

THE ACADEMIC ARCHIVIST
Newsletter of the College and University Section
Society of American Archivists

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FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Colleagues:

I am delighted to report that plans are coming together for the Section's annual meeting in Austin, Texas. The Section meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 13th between 1:30 PM-3:30 PM. Vice-Chair John Bolcer has developed an excellent two-part program for us. The program features:

- A presentation on upcoming grant opportunities, geared toward the college and university archives community. Representatives from the NHPRC and the NEH have graciously agreed to participate in a panel at our Section meeting, as have recent grant recipients drawn from the C&UA Section membership. Participants will discuss some of the attributes of successful grant proposals and will provide examples of funded projects.
- A talk by Section member Susanne Belovari about the International Council on Archives' Section on University and Research Institution Archives (ICA-SUV) will cover SUV history, activities, and opportunities for C&UA Section involvement.

As always, our Section meeting will begin with a business meeting, during which we will elect a vice chair, with time as well for updates, announcements, and the approval of past minutes. Please note: information on candidates for vice chair will be distributed via the C&U listserv and at the beginning of the Section meeting. *See also*, pg. 8.

The SAA program looks especially rich this year with several sessions of particular interest for college and university archivists. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Beth

Elisabeth Kaplan
Head, University Archives and
Co-Director, University Digital Conservancy
Andersen Library
University of Minnesota

Archives as Place

January 2009 marked one year since we occupied our newly renovated archival facility (Archives). Before this move, I would have said that a change in the look, feel and space of our archives would not make a lot of difference in the use of our holdings, because the majority of that use was through either e-mails or the Web. My negative expectations, however, have been completely unfounded. Our walk-in traffic and research use has increased significantly, as people are drawn in by the news of our splashy new quarters. Our new visitors, for example, consist of returning lecture or event attendees, students following up on homework assignments after a seminar held in the Archives' new classroom, or individuals attracted to the state-of-the-art glass wall that highlights many oversized rare books from the 17th and 18th centuries.

This change has made me think about the necessity of archives as place. Traditionally university archives, particularly those in libraries, have tended to be out of the way. We started life ourselves in the basement of the library and moved to the furthest corner of the top floor where we spent the next 30 years. Unless archives have been completely renovated, they have tended to hold a low physical profile, oftentimes with cast-off or outmoded furniture. This tendency can be explained by modest beginnings and slow growth. But, it also sends a very unfortunate message to visitors about the worth of the archives. Naturally, this situation is not always true, particularly for those institutions with a lot of money, but certainly applies to the vast majority of university and college archives in North America.



Our renovations cost \$1.5 million dollars, with the majority of the funds coming from private individuals and foundations. It took approximately seven years to raise the money. For that sum, we quadrupled our space and added a classroom, six offices, an AV room, a meeting room, a large reference area capable of seating 40 people at tables, a

reception area and a locker/cloakroom. We also moved the rare book vault from external walls into the interior of the building and supplied it with its own independent environmental systems, exhibition spaces and a feature wall that attracts many visitors. However, we did give up something for this incredible public space. Whereas before a large proportion of our holdings were contiguous to the work and researcher areas, now much of our holdings have gone to a separate but linked annex at the back of our building. This situation means that researchers and staff need to order some of our holdings in advance.

This newly renovated space is not without its problems. For example, spaces were sold to be named after individuals. Therefore, individual offices became a necessity. However, the staff is now spread along the outside of the facility, which allows them individual windows but also tends to isolate them. In turn, the lighting in the central part of the researcher room is poor and the security could be better.

As a public facility, however, the archive has enjoyed incredible success. To illustrate, the large central researcher room allows us to hold our annual lectures in greater comfort, because it can accommodate over 220 people sitting and standing. We are also able to host a variety of functions such as readings, book launches and exhibitions that we could never hold before. All of these events succeeded in drawing people to the archives facility. Since the facility is attractive, it helps to cement the archive in the minds of visitors and they are more likely to return when they need information. Our old facility, though perfectly acceptable, was completely forgettable. No doubt, part of the allure of the new space is the contrast with the majority of the rest of the library, which underwent a number of poorly conceived additions and suffered from a lack of upkeep over the years. Even those for whom the décor of the archives is not to their taste cannot help but be impressed by the visual look of the space.



