MAC
midwest archives conference
a n n u a l   m e e t i n g

"Find It Here!"

The 2026 MAC/SOA Annual Meeting

Columbus, Ohio

May 14–16, 2026

Ohio State University Marching Band member holding a state of Ohio flag, 2008

MAC midwest archives conference
a n n u a l   m e e t i n g

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Please swing by the Vendor Fair to visit with MAC's and SOA's many vendors.
A full list of vendors can be found in the Sched app.

SPONSORS

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SCENE SAVERS

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University Products, Inc.

WELCOME

Welcome to Columbus, Ohio, host city of the joint MAC/SOA 2026 Annual Meeting. The conference will be held at the Ohio Union on the campus of The Ohio State University, May 14–16, 2026. The conference theme this year is "Find It Here!"

People sometimes refer to Ohio as "The Heart of It All"—and yes, the state is vaguely heart-shaped—but from 2015 until 2023, the state's tourism slogan was "Find It Here." As a tourism slogan, it raised the obvious question "find what here?"; but as an archives motto . . . well, to "Find It Here" is an archivist's greatest hope for anyone exploring their collections. What might you find in Columbus? First, find opportunities to connect or reconnect with your MAC and SOA colleagues. Find a wide range of activities to enrich your meeting experience. The Local Arrangements Committee is excited to provide a series of tours both on and off campus. Finally, come to Columbus to find information and insights on a wide range of topics central to all archivists. Regardless of what you are looking for at the Annual Meeting—we hope you Find It Here!

NOTE: The conference sessions will be held at the Ohio Union. The conference hotel is the Blackwell Inn.

REGISTRATION

Note: All registration is for in-person attendance, there is no virtual option for this conference.

Advance registration rates
(register on or by April 14, 2026):

$200 for MAC/SOA members

$250 for nonmembers

$50 for students

Rates for registration after April 14, 2026:

$235 for MAC/SOA members

$285 for nonmembers

$50 for students

Rate for one-day registration:

$125 for MAC/SOA members

$150 for nonmembers

Reception guest registration:

$5 for a child (under age 18 guest attendee)

$50 for an adult attendee

TO REGISTER

Find the meeting registration form online at NEEDS URL. Register by submitting the online registration form or by printing the form and mailing it with a check made payable to "Midwest Archives Conference" to Midwest Archives Conference 2455 E. Sunrise Boulevard, Suite 816, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

The registration desk at the Ohio Union will be open on Thursday May 14 and Friday May 15 from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm; and on Saturday, April 12 from 7:30 am to 12:00 pm.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

If, for any reason, you must cancel your registration for the Annual Meeting or the MAC workshops, your written request must be received on or before Thursday, April 16, 2026, to receive a full refund. Please make requests to Celeste Isacco with AMC Source at celeste@amcsource.com. No refunds will be issued after Thursday, April 16, 2026. Refunds will be granted for tours or MAC workshops that are canceled by MAC due to low enrollment or for other reasons.

Note: Cancellation of the DAS workshop must be done directly through the Society of American Archivists, following their guidelines for cancellations and refunds.

CODE OF CONDUCT

MAC and SOA are strongly committed to providing an environment of cooperation and collaboration. These values are central to our mission. Similarly, we aim to provide an environment of mutual respect in all physical and online spaces, including events, committee work, social media, forums, and other activities, where all participants may learn, network, and enjoy the company of colleagues. All participants and attendees at the Annual Meeting are expected to abide by the MAC Code of Conduct. Neither MAC nor SOA tolerate harassment in any form and are committed to providing a harassment-free environment for their members and others who participate in our events. Information on how to report violations is available on the MAC website; if there is an emergency, please call 911.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to participate in the Annual Meeting. If you have special needs, please contact Celeste Isacco with AMC Source at celeste@amcsource.com. Please inform the Blackwell Inn of any special needs when making your reservation.

VENDOR FAIR AND BREAKS

Discover the newest and best archival supplies, services, and educational opportunities while you meet providers and talk to colleagues during the Vendor Fair on Thursday from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm and Friday from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Fuel your conversation with refreshments while you visit the displays.

MAC PALS

Enhance your conference experience by joining the MAC Pals program! If you're a first-time attendee or a new MAC member, you'll be paired with an experienced MAC member who will offer guidance about the meeting, introduce you to MAC and its members, and help you feel at home within the MAC community. For experienced members, becoming a MAC Pal is a rewarding opportunity to connect with newcomers, share your insights, and help others navigate MAC. Don't miss out—sign up by Thursday April 16, 2026, on the registration form. For more details, contact Rebecca Wells, the MAC Pals Coordinator, at macpalsprogram@gmail.com.

SCHED.ORG

The conference schedule is also available online at Sched. org and through the Sched app. The most recent conference information will be available through Sched.org. Visit https://macsoa2026columbus.sched.com to start planning your MAC/SOA 2026 experience.

FAMILY CAREGIVING GENERAL INFORMATION

MAC and SOA seek to create a conference environment that is welcoming to all members. This includes those with caregiving responsibilities. MAC and SOA want members to know that they are welcome to bring children to Annual Meeting events including meeting sessions, receptions, tours, attractions, and breaks. Parents who are breastfeeding are welcome to do so anywhere and at any time during the conference. We will provide designated lactation spaces as well (check with the registration desk for the location). If you require any assistance or accommodations while at the Annual Meeting, please contact Celeste Isacco at celeste@amcsource.com to discuss your needs. If you self-identify as requiring assistance or accommodations when submitting a session proposal, we will contact you. This is an area in which we are trying to constantly improve. Please reach out to MAC vice president Rosalie Gartner (vp@midwestarchives.org) with any comments, questions, or suggestions about creating a more welcoming environment for all.

CHILD CARE

Please see the Local Arrangements Blog for recommendations, https://macsoa2026.blog.

