

1 December 1995-21 June 1996

From OHRAB

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board
Interim Report
1 December 1995- 21 June 1996

The board's activities during the reporting period included three meetings and an open house discussion, and the creation of a World Wide Web home page.

At the December meeting, the board heard from Deputy Coordinator George Parkinson on the status of the Ohio Historical Society's two grant applications. The NHRPC did not fund the Archival Fellowship host institution application, and awarded only \$10,000 of the \$206,400 requested for "Establishing the Ohio Electronic Records Archives" project. The board also learned that the Cincinnati Historical Society finished its NHRPC grant to support a two-year processing project.

Also in December, The board discussed proposed revisions to The Ohio 2003 Plan, as well as plans for the creation of an OHRAB World Wide Web home page (URL <http://winslo.ohio.gov/ohswww/ohrab/index.html>), designed to increase awareness of the board, its activities, and the NHRPC grant program.

In April, the board heard that the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHRPC) did not fund its regrant project "Homefront And Battlefront: Ohioans Serve the Nation." The board agreed to revise and submit the proposal in October 1996. Of the three grants reviewed in October 1995, NHRPC funded one, partially funded one, and encouraged resubmission of the third. The Toledo Museum of Art received a grant of \$54,392, and the Ohio Historical Society proposal, "Establishing the Ohio Electronic Records Archives" received only \$10,000 of the \$206,400 originally requested. The Cincinnati Art Museum grant was not funded.

Following up the discussion in December on revisions to The Ohio 2003 Plan, the board briefly considered the revisions to the NHRPC strategic plan, upon which The Ohio 2003 Plan is modeled. Following the NHRPC's intention to create a plan that is clearer, more realistic, more focused on the commission's priorities, and more reflective of the importance of technology, the board decided that the proposed revisions to The Ohio 2003 Plan should accomplish these goals as well. The revised Ohio 2003 Plan is to be printed and distributed in January of 1997.

In its role as coordinating body for the Ohio Network of American History Research Centers, the board also considered the Ohio Historical Society's proposal to create the Ohio Local Government Information Locator System, which will use modern technology to improve upon Local Government Records Program. Emphasis will be placed on creating online resources and services that provide information local government officials need and that streamline procedures which are currently time-consuming and paper-intensive. A Local Government Locator System will be created, which will be a World Wide Web home page that will identify, describe, and provide assistance in obtaining local government information. The home page will include a schedule of workshops, and detailed instructions on how to schedule, preserve, and dispose of records. A functional records manual will be created to replace manuals currently in use with one that is more comprehensive, yet also more flexible and easier to update. In addition, the home page will include brief county histories and a profile of each local government office or unit. This Fact File will provide context for the records, helping users understand the structure of local

governments, their responsibilities, and the records they produce. The Ohio Historical Society will seek funding to support this effort.

In June, Mike Lucas informed the board about the Government Information Locator Service Initiative (GILS). This initiative, a joint project with the Ohio Historical Society, is a system designed to identify public information resources of the U.S. Government, to describe the information available in those resources, and to provide assistance in obtaining the information. Development of GILS will also result in the formation of an information policy for the state.

Deputy Coordinator Parkinson reported to the board that funding included in the state capital bill will provide The Ohio Historical Society's Archives/Library with \$1.5 million to establish an electronic records program and to support ongoing automation projects. Furthermore, in conjunction with the Cincinnati Historical Society and the Western Reserve Historical Society, the Ohio Historical Society released a request for proposal for an integrated library and information system.

At the end of this period, the board has spent \$11,711.03 of a total grant award of \$18,524. During this reporting period, the board expended \$2,063.56 on travel and meetings, and \$190.53 on supplies and services. Remaining funds will support the distribution and printing of The Ohio 2003 Plan, as well as providing for remaining meetings and services and supplies.

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