News from the Midwest

Assistant Editors: Alexandra Bisio, University of Oregon, and Lois Hamill, Northern Kentucky University. Please submit News from the Midwest items for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio to Alexandra at bisio@uoregon.edu and items from Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to Lois at hamill@nk.edu. Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!

ILLINOIS

Chicago Area Archivists

The Archives and Archivists of Color Interest Group of Chicago Area Archivists has completed the second cycle of its Archives and Archivists of Color Travel Fund Award, created for archivists, by archivists! The group seeks to expand the representation of people of color in the American archives field. Thanks to the generosity of archivists in Chicago, the Travel Fund Award sent three people to last year’s MAC Annual Meeting! One winner, Maira Herrera, states: “What I loved about going to MAC was seeing different archivists interact and hearing their perspectives. I spoke to a seasoned archivist who encouraged me to branch out of Chicago and see how different archives function. . . . It made me understand just how big this community is, and how it will continue to grow.” Visit http://chicagoarchivists.org for updates—by the time you read this, a winner or two will have been selected to attend MAC in Detroit.

Chicago Public Library

All Power to the People, an exhibit celebrating the legacy of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party, runs February 16 to December 31, 2019, at Carter G. Woodson Regional Library. This exhibit documents the leaders within the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party, their survival programs, and Chicago partnerships, and it examines how both the black and white press viewed the organization. While the exhibit briefly discusses the National Black Panther Party, its goal is to bring a greater visibility to the work of the local Illinois chapter. The exhibit features archival materials from the Harsh Research Collection and items on loan from individual members of the organization. Many of these items have never before been available for public viewing. Please check event listings at https://chipublib.biblio-commons.com/events throughout 2019 for related programs.

From left, Fred Hampton, two unidentified men, and Bobby Rush, undated. Both photos courtesy of a former Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party member.

Chicago Public Library announces the opening of the Chicago Department of Urban Renewal Records, 1891–1992 (Bulk dates, 1950–1980), 35 linear feet. The majority of the collection is comprised of photographs, contact sheets, negatives, and slides of Chicago neighborhoods considered and targeted for urban renewal, including images of buildings and neighborhoods subsequently razed. Other papers relate to the administration and documentation of the Department of Urban Renewal land clearance and redevelopment initiatives. Neighborhoods highlighted include Lincoln Park, Hyde Park/Kenwood, Near West Side, Bronzeville, Englewood, and Woodlawn. Construction projects feature housing developments, universities, hospitals, expressways, and civic and recreational spaces. The work of photographer Mildred Mead stands out in this collection, adding a human dimension to the controversial and widespread American practice of urban renewal.

Fred Hampton at a Chicago rally, undated

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IOWA

University of Northern Iowa

Special Collections and University Archives at Rod Library at the University of Northern Iowa was awarded a Preservation Assistance Grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The awarded project is titled Improving Preservation Policies and Practices for Rod Library Manuscripts and University Archives and will include a preservation assessment of the university’s special collections and archives, along with an on-site workshop for staff on the care, handling, and storage of historical research materials.

KENTUCKY

Filson Historical Society

The Filson Historical Society is excited to announce the opening of the premier collection of the Jewish Community Archives: the records of Louisville’s Jewish Hospital, 1905–2008. The collection highlights the efforts of the Jewish Hospital Association to build and manage a hospital that met the medical needs of both the Jewish community in Louisville and a general patient population. The records include discussions about the meaning of Jewish Hospital’s name, identity, and relationship with the Louisville Jewish community and document important twentieth-century changes in hospital administration and medical technology. In addition, curator Dr. Abby Glogower and assistant Dr. Lynn Pohl present Continuity of Care: Transforming Jewish Hospital for Modern Louisville, 1945–1980, an exhibit running April 4–August 30, 2019, that explores a beloved local institution’s growth from a small community facility into a major center at the heart of modern Louisville’s medical, urban, and civic life. For more information, see www.filsonhistorical.org.

University of Louisville

University of Louisville’s Archives and Special Collections happily announces the opening of the Charles Anderson Jr. papers (https://bit.ly/2Tj9RBj). Anderson was the first African American to serve in the Kentucky legislature and the first elected in a southern state since Reconstruction. Elected as a Republican in 1935, he served six terms until 1946. He achieved a number of legislative milestones that improved the lives of African Americans, most famously combatting lynching in Kentucky and successfully repealing the state’s public hanging law. The collection includes files, brochures, photos, and scrapbooks that document his life and career. § Radio station 91.9 WFPK awarded archivists Heather Fox, Carrie Daniels, and Elizabeth Reilly with the Advocate Award, honoring their work on the Louisville Underground Music Archive (LUMA), https://library.louisville.edu/archives/luma. LUMA was established in 2013 to preserve recordings, photographs, videos, ‘zines, set lists, fan mail, and other artifacts of the Louisville underground music scene from the late 1970s until the present.