LATEST INFORMATION

Website: https://www.midwestarchives.org/2026-annual-meeting

• Local Arrangements Blog: https://macsoa2026.blog

• Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/midwestarchives

• Instagram: @midwestarchivesconference

• Sched: https://macsoa2026columbus.sched.com

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Blackwell Inn
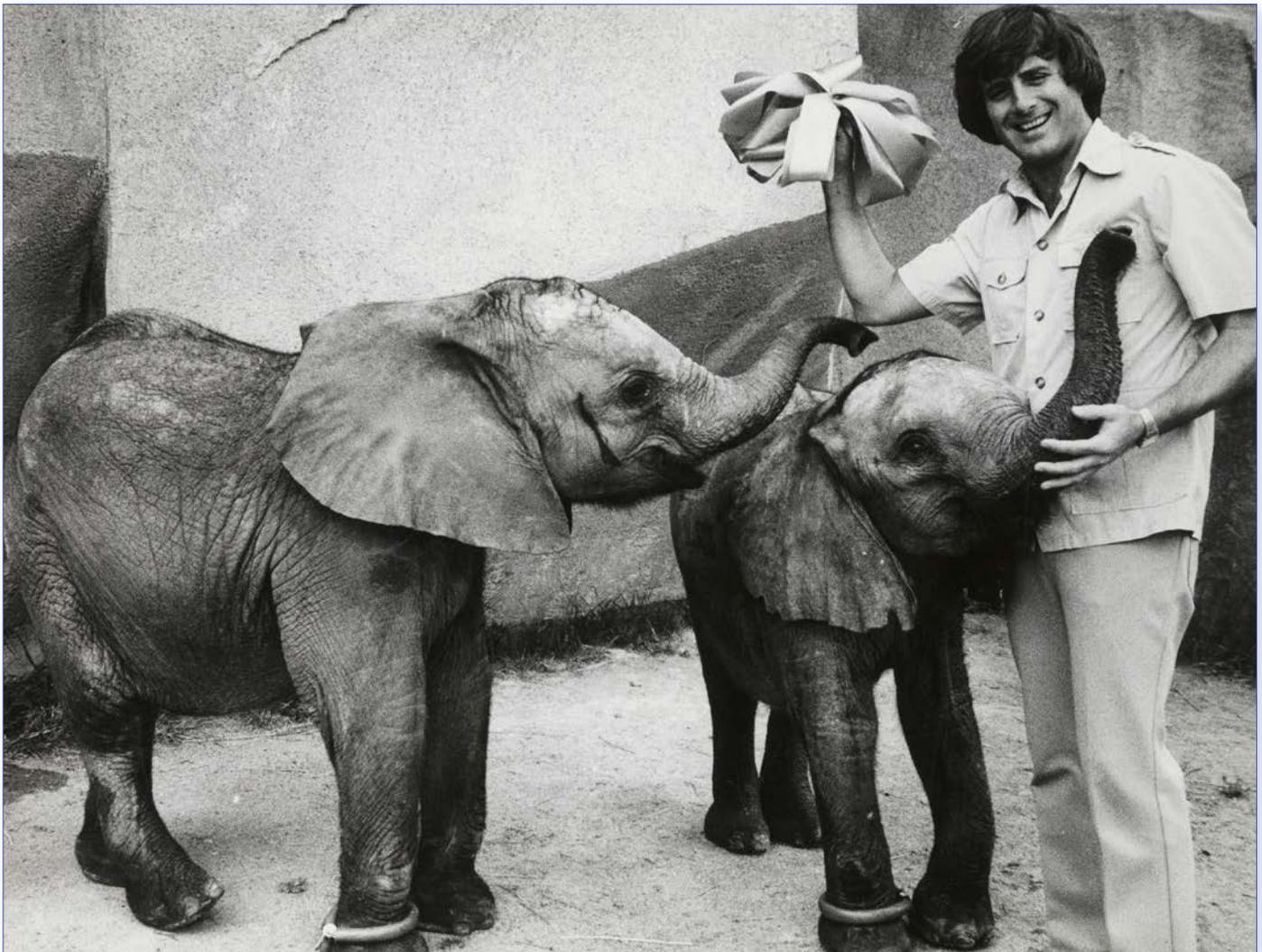2110 Tuttle Park Place
Columbus, OH 43210
614-247-4000

The conference hotel is the Blackwell Inn which sits at the heart of The Ohio State University campus. Hotel amenities include accessible rooms, a fitness center, and all-day dining on site. The MAC/SOA room rate is $175 per night, plus local taxes. To receive the special MAC/SOA rate, reservations must be made on or before 5:00 pm EST, April 13, 2026. Use the online reservation link at https://go.osu.edu/mac-soa-hotel-reservation.

To reserve by phone, call the Blackwell Inn at (614) 247-4000.

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Transportation will be available between the Blackwell Hotel and the Ohio Union at the beginning and end of each day. More information will be available on the Annual Meeting Blog. In addition, there are several ways of getting around town for attendees without vehicles.
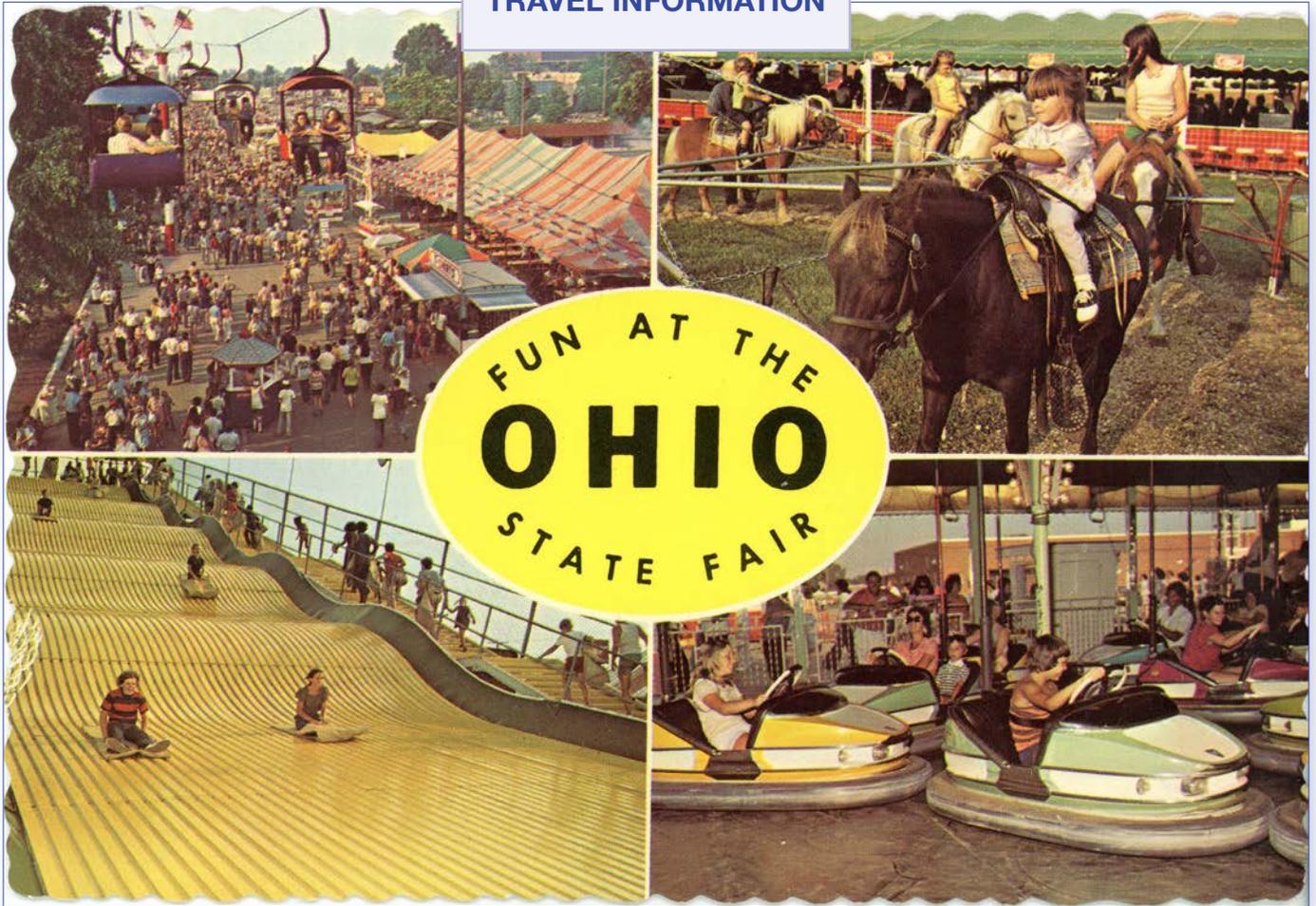
- COTA (Central Ohio Transit Authority) offers bus services around Columbus. Please visit the website to explore transit and route options.
- Rideshares are available through national and local companies
- Lyft, Uber, MyWeels.
- Scooter/bike rentals are both available in Columbus. Visit Lime or Veo websites for more information on rental options.

