OHIO ARCHIVIST

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History Day Awards

On Saturday, April 24, 2010, over 600 students competed in the National History Day in Ohio competition at the Ohio Union building on the campus of The Ohio State University. The Society of Ohio Archivists participates in this competition by recognizing projects that make exceptional use of primary sources and/ or manuscripts. Members of SOA serve as judges and award winners receive a certificate and a cash prize. This year the judges chose one winner in the senior division and two in the junior division.

The 2010 Winners

Senior Division: Claire Lo of Shaker Heights High School for *The Devil's Rope: Pioneering the West."* Claire's exhibit on barbed wire and its role in the settlement of the west. For her research, Claire used the National Archives' patent collection and original artifacts from the Devil's Rope Museum in McLean, Texas. She also used the Cleveland Public Library's microfilm collection.

Junior Division: Stephen Cosco for *"The Making of the Movies: Opening Horizons and Transforming Entertainment."* Stephen's documentary focused on the creation of the movies and the work of two Ohio inventors: Thomas Edison and C.F. Jenkins. For his research, he visited Greenfield Village, the Wayne County Historical Society in Richmond, Indiana, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County and the Cincinnati Historical Society.

Amir Farhat of Birchwood School for *"Garrett Augustus Morgan: An Inventor Whose Inventions Still Save Many Lives Today."* Amir's research paper discussed the inventions of African American inventor Garrett Augustus Morgan. For his research, Amir visited the Western Reserve Historical Society, where he viewed letters, patent documents, advertisements and newspaper articles.

These award winners are to be commended for their extensive use of primary sources!

The President's Message

Dear SOA Members,

October is Archives Month! This year our theme is "Let the Music Move You." I want to thank all of the individuals and organizations who contributed their time and images to this year's poster; with particular thanks to Lisa Wood, Archives Month Committee chair and the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB). The poster looks terrific!

If your organization is planning events for Archives Month, you might be interested in some of the resources on the SAA website. They include handouts, information about putting together press releases and getting media coverage, and an event planning guide. Take a look at http://www.archivists.org/archivesmonth/. And please send information about your event to the SOA list and post it on our Facebook page.

Our Fall workshop is scheduled for October 8th at the University of Akron. The day consists of a half day digitization workshop and a half day copyright workshop. Please help us get the word out about these workshops – they're great for librarians, curators, and IT people, too!

Finally, I'd once again invite you to get involved with SOA. We need you to attend SOA meetings, work on committees, and take leadership positions. SOA is a great way to give back to your profession and make a difference in Ohio's archival community. It is your organization, and it needs you to grow and thrive.

Judy Cobb, President

Current Activities of the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB)
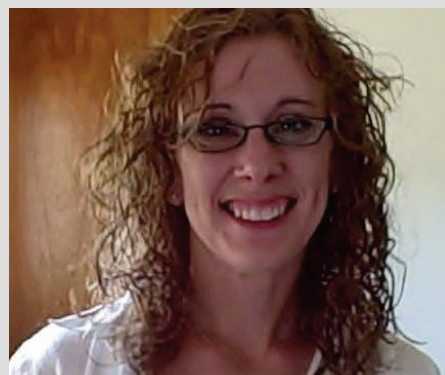
by Galen Wilson

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) is charged with the mission "of enriching the culture and protecting the rights of Ohioans by fostering activities that identify, preserve, and provide access to the state's documentary heritage." OHRAB is one of 50 similar organizations known collectively as State Historical Records Advisory Boards (SHRABs), funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Not every state has a functioning Board; Ohio's is among the most active.

OHRAB meets at the Ohio Historical Society quarterly, generally the last Friday of January, April, July, and September. The state archivist is the Board's co-ordinator. Members are appointed by the Governor from nominations submitted by the current Board, and serve 3-year terms. These are volunteer positions, in no way reimbursed. Membership represents public and private institutions and reflects the state's regions. The present Board has 12 members.

A primary responsibility of OHRAB is to review grant proposals submitted by Ohio archival institutions to NHPRC. OHRAB's role is strictly advisory; its opinion neither confirms nor jettisons a proposal's likelihood of funding. But NHPRC takes no action on proposals from Ohio institutions without OHRAB input. OHRAB approaches this task as both judge and counsel for the defense. While its responsibility to NHPRC is to state frankly whether a proposal merits full, partial, or no funding, it feels keenly its responsibility to assist Ohio institutions craft proposals that will be worthy of NHPRC funding. To this end, OHRAB encourages potential applicants to consult with OHRAB when drafting an application, and even further back if just thinking about applying. OHRAB would rather work kinks out of your application before it is submitted to NHPRC than be forced to comment directly to NHPRC about those kinks! Planning ahead is useful. It is important to enlist OHRAB's assistance with your grant application more than, say, 72 hours before it is due at NHPRC. Please help OHRAB help you.

