



Society of Indiana Archivists News & Notes
Fall/Winter 2022



The By-Road, by Leota Williams Loop. From the Hoosier Art Collection at Kokomo Howard Public Library <https://www.howardcountymemory.net/digital/collection/p17337coll6/id/50/rec/105>



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Colleagues,

With the temperatures dropping and the leaves falling, it may feel like any other autumn, but if we look at our packed calendars, I think we can all attest that things are going back to normal and the pandemic is loosening the grip it's had on us for the past two and half years. Although many Hoosiers still have health and safety concerns regarding COVID-19, archivists and archives in Indiana have by and large resumed normal operations.

I think it is important that we take a moment to celebrate the accomplishments of SIA over the past two challenging years, as well as what we have to anticipate in the coming year. When the pandemic hit in March of 2020, the SIA Board regrettably canceled the annual meeting, thus nine months of planning went out the window overnight. But like most other organizations during the pandemic, SIA exhibited flexibility and creativity. Our inaugural virtual conference in the Fall of 2020, our first virtual annual meeting in the Spring of 2021, and a series of virtual pop-ups throughout the year showed just how dedicated SIA membership was to continuing its mission of providing learning opportunities to Indiana memory professionals. This past April, SIA gathered in Danville, IN for our first in-person annual meeting in three years. Adding to the excitement of gathering together was the celebration of our 50th anniversary.

The meeting was followed by a reception with drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and cake, lots of cake! The Spring Workshop was held virtually this year with a presentation on collecting current history and teaching difficult histories from the Local History Services of the Indiana Historical Society.

This fall, SIA co-sponsored the Fall Symposium of the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC), which took place in Indianapolis. Efforts to bring this symposium to Indiana began before the start of the pandemic, and primary organizers Bethany Feichter and Jackie Shalberg overcame setbacks and challenges to finally make it happen and the symposium was a huge success.

Looking forward, plans for the 2023 annual meeting and spring workshop are underway. IUPUI will be the host location and the tentative dates are March 30 for the pre-conference workshop and March 31 for the annual meeting. Vice-President and Program Chair Evan Miller, Education Committee Chair Sarah Allison, and our local IUPUI inside connection, Lydia Spotts are all hard at work to make this another great event for SIA members, as well SLIS students from IUPUI and IU. As we begin our second fifty years looking stronger than ever, I would like to give a big thanks to all past and present members who have worked tirelessly to provide education and networking opportunities for our organization while also keeping everyone safe during a very difficult time.

Cheers,

Richard Bernier

2023 SIA Annual Meeting: Communities Building Archives

The Society of Indiana Archivists (SIA)—in partnership with the Master of Library and Information Science program of the IUPUI School of Informatics and Computing—invites proposals for its 2023 Annual Meeting to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on Friday, March 31.

SIA hopes that the 2023 theme *Communities Building Archives* brings together emerging and established professionals to share experiences and outcomes of building collections and networks with and within local communities, institutions, and the profession. While our titles may vary—from archivist to historian, librarian, museum curator, cultural heritage specialist, professor, or student—we can help each other grow as professionals and build and preserve our respective collections for future researchers, communities, and archivists by sharing the lessons that we’ve learned and the practices and procedures that we’ve developed. Topics of potential interest include:

- Access
- Advocacy
- Collecting initiatives
- Digital collections
- Documenting underrepresented communities
- Lone-arranger methods
- Management of departments, volunteer and student workers and projects, or special initiatives
- Project- or grant-based work
- Shared authority
- Technology (born-digital materials, digital preservation, etc.)

Proposals can be for individual speakers, co-presenters, panels, and lightning rounds. Building community requires conversation and dialogue, and sessions that involve multiple speakers, group panels, or forums are encouraged. Poster presentations will also be accepted. Speakers and presenters do not need to be SIA members. Students and new professionals are encouraged to submit proposals to siaarchivists@gmail.com

ArchivesFest 2022 Discover It in the Archives!

