



2021 ANNUAL MEETING:

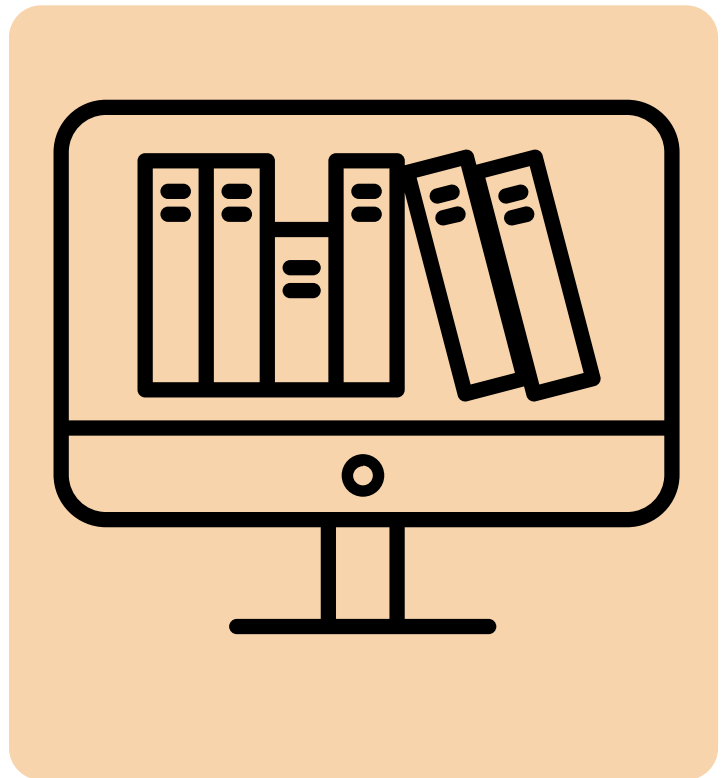
Archives in an Era of Change

*Rachael Bussert, Dayton Metro Library, and
William Modrow, Miami University, Educational Programming Co-Chairs*

THE SOCIETY OF OHIO Archivists Annual Meeting will be held virtually on June 7th and 8th thanks to technical support from the Ohio History Connection. This year we will explore the theme, “Archives in an Era of Change.” This year we have asked for proposal submissions that address the way that archives have adapted to the changes that we have experienced in the last year. How did you assess your practices? What did you start, stop, create, or change over the last year? What was a success? As archives continue to adapt and react to social justice reforms, attacks on democracy, what are the takeaways?

Realizing that many members have missed the networking opportunities that happen during onsite meetings, the Education Programming Committee is planning opportunities to gather with each other virtually. One event already in planning is a Virtual Archives Crawl. We have put out a call for guides to lead a 10–15-minute tour of their collections. Highlight your treasures, give a tour of an exhibit, or just share a project that you are especially proud of. We would like to have a variety of collections, institution sizes, and types represented in the crawl. We hope that this event will be a fun and relaxed way for members to connect with each other during this year’s meeting.

More meeting details will appear as they develop on the conference page of the SOA website.



Created by Maria Kisliitsina from the Noun Project

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*Public Outreach Coordinator
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Amy Rohmiller, 2019-2021

*Associate University Archivist
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*Records Manager/Archivist
Greene County Records Center and
Archives*

Editor, Ohio Archivist

Kayla Harris, 2018-2021

*Archivist / Librarian, The Marian Library,
University of Dayton*

The President's Message

Dear SOA Membership,

I hope you are still healthy and doing well. These continue to be trying times, but I believe that a light at the end of the tunnel is coming into view. Change has come and more change is still on the horizon. Sometimes, it is hard to process all that has happened in just a year's time, but I'm happy to reflect on the work we have accomplished.

This is my last message to you as President. My term will come to an end in May and Sherri Goudy, the current Vice President and President-Elect, will take over the role of SOA President. It has been an interesting journey for me and one that I am proud to have taken.

I want to thank all of you for affording me the opportunity to be President of SOA and I hope that I have been a good and faithful custodian of the position. Thanks also to Lily Birkhimer, who stepped down as Secretary in January, Amy Rohmiller, out-going Council Member, Kayla Harris, out-going Ohio Archivist Editor, and Robin Heise, out-going past president, which is now my next role with SOA. It has been a pleasure serving on Council with you.

Continuing with the theme of change, SOA's Annual Conference will be held virtually June 7-8, rather than in the traditional month of May. While we would have liked to have held an in-person conference, we felt that it was still prudent to go virtual. The SOA election will still take place in May and it will be virtual again as well. Keep an eye on your email for the electronic ballot. We have a strong slate of candidates this year, so please get out the vote – as we should all know by now, elections matter!

Additionally, the Awards Committee and the Membership Committee have been merged to form the singular Membership and Awards Committee. Thank you to Devhra Bennett-Jones, outgoing Co-Chair of the Awards Committee, for your many years of service! Here is my obligatory plug to volunteer for Committees: I know that it can be difficult to do so in these arduous and uncertain times, but it is greatly appreciated. SOA's community is made great by its great members.

For one final time, I would like to reiterate to be safe and healthy. The future is brighter now than it was a few months ago, but there is still much to overcome. As we hopefully leave the COVID-19 pandemic behind us and begin our attempt at a new normal, we cannot forget what has happened. We cannot sweep under the rug the cracks in our democracy, the daily injustices endured by many peoples, or the rampant growth of inequity. For the last time, I ask that you continue to stay diligent and stay committed.