OHRAB has recently published a flyer advocating for support of local government records programs. It has lobbied (with some success!) for Ohio's senators and congressmen to sponsor the Preserving America's Historical Record (PAHR) Act which, if passed, would provide Ohio $1.7 million annually for grants to local archives, historical societies, heritage organizations, public libraries and academic institutions with archival holdings. OHRAB annually awards prizes to State History Day students for excellence in use of Ohio's primary source materials and is seeking funding from NHPRC for a regrant program to fund archival projects particularly in Ohio's smaller archives.

You can learn more about OHRAB's work, read its meeting minutes, download a pdf of the flyer just mentioned, and follow news of its potential regrant program at its wiki. Board members' contact information is on the site. If you have questions, feel free to contact any of them. They are not shy talking about OHRAB's mission and how it can support Ohio archives.

Visit the OHRAB wiki:

http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/ohrab/

Galen Wilson (galen.wilson@nara.gov) is as a Senior Records Analyst for the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) - Great Lakes Region based in Dayton, OH and currently serves as Vice-Chair of OHRAB.

The County Archivists and Records Managers Association (CARMA)

by Gillian Hill

In July 1997, Tom Burke, then administrator of the Local Government Records Program at the Ohio Historical Society, held a meeting of county archivists and records managers at OHS. The aim was to share information and develop solutions to common problems facing county government records programs. As a recently hired county archivist and records manager myself (I started with Greene County in July 1996), I was eager to meet colleagues and learn from them. It was an interesting and informative meeting. Burke said that he planned to hold two such meetings a year, but this was the first and last he held. I was reminded of this meeting several years later, in January 2001, when Carol Volle, the records manager for Butler County, asked if I had a list of other county records managers in the area. She said that she thought it would be useful for some of us to meet to find out what we were all doing and get some internal "help networks" started. I agreed with her and told her that I would contact Charlie Arp, the then State Archivist, to see if he might have such a list. I also contacted Bob Smith, Records

and Information Manager of Montgomery County, who had attended Tom Burke's meeting himself, and had recently told me that he was interested in arranging another such meeting for professional discussion and information sharing.

In the mid-1970s, the Ohio Historical Society had a robust local government records program. OHS employees worked around the state as local government records archivists at the Ohio Network of American History Research Centers (the Ohio Historical Society, the University of Akron, the University of Cincinnati, Kent State University, Ohio University, Western Reserve Historical Society, Wright State University, and Bowling Green University), providing help to county and municipal entities in their immediate area. Unfortunately, continuing cuts in the budget had gradually reduced this program to one local government records archivist, based in Columbus, who was the sole support for the 88 Ohio counties and thousands of other local government entities around the state. In January 2001, I wrote to this sole local government archivist, the newly appointed Pari Swift, to ask how she and Arp would feel about hosting a meeting of county archivists, or at least providing us with a list of people to invite should we plan a meeting independently.

Swift was enthusiastic about us get-

ting together, although no official list of county archivists and records managers was available. At first she hoped that OHS might be able to provide lunch for a group of us, but their budget precluded that. We decided to hold a preliminary meeting ourselves. Sharon Lane, Records Manager of Clinton County, provided a location for us, and about a dozen of us from the southwest region of the state, including Carol Volle and Bob Smith, met on February 15, 2001. Pari Swift and Judy Walker (Cobb), the Electronic Records Archivist, also attended from OHS. The consensus of opinion was that this was a very beneficial meeting for all. We had introduced ourselves and discussed our current activities and concerns, focusing especially on the growing problems with managing electronic records. Afterward, I wrote a brief paragraph for the Ohio Archivist to announce that we were hoping to set up a statewide organization and hold regular meetings. Pari Swift sent a letter to all county Records Commissions proposing the formation of a group of county archivists, records managers, and microfilm department managers. She asked the commissions to forward the letter to records specialists in their county who might be interested in joining such a group. The first official meeting of the new group was set for April 4, 2001, at the Ohio Historical Society, preceding the Spring Meeting of the Society of Ohio Archivists. Thus was the County Archivists and Records Managers Association (CARMA) born.

The informal structure of CARMA was discussed at this first official

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The County Archivists and Records Managers Association (CARMA)

meeting. For the past nine years there have been no officers of the organization, no official minutes, and no dues. Although there have been some recent discussions, initiated by the Ohio Historical Society, about formalizing the association, no changes have yet been made. We have had two meetings a year, with the spring meetings held at OHS, in Columbus, and the fall meetings in various records center facilities around the state. The fall meeting always includes a tour of the host's operations. So far, CARMA has met at Montgomery County (2001), Warren County (2002), Delaware County (2003), Greene County (2004), Clermont County (2005), Wood County (2006), Lorain County (2007), Hamilton County (2008), and Muskingum County (2009). As CARMA became more widely known, attendance at the meetings increased from under 20, representing around a dozen counties, to over 50, representing between 25 and 30 counties. Understandably, the current state of the economy and resulting cuts in travel have shrunk attendance a little from the high

point of a couple of years ago.