By: Jennifer Greene, University Archivist, USI

The University Archives & Special Collection (UASC) at University of Southern Indiana celebrated American, and now, Indiana Archives month by bringing back our annual ArchivesFest. UASC invites area repositories to send materials that the community can hold or interact with for photographs which are used on our social media platforms. We started this several years ago with an event called “Keep Calm & Hug An Artifact” Since we have not been able to hold in-person events for the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to bring back the ‘hug an artifact’ aspect of this event to encourage with the community.

This year we again invited other institutions to participate. The LST Memorial Ship sent a silk Evansville Shipyard flag. The Lawrence Library from USI sent over Inca record string using quipus beads to mark events and bloodlines.

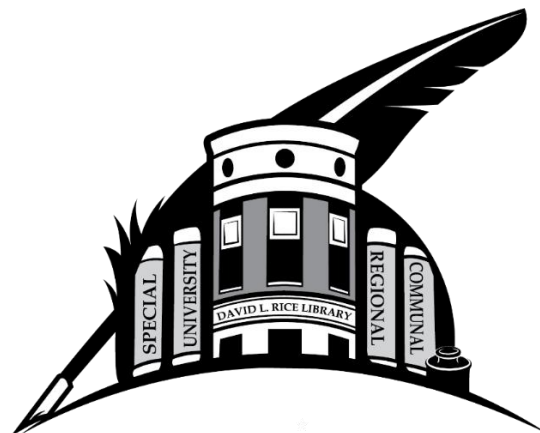


The Newburgh Museum brought a school bell from the former African American schoolhouse and students enjoyed ringing the bell. The Evansville African American Museum loaned the event a panoramic photograph of the African American Governor’s School picturing all students from 1924.

And of course, we are displaying many of our own wonderful artifacts! From 1920s ladies’ hats and WWII caps to Ozzy Osbourne and Queen posters, all were on display. Perhaps the most popular item this year was Archie the Eagle, one of the very oldest mascot costumes from USI.



Participation was much lower this year than in pre-pandemic years. But we learned when we began ArchivesFest in 2015 that we can build on the foundation each year until we surpass our previous attendance records. While we are struggling to find ways to reconnect with our users and larger community, it is important to reestablish traditions that have been interrupted over the last few years. Learn more about this event and other fun things at the UASC by following us at [AmUSInartifacts.org](https://www.amus.org)



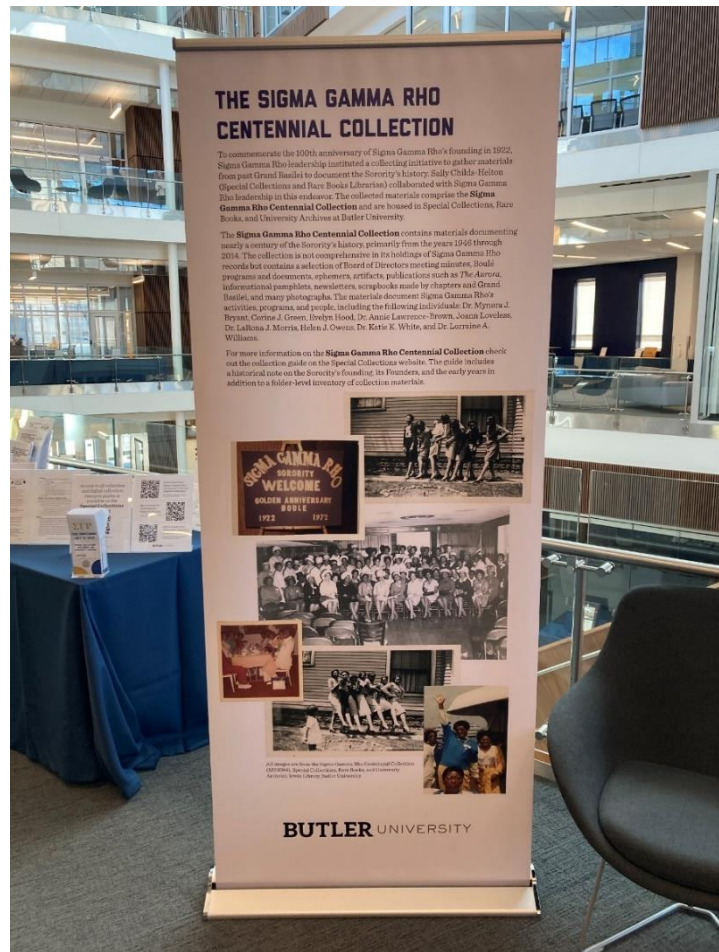
Sigma Gamma Rho Centennial Anniversary Projects at Butler University

