

# MANUSCRIPT REPOSITORIES NEWSLETTER

*A Newsletter from the Manuscript Repositories Section of the Society of American Archivists*

SPRING 2018

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## FROM THE CHAIR

*Ashley Todd-Diaz, Head of Special Collections and University Archives  
Towson University*

Hi everyone,

I'm not sure if spring has sprung where you are just yet, but it has been unseasonably warm in Baltimore the last few weeks and I am ready for spring! Our steering committee has had a busy winter and we would like to extend a thank you to everyone who participated in our membership poll last fall. We are a large section of over 1000 members, so it is extremely beneficial to take our pulse every once in a while to see what topics are of interest and how the section can be as useful and valuable as possible. Although we received a modest response rate, the feedback we received was from a range of new and seasoned section members and offered thoughtful and beneficial insight as we plan this year's section meeting and future projects.

We have also been working on diligently to develop a timely and informative section meeting program that will speak to the generalist nature of manuscript repositories. A current challenge our profession is facing is the trend of temporary or project positions that often specialize in one area of archival practice or one collection, and thus make it difficult for new archivists to

break into the field. As a section that encompasses many types of collections and addresses many responsibilities and challenges, we appreciate the importance of generalist knowledge and experience. Partnering with the Student and New Archival Professionals (SNAP) Section, the steering committee has developed a joint section program that will feature a panel discussion followed by breakout sessions centered around the topics of the value of generalists vs. project positions, temporary vs. permanent positions, labor ethics, and career transitions. Our panelists hail from around the country, and will bring insight from their backgrounds at a large public university, a small private university, and a museum archives. We hope many of you will join us for the joint session at the annual meeting, though we know not everyone will be able to make it to Washington, DC. With this in mind, we are also planning a Twitter component to offer additional opportunities for participation.

Our final project is still a work in progress, so I can't share too many details just yet; however, I will give you a teaser that it relates to career development and will provide a new benefit to Manuscripts Repository Section members. More details to come in the next newsletter; stay tuned for the summer edition!

Wishing you all warm weather and sunny skies!

Ashley

## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR SECTION LEADERSHIP

Thanks to those who have already indicated interest in serving on the Steering Committee; we will be in touch shortly!

The Nominations and Election Committee is seeking candidates for the following positions:

Vice Chair/Chair Elect: Serves as Vice Chair from the conclusion of the 2018 meeting through the 2019 meeting; serves as newsletter editor; works with the Chair and Steering Committee in establishing an agenda for the year; works to ensure that sessions of interest to Section members appear on the SAA program for the following year; prepares for term of service as Chair in 2019-2020; takes minutes during the annual Section meeting. The Vice Chair/Chair Elect must attend the SAA annual meeting.

Steering Committee (3 members): Serves for two years from the end of the 2018 meeting through the 2020 meeting; serves on the Nominations and Election Committee for 2019; assists in planning for the annual meeting; participates in Steering Committee meetings at SAA; helps set the agenda for the year; and contributes to the newsletter or other activities. Steering Committee members are expected to attend the SAA annual meeting in person or virtually.

Candidates must be members of SAA and the Manuscript Repositories Section. Elections will be held by electronic ballot four weeks before SAA's annual conference in Washington, D.C., August 12-18, and winners will be announced at the Section meeting at the conference.

To suggest a candidate (or to nominate yourself!), please send an email to Jackie Dean: [idean@email.unc.edu](mailto:idean@email.unc.edu)

The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2018.