There have been speakers on topics of general interest at the meetings, and updates on pending legislation affecting local government records, but the primary focus remains the roundtable discussions of common problems and solutions. CARMA has provided a great resource for the counties, especially those with no professionally trained archivists in place. Some smaller counties still have no records center or records specialist and have not even started a microfilm program, let alone digitization projects. The shared experience of the employees of counties with funded programs has contributed expertise to those counties trying to initiate programs of their own.

CARMA has a website and a listserv. Members frequently use the list to ask and respond to questions. Learning from each other and networking continues online between meetings. Topics include retention and destruction of records, disaster recovery, email management, scanning and microfilming, planning a re-

Greene County Archives Building

Greene County Archives

cords center, public records requests, and providing research services, among many others. Although Pari Swift has now left the Ohio Historical Society for a records position at the State Attorney General's Office, she has retained a strong interest in CARMA and its activities, and she continues to attend meetings when possible. She was on a panel at the recent combined SAA/NAGARA/CoSA conference, in Washington, DC, at which she discussed the benefits of CARMA and its possibility as a model for other states.

CARMA could perhaps develop a more formal organizational structure in the future. It is becoming recognized by others as a valuable and effective association, with some advocacy potential, and it has provided a notable example of how people with similar needs can get together to help each other. It has also provided strong support for the work of the Ohio Historical Society by assisting Ohio counties in their preservation and protection of the historical records of the state.

The Ohio Historical Society Increases Public Hours

by Angela O'Neal

Beginning July 1, 2010, the Ohio Historical Society has extended hours at the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus to three days a week. The new hours are: Thursdays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. -5 p.m. OHS has also eliminated the parking fee for the Center.

"We listened to our stakeholders and found a way to make it work within our budget," said Burt Logan, OHS executive director and CEO. "The change in hours will increase customer service and provide additional opportunities to engage and involve visitors in Ohio history. By offering free parking, it will be more affordable for people to visit the museum, attend an event or use our services."

Public hours for the museum and archives/library at the center

have increased from one to three days and free parking will be available for all visitors at the center and for most special events at Ohio Village. The new hours are: Thursdays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. -5 p.m. for the Archives/ Library and Museum. The Ohio Historic Preservation Office and OHS business offices will continue to be open 9 a.m. -5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Museum admission will remain the same: $8 for adults, $7 for seniors (60+), $4 for youths (6-12) and free for children (5 and under) and Ohio Historical Society members. There is no admission fee to the archives/library and historic preservation office.

Logan said, "This was done after careful consideration of the effect of these actions on next year's budget and staffing resources as well as the ongoing initiative to change focus of the

Ohio Historical Center Children on Front Steps
ca. 1970
Ohio Historical Society Properties File

museum and archives/library into a collections learning center. We're still not up to a full week's schedule yet after last year's state funding cut, but we're making progress towards that goal."

The Ohio Historical Center is one of 58 historic sites and museums administered by the Ohio Historical Society, a nonprofit organization that serves as the state's partner in preserving and interpreting Ohio's history, archaeology, natural history and historic places. For more information about programs and events, call 614.297.2300 or 800.686.6124 (toll free) or visit www.ohiohistory.org/OHC

Angela O'Neal is Director of Collections Services at the Ohio Historical Society

Historical Convergence: The Kent State University Centennial and May 4 40th Anniversary

by Stephen H. Paschen and Cara Gilgenbach

Kent State University was established in 1910 by the State of Ohio as one of two northern Ohio normal schools charged with the training of teachers throughout the region. Kent State Normal was the northeastern Ohio institution, while in the northwest Bowling Green State Normal was founded that same year under legislation popularly referred to as the Lowry Bill. Thus 2010 marked the centennial year for these sister institutions. For obvious reasons, centennials and other important milestone events present a university or college archives program with significant opportunities and challenges. As the custodians of historical materials, the archives will play a key role in the institution's efforts to celebrate its history. There are many chances for the archives to collaborate broadly across the institution on a variety of programs, events, publications, and Web-based resources as well as organizing events of its own such as exhibitions and lectures. The challenges arise in responding to significantly increased institutional and community needs while maintaining all normal operations, usually with no increase in staffing or budget. At Kent State University, the Department of Special Collections and Archives, which includes the University Archives program, experienced an intense "historical convergence" in 2010 as this year marked the university centennial, as well as the 40th anniversary of the 1970 Kent State shootings. Additionally, we had the unexpected pressure of losing a long-time staff member through retirement immediately before this time period. The position would not be filled until the following fiscal year, so we faced both historical events with a decreased staff size of four FTE.

this year marked the university centennial, as well as the 40th anniversary of the 1970 Kent State shootings