Adam Wantner

SOA President

awanter@midpointelibrary.org



SOA Mission

Founded in 1968, the Society of Ohio Archivists' mission is to improve the state of archives in Ohio by promoting the archival profession and providing professional development and networking opportunities for Ohio's professional and aspiring archivists.

2021 Slate of Candidates

Vice President / President-elect:

Amy Rohmiller

Secretary:

Jen Johnson

Council:

Jenifer Baker

Marsha Miles

Sasha Griffin

The following statements were given by the candidates seeking election as officers or council members to the Society of Ohio Archivists in 2021. This year voting will take place virtually."

Candidates were asked to answer both questions in one 350-500-word essay.

- **What skills and experiences can you offer to SOA?**
- **What are some of the most important themes/issues the SOA should address in the next 5-10 years?**

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

Vice President / President-elect

Amy Rohmiller



*Associate University Archivist,
University of Dayton*

I'm honored to be nominated for Vice President/President Elect of the Society of Ohio Archivists. SOA has been my professional home, and I would welcome the opportunity to use my experience and skills to lead SOA as it continues to work for archivists throughout Ohio.

Since the beginning of my career, I have been committed to giving back and serving the profession. I have been a member of SOA's Advocacy and Outreach Committee since 2018 and a member of Council since 2019. Serving on Council let me get to know SOA's current leadership and has given me an understanding of how SOA's governance works and the ways in which we can help our profession, and its members, and the history community as a whole. Working with the other members of the Advocacy and Outreach Committee, I have enjoyed getting to know SOA's membership and see the variety of repositories we serve.

Besides serving on SOA's leadership team, I have experience with other professional service organizations. In my work with the Ohio Local History Alliance and the Field Services Alliance (FSA), I edited a newsletter, created a strong web presence, and planned and executed conferences and other professional development opportunities. Serving on the FSA Committee in particular gave me valuable experience in learning to articulate not only the value of history, but also the value and relevance of service and professional organizations.

This past year was particularly challenging as we faced not only

COVID-19, but also a renewed focus on reckoning with our nation's history of racism. That said, this year has also filled me with pride in our organization as we pivoted to bring you an Annual Meeting with the same great content on a virtual platform and as we released our Statement on Racial Inequality and Black Lives Matter and formed our Task Force on Social Justice and Black Lives Matter.

As vice president/president elect, I would work to make sure the important work of this task force continues as we continue to identify ways to incorporate antiracist ideas and principles into our work as an organization and as archival practitioners. It is critically important that we continue our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. I would like SOA to continue to advocate for the underrepresented and underserved voices in our communities. We should continue work to diversify our membership. We should continue to work to provide support to community archives and archivists, allowing them to be best custodians of their stories. Although I hope to get back to in-person conferences soon, this year has shown that we can deliver quality professional development virtually, and we should explore how to best do this going forward. We should continue to advocate for the value and relevance of all history and the historical record, especially in our current climate of overwhelming disinformation and belief in "fake news." We have made great beginnings and I want our momentum to continue to build.

Thank you for your consideration.

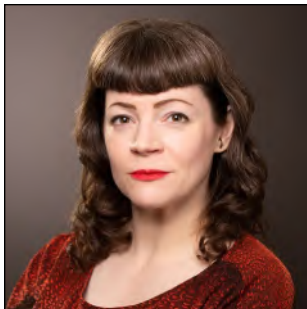
Previous Positions: *AmeriCorps Manager & Coordinator, Local History Services, Ohio History Connection, 2018; AmeriCorps Coordinator, Ohio History Connection, 2013-2018; Local History Program Coordinator, Ohio History Connection, 2012-2013; Education Assistant, Dayton History, 2011-2012; Ohio History Service Corps Member, Piqua Public Library, 2010-2011*

Education: *M.S.L.I.S., Syracuse University, 2017; M.A., Public History, Middle Tennessee State University, 2011; B.A., History, Case Western Reserve University, 2008*

Professional Associations: *Miami Valley Archives Roundtable (MVAR), 2018-present; Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA), 2018-present; SOA Advocacy and Outreach Committee, 2018-present; SOA Council, 2019-present; Society of American Archivists, 2019-present; American Association of State and Local History (AASLH), 2012-present; AASLH Annual Meeting program committee member, 2016 (Detroit); AASLH Field Services Alliance Committee Member, 2016-2018; Ohio Local History Alliance, 2012-present; Columbus Emerging Museum Professionals Board Member, 2013-2018*

Secretary

Jen Johnson



Digitization Consultant and Ohio Digital Network Project Coordinator, State Library of Ohio

The importance of keeping and maintaining good records is not new to anyone in the archives community, and the discussion and practice of how best to do that is one of the things that keeps us moving forward. As Secretary, I

will continue the work of Lily Birkhimer and Secretaries past, collaborate with SOA Leadership on next steps for the organization, and preserve the foundation of its work for leaders to come.

With over 10 years of involvement with special collections, I have learned and experienced many things and am always ready for more. From in-house database catalog management and disaster planning on a shoestring all the way up through statewide participation in national digital collections projects, the relationships with history and those who cherish it have remained constant.

