

Digitization of Dr. Arthur E. Thomas' Program "Like It Is" Interviewing Leaders on Black American

The grant is funding digitization of 71 U-matic videotapes of the Dayton interview program "Like It Is," featuring leaders known for civil rights activism and overcoming race and gender barriers in politics, government, education, and the arts. The program was produced from 1978-1985 by Dr. Arthur E. Thomas, civil rights activist, former Director of the Bolinga Black Cultural Resource Center at Wright State, and President Emeritus of Central State University. The grant generously funds \$4200.00 with a matching cost share of \$4364.25, to digitize the tapes and preserve the electronic files on backed-up server space, allowing the archives to provide public access to this invaluable resource on African American history in the Miami Valley and across America.

The grant project is approximately 70% complete as of August 26, 2022, and is on track for completion by December 31st.

Four terabytes of server space was purchased in May at a cost of \$3400 (cost share) from Wright State University's CaTS Information Technology Department. This space was added to Special Collections and Archives' (SCA) E-Archives where born digital and digitization project files are actively managed on a designated server that is backed-up through CaTS.

Each of the 71 U-matic tapes were labeled with a unique identifier number and packaged securely for transport to our vendor, Scene Savers. A 4 TB external hard drive was purchased for \$109.99 (cost share) on May 23 to send with the tapes for delivering the digital files and metadata generated by Scene Savers. Scene Savers picked up the U-matic tapes from Wright State on June 14, since their van was already in Dayton that day (saving transportation costs). The digitization of all 71 U-matic tapes was completed on August 23rd. Scene Savers sent the external hard drive containing the digital master uncompressed *.avi files, access compressed *.mp4 files, and metadata files via Fed Ex, which was received August 24. The files were ingested on August 25 into the newly purchased and designated E-Archives server space for long-term management and preservation, and quality checked against the metadata files from Scene Savers. Of the 71 tapes, Scene Savers returned digital files for 69 tapes, and documented that two of the U-matic tapes do not contain content. In addition, Scene Savers documented that one videotape does not contain the "Like It Is" program, and three had severe tracking and video dropout due to poor editing. The digitization cost, which is the bulk of the grant project budget, is expected to be invoiced and paid in September.

Upcoming tasks to complete the grant project include: picking up the original tapes from Scene Savers and transporting them back to Wright State (scheduled for September 13); labeling the U-matic tapes with the location of the digital files and re-shelving them in the archives; writing a DACS-compliant finding aid for the Dr. Arthur E. Thomas Collection in ArchivesSpace with an item-level description for each U-matic tape digitized in the grant project; creating a collection-level MARC record for the Dr. Arthur E. Thomas Collection for WorldCat and Wright State's local catalog; and writing a follow-up blog post announcing the availability of the digitized "Like It Is" interviews.

Publicity for the grant award has received a positive response. Publicity was initiated by SCA Head, Jane Wildermuth, who contacted the Wright State University Newsroom in May. Toni Vanden Bos communicated with writer Erica Harrah for her Newsroom story titled "[Wright State Received Grant to Digitize Local Program Featuring Prominent Civil Right Figures](#)" posted on May 26. Wright State Archives linked to the story in a FaceBook post and tweeted the link to the story (see below) on May 27. The story gained an even wider audience when the [Dayton Daily News published Erica Harrah's story](#) in the June 30th issue of the Neighbors Southern Region Section. Wright State Archives retweeted the story (see below). In addition, on June 14, Collections

Manager, Lisa Rickey published a blog post titled "[Grant Received to Digitize Local Civil Rights Interview Program Videos](#)" on the SCA Department's *Out of the Box* blog.

Wright State University Libraries thanks OHRAB and the NHPRC for their generous support through the funding of this grant. We are excited for the next phase of the grant project as together we make the "Like It Is" interviews available to the public for study and discussion.

Tweets

 **WrightState Archives** @WrightStArchive · May 27

We are so thrilled to announce that we have received a grant from the Ohio Historic Records Advisory Board to digitize Umatic tapes of the important 1970s civil rights interview program "Like It Is" - learn more via [@WrightStateNews](#) : [webapp2.wright.edu/web1/newsroom/...](#)



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Tweet Analytics

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Impressions **417** Engagements **19** Detail expands **4**

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Your Tweet has earned 417 impressions so far. Switch to a professional account to broaden your reach. [Switch to professional](#)

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[@WrightStArchive](#) grant to digitize and make accessible "Like It Is," the tv program that ran from 1978-1985. Current WSU students & employees - you can read this & more through Access World News! [bit.ly/3bGhwlf](#)



Thursday, June 30, 2022

LOOKING FOR A FURRY FRIEND? CHECK OUT OUR PET OF THE WEEK. D2

MEET OUR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK. D4

NEIGHBORS EASTERN REGION PAGE D1

WSU to digitize TV show featuring civil rights figures

Weekly 'Like It Is' featured prominent leaders.

Thanks to a grant from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, Wright State University Libraries special collections and Archives will take on the task of digitizing 71 cassette videocassettes of the weekly interview program "Like It Is." The program was produced from 1978 to 1985 by Arthur E. Thomas, Ed.D., president emeritus of Central State University. It featured firsthand accounts and opinions of leaders known for their civil rights work, including those who later served as Ohio's lieutenant governor (2012) in addition to government officials. The program also interviewed...

Arthur E. Thomas interviews Maj. Gen. Fred C. Sheffey on "Like It Is" in May 1979.

clean and digitize the 71 cassettes to an unencrypted archival digital format," she said. "We're digitizing the entire...

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Facebook post

 **Wright State University Libraries Special Collections & Archives**
May 27 · 🌐

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