

1 December 1999-31 December 2000

From OHRAB

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board
Interim Report
1 December 1999- 31 December 2000

During this time period the Board met 3 times: 6 April, 13 October and 15 December. All meetings took place at the Ohio Historical Center. Also during this reporting period, the Board saw 3 new appointments and 5 re-appointments. New appointees were: Raimund Goerler, Archivist for the Ohio State University; Ronald Koetters, CEO of Monarch Construction Company of Cincinnati and Member, Board of Directors of the Cincinnati Museum Center; and Julie McMaster, Archivist for the Toledo Museum of Art. They join board members Roland Baumann, Michael Lucas, Gary Ness, George Parkinson and Carol Tomer, who were re-appointed for new terms, as well as Keith Corman, Barbara Floyd and James Oda.

The April meeting took place in conjunction with the Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA) Spring Meeting. Ann Newhall, NHPRC Executive Director, was the keynote speaker at the SOA Meeting and she met with the Board as it considered planning and participated in a "roundtable" discussion of various issues related to OHRAB and NHPRC.

Revision of The Ohio 2003 Plan

Newhall addressed the Board's decision to revise The Ohio 2003 Plan and how it fit in with the overall issue of state planning. She agreed with the proposed idea of a board retreat and suggested that the Board contact their counterparts in Delaware, who recently held their own retreat. The possibility of using a facilitator during the retreat was brought up for consideration. Newhall urged the Board to examine other state plans before the retreat with the idea of adopting the plan which best fits the needs of Ohio. At the December meeting, the Board again took up the issue of revising its plan, a proposal on hold for much of the year until Board appointments were current. The Board agreed to re-activate the sub-committee, replacing Jonathan Dembo (who resigned in April) with Goerler. The sub-committee was charged with organizing the retreat for the Spring. A report is expected for the February meeting.

Joint Electronic Records Repository Initiative

During the April meeting, Newhall participated in a discussion of an NHPRC grant proposal being prepared for submission against a 1 June 2000 deadline. Its purpose is to support the Joint Electronic Records Repository Initiative (JERRI). JERRI would establish a semi-custodial repository for State of Ohio archival records. Assistant State Archivist Charles Arp explained JERRI and the purpose of the grant, being to receive input from other interested parties outside Ohio and share the results with others. With support from NHPRC, the Ohio repository would work better and serve as a model that others might follow. Board members made suggestions and encouraged submission of the proposal, being cognizant of the need for an electronic records program in Ohio, as called for in The Ohio 2003 Plan(1). A copy of the proposal as submitted is attached to this report.

During the summer work on JERRI continued. A preliminary committee was established to build support among the archival community as well as in state government. A proposal was made for additional funding from the state to establish a 2-year pilot program, and The State Library of Ohio (SLO) agreed to provide \$58,000 to provide for the development and implementation of web-based search and retrieval tools for State of Ohio government resources and publications. All four JERRI partners have included budget expansion requests in their FY 02-03

budgets related to the project or identified resources dedicated to JERRI, and technical, policy/legal and archival committees will begin meeting in January and February of 2001.

At the October meeting, OHRAB adopted a resolution of support for state funding:

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) offers a resolution of support for the Joint Electronic Records Repository Initiative. OHRAB fully supports the plan as presented to provide guidelines and support the implementation of the preservation of electronic records in Ohio, as the board called for in The Ohio 2003 Plan. Furthermore, OHRAB offers its recommendation that the State of Ohio provide funding for JERRI as it sees the project as integral to the archiving of historical records in Ohio.

At the December meeting, the Board heard that the NHPRC has agreed to partially fund the grant proposal (a total of \$100,000) contingent on additional funding from the State. The NHPRC asked that the JERRI team scale back the research phase and increase the implementation phase of the proposal. It was reported that State Archives staff will be working with the Minnesota Historical Society and the San Diego Supercomputer Center as well as others on establishing educational workshops to train archivists on electronic record archival issues. On 4 December, the JERRI partners met and signed the following:

Memorandum of Understanding The Ohio Department of Administrative Services, the Ohio Historical Society, the State Library of Ohio and the Ohio Supercomputer Center affirm their mutual support for the Joint Electronic Records Repository Initiative. The goal of this interagency partnership is to collaboratively develop an electronic records repository that will preserve and provide access to the state government's electronic resources with enduring value.

