wikimedia Commons. This process utilizes the IIF suite of APIs to make the transfer possible and to bring both well-formed metadata and the images themselves into Wikimedia Commons, in particular making use of standardized Rights Statements to determine copyright status programmatically. Once digitized images are available in Wikimedia Commons it is a simple matter to then embed those images into Wikipedia articles, a platform with a wide and varied audience. Over the course of 2020, the Toledo Lucas County Public Library added images to 192 Wikipedia articles which received over 8 million pageviews. This work is a highly effective means of opening up resources to completely new audiences that very likely would not otherwise interact with a given organization's digitized content. The work is able to be done remotely, can be completed by archivists or volunteers and interns, and can be the basis for outreach and programming by which digitized content is added to existing articles or new Wikipedia articles are created using the digitized content as a foundation. The copying of these assets in Wikimedia Commons is an automated process accomplished through code written by DPLA. Finally, the 8 million pageviews over 8 months only required roughly 32 hours of work total, roughly an hour a week.

Virtual Tours

Smithsonian Institution River Basin Survey
Collections at MWAC
Nora Greiman, Midwest Archaeological Center

The Midwest Archeological Center in Lincoln, Nebraska is a unit of the National Park Service which serves multiple roles: providing archeological guidance and performing fieldwork within park unit boundaries and serving as a repository for archeological collections. Currently the Center's total holdings are approximately 2 million archival documents and just under 1 million artifacts.

This virtual tour includes an overview of the Center and its spaces, then focuses on a single collection. In 1946, the Smithsonian Institution's River Basin Surveys (RBS) program established a field research office in Lincoln, Nebraska called the Missouri Basin Project (MBP) to investigate planned reservoir areas throughout the vast Missouri River basin prior to dam construction. The surveys and excavations conducted resulted in massive collections of artifacts and specimens, and a huge volume of related records. The record systems developed by MBP personnel in Lincoln served as a model for RBS offices elsewhere in the nation, as well as for many cooperating institutions, through the development of the trinomial archeological site numbering system, detailed written guidance for field and laboratory procedures, and standardized procedures for creating and using forms and records. The MBP was instrumental in developing modern standardized archeological collections management practices. The MBP office transitioned to an NPS office on July 1, 1969.

The collection comprises 189 objects and 29.6 linear feet of documents, organized into three series. Records relate to archeological sites in Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Peaceful Coexistence: Zoned User Spaces in a University Archives Reading Room
Heather Stecklein, University of Wisconsin-Stout

This tour stresses the utility of zoning public spaces to facilitate the unique needs of distinct user populations. The UW-Stout Archives and Area Research Center serves a regional polytechnic university in Wisconsin that opened in 1891. Its university archives collections include approximately 6000 c.f. and 4TB. This department also serves as part of the Wisconsin Historical Society's Area Research Center network. The collections include official county records from three Wisconsin counties, along with many photographs and manuscript collections documenting the region, its businesses, families, and organizations.

Along with an overview of highlights from each of these collections, this tour will demonstrate how the Stout archives has effectively zoned its public researcher spaces into two distinct purposes. The designated quiet zone serves introspective researchers who are engaged in individual research.

The collaborative research and instruction space includes presentation equipment and six collaborative group research pods. Each pod seats seven individuals and includes a workstation with a 42-inch monitor (for viewing digital collections) and a table for viewing print materials and objects. This room serves as an instruction space for primary source literacy instruction and group exercises relevant to university classes. It also serves as a collaborative research space where groups can make appointments to perform research and project planning as they view archival materials. Finally, this space serves as a campus event space where book talks, reminiscence lectures, and demonstrations related to campus and community history take place. The space has been successfully reconfigured to accommodate 120 guests for major events.

Bearing Witness: The Holocaust and Jewish Experience at Miami University
Alia Levar Wegner, Miami University

Archivists respond to the crises in many ways. Some expand collecting efforts to preserve contemporary events while others use their collections to interpret how local communities have responded to past crises. The recent exhibition, *Bearing Witness: The Holocaust and Jewish Experience at Miami University*, explores the global events of the Holocaust through the personal stories and archival collections at Miami University and Western College in Ohio.

Co-hosted by Hillel at Miami University and the Walter Havighurst Special Collections & University Archives, the exhibition includes additional source material from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center, and the personal papers of Holocaust survivors and Miami University alumni.

On display for the first time are 30 original documents and testimonies of ten Miami University alumni and faculty who survived the Holocaust, fought as American Jews, helped liberate concentration camps, and served as key figures in the Nuremberg Trials. *Bearing Witness* pays close attention to how and when the Miami community learned about the persecution of Jews in the 1930s and 1940s and their responses to the Holocaust. The virtual tour will be conducted by the chief curator and will use videos, photographs, and 360° images to guide participants through the exhibition. The presentation will be of interest to archivists who want to develop sensitive community-focused exhibitions

that explore collective trauma and crises through archival collections.

Touring the Teruo Okada Papers at Knox College
Micaela Terronez, Knox College

Founded in 1837, Knox College is a private liberal arts institution in rural Galesburg, IL located in the western part of the state. The archival collections encompass over 1,200 linear feet of materials in two locations: the Seymour Library and an offsite storage area in the Center for Fine Arts. Included within the varied collections are college publications, personal papers, official records, photographs, oral histories, audiovisual materials, and much more.

While utilizing a document camera and reproduced images, the virtual tour will introduce attendees to the archival collections, as well as the papers of one of the earliest international students at the College, Teruo Okada from Japan. In particular, Okada's student scrapbook offers a significant and rare glimpse into his college years (1929-1933) when few historically-marginalized students attended Knox College. The well-organized and detailed scrapbook contains photographs, postcards, drawings, news clippings, and other ephemeral materials. Through this tour, attendees will gain a better understanding of early international student life from nearly one hundred years ago. The presentation of the collection will also include instruction and outreach experiences with students, faculty, alumni, and Okada's family.

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