By: Evan Miller, Butler University

In 2022, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority celebrated the 100th anniversary of their founding. Sigma Gamma Rho—founded at Butler University in 1922—is a nationally and internationally known Black Greek letter organization, a member of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (commonly referred to as The Divine Nine), and is the only sorority in The Divine Nine to be founded at a predominately white institution. The Department of Special Collections, Rare Books, and University Archives at Butler University and Butler University Libraries, in conjunction with Butler University as a whole, worked with Sorority leadership in commemorating this anniversary milestone.

These collaborative efforts included: the intake and processing of the [Sigma Gamma Rho Centennial Collection](#) that contained historical materials from the Sorority's past Grand Basileis (Presidents); the creation of a [digital collection](#) consisting of materials from the physical collection such as meeting minutes, ephemera, and artifacts; the design of a [historical exhibit](#) (a 12-panel physical exhibit and later made into a digital exhibit) discussing the founding of the Sorority and the history of Indiana and education during the early twentieth century; and an in-person exhibit showcasing over 250-square feet of materials from the physical collection and a 75th anniversary time capsule (also in Special Collections).

The exhibits were on display during the first day of the Sorority's biennial Boule (meeting), which took place on Butler's campus. The historical exhibit was also available to Sorors to view in downtown Indianapolis over the course of the Boule; the historical exhibit was also on display for Butler University students, staff, faculty, and administrators in February during the Butler's [Founders Celebration](#), which has the purpose "...to honor and celebrate the legacy of [Butler's] founder [Ovid Butler] and his vision to provide the highest quality education to all individuals regardless of race, gender, or circumstance."



New Exhibits Arrive at The Rolland Center for Lincoln Research at ACPL!

By Jessi Cortesi, Senior Lincoln Librarian, Allen County Public

The Rolland Center for Lincoln Research at the Allen County Public Library welcomes to the team Kayla Gustafson, a new Senior Lincoln Librarian. She comes to us with an undergraduate degree in History from the University of Saint Francis and a Masters of Library and Information Science from IUPUI. With a background in education, she hopes to connect students with our collection's resources.

The Lincoln Librarians rolled out new exhibits in August that will be on display for the remainder of 2022: Mary Todd Lincoln's family life, grief, and insanity; Abraham Lincoln's assassination, the conspiracy, and his funerals; and the elections of 1860 and 1864.



One temporary exhibit case features displays that rotate more often. A case on the importance of German-Americans in the Civil War and politics is featured for German-American Heritage Month in October. December will feature a case on items in the collection that touch on Christmas. At the Rolland Center, visitors can enjoy Lincoln-signed documents, photographs, and letters and documents as well as interactive displays to dive deeper into the collection. The Center is

free and open to the public every day of the week: Mondays 9-5, Tuesdays 9-9, Wednesdays 9-5, Thursdays 9-9, Fridays and Saturdays 9-6, and Sundays 12-5. Both walk-in visits and booked tours are welcome.



Digital Indy reveals Indianapolis Public Schools Architecture Collection

Thousands of blueprints, drawings, photographs, and other documents detailing the architectural environment of the Indianapolis Public School (IPS) system are now available to view on The Indianapolis Public Library's digitalindy.org website.