The four sponsoring agencies agree to jointly seek adequate funding in the next biennial State of Ohio budget to formally establish an electronic records archives effective July 1, 2001. This memorandum of understanding serves to ratify the financial participation goals of each agency for at least the next fiscal biennium during which time the electronic archives will be developed.

Ohio Memory Project

Envisioned as a celebration of state history and a virtual repository of digitized archival records scattered throughout the state, the Ohio Memory Project was originally a proposal created by OHRAB(2) in 1997.

A partnership of the Ohio Historical Society, OHRAB, the State Library of Ohio, the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN), and the Ohio Library Council and others continued to refine the concept and secure funding for the project. In February 2000, OPLIN approved a grant of \$500,000 to the Ohio Historical Society to launch the project.

The Ohio Memory online scrapbook will bring together historical materials from archives, museums, libraries, and historical societies around the state to create a large collection of primary source material. Acting as a single point of access to historical materials of multiple types from a variety of institutions, the site will highlight connections between collections, providing more comprehensive coverage of the state's history than any single institution could. The scrapbook will identify hidden treasures that are currently inaccessible, raise awareness of state and local history, encourage teaching and study of Ohio history using primary sources, and promote academic scholarship and publishing. Long after the celebrations in 2003, the scrapbook will remain as a lasting legacy of Ohio's bicentennial. All in accordance with goals established by The Ohio 2003 Plan(3).

At the October meeting, the Board was introduced to project staff members who gave a report on the success of

the workshops and a demonstration of the website (<http://www.ohiomemory.org>). The Board offered suggestions and asked questions of the Ohio Memory Project staff. The Board would like to continue in an advisory role as well as serving as advocate and perhaps helping staff to locate important collections and working as a contact between the host institutions and the project staff.

In December, the Board saw examples of materials submitted thus far for consideration in the Ohio Memory Scrapbook. In following up the discussion at the October meeting on the Board's role with the project, a list of workshop attendees was handed out so that the Board could assist the project staff in working with potential participants.

Archives Week

Designed to enhance public awareness of the archival world, Archives Week has been celebrated annually in Ohio since 1993. The Board - in conjunction with the Society of Ohio Archivists - has maintained a strong interest in the development of Archives Week, lending its counsel and support as needed.

The theme for Archives Week 1999 was "Celebrating Education." 5000 posters and 6000 bookmarks were distributed throughout the state. The theme for the year 2000 was "Museums in Ohio" and in addition to the posters, various programs were held around the state, including an on-line exhibit in Columbus, and celebrations were held in Athens, Cleveland and Dayton. The theme for Archives Week 2001 will be "Media in Ohio." The Archives Week web-page, located at the Society of Ohio Archivists web-site (<http://www.ohiojunction.net/soa/aweb.html>), contains information, full-color downloadable versions of the current poster, as well as an exhibit of past posters.

During the reporting period, the Board received updates on Archives Week from George Bain, Archivist for Ohio University. The Board discussed theme possibilities for the future as well as ways to expand the success of Archives Week through the use of the Internet and local programming. Julie McMaster agreed to serve as the OHRAB liaison to Archives Week.

Respectfully submitted,

George Parkinson
Deputy Coordinator

(1) Goal B: "To assure citizens of Ohio an accessible documentation of both common and diverse elements of their historical experience." Level-Two Objective: "To work with interested parties to ensure the preservation of electronic records." (The Ohio 2003 Plan, March 1995)

(2) In December of 1997, under Grant #98-021, a sub-committee reported to the board on a re-grant proposal called "The Bicentennial Scrapbook" which called for the creation of an on-line digital image library.

(3) Goal A: "To assure the preservation of Ohio's documentary heritage through collaborative efforts." Level-Two Objective, section b.5): "2003-Celebrating Two Hundred Years of Statehood. Commemorate Ohio's bicentennial by making fundamental documents and other vital records accessible through online networks and other appropriate electronic formats." (The Ohio 2003 Plan, March 1995)

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