Finally, if they have not already addressed this issue, updating facilities is something that most archivists will need to deal with in the coming years. If archives are able to fundraise, the greatest hurdle will be persuading the unit to whom they report that they should, and then convincing the persons who determine fundraising priorities for the entire institution. If renovations or new facilities are not supported by private funds, the task will become much harder, because the archives will be forced to win over those who craft the budget that physical facilities are just as important as other priorities.

I invite any traveler, who may be wandering through Canada, to visit our new facility. Please contact me at: Shelley_Sweeney@umanitoba.ca to arrange a visit.

(Submitted by Shelley Sweeney, Head, University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections, Winnipeg, Canada)

Landmarks, Monuments & Built Heritage of the West

A major component of community life is the landmarks, monuments and built heritage within that community. Canadian historians have often claimed that the physical and geographical heritage of Canadians has played a key role in the development of our identity as a nation. Western Canadians, in particular, have been shaped by their landscapes and architecture. From sod huts to towering skyscrapers, the built heritage of western Canadian communities has influenced the development of the region and the people.

The University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections, along with its partners, the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg Archives, the Canadian Architectural Archives, and the Archives of Manitoba, have created a website devoted to western Canada's architectural history and the effects it has had on Canadian society. The 7000 textual documents, photographs, blueprints, films, and sound clips that comprise "Landmarks, Monuments & Built Heritage of the West" document this rich historical legacy.

Featured content on the site includes nearly 2000 photographs of buildings, landmarks, and monuments throughout western Canada by famed architect and photographer, Henry Kalen; several hand-drawn original blueprints and designs of Ukrainian Catholic churches by Father Philip Ruh; a film depicting the horrific fire that destroyed one of Father Ruh's churches in Mountain Road, Manitoba; newspaper clippings from the Winnipeg Tribune documenting the city's turbulent relationship with its heritage buildings; plus over 100 architectural drawings of the beautiful and intricately designed Marine Building in Vancouver. In addition, an educational site with targeted content for children in Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 4 explains the value of landmarks in Manitoba communities through mapping exercises and digitized photographs.

Come immerse yourself in the history of your surroundings by visiting the “Landmarks, Monuments and Built Heritage of the West” website at: http://umanitoba.ca/libraries/archives/digital/built_heritage/

This project was made possible through the Canadian Culture Online Program of Canadian Heritage, Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian Council of Archives.

Please contact Brett Lougheed at (204) 474-8243 or brett_lougheed@umanitoba.ca for further information.

(Submitted by Brett Lougheed, Digital Archivist/Curator, University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections, Elizabeth Dafoe Library, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba)

The University Archives in 140 Characters or Fewer

In April, the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) University Archives launched a new Twitter feed: “UTSA Yesterday” (<http://twitter.com/UTSAYesterday>). The project was inspired by David Griner (@griner), who after finding a line-a-day diary maintained by his great-aunt Genny Spencer from 1937-1941, began posting the daily entries to Twitter. The Twitter feed of the Missouri farm girl’s Depression-era diary (@Genny_Spencer) has attracted over 2,600 followers.

“UTSA Yesterday” offers a look at “This Week in UTSA History”: daily press releases, news clips, and photographs of UTSA from University Archives collections, beginning in 1973. Tweets range from the mundane (“Jacinto Quirarte, Dean, College of Fine and Applied Arts, presents paper at mtg of Society for American Archaeology, San Francisco, 4-30-73”) to the momentous (“Classes begin at UTSA. More than 50 faculty members and 671 graduate students attend first classes, 6-5-73”).

The title is a play on “UTSA Today,” the title of the university’s daily news website. We decided to begin the historical tweets in 1973 for two reasons. First, students matriculated at UTSA for the first time that year, and we wanted the Twitter feed to have a wide appeal – to attract students, alumni, and early faculty and staff as well as other university departments and archives. Second, we simply did not have enough records to support a daily news feed before 1973.

We are up to about 40 followers, having doubled our readership after June 5th, the 40th anniversary of the university and the date in 1973 when classes began. On June 5th, we uploaded about 16 photographs, one tweet at a time, from the Gil Barrera Collection of UTSA Photographs. “UTSA Today” included a link to “UTSA Yesterday” in their story about the 40th anniversary. On June 5th, the San Antonio *Express-News* mentioned both the Twitter feed and the University Archives’ 40th anniversary blog post in their 40th anniversary story.