Zookeeper and wildlife conservation advocate Jack Hanna stands with two orphaned elephants given to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in 1983.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

The Ohio State Fair is one of the largest state fairs in the country with over 2 million in attendance annually.

BY AIR

John Glenn International Airport's website includes information on airlines, transportation to and from the airport, accessibility information, etc. CMH Airport is 8 miles from the Ohio State campus. Transportation from the airport:

There is no conference hotel shuttle to and from the airport.

- Rideshares and Taxi drop off/pick-up from the airport at a designated location. Follow the Rideshare/Taxi transportation signs to meet with your driver. It takes approximately 15 minutes to drive to the hotel from the airport.

BY BUS

- Greyhound and Flixbus provide service.

BY CAR

- Ohio Union (Google Maps link to the Ohio Union)
- Blackwell Inn (Google Maps link to the Blackwell Inn)

Parking

Blackwell Hotel Parking: Garage located by the hotel

- Self parking: $19.25 daily max
- On-site valet parking: $35.00 overnight with in/out privileges

Ohio Union Parking: Garage located next to the Union

- Self parking: $19.25 daily max (hourly rate applies)
- City and private parking: Explore other nearby parking ramps on Google Maps.

SPECIAL EVENTS

THURSDAY, May 14
12:00 PM–1:00 PM

MAC Pals Midday Meet and Greet
Ohio Union, Lower Level Lounge

MAC Pals, come join us for the MAC Pals Midday Meet and Greet! This special event provides a relaxed opportunity for you to connect with your Pal(s) before the meeting kicks off to share valuable tips for making the most of the conference and your MAC membership. It's a great chance to socialize, make plans, and strengthen your connections with fellow members. Register by Thursday April 16, 2026, on the registration form to attend the MAC Pals Midday Meet and Greet and enjoy some light lunchtime snacks and drinks with your Pals. For questions, contact Rebecca Wells, the MAC Pals Coordinator, at macpalsprogram@gmail.com.

THURSDAY, May 14
11:30 AM–12:30 PM

Society of Ohio Archivist Meet-Up
Ohio Union, Third Floor Lounge

Meet and greet your fellow SOA members before the conference starts. See who's in town or meet new friends before heading off to lunch, on your own or with a group. For more details, see https://ohioarchivists.org/meetup-annual-meeting-2026.

THURSDAY, May 14
6:00 PM–8:00 PM

Opening Reception
Blackwell Inn, Grand Ballroom

Come join in an opportunity to relax and gather with your fellow attendees. Light snacks and refreshments will be served, and a cash bar will be available. Guests and children are invited to attend with an extra fee required to cover food and drink costs.

SPECIAL EVENTS

FRIDAY, MAY 15
X:XX AM–X:XX PM
SOA SILENT AUCTION
XXXXX,
PERFORMANCE HALL

SOA Silent Auction

SOA offers five scholarships, two to current students, two to recent graduates, and an identity-based scholarship using funds from our silent auction. This year's scholarships consist of full registration to the MAC-SOA Annual Meeting, a per diem for lunch costs, hotel accommodations, a one-year SOA membership, and a $100 travel stipend. The funds raised from the silent auction are critical to SOA's support of students and professionals. This year SOA is putting together a fun group of items. You will be able to bid on the silent auction items **in person on Friday in the Performance Hall,** with winners selected at 3:00 pm.

FRIDAY, May 15
9:30 AM–3:30 PM

Poster Sessions

Poster sessions offer attendees the chance to see projects and research conducted by colleagues, from students to new archivists to career veterans. Poster presenters will be available to discuss their research. Check Sched for updated break times.

FRIDAY, May 15
3:30 PM–5:00 PM

MAC Members' Meeting

The Members' Meeting is open to all MAC members. Here you will learn about new MAC developments and activities, as well as recognize your MAC peers who are being presented with awards. President Michelle Sweetser will present the State of MAC address and inform attendees about upcoming MAC meetings and events.

FRIDAY, May 15
6:00 PM

Restaurant Tours

The Local Arrangements Committee will host several restaurant tours at some of our favorite restaurants around town. Sign-up sheets will be posted near the registration area Wednesday–Friday with details about each restaurant.

TOURS

Tours will be held May 14. All tours begin at 10:00 am, except the tour of the Wexner Center vault, which begins at 10:30 am. You are responsible for your own transportation to the tours.

