Behind the Scenes at the Indiana State Archives

More on the State Archives Tour and Preconference Workshop on page 3
Hello SIA Members,

First, I’d like to thank everyone who participated in the Annual Meeting last month! It was a successful day filled with networking and learning new ideas and creative approaches to familiar challenges. We were able to offer ten sessions, made up of twelve different presentations. Our colleagues shared their experiences with digital preservation, hiring, social media, and so much more. The Indiana Historical Society gave us actionable steps for creating a collections plan.

Thanks to everyone who helped plan the Annual Meeting and Pre-Conference Workshop, including Ashley Chu, Meg Galasso, Brittany Kropf, Mairelys Lemus-Rojas, as well as the Communications committee, who helped spread the word about the day’s events.

Congratulations to Kelly Brenneman, recipient of the Thomas Krasean Student Scholarship. The scholarship covered the cost of registration and travel arrangements. You can read about Kelly’s experience at the meeting in the newsletter.

Board Transitions

As always, this year’s Members Meeting saw a change in board members. I am excited to be serving as your new President, and Tricia Gilson is now Past President. Bethany Fiechter will be serving as Vice President, and Tony Barger was officially elected to the board. I’d like to thank Jackie Shalberg for her dedicated service to SIA. Jackie has served as a board member, Vice President, President, and Past President, as well as serving on multiple committees. Jackie wrapped up her term as Past President this year.

Getting Involved

The Annual Meeting and Spring and Fall Workshops are all planned by members of the Program Committee and Education Committee. These members choose the content of the meeting, as well as the location and other details. There are many other areas in which we need volunteers, including on the scholarship committee, nominating committee, digital preservation working group, and more. Later in the newsletter you will find descriptions of each SIA committee and directions on how to get involved.

Do you feel that you have something to offer SIA outside of the listed committees? We want to know! Send an email to siaarchivists@gmail.com. Our members’ talents, interests, and needs are all important factors driving the growth of our organization.

Best,

Claire Horton
SIA President

Claire Horton is the Deputy State Archivist of the Indiana State Archives. She can be reached by phone at 317-591-5222 or email at chorton@iara.in.gov.
Prior to the 2018 SIA Annual Meeting, members had the opportunity to attend a pre-conference workshop titled “Developing Collection Policies + Plans,” led by Tamara Hemmerlein and Karen DePauw of the Indiana Historical Society. The workshop included presentations on important issues such as how to develop a collection plan in conjunction with key stakeholders, and what components a collection plan should include.

In the course of the workshop, attendees completed exercises to help them consider the various areas of collection management, including an evaluation of their institution’s current collections plan and object acquisition process. There were also tips on how to differentiate between collection management policies and procedures, and how to create a process map to direct procedures. Attendees learned some questions to ask when conducting a situational analysis for collections planning, as well as some criteria for choosing strategies and goals.

Additionally, attendees received sample collection policies that can be used as resources when creating their own plans. Armed with helpful resources, workshop attendees felt confident that they could begin to develop new collection policies or improve their existing policies. Kelley Brenneman, Archives Manager at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum, attended the workshop. She commented that she “look[s] forward to trying to implement community outreach and getting the community involved in planning.”

Following the workshop, attendees had the opportunity to tour the Indiana State Archives for a tour led by State Archivist Jim Corridan. Approximately 10 people registered in advance, but the group grew to 15-20 with last-minute attendees and archives staff.

The tour of the Indiana State Archives started with a walk through the reading room and their new exhibits on education in Indiana. Books and pamphlets that were owned or related to education and universities in the territory—and later state—of Indiana were displayed, including the very first catalog of books!
In the preservation and conservation lab, members heard from technician Elizabeth Hague and the work that she does to maintain and repair Indiana’s archival materials and records, then moved on to the Archive’s various storage areas, including the regular stacks, a records management area, and the cold vault. Visitors on the tour were given opportunities to hold rare and important materials such as glass negatives of the oldest known inmate photos and a metal negative for Indiana’s first paper currency.

The tour concluded with getting to see some of the oldest and rarest materials in Indiana’s history— the register of Indiana slaves, the original Indiana State Constitution, and the inmate records for one of America’s most notorious criminals, John Dillinger.

Archivists enjoy the behind the scenes tour of the Indiana State Archives.
As I reflect on my time attending the 2018 SIA Meeting I have many thoughts. It was great to share a space with so many people who do the same work I do and think it matters. There was an exciting energy that seemed to fill the rooms; this was a group of people who know that their field is in the midst of some big changes (Thank you technology.), but they were excited about it.