In anticipation of the centennial, the department undertook, starting in 2008, a digitization project that would allow us to scan and describe a sizeable number of institutional photographs. Having a core collection of 500-1000 images would save us considerable time in locating and scanning heavily requested images. Since we do not have a staff member whose job description is devoted entirely to digitization we knew it would require a team effort on the part of several staff members. In the summer of 2009, we announced the release of "The Centennial Collection" (http://www.library.kent.edu/centennialcollection) and have added to this digital collection as new scanning requests have been made throughout the year. In this way, we are adding to our digital holdings in a natural way, as part of our normal workflow
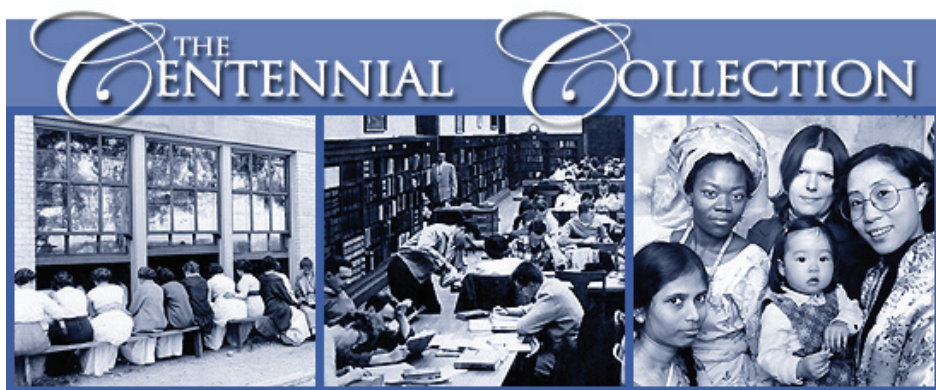
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of responding to digitization requests. Having this collection ready to go before centennial events heated up saved our staff a lot of time and provided us with a good place to which we could point users as a starting point on their historical projects, noting that we could fill additional image requests as needed. The department viewed this project as one of its primary contributions to the centennial efforts on campus.

Two faculty members in Special Collections and Archives also served on the university's Centennial Planning Committee. While much of this committee's work focused on planning major events, we found that being on the committee allowed us the chance to forge new connections with staff we had not worked with in the past, or remind participants about the resources that were available to them in Special Collections and Archives. We found that even long-time KSU staff members sometimes needed reminders about the resources available in our department. As programs and events were developed by this committee, we also could anticipate which projects would impact our unit and could better plan for how we would respond to information requests. This planning committee also started its work

well in advance of the centennial year, so we had ample time to make these connections, anticipate needs, and promote the services of our unit.

Another pre-centennial effort that relied heavily on our collections and research services was the publication by the Kent State University Press of a new 345-page history of Kent State. Our department provided sustained, intensive research assistance to the author and photo editor for a two-year period, and was instrumental in the selection and preparation of the book's more than 150 photographs. While our work on this project was under the radar for most people at the university, the department is proud of the role it played in supporting the publication of what will likely prove to be the most significant university history written to date.

An entertaining project that emerged was a student-led effort to bury a time capsule. While the time capsule is an ever-popular way to mark an important anniversary, the time capsule project took on the dimension of a mystery case here when the students did background research on the university's semi-centennial events of 1960. There was a brief note in planning documents for that

event about a time capsule being buried. However, there were no programs for the event, newspaper coverage, or any other evidence that the 1960 capsule had actually been created and buried. Research efforts, including interviews with alumni of that period, proved fruitless, and the conclusion was reached that the semi-centennial time capsule did not exist. When the day arrived this summer to bury the centennial time capsule under a newly renovated campus plaza, local media took delight in reporting the story of the "lost 1960 time capsule." This project gave our staff a chance to work closely with students whose enthusiasm and excitement over the creation of a new time capsule spilled over to the rest of the university community. All university offices were encouraged to contribute items to the capsule, and a dramatic burial ceremony took place in a prominent and well-marked location. The students learned a valuable lesson in the importance of documentation and gained hands-on experience in archival research.

In addition to these activities, Special Collections and Archives contributed to dozens of other projects, programs, events, and student projects related to the centennial, including a historical DVD, a centennial Website, indi-

vidual departmental historical programs, and a major centennial event celebrating women's athletics. But, it was the 40th anniversary of the Kent State shootings (referred to as "May 4" at Kent State) that made the most dramatic impact on our time and energies throughout the year.

Each spring KSU Special Collections and Archives experiences an upsurge in activity beginning in the weeks leading up to the annual commemoration of the historic events of May 4, 1970. The commemoration in May 2010 was a significant milestone, marking the 40th anniversary, and resulting in an unprecedented level of activity involving our department and the May 4 Collection.