THURSDAY, May 14
10:30 AM

Wexner Center for the Arts Vault Tour
Location: 1871 North High Street; Columbus, OH 43210

Cost: Free

Capacity: 12 people

Tour Details: Despite its status as a noncollecting institution since it opened in 1989, the Wexner Center for the Arts holds a collection of over 6,000 objects in its vault, ranging from 8th-century Chinese scrolls to 20th-century contemporary art. Join us to explore the history of the Wex's permanent collection: how it came to be here, how we steward it, and our plans to increase access to these unique materials. To learn more, visit https://wexarts.org.

THURSDAY, May 14
10:00 AM

Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum
Location: Sullivant Hall, 1813 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43210

Cost: Free

Capacity: 15 people

Tour Details: Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum houses the world's largest collection of cartoon and comics art and archives. See behind the scenes of its premiere collection featuring works by artists such as Bill Watterson, Walt Kelly, Winsor McCay, and many other legendary cartoonists. To learn more, visit https://cartoons.osu.edu.

Children listen to the sounds of the pachycephalosaurus at a traveling exhibit about dinosaurs at COSI, 1988.

TOURS

THURSDAY, May 14
10:00 AM

Thompson Library at The Ohio State University
Location: 1858 Neil Avenue Mall, Columbus, OH 43210

Cost: Free

Capacity: 20 people

Tour Details: Thompson or Main Library was built in 1913 as the first stand-alone library building on campus. It was renovated in 2009, combining the old with the new. The tour will also showcase the current exhibit from the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center Archival Program, *Polar Expressions: Finding Beauty in the Coldest Regions on Earth.*

THURSDAY, May 14
10:00 AM

Local History & Genealogy, Columbus Metropolitan Library
Location: Main Library, 96 S. Grant Ave. Columbus, OH 43215

Cost: Free

Capacity: 30 people

Tour Details: Visit Columbus's Main Library for two tours in one! Staff will lead a tour of the Local History & Genealogy Division, including the digitization lab, and a behind-the-scenes archives and newspaper room tour. For more information about Local History & Genealogy, please visit our webpage.

THURSDAY, May 14
10:00 AM

Nationwide History & Archives Center
Location: One Nationwide Plaza, Columbus, OH 43215

Cost: Free

Capacity: 40 people

Tour Details: Nationwide, the Fortune 100 insurance and financial services company, celebrates 100 years in 2026. This tour will provide a behind-the-scenes view of the Nationwide History & Archives Center and show ways Nationwide has integrated its heritage and its centennial into the associate experience throughout the headquarters.

WEDNESDAY, May 13
9:00 AM–5:00 PM

SAA DAS Workshop: Email Archiving: Strategies, Tools, Techniques

Cost: You must register through SAA to attend this workshop: https://mysaa.archivists.org/nc__event?id=a0IUV000005gVgUYAU. A $25 discount off the non-SAA member rate is available for all MAC members (who are not SAA members) who register using the required code.

Location: Thompson Library, Room 150
(1858 Neil Avenue Mall Columbus, OH 43210)

Enrollment: 35

Email is a chronicle of our time; its use is endemic in both organizations and in people's personal lives. Confidential and convenient, it provides critical insight into the lives and decisions of institutions and individuals alike.

To enable future scholarship and research, libraries and archives must capture, preserve, and provide access to the evidence that email holds. Yet email's complexity has prevented many archives from approaching this work in a systematic way. Email is a complicated interaction of technical subsystems for composition, transport, viewing, and storage. Archivists and information managers must build trust with email creators who will be transferring their potentially sensitive accounts, capture collections from many locations, process the multitude of email records, meet privacy and legal considerations, preserve messages and attachments, and facilitate access. This one-day course is aimed at helping participants develop a programmatic means to understand, acquire, preserve, and provide access to born-digital correspondence.

Upon completion of this course, you'll be able to

- Describe the unique properties of email and demonstrate knowledge of the effects those unique properties have on email preservation and access.
- Identify and respond to challenges (legal, technical, and staffing) associated with programs to acquire, preserve, and provide access to email records.
- Become familiar with email processing tools through demonstrations and an overview of commonly used tools in the field, with a focus on their use in classifying, arranging, and describing email collections.
- Develop an email processing workflow for potential implementation in your own repository.
- Consider potential description and access practices for email in your institution.

Who Should Attend?

Repository managers, records managers, archivists, practitioners, and anyone responsible for the arrangement, description, and/or preservation of digital records. You should have basic knowledge concerning digital preservation strategies. This course builds on others in the Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) curriculum, such as Basics of Managing Digital Records.

What You Should Already Know

No prior experience necessary.

Instructors: Jessika Drmacich, Records Manager/Digital Resources Archivist, Williams College
Ruby Martinez, Digital Preservation Assistant, Penn State University

THURSDAY, May 14
8:00 AM–12:00 PM

Working Simply with Integrity: Practical Digital Preservation for Small Teams and Solo Archivists
Cost: $50

Location: Ohio Union (1739 N. High Street Columbus, OH 43210)

Enrollment: 20

This digital preservation workshop will focus on developing a practical digital preservation strategy and workflow for those working without much external support. We will go through how to overcome some of the organizational challenges around digital preservation, discuss prioritization and workflow development, and run through an example workflow using free and accessible software. You will walk away with hands-on experience using these tools, as well as the knowledge to help actuate your digital preservation program. Together, we will lose the fear of the command line, protect the integrity of our files, and build a stronger digital preservation practice!

Who Should Attend?
Anyone interested in learning how to develop practical digital preservation strategies and workflows without much external support, especially solo archivists and practitioners from smaller institutions

What should you know already?
No prior experience is necessary, but you will need to bring your own laptops to the workshop to actively participate.

Instructor: Alyssa Pierce, Digital Preservation Librarian, Case Western Reserve University

THURSDAY, May 14
8:00 AM–12:00 PM

Preserving the Unusual: Caring for Artifacts in Archives
Cost: $50

Location: Ohio Union (1739 N. High Street Columbus, OH 43210)

Enrollment: 20

Archives often hold more than documents—they safeguard the tangible symbols of history and achievement: awards, pennants, caps, textiles, and other unique objects that tell stories beyond the written word. These items present distinct preservation challenges because of their varied materials, construction, and susceptibility to environmental factors. This hands-on workshop will teach preventive care measures including how to best handle, stabilize and select best storage solutions for a variety of artifacts commonly found in archival collections. We will discuss affordable storage solutions, put some of them to practice, and perform minimal intervention treatments such as cleaning and basic paper repair techniques. In addition, the workshop will address the importance of documenting condition issues and treatment decisions and their outcome through written and photographic documentation to ensure continuity in care. Whether you are new to artifact care or seeking to refine your approach, this session will equip you with practical tools to protect these irreplaceable pieces of history. The instructor will provide different types of artifacts for demonstration, but you are also welcome to bring personally owned objects or those from your collection.