The Indianapolis Public Schools Architecture Collection is the newest addition to the Library's Digital Indy archive, which includes collections of documents, images, videos, and recordings that highlight local history. Digital Indy's content may be printed or downloaded free for personal use, study, or research.

The new Indianapolis Public Schools Architecture Collection spans three centuries and includes documents from the 1890s through the 1970s. The educational priorities of various time periods are reflected in the design of buildings and how they were used. For example, school floor plans that highlight what was taught in classrooms during various time periods reveal rooms designated for clothing laboratory, cabinet making shop, and other subjects that are hard to find in modern schools.

“The architecture depicted in this collection is the physical manifestation of the complicated history of the IPS school system at large,” said Indianapolis Public Library’s Digital Projects Coordinator Katie Farmer. “The priorities of society and culture are reflected in how the educational system developed and evolved, and images of a coal storage room inside of a school can show how the technical aspects of the buildings have changed over the decades.”

The Digital Indy team worked with Russell McClure, AICP, Facilities Management Division, and Indianapolis Public Schools to select materials to include in the collection from more than 100 IPS elementary, high schools, and other properties. Then, the Digital Indy team worked with Easterseals Crossroads to digitize the materials. More than 5,000 blueprints, including architectural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and landscape technical drawings, were selected to form the core of this collection. To supplement the architectural drawings, over 300 aerial and building photographs and more than 1,000 pages of other documentation were included to show the process from design through construction to functional building. Additional documents will be added during the coming months.

“Since Indianapolis Public Library first reached out in 2016 with the vision of digitizing the archives and records of Indianapolis Public Schools, it has been an incredibly rewarding journey to see the results of the tireless efforts of the digitization team to bring over a century of IPS history from dusty storage rooms and long-forgotten filing drawers, and make them accessible to the world,” said Zachary J. Mulholland, executive director of operations at Indianapolis Public Schools. “I’m proud of the work that has been done by the many dedicated team members to make this vision a reality, and I’m thankful to those who have supported this important work financially and otherwise. The addition of the architectural records to the already impressive digital collection will significantly contribute to all those who are interested in learning about, understanding, and preserving the rich history of Indianapolis.”

The collection has been preserved in large part due to the IPS Facilities Management Division and will continue to be stored on IPS grounds. The digitization of these materials was made possible by a \$1.8 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation. IndyPL was awarded the grant to finish digitizing items for the already existing Indianapolis Firefighters’ Museum digital collection and to create new digital collections for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Indianapolis Public Schools, and Indy Parks.

You may view the Indianapolis Public Schools Architecture Collection on [Digitalindy.org](https://digitalindy.org)

Announcements

Two College Archivists Retire After 20 + Years

Beth Swift, Wabash College

College Archivist Beth Swift retired at the end of June 2022, completing over 20 years of service to the Wabash College Archives. Beth grew up in Montgomery County and attended Purdue University where she studied Communications. Her connection to Wabash College came through her marriage to Jim Swift in 1994; Jim's father Professor Bill Swift taught in the Wabash College Mathematics Department from 1963 to 1990. In 2001, she began working part time in the Archives and became the College Archivist in 2003 after the retirement of Johanna Herring. In an interview with Nolan Eller, Beth responded with the following about what she enjoyed most about her role as College Archivist: "The stories! All of the stories that I have been able to tell through my blog, weekly emails, presentations, exhibits, articles in the Bachelor and Wabash Magazine, and by helping researchers and alums. There is always a story, and it has been a joy to get out the stories in our collections and assist in connecting the dots and filling in the gaps of Wabash's story!"