Finally, there is no telling how long Twitter will last. However, we are fairly certain that our University Archives material will outlive Twitter. In any case, it has been very exciting to have found a new platform for raising awareness of the University Archives and for sharing UTSA's early history with the world.

(Submitted by Angela McClendon Ossar, University Archivist, University of Texas at San Antonio)

IN THE NEWS

Idaho: Announcing Digital Collections at Boise State University

In February 2009, Boise State University officially launched the Albertsons Library Digital Collections website. The Digital Collections website [<http://digital.boisestate.edu>] currently features three collections: *Historic Boise State*, *Len Jordan Collection*, and the *Western Writers Series Digital Editions*. Together, these collections showcase photographs, documents, maps, and other resources from Special Collections documenting the history, culture, and people of Idaho and the American West.

Historic Boise State is a growing collection of images from the Boise State University Archives photo collection. The digital collection contains approximately 1,000 images documenting the history and evolution of the campus, student life, and campus events, from the university's founding as Boise Junior College in 1932 to the present day.

The Len Jordan Collection contains 75 photographs of Len Jordan's career as an Idaho governor (1950-1954) and U.S. senator (1962-1972). The collection also documents the 1952 Western Governors Conference in Boise, Idaho, where Republican presidential candidate Dwight D. Eisenhower kicked off his national campaign. The collection includes images of Jordan meeting with prominent politicians, and everyday Idahoans.

The Western Writers Series Digital Editions comprises twenty-three out-of-print booklets of biography and criticism on the American literary west from Boise State University's Western Writers Series. The majority focus on the life and work of individual writers who have made significant contributions to western American literature and contain biography, critical interpretation, and discussion of the full range of an author's work. Each booklet is presented online in PDF format and is full-text searchable.

Over the next few semesters, Albertsons Library plans to add photograph collections formed around the lives and careers of U.S. Senator Frank Church, Idaho explorer Robert Limbert, and silent filmmaker Nell Shipman, as well as continue to add images to the *Historic Boise State Collection*.

Please visit the Albertsons Library Digital Collections at <http://digital.boisestate.edu>.

(Submitted by Erin Passehl, Librarian/Archivist and Assistant Professor, Albertsons Library Special Collections, Boise State University, Boise, ID)

Illinois: Northwestern University Archives Launches Football Films Web Page

The Northwestern University Archives is putting the finishing touches on a Web page which features a few digitized samples from our huge collection of football game films. As of today, we have three games up for viewing. One of those games is from 1940 and features Northwestern University (NU) playing the University of Minnesota. The 1940 Minnesota team was quite remarkable: undefeated and the mythical national champion.

Here is a link to our page with the films. As you will see, along with the films are some scanned documents (rosters, etc.) from pertinent programs:
<http://www.library.northwestern.edu/archives/wildcats/>

The same NU vs. Minnesota game is also available on Northwestern's YouTube channel:
<http://www.youtube.com/NorthwesternU>

The YouTube site, however, does not include scanned program information as will be found on our departmental page.

Please feel free to use the links or to pass them along to fans of Minnesota football.

(Kevin B. Leonard, University Archivist, Northwestern University Archives, Evanston, IL)

Missouri: St. Louis Hosts Successful Midwest Archives Conference 2009 Program

The Midwest Archives Conference 2009 program was held in St. Louis, Missouri at the beautiful Hyatt Regency – St. Louis Riverfront, April 29-May 2. Open to all, this year's sessions ranged from ethics to video preservation to donor policies. Of particular note was the session, "Who's on First (Class)? A Case Study of a Collaborative Project between Archives and Athletics". This session demonstrated the University of Denver's approach to initiating and sustaining a partnership between the archives and athletics, the benefits both parties have seen from this partnership, and the lessons learned as both units adjust to this collaborative process.

Several pre-conference workshops were offered, including Disaster Preparation and Wet Salvage of Materials, taught by the staff of NARA's National Personnel Records Center. Following lecture-style presentations, participants had the opportunity to work in teams in a hands-on recovery of wet materials. As the workshop was held at NARA's National Personnel Records Center, the site of the United States' greatest archives disaster, the July 1973 fire, participants were also be able to see continued salvage work on the millions of surviving records. Content and activities were suitable for beginners as well as more experienced practitioners seeking further training or a refresher course.