Who Should Attend?
Anyone interested in learning more about preventive care measures, storage solutions, and intervention treatments for artifacts commonly found in archival collections

What should you know already?
No prior knowledge or experience needed

Instructors: Marcela Estevez, Associate Director of Conservation and Collections Care, The Ohio State University

High Street arches aglow, ca. 1910-1920

THURSDAY, May 14
1:30 PM–3:00 PM

"A Nation without Archives Is like Eyes without Sight"
"Ummad aan dhigaal lahayni, waa dhaayo aan arag lahayn."
—Abdi M. Roble, photographer, archivist, friend

Abdi Roble's comparison is worth discussion. While no simile is perfect for comparison, is it implying that "sight" is "insight"? Can we compile and not really understand? Then what is a historian? An archivist? A genealogist? Are they different from a chronicler? A storyteller? A wise elder? The "boys around the cracker barrel"? And how does the user, the consumer, the library patron view this smorgasbord of interpretation, now "enhanced" by AI?

In this plenary, presented by Doreen Uhas-Sauer, we examine the joys and mysteries of archiving, how our work creates informed discussion, and how our work can be used in surprising ways. Uhas-Sauer also covers what goes into her "Place Based" interpretations and provides a sampling of her work with a brief exploration of the surrounding University District.

Doreen Uhas-Sauer is a retired Columbus City Schools veteran classroom teacher of 40 years and former Ohio Teacher of the Year. She currently works with the Columbus Metropolitan Library doing research and scripts for Columbus neighborhood walking tours. Over the years, Uhas-Sauer has received awards in education, historic preservation, and civic engagement; coauthored several books; worked with local teachers in Eastern Europe, cosharing the importance of nineteenth-century local history archives for interpreting twentieth-century issues; and worked with WOSU Columbus Neighborhoods.

She currently serves on the boards of the State of Ohio Historic Preservation, Green Lawn Cemetery, the Rickenbacker/Woods Foundation, the Ohio National Road Association, the University District Organization, the Ohio America 250 Committee for Untold Stories, and several other charitable nonprofits—all of which provide opportunities to examine undertold stories, creating based-in-place documentable interpretation.

In 2025, Uhas-Sauer was recognized for her lifetime involvement with humanities by the Ohio Humanities Council and for her work with the University Area Commission by Columbus mayor Ginther. Her story was featured in the Columbus Dispatch as "The City's History Teacher." She currently has several projects underway, working on a historic and rare map book of Columbus with coauthor Tom Betti; helping students at the Rickenbacker/Woods Foundation to document the true history of Columbus-born inventor Granville T. Woods and to use obituaries and historical context to create vignettes about housing advocates for online posts for Columbus's Social Justice Park. She is also guiding students to use archives and landmarks to "rebrand" the too-often unknown or mythological tales of Columbus's University District.

Speaker: Doreen Uhas-Sauer
                  Author, local historian, and retired educator

FRIDAY FORUMS

Please join one of our Friday Forums. Coordinated by the MAC Education Committee, these facilitator-led sessions are informal and interactive, so come prepared with questions and to share your thoughts!

FRIDAY, May 15
1:00 PM–1:45 PM

Networking for Digital Archivists

Do you have digital records in your collections? Are you hoping to start a digital preservation program? Are you looking for some practical advice on how to handle your digital records? Do you have a lot of questions and don't know where to begin? Come to this forum to join others in a networking session. This will be a casual gathering where you can share challenges and successes, exchange tips and procedures, ask questions, and generate inspiration to take back to your shop.

Facilitators: Larissa Krayer, Digital Archivist, University of Nebraska Medical Center
Brandon Pieczko, Digital and Special Collections Librarian, Indiana University School of Medicine

FRIDAY, May 15
1:00 PM–1:45 PM

Networking for Those with Records Management Responsibilities

Are you ever asked about retention schedules or how long to keep records? Are you responsible for any aspect of records management in your organization? Is storage (physical or virtual) becoming an issue? Do you want to help mitigate storage costs, data breaches, and other records-related legal and compliance risks? Join Ohio State University's records managers for a casual discussion and exchange of ideas around your records management experiences and challenges. Your questions and topics will guide the discussion.

Facilitators: Beth Crowner, Records Management Coordinator, The Ohio State University
Pari Swift, University Records Manager, The Ohio State University

FRIDAY, May 15
1:00 PM–1:45 PM

Volunteering with MAC

Want to learn about how to get more involved with MAC but unsure of what volunteer opportunities are available and how to get started? Come to this forum led by members of MAC leadership to learn more about volunteering with MAC.

Facilitators: Rosalie Gartner, Lead Processing Archivist, Iowa State University (MAC Vice President)

THURSDAY, May 14
3:30 PM–5:00 PM
#S101

Find It Here! Ohio LGBTQ+ Archival Perspectives and Projects

As a continuation of SOA's "Crucial Conversations" series, this presentation focuses on community archives projects in LGBTQ+ communities across Ohio for the SOA track. To raise awareness about community archives and LGBTQ+ collections in Ohio, the session will be moderated by a Justice, Equity, Diversity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (JEDAI) committee member, with questions focusing on issues in community archives and the importance of preserving history of underrepresented groups. The panel will feature representatives from the Akron LGBTQ+ Archives and the Ohio Lesbian Archives to talk about how they built their community archives, how they function, and how they receive support. Representatives from the University of Toledo will speak about the LGBTQ+ collections they hold, how connections were made with the donors, and what work is being done (digitization, etc.) to bring awareness of these collection resources to the broader public. Time will be allotted at the end of the presentations for questions and suggestions from the audience. Along with chronicling LGBTQ+ archival collections in Ohio, this presentation will view the issue of community archiving from several different standpoints, allowing you the opportunity to learn not only about the process of starting and maintaining a community archive, but also the ongoing struggles of such programs and what forms of support are needed for their success.