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

### Michigan State University Libraries Special Collections Announces New Collection

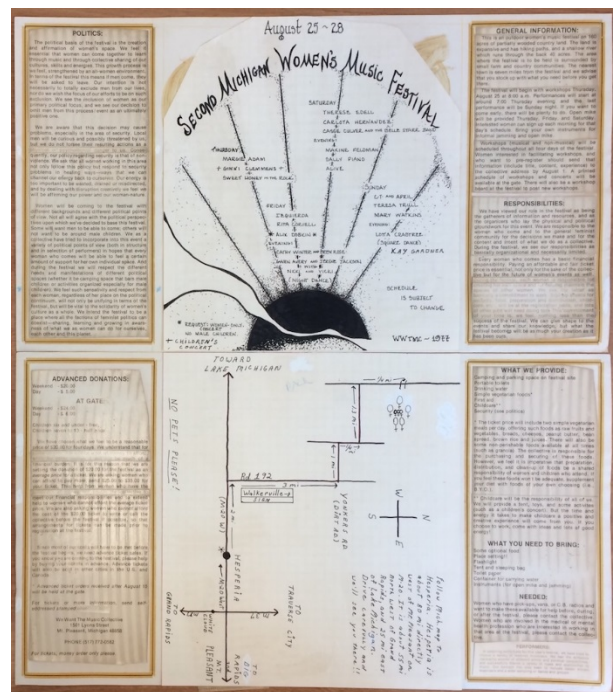
*Elisa Landaverde, Metadata Librarian*

*Lydia Tang, Special Collections Archivist-Librarian*

*Michigan State University Libraries Special Collections*

Michigan State University Libraries Special Collections is pleased to announce the opening of the [Michigan Womyn's Music Festival records](#).

The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival was an annual international music festival for women by women. In 1976, Lisa Vogel, sister Kristie Vogel, and Mary Kindig organized a women-only event in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan where approximately 2,000 women congregated for a three-day music festival from August 20 to 22. From 1976 to 1981 the festival took place in a wooded area near Hesperia, Michigan, during which time the festival grew from a regional to a national event. In 1982, the festival moved near Hart, Michigan, to 650 acres of private land where each year women assembled tents, built stages, and delivered a variety of services and workshops at the space called "The Land." This would be its official location until its discontinuation in 2015.



**Collection material from the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival Records**



**Collection material from the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival Records**

The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival records were donated to MSU Libraries Special Collections by Lisa Vogel, producer and one of the festival's original founders.

The collection consists of approximately 96 linear feet in 81 boxes, and contains crew guides and handbooks, inventories, maps, wooden signs, banners, t-shirts, programs, brochures, posters, meeting minutes, correspondence, as well as press clippings and reviews about the festival.

The finding aid for the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival records is available online:

<http://as.lib.msu.edu/repositories/2/resources/1983>

For more information about this collection and others at MSU Special Collections, please visit

<https://lib.msu.edu/spc/>.

## Request for Comments on Draft of *Archival Description of Notated Music, A Supplement to Describing Archives: A Content Standard*

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to request your comments on a new draft supplement to DACS: ***Archival Description of Notated Music, A Supplement to Describing Archives: A Content Standard***.

This is the first subject-specific supplement to DACS, and we hope that it will serve as a model for other such supplements. The supplement was researched and written by the Music Library Association's (MLA) Working Group for Archival Description of Music Materials, a sub-group of the MLA Archives and Special Collections Committee. Although our group was charged in 2016 by MLA, our members represent SAA's Technical Subcommittee on DACS, SAA's Performing Arts and Description sections, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, and more. We wrote the supplement with a range of readers and practitioners in mind—from music librarians lacking archival experience to archivists without knowledge of music and everyone in between.

The draft is available online at [bit.ly/2Fu3sw0](http://bit.ly/2Fu3sw0).

A form to record your comments is also available online at [bit.ly/2nfpjzW](http://bit.ly/2nfpjzW).

All comments, from brief observations to detailed critiques, are welcome and greatly appreciated. The supplement is substantial, so if you're short on time, we would be grateful if you commented even on a portion of the supplement. The Working Group will close the comment period March 26, 2018.

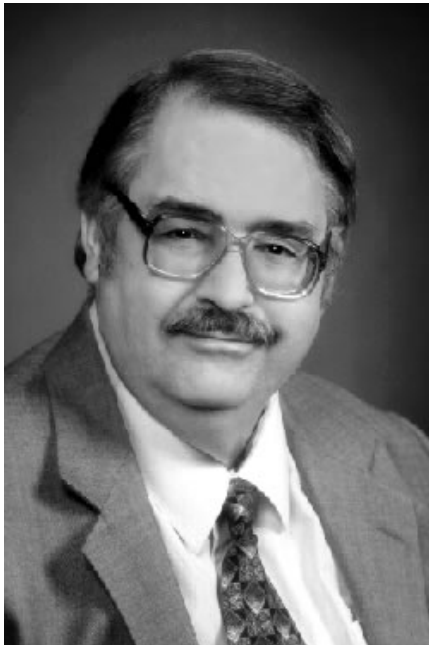
For more information, please contact Co-Chairs John Bewley at [jmbewley@buffalo.edu](mailto:jmbewley@buffalo.edu) or Elizabeth Surles at [elizabeth.surles@rutgers.edu](mailto:elizabeth.surles@rutgers.edu).