Sally Childs – Helton, Butler University

Sally Childs-Helton is announcing her retirement from Butler University on December 31, 2022, where she has been the head of the Special Collections, Rare Books, and University Archives department of Irwin Library for over 22 years. She retires as the first librarian to receive full professor status at Butler. Before that, she was at the Indiana Historical Society Library for 15 years, and while a graduate student at IU, worked at the Archives of Traditional Music for 8 years. She is a past president of SIA and a past MAC Council member. All told, Sally has spent 45 years working in archives, and has loved every minute of it. She is grateful to the Society of Indiana Archivists for many years of excellent professional support and networking. After retiring, she and her husband plan to move to her native NC, where she will become involved with the NC archival community, and enjoy having the time to be with family, travel, play music, do book arts, and sleep in.

Wabash College Welcomes New Archivist and Digital Archivist

Nolan Eller, Archivist



The Wabash College Lilly Library welcomes Nolan Eller as College Archivist and Evan Miller as Digital Archivist. Nolan Eller is originally from Lafayette, Indiana. Nolan graduated from Wabash in 2011 as a History major and Political Science minor. In 2013, he obtained his MLS degree with a concentration in Archives and Records Management from Indiana University's School of Library and Information Science. From 2014 to 2016, Nolan served as the Assistant Archivist at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana followed by his service as the University Archivist and Head of Special Collections at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston,

Louisiana, from 2017 to August of 2021. Nolan was the Digital Archivist from August 2021 through June 2022.

Evan Miller, Digital Archivist

Evan's Digital Archivist position is funded by the Lilly Endowment "Restoring Hope, Restoring Trust" grant. One significant project will be the curation of a digital collection documenting Black cultural sites in Indiana. Evan will also create, manage, and promote the institutional repository of Wabash College's born-digital and electronic collections. Evan is originally from Montgomery County. He graduated from Hanover College in 2017 with a major in Computer Science and minors in Art and Design plus Business. In 2019, he earned an MA in History and MLIS at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. He has



had the opportunity to work at several Indiana-centric archives, museums, and cultural heritage organizations including the Hanover College Archives and Special Collections, Archives and Library at the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, and the Indiana Historical Society Press. Most recently he worked in the Department of Special Collections, Rare Books, and University Archives at Butler University, where he processed

the [Sigma Gamma Rho Centennial Collection](#) and managed the creation and curation of [exhibits](#) along with exhibit collaborations within Butler University Libraries and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority.

IN Archives and Records Admin. Welcomes New Archivists!

Joshua Koepke



The two newest employees of the Indiana State Archives, Anna Lucas and Joshua Koepke, recently shared some background and insights in informal interviews with SIA Communications Committee member Jeannine Roe, Electronic Records Archivist for IARA.

Jeannine: What are your position title and job duties?

Josh: I recently started as an Archivist for the Indiana State Archives! My job duties center on processing collections, barcoding our collections in anticipation of the upcoming move downtown, and coordinating the Archives' virtual transcription project, [TranscribeIN](#).

Jeannine: Could you talk a little about your path to the profession?

Josh: I got interested in archives from an archival internship at the Barker Mansion in Michigan City while pursuing my B. A. in History from Purdue University Northwest (PNW). After that internship, another at the La Porte Historical Society Museum, and from work with the Archives Manager at PNW, Joe Coates, I was set on being an archivist. I continued my education at Indiana University Bloomington for an M.L.S. in Archives and Records Management. During my time there I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to be a research assistant to Dr. Devan Donaldson, in addition to helping the Indiana University Moving Image Archive with digital content creation. Luckily, I can continue to put my Indiana archives knowledge to use here at the Indiana State Archives!

Jeannine: How many years have you been involved with SIA?

Josh: I joined when I began my master's degree a few years ago. While I was often too busy to attend events, reading the newsletters and event summaries helped me keep

current on archival trends and activities in the state. It was great to read about archival professionals while preparing to be one myself!

Jeannine: Any advice for future archivists?

Josh: There's no replacement for hands-on experience! It's what got me interested in the field and what employers and schools like to see. With that in mind, try different roles early on and be willing to take on projects that are sometimes archives adjacent. You might realize that you like those roles even more!

