



## OHRAB Grant Final Report

**Institution Name:** Rodman Public Library

**Project Title:** Digitizing Alliance's Newspapers for Online Access

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### Summary of Project Activities

The objective of this project was to digitize 37 microfilm reels of *The Alliance Review* published from 1905 to 1915. The Ohio History Connection will then upload the digitized newspapers onto Ohio Memory in order to provide researchers full-text searching capability, both at the library during its hours of operation, and also remotely 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

The digitization of the 37 microfilm reels was completed by Backstage Library Works and stored on hard drives, which were then sent to the Ohio History Connection. This resulted in the digitization of 39,938 pages of newspaper. Because the Ohio History Connection is only able to commit to adding 2,500 pages worth of data to Ohio Memory per month, this portion of the project is not yet complete. However, it is well underway, as over 10,000 pages of the *Alliance Review* have now been uploaded. The Ohio History Connection has advised that the entire collection will be uploaded to Ohio Memory by the end of the calendar year.

### Self-Assessment

Once the entire collection has been uploaded to Ohio Memory, the primary objective of this project will be complete, as access to these newspapers will have been greatly expanded. Researchers will not only have full-text searching capability of these newspapers, but they will also have access to these newspapers remotely 24 hours per day, seven days per week through Ohio Memory. However, we know that our work is not complete at that time. It will be imperative for Rodman Public Library to take the lead in ensuring that our community and those who access this information know that it is available.

### Project Impact

While it remains to be seen how this project will impact usage, we do know that usage increased dramatically when *The Alliance Review* issues from 1916-1920 were added to Ohio Memory in 2015, as page view increased by 61%. Therefore, we are optimistic that we will see an increase in usage with the completion of this project. Rodman Public Library will make every effort to publicize the availability of these newspaper online. In addition, Rodman Public Library remains dedicated to the digitization of these newspapers. Money is budgeted each year for this purpose, as well as for the annual maintenance fees to provide access to these newspapers on Ohio Memory.



**Itemized Expenditures**

| <b>Expense</b>                           | <b>Cost</b>       |
|--|-------------------|
| Digitization of 37 microfilm reels       | \$7,790.48        |
| 3 4TB external hard drives @\$97.49 each | \$292.47          |
| Shipping microfilm reels to vendor       | \$45.57           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                             | <b>\$8,128.82</b> |

Rodman Public Library received a total of \$4,050.00 from this OHRAB grant. The library provided the additional \$4,078.82 needed for this project.

**Social Media/News Releases**

When Ohio History Connection has completed uploading these newspapers onto Ohio Memory, Rodman Public Library will announce this through a news release, as well as highlight this using the library’s monthly newsletter, social media accounts, and website. Obviously, we will highlight the fact that this project was made possible through a grant from OHRAB.