Thank you in advance for helping us improve the document!

## MLA Working Group for Archival Description of Music Materials

### Taming the Wild Wolfe: Processing the Charles K. Wolfe Manuscript Collection

*Rachel K. Morris, Archivist and Coordinator  
Center for Popular Music*



*Charles K. Wolfe*

The Center for Popular Music (CPM), **one of the nation's leading research and programming centers devoted to the full study of popular and folk music in the United States and beyond**, has recently begun the task of processing the Charles K. Wolfe Manuscript Collection. Dr. Charles Wolfe was a Professor of English at Middle Tennessee State University for 35 years, as well as a highly prolific scholar on gospel, folk, and country music. During his long career as a writer, editor, lecturer, and documentarian of Southern vernacular music, Mr. Wolfe wrote scores of liner notes for sound recording reissue projects, wrote (or coauthored) more than 20 books, and appeared as an expert on television, radio, and in documentary films. He was also a major supporter of roots music community projects in Middle Tennessee and the region.

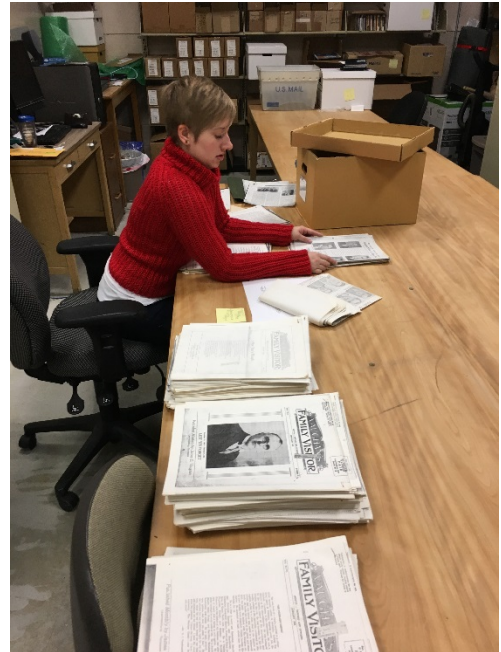
Mr. Wolfe's manuscript collection consists of over 50 linear feet of materials related to his personal and professional projects in roots music. Included in the collection are handwritten notes, clippings, correspondence, liner notes, press kits, research print-outs, and a small amount of photographs. Also in the manuscript collection are notes, research materials, and drafts of Mr. Wolfe's scholarly writings and article submissions. Charles Wolfe's widow, Mary Dean Wolfe, also donated many rare books, journals, magazines and newsletters, sound recordings, video recordings, and trade catalogs.



The CPM has already processed the Charles K. Wolfe Audio Collection, thanks to a generous grant awarded from the GRAMMY Foundation in 2013. This portion of Wolfe's collection consists of over 3,000 manuscript audio cassette and open-reel recordings featuring interviews and field recordings of prominent people and events related to the vernacular music styles of the American South. No doubt that Mr. Wolfe's manuscript papers will surely be a wonderful complement to the audio portion of the collection and a treasure trove of information for anyone interested in the history of gospel, folk, or country music styles in the South. Stay tuned for more updates as the collection gets processed!

To search the Charles K. Wolfe Audio Collection, check out the website:

<http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/WolfeGrammy/Wolfe.html>



*Rachel Morris, CPM, processing the Charles K. Wolfe Manuscript Collection*

## SECTION LEADERSHIP

Ashley Todd-Diaz, *Chair*  
Alison Clemens, *Vice Chair/Chair Elect*  
Jackie Dean, *Immediate Past Chair*  
Brenda Gunn, *Council Liaison*

*Steering Committee Members:*  
Lori Birrell  
Sara Bost  
Jillian Cuellar  
Rory Grennen  
Anne Jenner  
Rebecca Petersen May

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER NEWSLETTER IS 1 JUNE 2018.**