MICHIGAN

Wayne State University

The Reuther Library has launched its Archives and Primary Resource Education Lab (APREL), which provides online document sets from its collections and associated lesson plans for off-site audiences, as well as in-house instruction sessions on interpreting archival documents. APREL has three primary objectives: to train learners of all ages to understand and evaluate sources of information from unique and often disparate perspectives; to promote the use of primary sources on Wayne State’s campus, in regional K–12 schools, and online through educational tool development, and study the impacts of primary source education on student success for various constituent groups; and to serve as a focal point for innovative primary source education, offering instruction, embedded archivist services, and curriculum development support. Visit www.reuther.wayne.edu/education/lab for more information.

MISSOURI

Saint Louis Art Museum

Researchers can now access archival materials related to the Thelma and Bert Ollie Memorial Collection, a transformative gift of paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, and sculpture by contemporary African American artists. The collection is
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Alexandra Bisio and Lois Hamill, Assistant Editors

named in honor of donor Ronald Ollie’s parents, Thelma and Bert Ollie, who were frequent visitors to the museum and instilled in him and his siblings a deep appreciation of art. In addition to 81 works of art, the gift includes an extensive collection of related resources that support the study of the collection and provide a basis for future scholarship and instructional programming. The materials have an international scope, with an emphasis on themes such as abstraction, innovation, diaspora, collaboration, and education. Group exhibitions feature prominently, as do materials generated by important galleries in Detroit and New York. The collection includes articles, gallery ephemera, documentaries, resumes, bibliographies, press kits, and exhibition brochures. Visit https://www.slam.org/press/press-release-researchers-can-access-archival-material-associated-with-ollie-collection for more information.

OHIO

Xavier University

Credo Reference and Case Western Reserve University’s Kelvin Smith Library will recognize Xavier University Library as its 2018 FYE Innovation Award–winning library at the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) national conference in April 2019. The library was recognized for developing a three-credit first-year seminar, in which students researched and analyzed Xavier’s history using primary sources from University Archives, as well as the launch of an annual research award for first-year students. The course, created and team-taught by Anne Ryckbost, university archivist; Alison Morgan, assistant director; and Anne Davies, head of Access Services, encouraged students to employ a multidisciplinary approach in examining ethical issues in the university’s history.

SOUTH DAKOTA

State Historical Society

More than 600 maps were recently added to the South Dakota Digital Archives. The State Historical Society-Archives received grant funding from the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission to digitize and catalog territorial maps in the State Archives collection. The maps are primarily of Dakota Territory, but some date from shortly after South Dakota became a state in 1889. There are maps of American Indian reservations, forts, old trails, and military expeditions. Also included are early county maps, some highway and road maps, railroad maps, and plats of various South Dakota towns. A couple of the maps are written in other languages, including French and German. To view the maps, visit the South Dakota Digital Archives website at https://sddigitalarchives.contentdm.oclc.org/digital. The maps join a growing online collection that includes land survey records, manuscripts, government records, and photographs. The digitization project is funded by private contributions, and donations can be made to the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation by calling 605-773-6003 and earmarking them for digitization.

This map of the Dakota Territory was published in 1876 by George W. Colton and Charles B. Colton with the G.W. and C.B. Colton Company of New York. Courtesy of South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives.

WISCONSIN

University of Wisconsin–Madison

The Special Collections Division along with the University Archives at the University of Wisconsin–Madison curated an exhibit featuring the

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The University Archives at UW–Madison is celebrating and commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Black Student Strike that took place on campus February–March 1969. To honor this anniversary, student historian-in-residence Rena Yehuda Newman and archives staff created a Black Student Strike Teaching Kit at go.wisc.edu/blackstrikekit. You are invited to peruse the kit, comment, and contribute if you feel inspired, and send questions/feedback to uwarchiv@library.wisc.edu. Many other events are happening on and around UW–Madison during the month of February, and you can learn more by visiting https://www.wisc.edu/black-history.


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