The May 4 Visitors Center committee, on which a Special Collections faculty member serves, was appointed in 2007 with the purpose of developing an onsite public facility to serve as a focal point for visitors to the campus. Once the mission of the May 4 Visitors Center committee was established, the first three ob-

jectives of the committee were to achieve National Register of Historic Places designation, produce an electronically guided tour of the May 4 site

Kent State University, May-June 1970
State Archives Series 6524
Ohio Historical Society

(http://www.kent.edu/about/history/May4/virtualtour) and work with an exhibit consultant developing the permanent exhibit that will reside in the center. All three projects required extensive research and use of the May 4 Collection along with considerable research assistance by our department. At the same time a new documentary film about May 4 and its era was in the final stages of production,

requiring heavy use and duplication of images and other materials for the filmmaker. The film, entitled *Fire in the Heartland*, debuted in spring 2010 at the Cleveland International Film Festival.

Over a matter of weeks, our staff digitized more than 900 items from the collection for use in the National Register application, Visitors Center, and documentary. We did anticipate committing additional staff time in a landmark year like the 40th Commemoration, but did not expect the surge in inquiries that we experienced in the fall. New priorities were set requiring the participation of everyone on our staff (again, in view of the fact that we are not fortunate to have a staff member entirely devoted to digitization). We assigned scanning and metadata tasks to all our staff members and set deadlines for scanning and generating metadata as needed. This work was undertaken in and around all other normal departmental activities and services, but was completed on time for the successful National Register application, Visi-

tors Center exhibition design and May 4 walking tour, and documentary debut.

By January, 2010 we turned to other May 4-related projects that originally comprised our departmental objectives for the year. We completed design and installation of a new May 4 exhibit in our galleries and geared up for a major push to enhance our May 4 Oral History collection. Also, as we began the new year the number of research requests began to rise precipitously along with an increase in integrated classroom instruction sessions relating to May 4.

During the early months of the spring semester an exhibit entitled "40 Years of the May 4 Collection" was installed in the reading room and corridor galleries as well as a "teaser" exhibit in the library's first floor lobby. Drawing on the May 4 Collection as well as loans of materials from the Summit County Historical Society, the May 4 Visitors Center office, and individuals, the history of the May 4 Collection was documented through books, posters, artifacts, photographs, publications, and narrative. Exhibit cases covered significant aspects of the collection, organized around the following topics: Context – The Time Period

(1970); The May 4 Collection – What and Why We Collect; May 1970 – The Events; The Aftermath – Court Cases & Tent City; Commemorations & Memorials; the May 4 Task Force; the May 4 Visitors Center; the Center for Peaceful Change & Symposium on Democracy; and the May 4 Oral History Project. The exhibit, which was open through the spring and summer of 2010, will remain open until November.

During the 2009 fall semester the department planned an initiative to grow and promote use of the May 4 Oral history project as another contribution to the 40th anniversary of the shootings. We prepared a special brochure and mailed invitations to prospective interviewees wishing to contribute their interviews to the collection. The project sought interviews not only with eyewitnesses to the shootings, but also individuals who were involved in court cases, the Gym Annex controversy of 1977, the May 4 Task Force (a student-run organization), and annual commemorations. Special Collections staff and graduate student assistants were trained to conduct interviews and were available by appointment to record interviews with visitors attending the commemoration in May. Each interview became part of the May 4 Collection, available online to

researchers, students, and the general public. Seventeen new interviews were conducted during the spring semester and 40th commemoration. This brought the total available online through the departmental Website (http://www.library.kent.edu/oralhistory) and the OhioLINK Digital Resource Commons (http://drc.library.kent.edu/handle/2374.KENT/807) to over a hundred recordings and transcripts.

The number and frequency of May 4-related online and on-site requests and research appointments accelerated as the 40th commemoration approached. Researchers on-site in the reading room included students in many disciplines working on class-related research assignments. Among the disciplines for which we provided classroom instruction and service were: history and public history, political science, theater, first-year experience, journalism, library and information science, and college writing (English). A theater class wrote and produced a play entitled "May 4th Voices" based on oral histories in the May 4 Collection for the 40th commemoration.

The 40th Annual May 4 Commemoration featured more activities than ever before, includ-

ing the traditional candlelight march and vigil, speakers, plays, lectures, films, print articles, interviews, concerts, and other events. Thousands of visitors were on campus and in the City of Kent during the commemoration period that extended from April 28 through May 6. This was a period during which scores of researchers visited Special Collections and Archives, and staff members attended events to cultivate donations, recruited interviewees for the oral history project, promoted use of our collections, and represented the department.

During the commemoration this year we were extraordinarily busy far beyond our public research hours in the reading room. We scheduled and conducted oral history interviews, were interviewed ourselves by television, radio, and print media, and collected archival materials pertaining to the commemoration, dedication of the National Register plaque, and dedication of the May 4 Walking Tour. We were present at nearly all the events, and a staff member also gave time to the Visitors Center committee previewing for visitors the newly installed May 4 walking tour.