Speakers: Hannah Kemp-Severence, University of Akron (Session Chair)
Sara Mouch, University of Toledo
Nancy Yerian, Ohio Lesbian Archives

Session Type: Standard Presentation (90 minutes)

THURSDAY, May 14
3:30 PM–5:00 PM
#S101

Finding Our Way with AI: Practical Tools for Archival Access and Discovery

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly transforming archival work—from description and discovery to access and outreach. This interactive roundtable brings together archivists from diverse institutions to share how they are experimenting with AI tools in their daily practice, especially in settings with limited technical support. Each speaker will offer a brief presentation on their institution's use of AI, followed by a facilitated discussion with the audience about the opportunities, challenges, and ethical considerations that come with integrating AI into archival workflows.

Larissa Krayer (University of Nebraska Medical Center) will discuss using generative AI to generate alt text and metadata for accessibility. Estée O'Connor (Racine Dominican Archive) will share how AI transcription tools have revolutionized oral history workflows for a solo archivist managing a large and complex repository. Meghan Courtney (Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan) will reflect on student use of chatbots in archival discovery and the implications for archival pedagogy. Pete Brink (Creighton University Libraries) will explore AI-assisted description of handwritten correspondence and the development of a university history chatbot, framed within Jesuit ethical inquiry.

Following the main discussion, you will be invited to participate in small, moderated breakout groups to share your own experiences, questions, and concerns in a more focused setting. These collaborative conversations will be structured around key themes—such as ethics, accessibility, and resource limitations—to foster a practical dialogue on implementation. The session aims to encourage you, regardless of your institution's size or resources, to responsibly and creatively engage with AI and leave with actionable strategies for your own settings.

Speakers: Larissa Krayer, University of Nebraska Medical Center (Session Chair)
Pete Brink, Creighton University
Meghan Courtney, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan
Estée O'Connor, Racine Dominican Archive

Session Type: Roundtable Discussion (90 minutes)

THURSDAY, May 14
3:30 PM–5:00 PM
#S101

Cultivating Connections: Sustainable Support for Archival Futures

As funding becomes increasingly competitive and unpredictable, archives and institutions are finding ways to build sustainable financial foundations for long-term sustainability. This session will bring together archivists and institutional representatives who have launched or are currently undertaking fund-raising, "friend-raising," and/or capital campaigns to endow their archives. Panelists will share practical approaches for engaging donors, building compelling cases for support with donors and administration, and cultivating lasting relationships that secure the future of their collections.

The session will feature a range of archival institutions from large public research universities to small cultural heritage organizations, each navigating distinct challenges and opportunities in fund-raising. Some operate within well-established university advancement structures, while others work independently or without ownership of their physical spaces, requiring inventive solutions to sustain operations and build donor confidence. Together, they reflect the variety of archival contexts across the region and the adaptability required to secure lasting support.

Building endowments and cultivating donor-based funding models are becoming vital to preserving collections and ensuring continued access to archives. Participants will gain practical ideas and inspiration to enhance and sustain fundraising initiatives within their own organizations.

Speakers:	Kristina Warner, Norwegian-American Historical Association (Session Chair)
	Neal Harmeyer, Purdue University
	Dina Kellams, Indiana University
	Alexis Braun Marks, Eastern Michigan University
	Pete Rhoda, Indiana University
Session Type:	Standard Presentation (90 minutes)

Columbus skyline at night along the Scioto River, ca. 1985.

THURSDAY, May 14
3:30 PM–5:00 PM
#S101

Beyond the Classroom: Expanding Special Collections Instruction to Meet Learners' Needs

The definition of "student" has evolved dramatically, and our instruction must evolve as well. While in-person instructional sessions and primary source workshops are still essential, they serve only those students who can physically access our materials. This session explores how the Browne Popular Culture Library (BPCL) has expanded its archival instructional model to reach distance learners, online faculty, and local high school students.

The BPCL has developed a multipronged approach to instruction that supplements, rather than replaces, traditional information literacy and primary source literacy instruction. For a recent online course teaching Black popular culture, we have worked with faculty to enhance their reading assignments from our collections and have made digitized materials accessible in ethical ways that match their course learning outcomes each week. This includes developing guidelines for classroom use and dissemination of copyrighted materials.

Additionally, BPCL has participated in providing "reverse field trips" for multiple popular culture social studies classes at a nearby high school. We teach comics history, share rare artifacts, and discuss the unique art styles and cultural significance of sequential art. Some of these students have later visited us in the BPCL as Bowling Green State University (BGSU) students, demonstrating alignment not only with their social studies Common Core initiatives, but also BGSU's recruitment and enrollment efforts.

This expanded instructional model addresses three critical goals: equity of access, pedagogical flexibility, and community engagement. By meeting students where they are geographically, technologically, and developmentally, we ensure that more than only traditional students can benefit from special collections instruction. This session will present our case studies, discuss logistical and pedagogical challenges, and offer adaptable strategies for archives and special collections seeking to broaden their instructional reach across institutional contexts.

Speakers: Stefanie Hunker, Bowling Green State University (Session Chair)
Sasha Kim, Bowling Green State University

Session Type: Standard Presentation (60 minutes)

Brownie Girl Scout troop at Camp Delamingo, 1975.

FRIDAY, May 15
8:30 AM–9:30 AM
#S201

Getting Started on a Shoestring: Digitization on a Dime

Digitization is one of the most requested, most expensive, and most influential programs in an archives' public service model. Archivists often find themselves juggling donor and patron expectations, ever-shrinking budgets, and our own obligation to advocate for the highest availability of our materials.

Like many institutions, Northern Kentucky University faces increasing demands for digitization of archival materials and simultaneously shrinking budgets. In this session, NKU's former head of Special Collections and University Archives and current librarian for Archives draws on their experience forming a digitization initiative with cost-efficiency and a lens for the ease of patron experience. Regardless of the size and style of your archives, you will leave the session with practical solutions for creating a digitization program with the needs of both your users and units in mind.

Topics discussed will include evaluating and utilizing equipment (new and outdated) storage and software suggestions, digitization workflows that work for you, and our efforts to automate a process that is simultaneously deeply critical and time-intensive.

