

# 1 December 1998-31 May 1999

## From OHRAB

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board  
Interim Report  
1 December 1998- 31 May 1999

The board's activities during this time period included two meetings, the continuation of work on the "Ohio Memory" project, the re-submission and funding of the Dayton Art Institute grant proposal, and the release of the HRRS report.

A meeting was held 4 December at the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus. Following reports by each member, the board heard from Elizabeth Nelson on the "Ohio Memory" project. Nelson reported that despite being turned down for funding by the IMLS (Institute for Museum Library Sciences), planning for the project continues, including a presentation to the Ohio Bicentennial Commission in March. The goal of the project is to encourage and coordinate the digitization of historical records and artifacts that document state history. Archives, museums, local historical societies and libraries around the state will be invited to participate by contributing items to be digitized. Three products would result from the project: a web site, book and curriculum materials. American Memory, an online collection of historical records developed by the Library of Congress, will serve as a model for the project and web site.

The board discussed the Dayton Art Institute grant proposal. Resubmitted against the November deadline, this marks the Institute's second attempt at receiving support from the NHPRC. The board supported the proposal.

The 19 March meeting was held at the John M. Ashbrook Center for Public Affairs, located at Ashland University. Among the agenda items were continued discussion on the status of the "Ohio Memory" project and a look at the final version of the HRRS report. The board examined ways to capitalize on the report in Ohio. Funding of the Dayton Art Institute was discussed, and it was noted that the Commission's assessment of the proposal was in harmony with the board reviews.

Board member Lynn Jacobs, Assistant Lucas County Prosecutor, announced that she would be officially resigning from OHRAB when her term is completed at the end of March. The board thanked Jacobs for her service, and recognized her work during the past term.

During the course of the reporting period, the board continued to keep abreast of projects and proposals that fulfill The Ohio 2003 Plan. At the two meetings, the board heard reports on initiatives of the Ohio Historical Society that support key objectives of The Ohio 2003 Plan. The society installed the Horizon library automation system, which allowed the society to make its Online Collections Catalog accessible to the public through society's World Wide Web interface in March. As planned, the Western Reserve Historical Society installed the same system. Development of the Ohio Government Information Locator System (GILS) continued, paving the way for increased public access to information about government records and online records scheduling for agency officials. The society also continued to pursue the Local Government Records plan and the Electronic Government Program. In addition, Laurie Gemmill provided an online tour of "The African American Experience in Ohio, 1850-1920," which makes the society's best collections in this area accessible online.

The next OHRAB meeting was scheduled for 6 August at Campus Martius in Marietta.

Respectfully submitted,

George Parkinson  
Deputy Coordinator

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