Despite the fact that we planned for the University's Centennial and the 40th Anniversary Commemoration of May 4, 1970, both of these historic observances required even more commitment from Special Collections and Archives personnel than anticipated. But it was the May 4 activity that most impacted the department. Development of the May 4 Visitors Center exhibit, walking tour, national register nomination, and documentary required flexibility and close teamwork on the part of our people (a small staff of four FTE). Our reliance on each other as colleagues and ability to adjust to changing priorities allowed us to make and exceed not only our original objectives, but also to meet the changing needs of our users.

Kent State University Libraries Appoint Read Graduate Assistant

The Kent State University Libraries' Department of Special Collections and Archives is pleased to announce the appointment of Stephanie Tulley as the 2010-2011 Dr. Gerald H. and Victoria C. T. Read Graduate Assistant. Ms. Tulley is currently pursuing dual Master's degrees in business administration and library and information science. She is a 2007 graduate of Kansas State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in economics and international studies. She is a member of the national Phi Kappa Phi Academic Society and was selected as a member of the National Society for Collegiate Scholars while at Kansas State.

A program of the Kent State University Libraries, the assistantship is funded by a generous donation from the Dr. Gerald H. and Victoria C. T. Read family and is intended to provide intensive pre-professional experience in special collections and archives to a student enrolled in the School of Library and Information and Science.

Stephanie Tulley

A True Page Turner: The Mass Digitization Collaborative, Lyrasis and the Ohio University Yearbooks

by Gregory S. Sigman

Few people would express any serious doubts when faced with the assertion that providing or facilitating online access to digitized or born-digital assets will, and in fact already does, play a very significant role in the daily activities of libraries and will likely be an increasingly prominent aspect of library work as time goes on. Becoming an active player in this movement, however, is most certainly more easily said than done. Few libraries have the wherewithal to staff and equip a large enough digitization department to scan tens of thousands of pages of unique institutional print resources; purchase, configure, and maintain computers to store and serve the content; and develop a front-end user interface for their online collections. The digitization process itself can be absolutely painstaking when undertaken in any significant quantity, and to make timely progress on a substantial project can be both time and cost prohibitive for many institutions, particularly in today's budget climate.

Maybe you've got your own closet full of print matter? Does your institution have a back room with dozens of volumes of old local publications? Concert programs? Yearbooks? Specialized material perhaps of interest to scholars abroad, if they only knew it existed or had the means to travel to your location and stay for a thorough examination? Wouldn't it be great to get that stuff digitized and accessible online? Have you been putting it off for years, daunted by the expertise and time involved? The whole prospect is just terribly cost-prohibitive, right?

Not necessarily. One way that such barriers are being overcome is through collaborative projects. As part of my practicum experience this past Winter/Spring serving as an intern in the Ohio University Libraries' Office of Digital Initiatives, I had a great deal of experience working under the supervision of Janet Carleton

as a participant in such a collaborative project. The Mass Digitization Collaborative (MDC), being administered by Lyrasis in partnership with the Internet Archive, is arguably the best deal going for libraries and similar institutions to get significant quantities of printed materials digitized and online-accessible very quickly and inexpensively.

What exactly is the Mass Digitization Collaborative and how does it figure into this discussion? To properly answer that question, the Lyrasis Corporation must first be examined. Lyrasis is a non-profit organization that boasts over 4,000 member institutions. These are libraries and other "cultural institutions" of all kinds and sizes. ("Lyrasis: Overview," 2010). The three companies that merged to form Lyrasis were all eastern United States based, so the current membership is heavy on east coast institutions, but Lyrasis provides services worldwide and is currently welcoming new members from around the globe. Lyrasis provides assistance to its members largely in the fields of technical support and of coordinating collaborative efforts among its member institutions. ("Lyrasis: Our Vision," 2010).

The Mass Digitization Collaborative itself came into being under the auspices of Palinet (one of the pre-merger companies that would become Lyrasis) in 2008.

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Palinet by itself had roughly 600 members at the time and had acquired a $1,000,000 grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to help subsidize the digitization costs. The actual digitization is done at several of the Internet Archive's digitization centers for a per-page price—paid by the contributing institution that owns the materials—greatly reduced by the grant-based subsidy. The resulting digital files are stored and distributed by the Internet Archive (Palinet launches Mass Digitization Collaborative, 2008), so member institutions need not store or serve the potentially very large amount of data involved. With funding in place, a goal of adding 20,000,000 pages to the Internet Archive over the course of the grant, and a small group of willing members, Palinet opened up a mini-pilot program in order to develop and refine a set of procedures. Each of the participants were asked to make an initial submission of five to ten books or microfilm reels, which were then sent to one of Internet Archive's regional scanning centers. Selection of unique items of regional interest was encouraged, and items had to be in the public domain or have permission to digitize from the copyright holder. The pilot was successful, and in October, 2008, the Mass Digitization Collaborative switched into production mode. There are currently nearly sixty Lyrasis mem-

bers contributing content to the collaborative. Most of these are college or university-affiliated libraries, but also state libraries, archives, and even the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Kentucky ("Lyrasis: Participants," 2010). So work is well underway, and, according to project manager Laurie Gemmill, more than halfway to the goal of digitizing 20,000,000 pages by the end of the grant period (personal communication, April 9, 2010).