Speakers: Gideon McDaniel, Dayton Metro Library (Session Chair)
                    Michael Providenti, Northern Kentucky University

Session Type: Standard Presentation (60 minutes)

FRIDAY, May 15
8:30 AM–9:30 AM
#S202

Say My Name: Identifying the African Americans Enslaved at White Hall

This project started with a basic idea—identify, recognize and honor the names and lives of the African American individuals and families whose work contributed to the growth and maintenance of White Hall and Madison County, Kentucky. Owned by Green Clay, the largest slaveholder in the state during his lifetime, and later by his son Cassius, known as the state's greatest champion of emancipation, White Hall is a historic site today owned and operated by Eastern Kentucky University (EKU). By engaging students, faculty, and staff from departments across EKU and partnering with the local African American community, hundreds of relevant Clay family documents were transcribed, edited, and analyzed to identify enslaved individuals. The role of the archives in this project was to instruct and guide over 300 students in transcribing historical documents and to create the online database. In addition to instruction and outreach, presenters will discuss how digital tools and platforms can be used to build accessible public history resources. This work exhibits how archives can serve as a hub connecting academic programs with public history, community engagement, and digital scholarship. These partnerships expanded the archives' reach and established it as a space for co-creation, preservation, and dialogue, rather than just for information access.

Speakers: Debbie Whalen, Eastern Kentucky University (Session Chair)
                    Jackie Couture, Eastern Kentucky University

Session Type: Standard Presentation (60 minutes)

FRIDAY, May 15
8:30 AM–9:30 AM
#S203

Finding It: The Elusive Gap between Accessioning and Stacks Management

You know that box is here, somewhere. You saw it when you were looking for a *different* collection years ago. You just can't . . . find it. What you did find was a handful of unprocessed accessions and a section of your stacks space packed way beyond conservation standards. These situations are not all that uncommon throughout archival institutions. Many are constantly grappling with space constraints, dated accessioning practices, and the never-ending flow of incoming materials. Good management of space is key not only to collection storage, but in the accessioning of new, unprocessed materials. Best practices in accessioning workflows and records also go hand-in-hand with the physical management of the materials and can shape how an accessioning program operates. How do archivists or processing professionals address all three of these pinch points in a meaningful way, what/where are the gaps in the management of space? How do we end the continuous cycle of space crunches and accessioning backlogs?

This session will reflect and highlight how intellectual and physical control was regained through inventory work and led to new accessioning workflows. The University of Iowa, with remnants of a choose-your-own-adventure style of management, has a never-ending, forever-changing space management project to address a list of issues. At Iowa State University, a stack read to better understand the processing and accessioning backlog led to changes regarding retrospective accessioning legacy materials. And at the American Library Association Archives, how did a 580-plus box accession go awry during the pandemic, and what was its resulting impact.

Speakers: Jessica Green, Iowa State University (Session Chair)

Cara Setsu Bertram, American Library Association Archives

Jenna Silver, University of Iowa

Session Type: Standard Presentation (60 minutes)

**FRIDAY, May 15
10:00 AM–11:00 AM
#S301**

In Medias Res: Inheriting Archives as Solo Archival Workers

Nonexistent accession records, the consequences of a "weed nothing" mindset, and a lack of collections policy are not the kinds of things library school really prepares you for. But for many solo archivists and archival workers placed in brand new or undermanaged archives, it is your responsibility to bring order to potentially decades of chaos, ready or not. This presentation aims to be an informative support group; to provide both emotional catharsis and practical recommendations from the case studies of two early-career solo archivists doing the underdiscussed work of inheriting an archival collection with little to no institutional memory or few policies to guide the process.

The presenters of this session both come from small archives, tasked with (re)building the infrastructure of their departments while also handling the reference inquiries and processing activities that keep their archives moving into the future. Presenters will share their experiences and offer their solutions to common problems faced by solo archivists and archival workers in similar situations, including building workflows and collection policies, recovering institutional histories, and taking on work that is beyond your current expertise. Contributions to this session will also be made by the registrar who was assigned to the archives previously, prior to the hiring of the archivist.

Speakers: Jenna Kish, Ohio Genealogical Society (Session Chair)
Autumn Muir, University of Michigan–Dearborn
Hannah Zmuda, University of Michigan–Dearborn

Session Type: Standard Presentation (60 minutes)

The campus Oval, 1948

FRIDAY, May 15
10:00 AM–11:00 AM
#S302

Focusing In on Image Backlogs: Processing Photograph Collections with Efficiency and Care

Based on their forthcoming book chapter in *Navigating Archival Backlogs: Strategies for Success*, Philanthropic Studies Archivist Molly LaPorte and Digital Preservation and Digital Collections Archivist Evan Miller will expand on their work from a processing case study at Indiana University Indianapolis's Ruth Lilly Special Collections & Archives. The Junior Achievement (JA) Records contain approximately 38 cubic feet of unprocessed photographs, and the presenters aimed to develop an efficient processing workflow while respecting depicted individuals. The JA collection is partially processed but highly used, necessitating intervention for the backlog of accruals to expand access.

Striving to balance the minimum processing and preservation concepts of MPLP alongside the careful attention and empathetic touch of a feminist ethics of care, this session will explore both their successes and failures and provide a practical system other archivists and practitioners can use in their own institutions. From preliminary prep work and documentation gathering to digitization selection and reconciliation with born-digital assets, the presenters hope to share their thoughts along with a streamlined workflow for efficiently reviewing stagnant backlogs while keeping people front of mind.

Speakers: Molly LaPorte, Indiana University Indianapolis (Session Chair)
                           Evan N. Miller, Indiana University Indianapolis

Session Type: Standard Presentation (60 minutes)

FRIDAY, May 15
10:00 AM–11:00 AM
#S303

Find It Again: Renovation Planning from All Angles

Renovations are both exciting and terrifying, offering an opportunity to modernize legacy practices, policies, and platforms during a moment of great change. UK Libraries Special Collections Research Center is currently preparing for a building renovation, slated to run from fall 2026 to fall 2028, and two years in interim housing.

This upcoming renovation creates many challenges, chief among them findability. How will our users find us in our interim location? How will we deliver services, including digitization, in-person research access, and instruction, spread out across multiple buildings? How will this construction work impact our current efforts to foster novel outreach? How will we secure and retrofit interim spaces for patron use, collection storage, and staff processing workspace? How might we maintain current acquisition levels and practices? Post-renovation, how will we reassemble our on-site storage? Will we even be able to find all of our collections again? Will people be able to "Find It Here" when "it" and "here" are ephemeral and constantly changing?

Join four archivists working in all aspects of the university's special collections, from manuscripts to print collections and technical services to public services, for a series of four short presentations covering their strategies for the collection move and the continuity of services through the renovation period. The session will offer tips, tricks, and practical workflows for anyone preparing for a renovation at their institution regardless of size.

