

Up-and-Comers

Assistant Editor: Meredith Lowe, University of Wisconsin–Madison. Contact Meredith at mclowe@wisc.edu if you would like to guest author a column or have a good idea to share.

The Immortal Magazine

Online Remote Interning at an Archive during the Covid-19 Pandemic

By Anastasia Bushey, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee



Anastasia Bushey

In March 2020, the spread of a new, deadly virus caused the sudden shutdown of businesses, schools, movie theaters, shopping malls, museums, libraries, archives, and more in the United States. As the year progressed, many of these sites began opening with restrictions in staff and services, impacting normal operations that had been suddenly halted earlier in the year. The sudden need for contactless exchange of information and research requests prompted increased access to online databases and collections.

In January 2021, I began a remote internship with the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee archives. My major task was to create an online exhibit on the history of *The Little Review* literary and art magazine and the women behind it with ArcGIS StoryMaps. The exhibit was called *The Immortal Magazine: A History of “The Little Review” Magazine and the Women Behind It*. While creating this exhibit, there were several goals. The first was to highlight items and information from the Little Review Records and the Margaret C. Anderson Papers held at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee archives. The second goal was to use as many primary documents as possible to have Margaret Anderson and Jane Heap “tell” their story with a map tour element. The third goal was to use other institutions’ information and digital collections to

flush out a more complete history of *The Little Review*, Anderson, and Heap. The fourth goal was to complete the exhibit for Women’s History Month in March. While I had contributed to research for a women’s suffrage centennial exhibit, *Women of the Nation Arise!* at the Staten Island Museum in New York, I had never seen an exhibit through until its finish, let alone created one on my own for an institution. In creating this exhibit, I was able to use familiar online tools more frequently, utilize and gain skills with unfamiliar online tools, enhance my communication skills, and experience a new archival collection and work with a team outside of my New York bubble.

The Little Review was founded in 1914 in Chicago by Margaret Anderson. Known for her anarchist views, Anderson wore pants and smoked in public. She was later joined by Jane Heap, who focused on the art aspect of the magazine and was known for her masculine style. The two became lovers, and they moved the magazine to New York City’s Greenwich Village in 1917. The magazine continued to feature works of Emma Goldman, William Butler Yeats, Pablo Picasso, and others.



Margaret Anderson

In 1918, *Ulysses* by James Joyce began appearing serially in *The Little Review*. By 1920, Anderson and Heap's work had brought them under scrutiny. The thirteenth chapter of *Ulysses* titled "Nausicaä" caught the attention of John Sumner, the secretary of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice. A trial began and concluded in 1921, resulting in Anderson and Heap being charged with obscenity, fingerprinted, and charged a fine of \$50 each. The trial took a toll on Anderson and Heap's relationship, and *The Little Review* was edited solely by Heap from 1924 to 1929. By the time the last issue was released, *The Little Review* had moved to Paris and Anderson and Heap were living separate lives. The magazine is best known today for its involvement in the trial that banned the great modern work, *Ulysses*, until 1933. Jane Heap passed away in England in 1964, and UWM purchased her papers and a full run of the magazine from her estate in 1966. With this purchase, it made *The Little Review* papers its first collection, the Little Review Records. The Margaret C. Anderson Papers were donated by Mrs. Phillip (Jean Anderson) Palmer to the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Library in 1977. Considering the literary importance of the magazine, the editors' connections to famous figures in art and literature, and the time in which the magazine was active, writing the narrative involved a broader scope of information to explore than could be found at UWM.



Jane Heap

During my remote internship, I was able to use online tools such as Microsoft Teams, institutional drives, and

Trello more frequently than I had in the past. During the pandemic, Zoom and Google Meet were the two video conferencing platforms I was exposed to and I had not yet used Microsoft Teams. With this service, I was able to communicate directly with the archivist and take notes on updated goals, suggestions, and feedback. The chat function also allowed me to look back on shared links and information after the meeting had ended in addition to my own notes. While emails were frequently exchanged and were an important communication method, face-to-face video meetings allowed for clarification of tasks and an organic flow of ideas. They also helped to make the remote experience more personable, which is important when working with a new team.