As the State Library of Ohio's Digitization Consultant and Project Coordinator for Ohio's participation in the Digital Public Library of America, Ohio Digital Network, I've had the opportunity to build those relationships with libraries and archives of all building shapes and budget sizes throughout the state, and to learn so much about what makes each collection and its community unique. While most of my work now focuses on the digital collection platforms and usage of them by the public, I've seen everything from archives housed in cardboard boxes in a closet to state-of-the-art climate controlled multi-floor collections move from their static storage locations on to platforms where people across the world can appreciate them, and worked with the professionals managing them to get it done. While serving as Secretary for Ohio Library Council's Subject and Special Collections Division, I digitized the division's minutes and newsletters and updated the WordPress site previously used only as a blog to also host and share this content with the public. Management and stewardship of the division's documented history was a fulfilling experience that I hope to enjoy again in new roles.

One of the biggest strengths in the archives world is the ability to find and make the most of commonalities between diverse collection types and organizations. I believe that SOA can continue the path of its work to expand and increase diversity of its membership and community representation, and grow that practice to support even more emphasis on institutions and groups that remain underrepresented. SOA has a long tradition of quality programming and professional development opportunities, so this looks like deepening the well of experts on tried and true topics, but also continuing and increasing support for collection redescription practices and curation activities that come from a place of inclusion.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve SOA as secretary - I look forward to continuing this work with all of you no matter what the context.

Previous Positions: *Reference and Electronic Resource Librarian, State Library of Ohio, 2013-2017; Librarian, Ohioana Library Association, 2011-2013; Library Associate, Worthington Libraries, 2009-2011*

Education: *Graduate Certificate in Public Management, The Ohio State University John Glenn College of Public Affairs, 2019; MLIS, Kent State University, 2009; BFA, Photography, The Ohio State University, 2005*

Professional Associations: *Society of Ohio Archivists, 2020-present; Digital Public Library of America Network Council, 2018-present; Ohio Library Council Subject and Special Collections Division, 2012-2015*

Council

Jenifer Baker



Deputy Archivist, Warren County Records and Archives

I would like to thank you for taking the time to review my candidate statement. I would be honored to be chosen for the SOA Council and to be given the chance to influence future discussions and issues within SOA. Prior to completing my M.A. in Public History from Wright State Uni-

versity, I worked for 10 years in Corporate & Retail Management. Though this experience does not relate directly to the archives side of this career, I learned many lessons I believe translate into the success I have had as an archivist. I come to the table with a background of working in the private and public sector that applies to the diverse types of archives that make up the members of SOA.

Since taking my position as the Deputy Archivist at Warren County Records Center and Archives I feel as if I have been on a fast track of discovering and developing my skills as an archivist.

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When I began my career in the Public Records field, I did not expect it to be so exciting and eye opening. I have learned so much about how the records that exist in counties all over the country help to tell the greater story of our nation. I absolutely love what I do, and I feel so honored to be able to say that outreach within the community and local schools is one of the most important parts of my job. This is where I could bring the most to the table when it comes to my skill set for SOA.

I have taken our outreach from infancy and developed it into thriving programs that have reached around 3,500 students and 1,000 community members. Outreach is one of the areas I am most passionate about. I feel that educating the community in what archivists do and what our mission as archivists is will be essential in the future of our profession. When I discuss what I do with peers outside the archival community I have found that many people do not know what our profession is and therefore cannot understand the importance of why we do it. In developing our education outreach program, I hope to plant the archival seed of knowledge in these young minds so they can grow and thrive with archives in their future, whether that be in their research or possibly spark an interest into an unknown career field. Therefore, this is one of the areas I would like to see SOA developing over the next 5-10 years. Other common themes and issues I believe SOA could address, or continue to address, are digital archives, developing processing practices that fast track the materials from accession to researcher, types of records accessible to the public, and professional networking across diverse archival positions.

Previous Positions: *Account Manager, Standard Register, 2013-2015; Assistant Manager, Golf Galaxy, 2006-2013*

Education: *B.A., History, Miami University, 2005; M.A., Public History, Wright State University, 2015*

Professional Associations: *Miami Valley Archives Roundtable (MVAR), 2015-2021; Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA), 2015-2021; National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA), 2016-2021; Society of American Archivists (SAA), 2015-2019*

Council

Sasha Griffin



University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, Denison University

I am honored to run for a Council position for the Society of Ohio Archivists. Since 2014, I have been the University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian at Denison University in Granville. Over my 11-year career, I have been active in

many professional organizations and served in various leadership

positions. However, I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve the Society of Ohio Archivists, because it has played a significant role in my career and I want to see its continued success.

In 2009, I was awarded one of SOA's student scholarships to attend the spring Annual Meeting.

While I was eager to learn, I had no idea what to expect; but this one opportunity ended up being the catalyst for my entire career. I made professional contacts, which turned into a practicum project, which turned into a contract position. The professional networking connections I made that day became my friends and colleagues who helped me find a job and an amazing mentor who encouraged me to become active with archival organizations. At the time, I had no idea that attending the SOA meeting would open so many doors. The encouragement, guidance, and perspective that I received turned out to be invaluable tools for a new graduate and young professional.

As a council member, I would love to advocate for ways that SOA can continue to support students and new professionals. Already, there are so many advantages for students to become part of SOA. I want to encourage the existing programs in place, like the Annual Meeting scholarships, while also trying to identify new ways to attract students and new graduates to the organization. Whether it's having small group mentoring opportunities or providing toolkits for archivists who want to sponsor a practicum or internship student, SOA can continue to support folks who may need just a little assistance in getting their career up and running.