I learned so many things while at this conference. Nothing like sitting in the pre-conference workshop and slowly realizing your workplace probably needs to redo their entire collection development plan! But after attending that workshop I will say I feel much better about starting that process. All of the sessions were great as well, and I found myself wishing I could be in two places at once! From learning about hiring strategies, to long term digital preservation, to the Ryan White and David Letterman collections, I collected so many good ideas and tricks that I will carry with me in my future career.

The one thing that really stuck out to me was a comment Ashley Chu made during her presentation “Thanks for Your Application: Hiring Strategies for Archival Work.” She was talking about how she asks her potential student works if they are okay with never getting a project complete, or do they have to be able to check off things from a list. She looked at those of sitting in the room as goes “I think we all know that working in archives means the job is never really done. There’s always more you could do.” I have since discovered describing my job that way to my museum director helps her understand better what is an archivist does, so thank you for that Ashley!

Job Opening

Archivist
Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum • Auburn, IN

Provides archival reference services for 100,000 piece archives. Actively coordinates the identification, acquisition and preservation of archival materials; implements finding aids and nomenclature for accessibility. Manages temporary staff and interns for current Digitization Project. Monitors budgetary requirements, costs and efficiencies. Knowledge of archives, museums, collections related practices, professional standards and methods are required. Knowledge of professional ethical and legal issues surrounding collection acquisitions, deaccessions, access, intellectual property, and of automobiles in general is a plus. Full time permanent position with future advancement possible.

To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, and three references to the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum’s Executive Director.

Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum
1600 Wayne St. PO Box 271
Auburn, IN 46706
Exhibit Spotlights

The History of Brewing in Terre Haute

The staff at the Vigo County Public Library Special Collections department worked with Public Relations to curate an exhibit on the history of brewing in Terre Haute. The exhibit utilizes artifacts on loan from the Terre Haute Brewing Company and other collectors. Visitors are also presented with a brief history of brewing in the city which dates back to 1835. (left)

The Power of Place: 100 Years of Architecture at Ball State University

Ball State University Libraries’ Drawings & Documents Archive will be preparing a fall exhibit for display in the David Owsley Museum of Art at Ball State University. The exhibit celebrates the centennial anniversary of Ball State University and is titled ‘The Power of Place: 100 Years of Architecture at Ball State University’ and will showcase architectural drawings and objects from the Drawings & Document Archive that focus on some of Ball State’s most historic and iconic buildings on campus. The exhibit will also focus on the importance of archives and will take place from September 27th-December 23rd. Entrance to the David Owsley Museum is free of charge and all are welcome to attend. (below)
Purdue University Archives and Special Collections is highlighting student life during the 1960s, a decade that saw a Rose Bowl victory, celebrity astronaut alumni, student protests, and Purdue’s 100th anniversary celebrations. The exhibit includes photographs, documents, and artifacts ranging from scrapbooks to beanies and a helmet used during the Purdue Grand Prix. Scavenger hunt worksheets are available to make the exhibit interactive for visitors of all ages. The exhibit is open Monday-Friday, 1-4:30 pm through August 10.

On May 23, the Archives hosted an exhibit open house. In addition to the scavenger hunt, visitors could decorate their own senior cords, watch home videos of campus during the 1960s, browse the Debris Yearbooks from the decade, and enjoy 60s-style appetizers including everyone’s favorite: Jell-o!

Would you like to see news from your organization in the next issue of News & Notes? Send information any time to Adriana Harmeyer, Editor, at aharmey@purdue.edu.
Spring 2018

For Preservation Week 2018, the SIA Communications Committee members tested the boundaries of archival humor and good taste with the #WeRateArchives initiative. The committee is made up of six professionals from different institutions around the state, has been working to promote the programs and events of Indiana archives, libraries, and museums via social media. Our inspiration for the hashtag was the success of #rateaspecies, where zoos gave their animals amusing Amazon.com-like ratings, and @TheMERL’s brilliant response after a tweet went viral and launched a major educational win for their museum. We sat back and thought, “Archives can do that.”

Read more about the success of #WeRateArchives in a SAA ArchivesAware blog post by SIA Communications Committee member Jeannine Roe: https://archivesaware.archivists.org/2018/05/02/getting-it-together-launching-weratearchives/

Become an Indiana Archives Virtual Volunteer

Help the Indiana Archives increase online access to historical content from the comfort of your home! Anyone with an internet connection will be able to help create searchable indexes by indexing records. Together, we can make Indiana history accessible to everyone. The Indiana World War I Service Records will be available to index online in early June. To volunteer, contact Jennifer Hodge at jehodge@iara.in.gov.