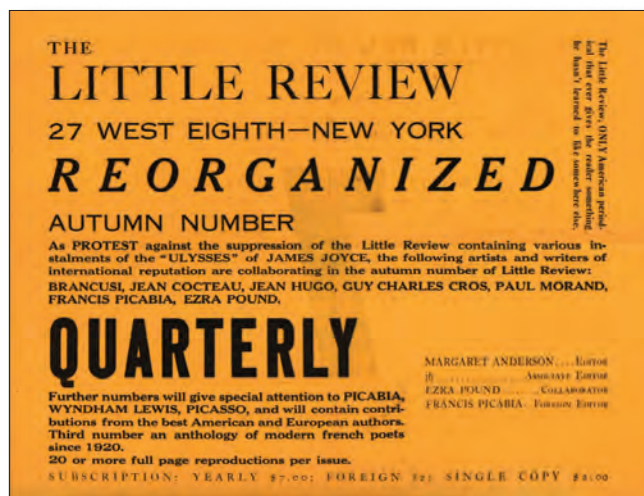
ArcGIS Storymaps is an online storytelling platform that allows the user to create a custom map, highlighting locations important to a particular story. The University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Libraries Archives department utilizes this unique platform to host online exhibits. While I had used an earlier version of ArcGIS Storymaps as an undergraduate student, the latest version is quite different and was unfamiliar to me. Tutorial videos published on the website were extremely helpful for learning how to set up different facets of the exhibit page, such as the walking map. It is important to consider how creator-friendly a particular platform is. ArcGIS Storymaps advertises itself as an easy-to-use platform, and I found it to be straightforward and true to its promise. The ability to update the exhibit as information was found or clarified was important, as some information from other institutions was discovered or approved for use after the deadline of the exhibit. ArcGIS Storymaps has an option for the most recent update date to display on the exhibit page, which was helpful as the semester went on. ArcGIS was also informative about updates to services and tools and allowed me to tinker with new options when they became available. Additionally, having access to previous online exhibits published by UWM archives department staff and students was helpful to set a baseline of expectations for my own exhibit and how to stay on the institution's "brand." Trello was another valuable tool, allowing me to efficiently list exhibit plans and organize my ideas for themes, featured artifacts, related information, and more using online "cards" on the Trello "board." Listing my plans and

(Continued on page 24)

UP-AND-COMERS—Continued
Meredith Lowe, Assistant Editor

(Continued from page 23)

ideas on the Trello board also allowed other archives staff to see what information I was gathering and to comment on any ideas or information that I had on the “cards.” Additionally, I was able to prioritize my research tasks by highlighting cards with red, orange, and green marks to remind myself and show the team what was high priority and what research and tasks could wait.



An advertisement for The Little Review

Being able to access the UWM archives department’s shared drive remotely and securely was important for independently researching and creating the exhibit. In having this access as an intern, I could peruse and read previously scanned documents and images related to *The Little Review* to use in the exhibit without having to ask any staff on-site to look for and scan physical items such as Margaret Anderson’s and Jane Heap’s portraits. This access also allowed me to understand what was in the collections before I requested items to be scanned from the finding aid, which meant I was giving the archives staff more time to focus on other tasks and requests. Having some of the artifacts already digitized also made it easy for me to add objects into the exhibit.

Due to pandemic closures, I contacted many archives and libraries outside of UWM via email or online form. Some institutions’ staff were able to respond right away, while others were closed well into the spring of 2021 or simply unable to access on-site holdings. This varied from place to place, as different states were operating under different pandemic restrictions. While most of my emails inquired about copyright policies that were unclear to me, digitized collections were not only convenient, but also made my research much easier to conduct. For instance, I could read a letter from Margaret Anderson held in Yale University Libraries online collections from home and see if it related to another letter at UWM. I was able to use Internet Archive to access holdings from a variety of sources to enhance my knowledge on subjects and history surrounding the exhibit and to enhance the online exhibit itself. Digitized physical collections proved to be more important than ever, even if hosted on a separate website such as Internet Archive.

Overall, in this remote internship with the UWM Libraries Archives Department, I was able to improve on skills learned in my MLIS courses at UWM. I was able to get creative with my online research skills, navigate a variety of finding aids from different institutions, learn from other information professionals at the archives, delve into new and interesting collections, create an official online exhibit, work on time management skills by working in a different time zone, gain more experience in navigating copyright laws, use a variety of online tools professionally, and tell Margaret Anderson’s and Jane Heap’s stories. My experience assured me that working in an archival setting is my passion. Without this remote internship I would not have been able to have this valuable experience due to my full-time job, and I hope that archives and library staffs consider hosting remote interns beyond the necessity brought on by the pandemic.

Visit *The Immortal Magazine* at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bc4b2209f4724924b93447363bd29a49>.