In addition to advocating for students and new professionals, I'd also like to serve as a representative of the group of archivists who are also primary caregivers. Alexis Braun Marks, along with several colleagues including our own fellow SOA member Michelle Sweetser, recently published "The Cost of Care and the Impact on the Archives Profession" in the *Journal of Western Archives* (volume 10, issue 1). Their work highlights how caregiving responsibilities directly influence professional development opportunities in our field. As our entire world has shifted towards remote work and continuing education, I would love to see SOA better support professional education and development for those who may not be able to participate in organizational work in the traditional sense.

I would love the opportunity to be a council member for SOA and use my experiences and professional interests to further our organization's growth and mission.

Previous positions: *Denison University (Granville, Ohio), University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian, 2014-present; Luther College (Decorah, Iowa), Interim College Archivist, 2014; Digital Archivist, 2012-2014; Project Cataloging Archivist, 2010-2012*

Education: *M.L.I.S., Kent State University, 2009; B.A., Capital University, 2007*

Professional associations: *Society of Ohio Archivists, 2015-present; Midwest Archives Conference, 2010-present; MAC*

(continued on page 6)

2015 Program Committee; MAC Newsletter Task Force, 2012-2013; Society of American Archivists, 2010-present; SAA Diversity Committee, 2014-2017; SAA Chair/Vice-Chair Collection Management Tools roundtable, 2012-2014; Archives Leadership Institute, Program Coordinator, 2012-2014; Archives Leadership Institute 2016 cohort; Archon Users Collaborative, Team leader, 2016-2018

Council

Marsha Miles



Head, Collections and Digital Initiatives, Michael Schwartz Library, Cleveland State University

When I was invited to run for SOA office, I was honored. I am a new member of SOA and joined the Awards Committee to get to know the SOA community and the projects they are pursuing. Like most of my colleagues, I wear many

hats. I oversee the Collections and Resource Management unit of the Michael Schwartz Library which includes acquisitions, cataloging, collection management, digital initiatives, donations, electronic resources, government documents, knowledge-bases, serials, systems and the Department of Special Collections. I contribute to the creation and maintenance of the Michael Schwartz Library's digital initiatives including the Cleveland Memory Project and EngagedScholarship@CSU and coordinate the integration of metadata creation, use, and practices throughout the library. In addition, I serve the research and instruction needs of faculty, undergraduates, and graduates as the subject liaison for the Department of Art and Design.

My first professional experience out of graduate school was working as a Digital Projects Assistant for Oberlin College

Archives and Special Collections. While I continue using the skills learned from that position, I am always looking for ways to refresh my skills and knowledge in this area. Most recently, I was the co-project coordinator for our General Photograph Collection Conservation project funded through a federal Institute of Museum and Library Services LSTA grant awarded by the State Library of Ohio.

Our work to preserve and share history is vitally important. SOA has an opportunity to support this work and has recently formed the Social Justice and Black Lives Matter Task Force. This is especially important as we evaluate the ways our collections have been curated and grown, how they are presented and accessible to the community, and how we can include all voices. I would be honored to serve on SOA Council.

Previous Positions: *Digital Initiatives Librarian, Cleveland State University, November 2012-February 2018; Visual Resources Curator and Digital Services Associate, The College of Wooster, January 2011-November 2012; Digital Projects Assistant, Oberlin College Library Archives and Special Collections, January 2009-December 2010; Interlibrary Loan Assistant, Interlibrary Loan, Kent State University Library, June 2007-December 2008; Archives Intern June F. Mohler Fashion Library Kent, Ohio, June 2008-August 2008*

Education: *Certificate in Leadership Excellence, Cleveland State University, 2019; Master of Library and Information Science, Kent State University, 2008; Bachelor of Science in Photo-Illustration, Kent State University, 2004*

Professional Associations: *Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA) member, 2020-present; Academic Library Association of Ohio member, 2010-present; American Library Association, 2016-present; Association of College & Research Libraries member, 2018-present; Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA), 2013-present; ARLIS Ohio Valley Chapter member, 2013-present; ARLIS Ohio Valley Web Editor, 2016-present; Visual Resources Association (VRA) member, 2011-2014; VRA Great Lakes Regional Chapter member, 2011-2014*

OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE &
SOCIETY OF OHIO ARCHIVISTS

Joint Meeting Recap: History is Happening Now

Rachael Bussert, Dayton Metro Library, and William Modrow, Miami University, Educational Programming Co-Chairs

The Society of Ohio Archivists and Ohio Local History Alliance Joint Meeting was held virtually from October 1-3, 2020. The SOA programming included sessions on building community-based archives, documenting the COVID-19 pandemic, conservation lab safety, an oral history project, and a project to salvage and preserve local government documents.

Melanie Adams, Director of the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum in Washington, D.C., delivered the keynote address, *The Urgency of Now: Taking Risks to Serve Your Community*. In conversation with Ben Garcia, Deputy Director of the Ohio History Connection, Adams discussed the ways that museums and cultural institutions can facilitate necessary and difficult conversations, especially in times of crisis, that impact the communities that they serve.

Friday night participants were invited to an *Evening Meet & Mingle* event to relax and share a virtual drink with other attendees. Under the theme, History Heroes, members were encouraged to attend dressed as their hero of choice.

Our gratitude goes to all of the presenters and volunteers who took part in the meeting as well as the members of the SOA Educational Programming Committee for putting together a program with a diverse set of topics. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Ohio History Connection for providing technological support for our meeting.

Recorded sessions are available on the [Ohio Local History Alliance website](#).

Archives Month Poster

This year the annual Society of Ohio Archivists' October Archives Month poster theme focuses on nature, outdoor recreation, and outdoor tourism in Ohio. For the past year, many have been cooped up indoors and apart from others more than ever before, but the outdoors have always offered an escape! With this in mind, the Advocacy and Outreach committee decided to highlight Ohio's outdoor spaces on this year's poster.