The Internet Archive began as Brewster Kahle's non-profit repository endeavoring to archive the entire Internet. Internet Archive continues in its initial function with over 150 billion web pages archived, but has also taken on vast quantities of other data in the form of digitized resources of many different media types including audio, moving images, and even software (Internet Archive: About IA, 2010). The Internet Archive currently receives its materials from a vast array of sources, including individuals as well as large institutions and even consortia of institutions.

Procedures for preparing and contributing materials to the collaborative bear consideration, lest the casual reader be left with the impression that all that is required is to pack the items into a box,

ship them off, and then let the scanner fairies take care of the rest. The descriptions below are taken largely from my own experiences working with Ohio University's Office of Digital Initiatives in their recent and ongoing efforts to have some of Ohio University's unique holdings digitized and made publicly accessible.

The first step is identifying the materials to be digitized. There are two rules that Lyrasis requires all contributors to abide by: no laws can be broken (that is, copyright must be respected), and metadata must be provided. In the case of Ohio University, materials had already been selected for which funding could be obtained from the Alumni Association, namely, the school's run of yearbooks (The Athena, first published in 1892) and alumni bulletins. There is also a collection of rare Thai materials which is currently beginning to show up in the Internet Archive. To obtain a ballpark quote from Lyrasis it is necessary to submit a page count. This may sound trivial, but counting anything when there are multiple tens of thousands of those things is a time consuming endeavor. Digital Initiatives undertook this task for the yearbooks and bulletins, while the Southeast Asia library was responsible for the Thai materials. It was decided to do the year-

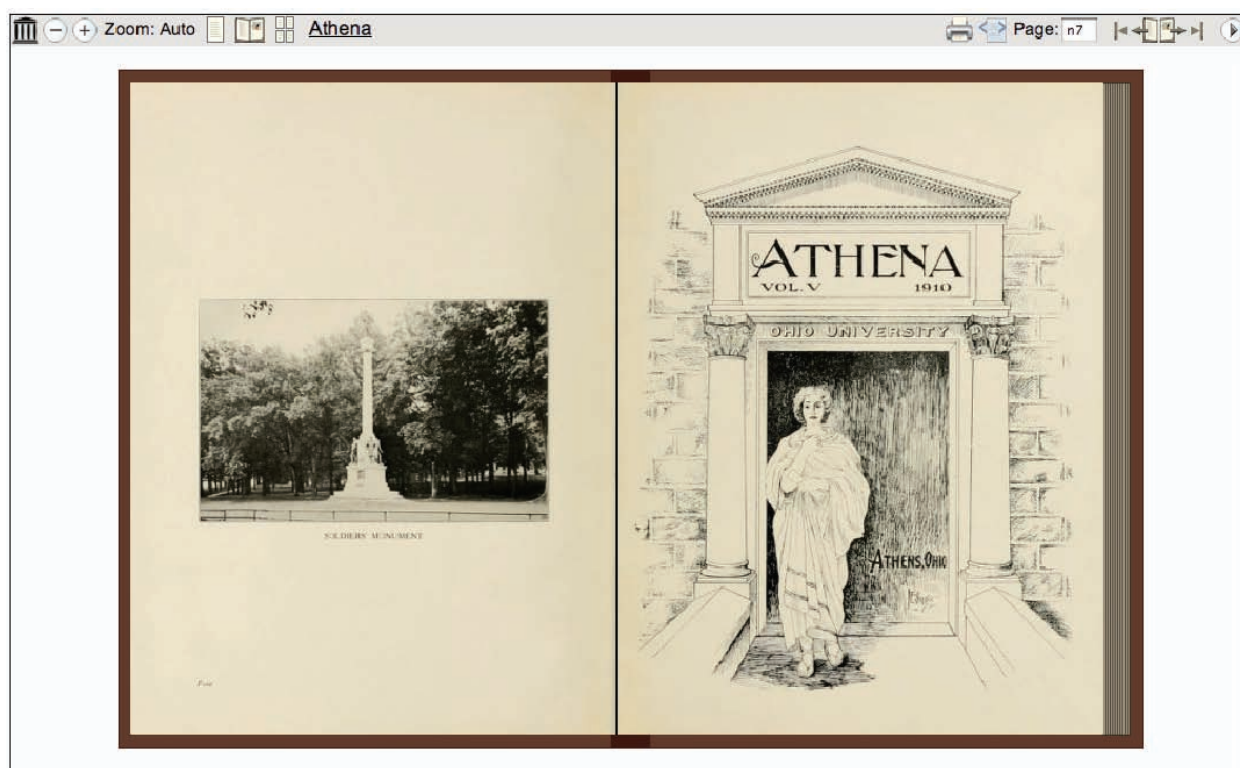books first, as they seemed to be the simplest of the identified collections.