Jeannine: When you think about the future of archives, libraries, and museums, what excites you?

Josh: I'm excited about the continued integration of computer science into the field, particularly the use of scripting to automate repetitive tasks common in archival maintenance. I'm also looking forward to our field finding ways to incorporate sustainable energy solutions in archives.

Anna Lucas



Jeannine: What are your position title and job duties?

Anna: This September I joined the Indiana Archives and Records Administration as an Electronic Records Archivist. In my role, I advise agencies on the management of electronic record formats and systems and I work closely with Records Management, the Indiana State Archives, and other state and local agencies to develop policies and procedures for electronic records. My duties also include transferring and accessioning archival electronic records into the Indiana Archives' collections.

Jeannine: How did you enter the archives field?

Anna: I worked as a Library Resource Assistant for 4 years at Indiana University while pursuing my undergraduate degree and my senior year I decided that I wanted to explore careers in library science. My studies were concentrated in archaeology, and when looking into graduate programs I figured an MLS with a concentration in archives seemed like a good fit from my experience and academic pursuits. Although confident in my decision of an MLS degree, I was admittedly a bit naïve about the archival field and profession until I entered graduate school and began working in the University Archives

as a Student Archivist and started the Archives and Records Management track curriculum.

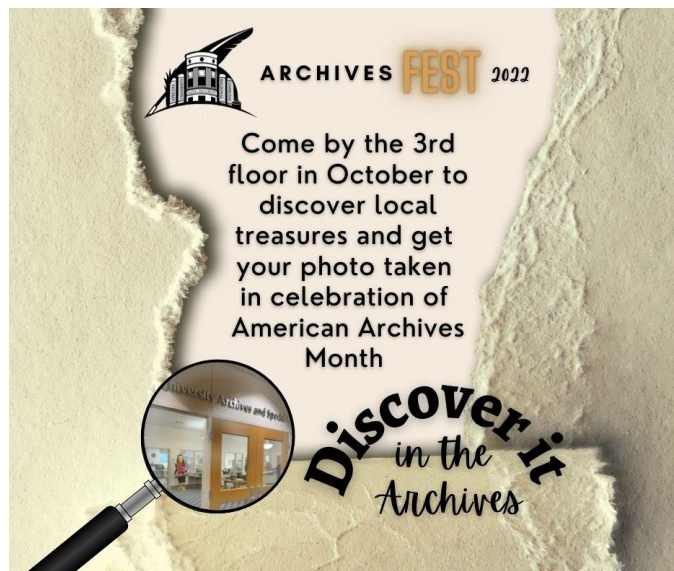
Jeannine: What is your educational background and how did you end up at your current position?

Anna: I have BA's in Classical Studies and Anthropology, and a Master of Library Science from Indiana University. My last semester of graduate school, I had the wonderful opportunity to intern with the National Parks, Technical Preservation Services Division for seven months in Washington, D.C. and gained experience understanding the lifecycle of government records. I then worked for the Applied Research Laboratory at Penn State University, which is a university affiliated research center contracted with the Navy, starting in a security position and then as the Digital Archivist where I managed an archive of controlled access research materials. During my 3 years as Digital Archivist, I worked closely with our Records Manager to build and begin implementing a Records Management Program at the Applied Research Laboratory. After relocating back to Indianapolis this summer, and through what I would argue was a very fortunate confluence of events, I started my position with IARA.

Jeannine: What is your favorite thing about archives?

Anna: When visiting an archive, I am always interested to see what items from the collections are exhibited in the displays. Similarly with browsing online exhibits, seeing the ways archivists highlight their collections to visitors and researchers. It's an opportunity for me to take a step back as a professional and just enjoy engaging with archives as a visitor.

To learn more about IARA's services, go to their website at <https://www.in.gov/iara/>.





SIA Officers

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