Image submissions were collected through March into early April and included parks, people enjoying the outdoors, and people instrumental in parks development. SOA members can vote on their favorite submitted images to help choose what can be used in the final poster. Voting continues through April 30, 2021 and the link to vote can be found on the SOA website.

Thank you,

*Society of Ohio Archivists
Advocacy and Outreach
Committee*

USING PRIMARY SOURCES TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN LIFELONG LEARNING

Oberlin College, the Suffrage Movement, and Oberlin Women in Leadership

Ken Grossi, College Archivist, Oberlin College

Editor's Note: The article by Ken Grossi that follows melds together Women's History, African American History, and a higher level of teaching with primary sources than is regularly taught in the College Archives at Oberlin. It is intended to complement the [Oberlin presentation](#) during the SOA Annual Conference in June 2020.

THE YEAR 2020 MARKED the centennial of women's suffrage in the United States. Although women have been enfranchised for one hundred years, the movement to obtain the right to vote has a much longer history, particularly at Oberlin College.

In 2015, the Oberlin College Archives received a donation of papers related to Mary Church Terrell, Oberlin College Class of 1884. She was an activist, suffragist, and a leader in the cause for African American and women's rights. A symposium, held in February 2016, included presentations and discussion to celebrate the donation of the collection and to reflect on Terrell's life and how her legacy continues to inspire us. In October 2018, the main library at Oberlin College was named in honor of Terrell. The acquisition of the Terrell collection and the events to honor her life and legacy have provided many opportunities for the Libraries and Archives staff to work with faculty, students, researchers, and others who are interested in learning more about the accomplishments of women who attended Oberlin College. For example, photographs of Terrell and classmates Anna Julia Cooper and Ida Gibbs Hunt were loaned to the National Portrait Gallery for the exhibition "Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence." This interest in Terrell and her classmates, especially their work in the suffrage movement, helped to inspire Oberlin's efforts to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment.

In January 2019 the Oberlin College Libraries Women's Suffrage and Leadership Working Group was formed to plan projects and events to commemorate Oberlin's participation in the suffrage movement and to celebrate Oberlin women in leadership. A commemorative 2020 calendar, a traveling display, and an online digital exhibition were created for this purpose. The College Libraries staff used social media to highlight important dates and individuals related to the suffrage movement, and to connect this



Suffrage Parade at Oberlin College in 1915

history to the importance of exercising the right to vote.

The primary goal of the project was to use collections in the Oberlin College Archives and Libraries and focus on Oberlin's participation in the suffrage movement. The Working Group decided to expand the project to include Oberlin women in leadership in order to celebrate their accomplishments and to examine how the suffrage movement helped them in the broader cause for equal rights. The project also helped to further the effort to engage students in working with primary sources not only for course projects, but for a lifelong appreciation of the importance of these materials in connecting the past with the present.

The use of primary source materials in support of the curriculum at Oberlin College is an important responsibility of the Oberlin College Archives staff. Instructional sessions for undergraduate courses provide an orientation of the Archives, a review of research strategies, and hands-on work with primary source materials. The College Archivist works with faculty members to plan for the sessions and to determine which collections should be highlighted.



Mary Church Terrell, Oberlin College Class of 1884

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Lucy Stone, Oberlin Collegiate Institute
Class of 1847

The efforts to engage students in using primary resources has been an important goal of the Archives' staff for many years. Oberlin College students enrolled in courses such as first-year seminars, research methods, First and Second Wave American Feminisms, and Africana Studies have used these primary sources for research papers, online exhibits, and presentations. Alumni records files containing biographical materials,

and manuscript collections consisting of correspondence, diaries, newspaper articles, writings, photographs, and other materials that provide a rich resource for students. Many Oberlin women have been the focus of student research projects, with the suffrage movement as one of the central themes. In addition to the interest in Terrell, Cooper, and Hunt, Oberlin graduates such as Lucy Stone (OC 1847), Mary Burnett Talbert (OC 1886) and Doris Stevens (OC 1911) have been a focus of student research, especially because of their critical roles in the suffrage movement.

In January 2020 the Archives staff worked with the faculty members and students in the History at the Museum Winter Term course. Professors Renee Romano and Wendy Kozol planned the course for students to work with primary source materials to assemble an exhibit. College Archivist Ken Grossi and Visual Resources Curator Heath Patten suggested that the class project should be related to the Libraries' suffrage and Oberlin women in leadership project, and the students focused their efforts on four Oberlin women: Johnnetta B. Cole (OC 1957), the first African American woman to be appointed president of Spelman College; Rowena Jelliffe (OC 1914), president of the Equal Suffrage League during her senior year, and co-founder of the Karamu House in Cleveland; Sylvia Williams (OC 1957), Director of the National Museum of African Art and the first African American woman to direct a Smithsonian museum; and Ruth Parmelee (OC 1907), a leader in medicine as a Christian missionary in Greece and for the Near East Relief Foundation. Archival materials related to the four women were featured in the exhibition "Oberlin Women: A Legacy of Leadership and Activism." The exhibition was on display in the Terrell Main Library during March 2020. The Winter Term Letterpress Studio course, led by Special Collections Librarian Ed Vermue, provided students an opportunity to create posters to commemorate women's suffrage and encourage people to vote in the November 2020 election.

