

1 January 2001-30 June 2001

From OHRAB

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board
Interim Report
1 January 2001 - 30 June 2001

During this time period, the Board met for one regular meeting on 16 February and held a two-day workshop the 14th and 15th of June. Although some members await re-appointment, the Board maintained its current roster throughout the reporting period (please see attached Board Roster).

Revision of The Ohio 2003 Plan

At the February meeting, the Board continued with its discussion of planned revision to the current plan, The Ohio 2003 Plan. The Board had earlier approved of a Revision Subcommittee made up of Roland Baumann, Barbara Floyd and Raimund Goerler. Floyd reported on the subcommittee's draft schedule for a two-day retreat. It was agreed that that the retreat should run from late afternoon to noon the next day and be held in Columbus. Candidates for a retreat facilitator and possible guests were discussed. The subcommittee agreed to decide on the final format and distribute it to the Board. A review of The Ohio 2003 Plan followed. The plan was adopted in March of 1995 and anticipated the Bicentennial of Ohio Statehood. The review revealed that many of the goals and objectives called for in The Ohio 2003 Plan were implemented in part or full, or provided the thrust to initiate a program. A few examples of successful implementation from the plan include Joint Electronic Records Repository Initiative (JERRI)(1), Fight for the Colors, The Ohio Memory Project (2), Archives Week (3), and Access Through Automation (4). However, the review also highlighted those portions of the plan that were not implemented. The Board discussed reviewing these portions at the retreat as a possible foundation for the plan revisions.

The subcommittee continued work on the proposed retreat in the months after the meeting. The 14th and 15th of June were chosen for the dates, and the new State Library of Ohio facility was picked for the meeting location. The subcommittee arranged to have J.D. Britton, Head, Local History Office of OHS, serve as facilitator, and asked Dick Cameron, Director of State Programs, NHPRC, and Sandra Sageser Clark, Director of the Michigan Historical Center, attend the retreat as guests.

The June retreat opened as planned with Dick Cameron, Gary Ness and George Parkinson making introductory remarks. Britton discussed the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) plan that the Board would use to guide them through the planning process. The Board worked on identifying strategic issues, examining the possible strengths and opportunities, weaknesses and threats for OHRAB and providing many examples of each. The board members then rated each example in importance. These ratings would provide the subcommittee with a blueprint for creating five essential strategic goals. The subcommittee met that night to prepare the goals for the next day.

The following morning, Britton picked up the process by presenting the results, distilled into five goals, of the previous day's findings. A discussion on the process of turning the strategic issues into goals followed. Divided into two breakout sessions, the Board came up with objectives to reach for each of the five goals. Upon reconvening, the Board consolidated the objectives under their respective goals, thus creating a frame upon which the new plan

could be built. The Board agreed that the subcommittee would continue working on the plan, with input from the full board.

During closing remarks, Laurie Gemmill, Project Manager for Ohio Memory, and Judy Walker, Assistant State Archivist, spoke on their views of the planning process. Dick Cameron and Sandra Clark also spoke briefly, using their out-of-state and national perspectives to give the Board some outside views of the planning process as well as the issues facing OHRAB and other state historical records boards (Please refer to the attached Retreat Agenda and other documents).

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 made by OHRAB(5) in 1997.

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 (6).

At the February meeting, the Board received a list of recent submissions to the Ohio Memory Project and heard that the team was working with Ohio Link on the online scrapbook interface. Among the possible ideas for the interface is My Scrapbook, which will allow the user to "save" items so that they can access them quickly. The Ohio Memory staff conducted workshops designed to encourage a wide variety of submissions from local librarians, archivists and curators.

The workshops offered four sessions:

- 1). How to Decide What to Submit,
- 2). How to Submit Materials,
- 3). An Overview of the Process,
- 4). A Demonstration of the Online Scrapbook.

Five workshops were held in the spring. The locations were Cincinnati, Marietta, Columbus, Kent and Fremont.

Joint Electronic Records Repository Initiative

At the February meeting, Charles Arp brought the board up to date on the JERRI project that, if implemented, will establish a semi-custodial repository for State of Ohio archival records. Although JERRI was not included in the Governor's budget, meetings are planned with members of the Ohio Legislature to lobby for the project and the project partners remain hopeful.

Arp handed out a JERRI position sheet that is used in meetings with members of the Legislature. Board members commented on its simplicity and effectiveness.

A current report from Arp on JERRI follows:

The State of Ohio did not fund the Joint Electronic Records Repository Initiative (JERRI). This means that Ohio will not be able to receive the funding that NHPRC offered us when proposal "Best Practices for a Semi-Custodial Electronic Records Repository #R4375-OH" was authorized for funding by the Commission as NHPRC funding was contingent upon receiving JERRI funding from the State of Ohio. We were and are very pleased that the Commission thought highly enough of the JERRI concept and OHS to authorize contingent funding of #R4375-OH even though we cannot take advantage of that opportunity.

The State Archives will continue to work on implementing the JERRI model and our commitment to working on electronic record issues continues. OHS and the Ohio SuperComputer are working to convince Ohio's courts on the wisdom of implementing JERRI for court records. The electronic publication portion of JERRI, the Electronic Publications Pilot Project (EP3) has also been asked by OCLC to participate in their digital vault project. Given these developments and the JERRI partner's institutional commitment the JERRI coalition will continue despite Ohio's budget difficulties.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for August.

Respectfully submitted,

George Parkinson

Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board
Roster

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(1) Goal B, Level-Two Objective: "To work with interested parties to ensure the preservation of electronic records."

(2) Goal B, Level-One Objective: "To encourage projects which document the formation and development of the state, and other historical subjects of both statewide and national significance."

(3) Goal A, Level-Three Objective: "To collaborate with SOA and others to assess statewide needs and expand upon continuing education programs to ensure development of skills needed by the staff of Ohio repositories to effectively preserve modern records."

(4) Goal C, Level-One Objective: "Through OhioLINK or similar online networks, improve access to historical records in Ohio."

(5) 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.

(6) 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

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