Before the yearbooks could be packed and shipped, it was necessary to determine the desired metadata for each volume and enter it into a spreadsheet, provided by Lyrasis, and sporting the exquisite appellation "wonderfetch." Each yearbook got a line on the spreadsheet, questions were asked and resolved, and the metadata was hand-entered into the wonderfetch sheet. At length the time to pack for shipment had come. Great care was taken when packing the yearbooks; not only are many of them fragile, but for several of the older volumes there are very few other known extant copies. To lose one of these to damage incurred while shipping would be tragic. Each individual book was covered in bubble wrap and the interior of

each box was lined with bubble wrap. Next, the group of books (typically 4-8 volumes) that was slated for a single box was placed inside a plastic garbage bag to protect against the threat of water damage, and finally, the boxes were stuffed with newspaper to minimize the books' in-box motion while in transit. Then, the packed boxes were off to New Jersey.

In less than two weeks' time, The Athena was beginning to show up on the Internet Archive. The whole run of yearbooks amounts to nearly 30,000 pages worth of scanning, and Internet Archive's production center at the Princeton Theological Seminary had already finished this part of the process.

30,000 pages in two weeks! Labor costs alone for the Office of Digital Initiatives to complete a project of this magnitude in-house would have eclipsed by far the amount billed by Lyrasis. For pages of up to 9.7" x 14.5", that pricing (for Lyrasis members having at least 20,000 pages in their order) is currently $0.10/page.

Once the materials are up on Internet Archive, they are freely accessible to all comers. Each item is stored in a number of different formats, and each type is available for anyone who cares to drop in and download all that they care to grab. Those formats are: full-color PDF, black & white PDF (makes for a smaller file

size), DjVu (an open file format alternative to PDF which reduces file sizes and is not proprietary), full text only which makes for very small files, EPUB (an open format designed to be readable on any portable ebook reading device), Kindle (for Amazon's well-known device), and Daisy (an XML based format for digital talking books).

The award for coolest presentation at Internet Archive, however, has to be given to "read online." This still screenshot does not do it justice by half.

Note the zooming, page turning, and other navigation controls across the top. This interface attempts to simulate for the user the experience of flipping through the volume just as though it were an actual book in his hands. The front and back covers are both digitized, as are any blank pages throughout in an effort to duplicate as closely as possible the original book. Everything here is scanned in full color. The interface here will even "play" the book like a slideshow, turning one page at a time, progressing slowly through the entire book. This is a fantastic thing to leave playing on the screen during a presentation to alumni, board members, or donors, for example.

The Internet Archive, as a non-profit, has a lot in common with public institutions, but is generally better equipped to handle digitization than your average library, and to do so in a high quality, high volume production environment. The partnership with Lyrasis brings this high quality, high volume environment within the grasp of even very small libraries, museums, and historical societies. Thanks to the outside funding from the Arthur P. Sloan Foundation, this can be achieved at significant savings, even over an exclusively in-house operation. There are some valid concerns, such as "what happens when the grant dries up?" and "what is the long-term viability of a non-profit entity such as Internet Archive?" Is this a good thing from a preservation point of view?" These are important questions to ask, and I did ask. Project manager Laurie Gemmill replied that MDC was conceived as a sustainable operation, and when the grant expires—currently slated to happen in January 2011, although as of this writing, Ms. Gemmill is optimistic about the prospect of an extension—operations will continue, although at an increased cost to members. As for the viability of Internet Archive and its usefulness as a perpetual storage and access facility, she is quick to point out that contributing institutions are free to use the digitized copies of their materials in any way they would like, including archiving and pro-

viding access from their own servers (personal communications, April 9, 2010 & August 31, 2010).

In summation, the Mass Digitization Collaborative would appear to be a high-quality, inexpensive, and quick way to get into the digital collections arena for institutions of any size. At Ohio University, it has moved us from "boy, wouldn't it be nice to…" into "things are happenin'!" mode in a very brief span of time indeed. See some results for yourself at: http://www.archive.org/details/ohiouniversitylibraries

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MISSION

Founded in 1968, the Society of Ohio Archivists' mission is to exchange information, coordinate activities, and improve professional competence in Ohio's archives and manuscript repositories. Membership in the society is open to the public, and we invite anyone with an interest in archives and manuscripts to join.

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