

1994 Annual Report

From OHRAB

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board
Annual Report
1 July 1993-30 June 1994

In December 1993, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) awarded a planning grant of \$18,524 to the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, which enabled the board to share The Ohio 2003 Draft Plan with all Ohioans concerned with preserving historical records. The beginning of the grant period sparked an intensification of board activities. The board met four times in 1994, in January, February, March, and June. In the spring, the board produced an informational brochure, which includes the draft plan, a time line of grant activities, NHPRC application deadlines, and the board roster. Board members distributed approximately 2,000 of the new brochures at the six regional Ohio Library Council's Chapter Conferences, the Ohio Genealogical Society's Annual Meeting, the Local History Workshop at Bowling Green State University, and the spring meeting of the Society of Ohio Archivists. In addition, the brochures were distributed to libraries, archives and historical societies together with the Preservation Action Agenda written by the consultant to the NEH-funded Statewide Preservation Project.

The draft plan appeared in the Society of Ohio Archivists' Ohio Archivist (Spring 1994), the Ohio Historical Society's Preview (Winter 1994) and Echoes (October 1993), and the Ohio Academy of History Newsletter (Winter 1994). Distribution and publication of the draft plan increased awareness of the board's activities, and also inspired several projects related to the board's goals--one to electronically link the catalogs of the three largest historical societies in the state, and another to focus on Ohio's anti-slavery movement.

One board member, John Fleming, resigned from the board, and the terms of William Crowley, Dennis Harrison and Diana Synadinos expired. After the reporting period, Governor Voinovich reappointed Dennis Harrison to serve another term and appointed Carol Tomer, James Oda, and Michael Lucas to fill the vacancies left by Syandinos, Fleming, and Crowley. Lucas, who began attending board meetings in February, replaces Crowley as the representative from the State Library of Ohio. In addition, at the board's invitation, Mary Bowman, President of the Ohio Genealogical Society, began attending meetings in February. The board seeks to foster closer ties with genealogists, who represent one of its largest beneficiary groups, and whose interest in preserving Ohio's documentary heritage makes them vital allies in the board's efforts to implement its plan.

The board divided into subcommittees to develop an implementation schedule for each goal of The Ohio 2003 Draft Plan.

- George Bain, Mary Bowman, and Barbara Floyd will focus on Goal A, "To assure the preservation of Ohio's documentary heritage through collaborative efforts."
- Roland Baumann and new board members Carol Tomer and James Oda will focus on Goal B, "To assure citizens of Ohio an accessible documentation of both common and diverse elements of their historical experience."
- Jonathan Dembo and Michael Lucas will focus on Goal C, "To achieve progress in the preservation and use of original source material in Ohio."
- Dennis Harrison and Alice Cornell will focus on Goal D, "To generate public support for an accessible

historical record."

Two grant applicants brought draft proposals before the board to receive comments and suggestions: Janet Kalven has prepared a proposal to process photographs in the Grail National Archives against the 1 October 1994 deadline, and Raimund Goerler submitted, and the board reviewed, a proposal to organize a conference on electronic records issues in colleges and universities against the 1 June 1994 deadline.

The board implemented several objectives of the Ohio 2003 Draft Plan during the period of this report. The board met with Robert Strauss, the consultant to the Statewide Preservation Project, and with the Council of the Society of Ohio Archivists to explore possible avenues of collaboration. With the Council the board discussed how the two groups might work together to expand upon SOA's Archives 101 Workshops, launched in April. The board also encouraged Raimund Goerler to develop his grant proposal, which carries out recommendations of the Working Meeting on Research Issues in Electronic Records. Additionally, board members expressed interest in founding regrant projects focusing on antebellum reform movements, military/social history, 20th-century Ohio history, women's history, religious history and the history of minority groups.

In the next year, the board will build on the groundwork accomplished during the fiscal year 1994. Encouraged by the success of the Society of Ohio Archivists's first Archives Week in 1993, board member George Bain, who initiated and organized the program, expects greater participation in and public reaction to Archives Week 1994, to be held in September. The board agreed that this year's theme, "Sports and Recreation in the Archives," should capitalize on the interest in sports history generated by Ken Burns' miniseries Baseball. In November, George Parkinson and Barbara Floyd will chair a panel discussion on the Ohio 2003 Draft Plan at the annual meeting of the Ohio Association of Historical Societies & Museums. The board will continue to explore ways to fund a regrant program, possibly coordinating its efforts with those of the Statewide Preservation Project Committee. Jonathan Dembo will develop a session devoted to gaps in Ohio's documentary history for the spring 1995 meeting of the Ohio Academy of History. Lastly, the board will work to finalize The Ohio 2003 Draft Plan, to develop a specific work plan to accompany it, and to translate its goals into action.

Respectfully submitted by
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- This page was last modified on 5 October 2009, at 01:00.