

Ohio Northern University  
*Preserving and Amplifying Diverse Voices at ONU*  
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### **Project Activities & Accomplishments**

Thanks to the support of the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, we were successfully able to complete our goal of appraising and transferring historical records from Ohio Northern University's (ONU) Office of Multicultural Development (OMD) to the ONU Archives. Once transferred the materials were arranged and described by a grant funded student intern. In addition to the work completed by the grant intern, two OMD student employees assisted with the project through select digitization of audio-visual materials and providing support for OMD events via research into the collection materials.

Through their efforts we were able to transfer approximately twenty linear feet of materials to the ONU Archives, which after processing represented fifteen linear feet of archival materials for two new archival collections. In addition to the physical processing of materials, twenty-one VHS cassettes containing over twenty-three hours of footage ONU events were digitized. Finding aids for the archival collections were published through our local installation of ArchivesSpace.

### **Titles, series titles, dates and cubic footage/number of images scanned, of records addressed by your project.**

- Ohio Northern University, Office of Multicultural Development Records, 2006-2020. 3.2 linear feet.
- Ohio Northern University, Student Organizations Records, 1992-2020. 12.4 linear feet. 23 hours of VHS cassettes digitized.

### **Copies of catalog entries and other finding aids (these might include screen shots, links, and before and after photos), if applicable.**

- Ohio Northern University, Office of Multicultural Development Records.  
<https://archives.onu.edu/repositories/2/resources/33>
- Ohio Northern University, Student Organizations Records.  
<https://archives.onu.edu/repositories/2/resources/34>

### **Narrative of self-assessment about how the project met the objectives submitted in your application.**

Despite the challenges that came with working on a grant project during our ongoing global pandemic, we are proud to have accomplished the majority of the objectives that we stated in our initial application. Of high significance, we were able to hire a student intern to work with the historic materials, which provided them with an opportunity to learn archival theory and practice while engaging with materials from historically underrepresented communities. Additionally, the grant helped us secure resources to transfer, appraise, preserve, and describe the targeted materials. Consequently, we now have over fifteen linear feet of new historic materials available to archival researchers. Importantly,

these materials are primarily focused on the documentation of diverse history at ONU, which unfortunately has been an underdeveloped collecting area for our archival holdings.

The newly acquired materials have been made discoverable through our local instance of ArchivesSpace, and we have begun making use of them to help support various projects and activities on our campus. These have included support of sesquicentennial celebration efforts, use of materials by student researchers as a part of a Fall 2021 undergraduate course (Writing for Advocacy and Activism), and the use of materials for outreach work towards ONU alumni.

The one significant objective that we did not meet from our initial grant proposal was the digitization of Black Student Union scrapbooks that were being transferred to the Archives. Instead, after careful consideration and communication, we decided to reprioritize our digitization efforts to focus on an unexpected transfer of VHS cassettes that came to the Archives as a part of the grant work. These cassettes documented a number of important cultural events on our campus, and many were already showing signs of degradation, which led to our decision to change this aspect of our original plans.

**An evaluation of the project's impact (such as increased researcher demand for the records or actions the organization will take to sustain the results of the project).**

- Selected materials featured in the sesquicentennial celebration events “Home Sweet Home: Engaging with Our ONU History” and “OMD Diverse Voices in Conversation: Remembering & Reimagining.”
- Donation of additional VHS cassettes documenting student events on campus from the Office Student Life.
- Use of the selected materials by student researchers in the Fall 2021 course Writing for Advocacy and Activism.
- Selected materials will be used as part of upcoming Spring 2021 history course Material Culture.
- Selected materials will be featured in upcoming Black History Month library exhibit.
- Selected materials will be featured in outreach efforts during upcoming Black Student Union event, Kuumba Fest.

**Share how your institution will build upon the success of the project through additional initiatives. For example, if you received a grant for an initial digitization project and with the experience from that project your institution will now be digitizing a second collection.**

Through the continued generous support of ONU's Office of Multicultural Development, student workers will continue to work with the collections throughout the spring semester, including continued digitization, preservation, and outreach work. Additionally, we will look to include select materials in the larger ONU Diverse Voices project which will support student research and help further publicize the work completed through the grant.

We are hoping the work with records from student organizations will serve as a template for how we can work with other student groups on campus to document their impact within our university community.

**Quotes from local press coverage and also copies of articles cited.**

At this time, we are currently still working on developing an outreach plan with our Office of Communications and Marketing (C&M) which will run throughout Black History Month. From the initial C&M proposal:

**Focus:** *To educate and inform the ONU community and beyond the importance Ohio Northern University puts on diversity, equity and inclusion, and to highlight the individual efforts and expertise of those involved. To provide representation to diverse groups in ONU storytelling and marketing efforts. To highlight ONU's value as a research institution evidenced by the grants this project received from outside institutions.*

**Target audience:** *Current students, researchers, alumni, faculty and staff*

**Proposed content:** *The scope of this project provides rich content opportunities.*

- *Overview article for onu.edu (possibly repurposed for ONU Magazine)*
- *Student profiles (x3) for onu.edu*
- *Video edit of archival materials (quantity TBD)*
- *Article about research implications-grant support*
- *Photo gallery*
- *Social media posts using actual content (quantity TBD)*
- *ONU Black History trivia on social media based on the records*

**Promotion:** *Numerous social media posts during February for Black History Month, Northern Express, onu.edu, pitches to local media*

**Project Expenses**

Supplies & Equipment

Date	Vendor	Order Description	Cost
8/5/2021	Hollinger Metal Edge	Document Storage cases x 15	\$172
8/5/2021	Hollinger Metal Edge	Newspaper & Oversized storage boxes x 10	\$185
8/5/2021	Hollinger Metal Edge	Reinforced 1" full tab file folders x 5	\$199.50
8/20/2021	Amazon	Elgato Video Capture	\$87.99
8/20/2021	Amazon	Sony DVD/VCR Combo	\$364.99

Matching Labor Salary

Person	Position	Time	Total Salary
Matt Francis	Archivist	5% of time for five months	\$1,020