Although the physical displays, calendar, and social media efforts included the stories and images of women's suffrage and Oberlin in women in leadership in unique and colorful ways, it is the online digital exhibition, especially during the pandemic, that is the ongoing resource that provides access to some primary sources. The online resource provides opportunities for critical thinking and analysis and further investigation of the collections in the Oberlin College Archives. The exhibition includes materials related to the

History at the Museum course and the Letterpress Studio course, and staff will continue to explore opportunities for students to contribute to the online digital exhibition and other related projects. Please see the following link for the exhibition "[Oberlin's Women: A Legacy of Leadership and Activism.](#)"

Oberlin College Libraries staff members gave a presentation about the work of the Oberlin College Libraries Women's Suffrage and Leadership Working Group during the June 2020 virtual annual meeting of the Society of Ohio Archivists. This was an opportunity to share the work of the Oberlin project, and to have attendees reflect on their efforts to commemorate the anniversary of women's suffrage. The presenters emphasized the importance of working with students to help them better understand the history of the suffrage movement, and to continue to encourage them to explore primary sources materials for a broader appreciation of our history and a better understanding of why archivists preserve that history.

"With a *keen sense* of the
RESPONSIBILITY which
we shall continue to assume,
we look forward to a
FUTURE large with
PROMISE & HOPE."

Mary Church Terrell

VOTE 2020

Designed & Printed by Allison Schmitt in the Letterpress Winter Term, January 2020

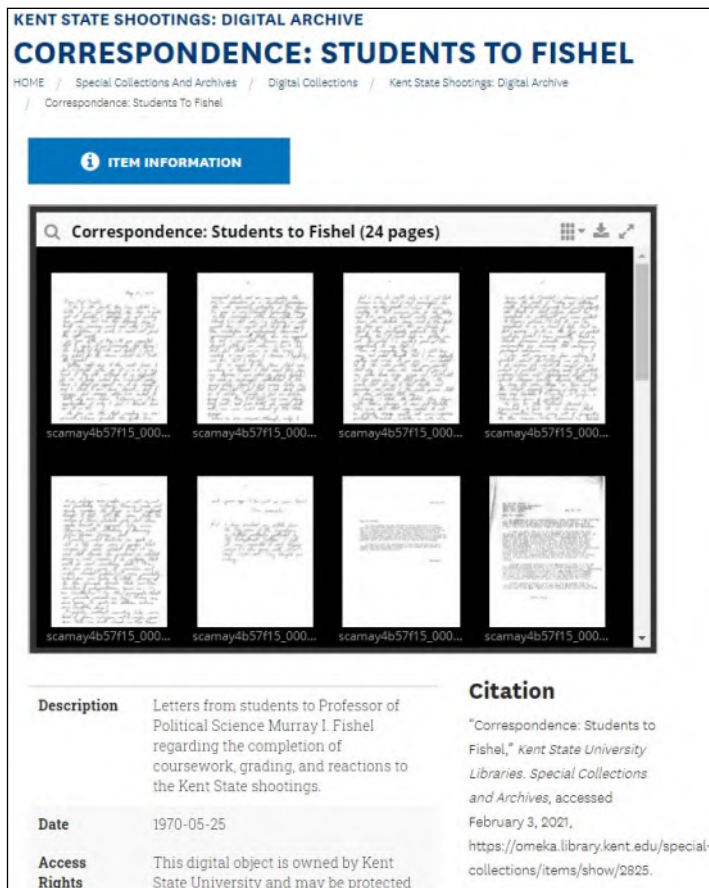
Poster Designed by Oberlin College Student Allison Schmitt '21 in the Letterpress Winter Term, January 2020

Ken Grossi has served as the Oberlin College Archivist since 2008. He works with Oberlin faculty to provide instructional sessions related to the Archives and primary source materials for undergraduate classes. He collaborates with colleagues, teachers, and others who are interested in using archival materials for teaching, exhibits, digital collections, outreach activities, and other projects.

Privacy Considerations in Digital Collections

Virginia Dressler, Digital Projects Librarian, Kent State University

I HAVE BEEN WORKING AS a digital librarian in academic libraries since 2008, though I honestly had not thought about the aspect of privacy in digital collections until somewhat recently. In 2016, I was part of a grant project where we quickly recognized some privacy concerns. The grant, ‘[Kent State Shootings: Actions and Reactions](#)’, was a two year National Archives’ National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) grant, and the main goal of the project was to digitize documents from administrative, faculty and student subcollections in the May 4 Archival Collection at Kent State University.



Screenshot of “Correspondence: Students to Fishel” from the Kent State Shootings: Digital Archive, Kent State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives

The selected content included 40 subcollections from the May 4 collection. We digitized roughly 50,000 pages in-house with grant-funded scanners, and also hired a full-time digital archivist for the project. And like many archival collections, there is a

mix of various primary source material included in the archival collection, containing both published and unpublished items. The other important aspect of the May 4 collection was that many of the individuals represented in the collection were still living, a detail that we wanted to be sure we were mindful of as we published content on the digital platform, particularly in the previously unpublished materials. In the grant application and planning process, our team had incorporated a copyright review for some content that required further review, though we had not anticipated the privacy concerns.