#WeRateArchives

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Joe: How did you enter the archives field?

Carey: This is my second “real career.” In my former life I was a Community Health Educator. It was a wonderful job and I often worked with school librarians to develop programming. I really enjoyed working with them and began to consider a Masters in Library Science. My interest occurred right about the time that local school librarian positions were, unfortunately, being cut. Fortunately, I was also very much interested in archives so my decision about what to focus on was essentially made for me! It worked out well. I love archives!

Joe: What is your educational background and how did you end up at your current position.

Carey: My BA is in Sociology with a minor in Family Studies and Human Development. Once I embarked upon my Masters degree in Library Science and knew I wanted to specialize in archives, I also knew where I wanted to intern. I have always been fascinated with historic homes and there just happened to be a historic house museum with archival collections as part of the IU Libraries where I was working on my degree! How amazing is that? I interned there, volunteered there and, to make a long story short, the one position that I thought would be a dream job ended up, in fact, being my job when the former director of the museum retired.

Joe: What are some of your recent projects you are working on?

Carey: Most recently I’ve overseen the development of an online exhibit born out of the Wylie House Museum’s archival collections, but also pulling from related repositories and spaces such as Indiana University Archives, Indiana State Library, The University of Delaware, and Hathi Trust. This exhibit also served as the catalyst to establish an online exhibit platform for the museum, which is really exciting for us.

The other project that is particularly interesting to me is an upcoming Indiana University Archaeology Field School taking place on our property for four weeks this summer. In preparation for the excavation, I have spent a lot of time with primary sources related to the grounds and the farming and gardening activities that occurred here. I will be working with a student to create both a physical and digital exhibit related to them.

Joe: Anything we need to know about your museum?

Carey: As a unit of Indiana University Libraries our primary mission is to be an academic resource for the campus curriculum. The museum and its archival collections are used for a wide variety of classes, from History to Fine Arts, Education, and Public Health. And, like other higher ed repositories, we work closely with student interns and volunteers to provide them with valuable experiences.

Joe: Where do you see the future of archives?

Carey: That’s tough. I do think that the digital age has been a wonderful thing for archives. We are accessible to so many people and in such a wide variety of ways – from online exhibits and crowdsourcing to creating gifs out of our collection images. I think this accessibility parallels archives’ growth in instructional use. Undergraduates and K-12 students are able to use primary materials in the classroom and for their own research more than ever before. Pretty incredible.

I would add that for archives to remain accessible and relevant, we need to be advocates for the profession and the collections so that the entities that support us understand what we do and how important our work is.

Joe: Any advice to future archivist?

Carey: I’m an idealist, so I always say, follow your interests and passions. And listen to your gut. The practical side of me says, attend workshops, regional conferences, and be curious – ask a lot of questions of other archivists. We are all still learning.
Are you interested in serving on an SIA Committee?

We need dedicated members like you to help us improve the organization. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please fill out this form and return it to Claire Horton, SIA President.

Please check the boxes below for more information about the committees you are interested in serving on and fill in the blanks at the bottom of this page so we can contact you directly.

**Standing and Ad Hoc Committees**

- **Education Committee:** Responsible for arranging the Fall Workshop and the Spring Workshop as well as providing continuing education material to the membership through other avenues.

- **Membership Committee:** Responsible for tracking membership and keeping the listserv up-to-date. The committee may also create ways to increase membership.

- **Scholarship Committee:** Responsible for announcing, receiving applications, and making the decision as to recipients of the Thomas Krasean Student Scholarship for attendance at the Annual Meeting and the John Newman Professional Development Scholarship for attendance at the Fall Workshop.

- **Program Committee:** Responsible for planning and executing the Annual Meeting, including local arrangements and content. Works in tandem with the Education Committee to plan the Pre-conference Workshop.

- **Nominating Committee:** Responsible for soliciting nominations for offices and board positions, reviewing nominations, seeking approval of a slate from the board, and presenting the slate to the Annual Meeting for confirmation.

- **Digital Preservation Working Group:** An informal group formed to help archivists in the state of Indiana support each other in addressing digital preservation concerns. The group could involve discussion boards, resource sharing, webinars, and sharing of strategies.
Name___________________________________________________________

Organization____________________________________________________

How would you like to be contacted?

☐ Phone ☐ Email ☐ Mail

Please list contact information here:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What interests you in working on the committee(s) you checked above?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Please send your responses via email to siaarchivists@gmail.com or mail to Claire Horton, SIA President; Indiana Archives, 6440 East 30th St. Indianapolis, IN 46219
Claire Horton - President
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