Full program descriptions are available at <http://www.midwestarchives.org/2009Spring>. See also, http://www.midwestarchives.org/2009Spring/Program%20Spring%202009_Final.pdf

(Submitted by Miranda Rectenwald, Assistant - University Archives, Washington University Libraries, St. Louis, MO)

CONFERENCES AND PUBLICATIONS

Annual Conference: ICA – Section on University and Research Institution Archives (SUV)

The Annual Conference of SUV will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on September 8-11, 2009. The topic of the conference will be “The Nature of University and Research Institution Archives: An International Perspective”.

For additional information on how to participate, please visit the new Conference website: <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/archives/SUV2009>.

(Submitted by Dr. Juliane Mikoletzky, Head, Technische Universität Wien, Universitätsarchiv, Vienna, Austria)

The Records Manager is Available Online

The Records Manager, vol. 3, no. 2 (March 2009) is now available online at <http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/recmgmt/>

(Submitted by Debra Kimok, Newsletter Editor, RMRT)

CANDIDATES FOR VICE-CHAIR, AUGUST 2009 Society of American Archivists College and University Archives Section

Tamar Chute

Biographical Note:

Tamar Chute currently serves as Associate University Archivist at the Ohio State University. She received a BA in history from the University of Michigan in 1996 and an MLS degree from the University of Maryland in 1998. At the OSU Archives, Tamar is responsible for records management, collection development, outreach activities, and some reference. Tamar has been a member of SAA and MAC (Midwest Archives Conference) since 1997. Tamar served on the College and University Archives Section Steering Committee from 2002-2005, was chair of the Guidelines Review Committee in 2004-2005, and was a member of the College and University Archives: Selected Readings Project Committee.

Candidate Statement:

When I began attending SAA, the C&U Section was the most impressive and informative part of the conference. I reported back to my colleagues that at the Section meeting I was able to experience great collegiality, learn from others all around the country in similar institutions, and think about issues broadly. If I am chosen to be your vice-chair, I hope that I can continue the tradition of bringing programs and discussions of interest to you. I also look forward to continuing to strengthen this section. I believe that C&U should allow wider participation through online voting as at least one other section (i.e. Reference, Access, and Outreach) has done. The updates to the Guidelines completed in 2005 should be revisited and formally approved and the Section's bylaws should be reviewed to make sure they are consistent with SAA's Guidelines for Sections. I hope to see you in Washington, D.C. next year as your vice-chair!

Kevin Glick

Biographical Note:

Kevin is the Head of University Archives and Electronic Records Archivist at Yale University's Manuscripts and Archives. Prior to joining the Yale staff in 2002, he was the project manager of the US team of the InterPARES Project. Since 2007, he has also been an adjunct professor at the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science, teaching Managing Records in Electronic Environments. Kevin holds an M.L.S. from the University at Albany, SUNY; an M.A. in medieval studies from Western Michigan University; and a B.A. in history from Ohio University. In addition to giving presentations at annual meetings, Kevin's previous SAA service experience includes serving as Chair and as a member of the steering committee of the Electronic Records Section.

Candidate Statement:

Doing more with less, electronic records management and digital preservation are my particular specializations, but it seems that I am spending more and more of my time these days looking for new efficiencies; reassessing where departmental priorities are; considering whether some services could be reduced, or whether some constituencies could be slightly less well served. In tough economic times like we are currently experiencing, sometimes we need to make difficult decisions. However, we do not necessarily need to do it alone. More than ever, college and university archivists need to work together to solve common problems in more efficient ways. The College and University Archives Section, through face-to-face and virtual meetings, the email list, and the newsletter can serve as a clearinghouse of expertise and shared experiences on a range of topics of interest to the section members. The tools to make this happen already exist, but I would like to help make the connections between archivists seeking assistance in some particular area and archivists that have the requisite skill or experience to be able to provide that particular assistance.

Please transmit your newsletter submissions to:

Christopher M. Laico, Processing Archivist, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University at: CL880@COLUMBIA.EDU