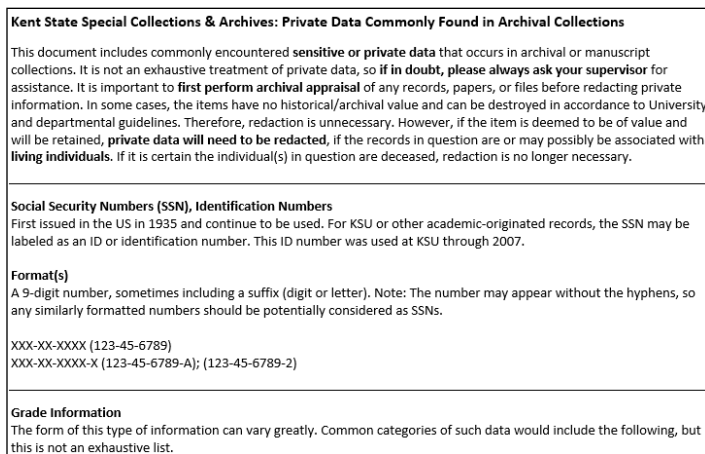
In the very first subcollection that was digitized, our team took note of the inclusion of student identification (ID) numbers on some documents. At our institution, the student ID number was the students’ social security number (SSN), until 2007 when a new process was introduced. (We did some research on the topic in Kent State’s digitized student newspaper, the [Daily Kent Stater](#), and found this was common practice at many institutions, and was changed in 2007: [The Summer Kent Stater, 8 August 2007, Page 1](#). Furthermore, the student ID number was not formatted in the same way that SSNs are, so it would be easy to not immediately identify the student ID number as a SSN. As result, our team had some really great discussions around the presence of private information early on in the grant project. We agreed that the inclusion of student ID numbers impacted the digitization project and we needed to implement a process to review and redact content before online publication.

Looking back, I was very thankful that we had an early red flag in the project, as this led to the creation of a privacy review for digital collections and would apply to all of the remaining subcollections. This review process ultimately added more work and time commitment to the project that we had not anticipated in the grant planning phase, however we felt very strongly that this work was essential and important. We did not want to inadvertently publish information that could be used later in harmful or damaging ways.

Another example is the discussion of grade information (Image 1) that was found in some materials. This example is from a faculty member, who had written to each student in the class after the closure of campus after the shootings. In the letters, some students reflect on grades in the handwritten responses. And while we are cognizant that these were not the official records around grades, we also wanted to be mindful that many of the people represented in the letters were still alive, and FERPA protection extends to the lifetime of the student. After some internal debate, our team decided to redact the name of the student on each letter rather than the discussion of the grade.

(continued on page 11)

We created a privacy review workflow and one page document that is used internally by staff, faculty and students who were working on the grant project. The privacy review took place before items were published on the digital repository, both on the



Screenshot of Kent State Special Collections & Archives: Private Data Commonly Found in Archival Collections document.

physical collections as the subcollections were reprocessed before digitization, and in a second review before the digital item was published. We opted for two privacy reviews to allow for two sets of eyes to review content, in part since this was a large number of digitized documents to process in a two-year period. We did find the second review was effective, as we did find content in the second review that had not been flagged in the first review. Image 2 is a screenshot of part of the internal privacy review document created by the grant team.

The internal privacy review document has been particularly helpful in archival collections with unpublished content, where we have found the most privacy violations to date. During the course of the grant, we also continually adapted the review document as more examples of privacy concerns were discovered. The main pieces of private information included any identification numbers (SSN, student ID, Driver's license #, etc), financial records, grade information (letter grades as well as pass/fail), and health information. Grade and health information are protected under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996, respectively. One resource that was really useful was the ['Guide to Protecting the Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information \(PII\)'](#) by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, published in 2010. This guide outlines personally identifiable information and provides examples, while also calling for institutions to create customized internal practices around protecting PII from "inappropriate access, use, and disclosure".

The initial discussions within our small grant group were really illuminating to me, particularly when I thought about how we each relate to privacy, and ultimately may use our personal definitions and presumptions when there are no guidelines or best practices on the issue. In many ways, privacy is an elusive concept, difficult to define and pinpoint with much precision. Privacy is often shaped by each person's personal point of view, opinions and life experiences that may create biases that are reflected in practice. Instilling the privacy review process and the resulting conversations in the grant project got me thinking about how practitioners inadvertently bring their own predispositions around privacy into the workplace, and how this impacts digital collections.

My definition of privacy likely differs from my colleagues and can become problematic when coming to consensus of what pieces of information may or may constitute private data, and further, what should be protected and redacted from digital archives. I have thought of an individual's definition of privacy to be like an invisible bubble- the information within the bubble are things that we do not want to disclose, while the things outside of the bubble are public. One personal example I can think of to illustrate the idea of the privacy bubble is whether one posts photographs of their children on social media or not. To many, sharing photographs may be a non-issue in their mind, while others are more cautious about sharing images of loved ones or friends. I was fascinated to find in our small working group that we each brought different reflections to discussion around privacy and how this related to our work as practitioners.

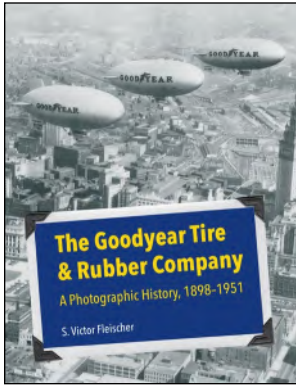
The differences of privacy between individuals become important in workplace decision-making and also in the consistency in practice. The privacy topic we encountered in the grant project opened up a research rabbit hole for me, one that I find to be endlessly interesting as I think about how privacy intersects with digital collections and the role of the practitioner (Dressler, V., & Kristof, C. (2018). [The Right to Be Forgotten and Implications on Digital Collections: A Survey of ARL Member Institutions on Practice and Policy](#), particularly around the Right to be Forgotten, which is a whole other can of worms around privacy and digital collections.

