

Society of American Archivists
Public Library Archives and Special Collections section

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2020

Labor Newspapers recently digitized at the Grand Rapids Public Library

Colleen Alles, Library Assistant, Grand Rapids Public Library History & Special Collections department



The Grand Rapids Public Library's History & Special Collections Department (Grand Rapids, Michigan) received a gift of significant importance from a longtime labor historian, Michael Johnston, in the summer of 2018. Johnston donated a large collection of local labor newspapers with dates ranging from 1955 to 2015. Included in the collection, which was recently fully digitized and made available online, are the publications *Grand Rapids CIO News* (1955-1958), *Grand Valley AFL*

CIO News (1958-1968), *Grand Valley Labor News* (1968-2011), and *Work in Progress* (2011-2015). Patrons can now search the online collection by keyword, publication title, and date, as well as view articles in full. The digitized collection can be found here: <http://grpl.advantage-preservation.com/>. Thanks to Johnston's gift, as well as financial support from the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation for digitization, anyone can now read these otherwise hard to find publications and research primary documents to better understand the history and current state of organized labor in Grand Rapids.

Colleen Alles can be reached at calles@grpl.org at (616) 988-5400.

Above image: Julie Tabberer, Head of the History & Special Collections department at the Grand Rapids Public Library, stands next to labor historian Michael Johnston and fellow librarian, Will Miner, with Johnston's donation of historical labor newspapers.

PLASC reports back!

Angela Stanley, Chair
Patricia Delara, At-Large
Member



In October of this year, PLASC Steering Committee Chair Angela Stanley [reported](#) on the section's work over the last two years at the 2019 Society of Georgia Archivists Annual Meeting in Augusta, Georgia. The response was positive, with several attendees hearing about PLASC for the first time. Many were eager to learn that SAA discussion lists can be joined without an SAA membership, taking note of our handy step-by-step guide (available at bit.ly/SAAlist).



Patricia Delara, PLASC At-Large Member, also presented on the section and its resources at the California Library Association Conference this past October in Pasadena, California. Similar to Angela's experience, Patricia's presentation was also met with positive response as many library workers in attendance were not aware of the free resources that PLASC has available to help support public library archivists.

If you are interested in spreading the word about PLASC at your local, state, or regional conferences, please get in touch! Slides in the linked deck may be used and adapted under a CC-BY-SA license.



Want to help promote PLASC while passing around cool bookmarks like this? Outreach materials can be found [here](#)!

PLASC Monthly Meetings

Did you know that our meetings are open to all PLASC members? We meet every second Wednesday of the month at 3pm EST (unless otherwise noted). Meetings are announced via the PLASC listserv prior to the meeting day, with instructions on how to join the call. Unable to join in? Previous meeting notes can be viewed through our [microsite](#).

We want to hear from you!

Be featured in our next newsletter! Do you have any special collections you'd like to highlight? A newly processed collection, new acquisitions, or library programs that you would like to share or announce? If you've recently read a great book or article that archivists and librarians might find interesting, why not do a review of it? Submissions on topics of interest to the public library archivists and librarian community are welcome.

Format for submissions: All articles and items submitted for consideration should be delivered via email attachment to PubLibArchives@gmail.com. Be sure to include the author's name, repository name, location, and contact information at the end of your article. Please attach any images separately as JPG or PDF files and include a caption for each image in the article document file.

Submissions will be reviewed and edited by our newsletter editors. The deadline for the Spring issue will be announced next month. We will send out another call for submissions soon!



The Public Library Archives and Special Collections Section of the Society of American Archivists serves to encourage advocacy for and education about archival, manuscript, local history, genealogy, and other historic and special collections within public libraries of all sizes. To learn more about PLASC, or to get involved, please visit our [website](#).

The PLASC newsletter is shared under a [CC BY-SA 4.0](#) license.