

1 June 1996-30 November 1996

From OHRAB

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board
Interim Report
1 June 1996 - 30 November 1996

The board's activities during the reporting period included two meetings, the creation of a World Wide Web home page, and sponsorship of the Historical Records Repository Survey (HRRS).

A June meeting was held at Edison State College in Piqua. Mike Lucas briefed the board on the Government Information Locator Service Initiative (GILS). A joint project between the State Library of Ohio and the Ohio Historical Society, this initiative is designed to improve Ohioans access to state government information. At the same time, the GILS should: 1), serve as an effective electronic records management system for state agencies; 2), provide the means for improving the State of Ohio's compliance with state and federal public access to information regulations; 3), serve as an automatic inventory of state publications; 4), supplement and eventually replace the existing Ohio Government Documents Depository System; 5), improve management of state resources devoted to the production, storage, retrieval, and reporting of computer-based State of Ohio information; and 6), support the development of the state's electronic archives.

Also at the June meeting, Deputy Coordinator George Parkinson reported on the state capital bill recently signed by Governor Voinovich. The Ohio Historical Society's Archives/Library will receive \$1.5 million to establish an electronic records program in the State Archives and to support ongoing automation projects to catalog the State Archives and to retrospectively convert the printed materials card catalog to machine readable format. The capital money will be used in conjunction with the \$10,000 grant that the NHPRC awarded for the "Establishing the Ohio Electronic Records Archives" project. Consultant Margaret Hedstrom is working with the Society on this project to develop an electronic records program in Ohio. The board also learned that the Ohio Historical Society, together with the Cincinnati Historical Society and the Western Reserve Historical Society, released a request for proposal for an integrated library and information system on 21 June 1996. Capital funding will support the Ohio Historical Society's purchase of the selected hardware and software.

The board was briefed by Elizabeth Nelson on the board's new World Wide Web home page, (<http://winslo.ohio.gov/ohswww/ohrab/index.html>) designed to advertise board activities and provide quick access to information. The June meeting was the last for Nelson, as she moved on to graduate school in the fall. The board expressed their appreciation to Nelson for her work and assistance, and wished her well in her future endeavors. OHS Archivist Matthew Benz was named as her replacement.

While at Piqua, the board held an open house discussion of issues facing county and local historical societies in the state. Representatives from local historical societies participated in the discussion, which centered around the board's interest in establishing an integrated catalog of holdings that will connect local historical societies around the state.

An August meeting was held at the Ohio State University Archives. Parkinson reported to the board of the standing of the Local Government Records Initiative. The Ohio Historical Society's Board of Trustees had endorsed the

newly revised plan for the Ohio Local Government Information Locator System (LGILS) at its 18 July meeting. Further revisions to the initiative are expected. The OHRAB board agreed to issue a resolution of support for the Ohio LGILS proposal.

The board reviewed the Historical Records and Repository Survey (HRRS), which OHRAB is cosponsoring along with the Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA). Parkinson reported that the Ohio Survey will be sent out to approximately 1,400 respondents. As they have had much experience in survey work, the Ohio Historical Society's Local History Office has agreed to assist the board in coordinating the survey.

The board discussed the Homefront and Battlefront: Ohioans Serve The Nation regrant proposal revision. They agreed to re-submit the proposal as revised for the 1 October deadline. The board also learned that the Cleveland Museum of Natural History withdrew its request for a grant as it received local private funding.

As of 30 November, the board has spent \$14,227.30 of a total grant award of \$18,524. This includes \$948.00 in encumbrances to cover costs for the 5 December meeting. During this reporting period, the board expended \$2,179.94 on travel and meetings and \$43.80 on supplies and services.

On 25 November, NHPRC approved an extension of the grant to 31 May. Also approved was a new cost category in the budget of \$1,850 for data entry and other costs associated with the board's participation in the HRRS. In addition to this amount, OHRAB encumbered the remaining original grant funds with the intention of using them for the printing and distribution of The Ohio 2003 Plan revision, as well as providing for additional meetings and services and supplies.

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