More resources:

- [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#)
- [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act \(HIPAA\)](#)
- [Comparing FERPA vs. HIPAA](#)
- Kent State University's [Special Collections and Archives Digital Collections](#), hosted on Omeka

Individual Member News

Valerie Elliott retired as Manager of the [Smith Library of Regional History](#) after 32 years at the end of November 2020. **Brad Spurlock** took over for her and will also continue to oversee the [Cummins Local History Room at the Hamilton](#). Both locations are part of the Lane Libraries.



Vic Fleischer's book, [The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company: A Photographic History, 1898-1951](#), was recently published by The University of Akron Press. The book contains nearly 200 historic photographs from The University of Akron's [Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company Collection](#) that visually document the history of the world's largest and most influential rubber company.

Institutional Member News

[Columbus Metropolitan Library](#) is pleased to welcome two new additions to the [Local History & Genealogy](#) division. **Keisha Gibbs** was named African American Special Collections Supervisor, a new position that focuses on Black history in Columbus and particularly on building the African American digital collection and archival collections. **Lindsay Hunter** was named Special Collection Supervisor for Genealogy and oversees the library's extensive genealogy collection and programs.

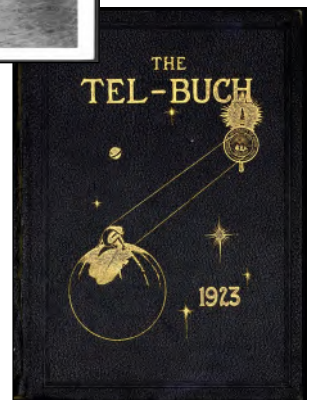


Chinese robe gifted by H. H. Kung to the Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association, ca. 1950s. Copyright Oberlin College Archives

The [Oberlin College Archives](#) announces the publication of a new virtual exhibition, created while the archivists were working remotely. *Art in the Archives of Oberlin College: A Selection of Historically Significant Visual Works* showcases artworks and textiles with deep stories informing Oberlin's rich history, of early post-secondary coeducation and the admission of Black students, antislavery, education in Asia, leadership in world affairs after World War I, an eclectic and notable built environment, and excellence in teaching and learning on campus. While the Archives is not an art museum, it is the keeper of visual works considered of enduring historical value to the College. Over 450 artworks and objects in the Oberlin College Archives can be ex-

plored in brief format in the [Archives Museum Collection](#). In Art in the Archives of Oberlin College, selected visual works are presented with historical context and links to related collections and sources. Many of the works have not been presented online before, or are new acquisitions. The exhibit was launched in late January 2021.

The [University of Akron Archival Services](#) recently completed numerous projects in recognition of UA's sesquicentennial. This includes digitizing and posting online all college yearbooks from 1880 to 2008, every issue of the student newspaper from 1889-2016, several books published on University history, and over 16,000 historic photographs from the University's photograph collection. The archives also collaborated with the Department of History to teach an oral history course and recorded a dozen oral histories that focus on inclusion and diversity at the University. The oral histories and digital collections can be viewed in the department's [digital archives](#). The department also curated four [online exhibitions](#) and launched a series of social media posts on [University history](#). In addition, the staff processed eight University archival collections totaling over 140 cubic feet of materials, including the records of two former University presidents. Finally, the archives helped produce the University's 150th anniversary publication titled [Hail We Akron!: The Third Fifty Years of The University of Akron, 1970-2020](#) (Akron, OH: The University of Akron Press, 2020), and the University's six-episode docu-series titled ["Keeping the Lamp of Learning Burning."](#)



Editor's note

Although 2020 seemed to last an eternity, the rest of my tenure as Ohio Archivist editor has flown by. I have thoroughly enjoyed amplifying the voices and celebrating the accomplishments of the Society of Ohio Archivist members. I am excited to introduce the next Editor-in-Chief, Abigail Sachs. Abigail is new to SOA, and she brings an enthusiasm for combining her interests in librarianship and editing. I look forward to reading future issues of the Ohio Archivist and seeing the continued value of this publication.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to Dr. George Bain. Retired from Ohio University, George has continued to remain an active member of local and national archives organizations. Inducted as a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists in 2011, the Society of Ohio Archivists have truly been fortunate to have George among our membership, and he has served as Features Editor for the Ohio Archivist for several years. He has been outstanding at guiding both new and experienced authors through the process of publicizing their work, and this publication would not be what it is without George's efforts. This issue will be his last, and although it will be big shoes to fill, look for a call for a new Features Editor in the future.

Finally, I'd like to remind all of you the importance of active participation in YOUR organization. Your experience as a member of the Society of Ohio Archivists, or any professional organization for that matter, all depends on the ways that you choose to engage and give back. Ohio has a national reputation as a state with a vast network of dedicated cultural heritage professionals in libraries, archives, and museums. Visit the [website](#) and watch for calls on the SOA listserv on ways to be involved. Thank you everyone!

Kayla Harris



Hello everyone! My name is Abigail Sachs and I'm thrilled to be your next Editor-in-Chief for the *Ohio Archivist*. I'm a writer, editor, and librarian actively seeking employment in Ohio. I received both my BA and MLIS from Kent State University and have been volunteering there since graduation. When not feverishly typing, I enjoy opera and musical theater as well as spending time with friends and family. I look forward to working with you all!



Ohio Archivist is edited and published for the Society of Ohio Archivists by the Ohio History Connection.

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