Speakers:	Megan Mummey, University of Kentucky Libraries (Session Chair)
	Colleen Barrett, University of Kentucky Libraries
	Sarah Coblentz, University of Kentucky Libraries
	Matt Strandmark, University of Kentucky Libraries
Session Type:	Standard Presentation (60 minutes)

FRIDAY, May 15
10:00 AM–11:00 AM
#S304

Advocacy, Activism, and Archiving FOCAS-ed on the Community: A 360 Perspective

Faculty Organizing for Community Archives Support (FOCAS) is a three-year, nine-university collaborative (Mellon) grant concentrating on community-partnership-based archival work. Components of the grant support curricular and pedagogical development, along with archival development and project planning. This session brings together three perspectives of experiences within the first two years of a three-year Dominican University (DU) FOCAS grant: the community partners, the student interns, and the Dominican faculty. These experiences highlight that archival access and discoverability are not only technical goals but also relational practices built on trust and shared purpose.

You will learn about and engage with the realities related to the vulnerability of archiving and cultural heritage work from a community-advocacy/community-partner perspective. The community-partner discussion also will illuminate aspects of power, empowerment, privilege, and purpose. In turn, student interns will discuss how training in community archives work has influenced their understanding of archival ethics, care, and social responsibility. The faculty moderator will facilitate the session and offer nuances of leadership approaches that maximize community and intern engagement.

By utilizing a 360 perspective, the session offers insight into how universities can prepare emerging professionals to engage responsibly with community partners. It argues that to truly "find it here," we must build together and create infrastructures of access, stewardship, and respect that make (community) archives discoverable, usable, and cared for over time.

Speakers:	Anthony W. Dunbar, Dominican University (Session Chair)
	Kaitlyn Griffith, Dominican University
Session Type:	Standard Presentation (60 minutes)

FRIDAY, May 15
11:30 AM–12:30 PM
#S401

Archives: Using Social Media to Engage Communities with Archives and Collections

The Columbus Metropolitan Library is the fourth-most-followed public library in the country, due in part to a dynamic, educational, and at times, "unhinged" social media strategy that promotes library services and collections, while not taking the medium too seriously.

Digital Storyteller Specialist Grayson Kelly will share about the overall social media strategy CML employs, including its roughly 20 percent allocation to education and history content. This includes the library's incredibly popular "Then and Now" weekly series, which annually includes some of the library's top-performing posts. Local History & Genealogy Librarian Grace Freeman will talk about the process to select sites, highlight collection materials and the community, and create content through this historic lens.

Kelly and Freeman will share how they have successfully highlighted library special collections, archives, and digital assets across social media platforms while engaging their community. They will also discuss how their unique areas of expertise allow them to make authentic historic content digestible to followers and to encourage future engagement with collections.

Outreach to those not in our libraries can be hard, but these strategies help bridge the (digital) divide.

Speakers:	Grace Freeman, Columbus Metropolitan Library (Session Chair)
	Grayson Kelly, Columbus Metropolitan Library
Session Type:	Standard Presentation (60 minutes)

Big, Born-Digital Challenges: Practical Workflows for Impractically Large Collections

This session will present practical workflows for processing and preserving new, born-digital collections of challenging proportions from ever-evolving sources to make them meaningfully accessible.

Last year, the University of Kentucky Libraries Special Collections Research Center received the offer of a donation of 4,500+ videos. They arrived in the form of the university's primary institutional YouTube Channel. In addition to addressing a number of appraisal questions, the process of accessioning the video collection gave insights into challenges surrounding cloud migrations of this scale, Google Takeout metadata, and file format remediation.

At the University of Minnesota Libraries Archives and Special Collections, recent challenges included collections with a thousand or more optical disks and accessions of files created and stored in Google Drive. While the former was a familiar media format, the number of disks involved made previous workflows unfeasible. In the case of cloud storage, new complications arose based on file size and the number of creators or file owners involved. Both cases required new approaches and new procedures just to ingest.

Presenters will share their solutions and their problem-solving processes. Although both examples are from large academic institutions, they will present lower-cost tools, free tools, professional collaborations, and the methods and advocacy that allowed this work to be completed affordably in-house without the expense of outsourcing the work to external vendors.

Speakers: Andrew McDonnell, University of Kentucky (Session Chair)
                    Lara Friedman-Shedlov, University of Minnesota

Session Type: Standard Presentation (60 minutes)

The campus Oval, 1948

FRIDAY, May 15
11:30 AM–12:30 PM
#S403

Finding Your Way Through Large Collections: Strategies for Small Institutions

Small institutions often find themselves faced with large collections. This session will explore many of the challenges large collections present and how institutions with limited resources and staffing respond to them. From donor negotiations and physical acquisition, through description and processing to access and use, presenters will share how they've handled large collections and provide practical advice for those faced with their own large collection challenges.

Laurinda Weisse from UNK will talk about two large collections of authors' papers, focusing on donor negotiations and physical acquisition of the collections, as well as touching on ongoing processing and use of them. They will share challenges faced, particularly in navigating complex ownership issues and in physically acquiring international collections.

Benedict Chatelain from Drake will discuss four distinctive large archival collections, including the papers of Senator Tom Harkin, which consist of over 800 linear feet and several terabytes. These collections each present unique challenges in restrictions, acquisition, description, and processing. He will share practical strategies for managing these challenges while promoting collection accessibility and use.

Tyson Koenig from Southeast Missouri State University will present on the history of inventory and processing work done on an extremely large collection of records from a local drainage district, with varying amounts and types of arrangement and description done in the 20 years since the collection's acquisition. He'll discuss his repository's plans for transitioning to a new phase of work with the collection to move toward fuller processing.

Speakers:	Laurinda Weisse, University of Nebraska at Kearny (Session Chair)
	Benedict Chatelain, Drake University
	Tyson Koenig, Southeast Missouri State University
Session Type:	Standard Presentation (60 minutes)

FRIDAY, May 15
11:30 AM–12:30 PM
#S404

Ctrl+Alt+Comply: Practical Steps toward AI Governance

This presentation explores the critical need for responsible AI practices in managing organizational records. Kansas State University, a midsized public institution governed by public records laws, is addressing copyright and intellectual property concerns through a comprehensive AI policy. The policy guides AI tool use across record categories, focusing on minimizing data control loss and ensuring copyright compliance.

Developed collaboratively by librarians, records managers, and professional staff, the policy is designed to be accessible to employees unfamiliar or uncomfortable with AI. By fostering confidence in AI use, the initiative supports ethical integration into daily operations. It also outlines a process for granting exceptions to AI tool restrictions, offering a replicable framework for other institutions.

You will gain insights into
- Creative and collaborative approaches to policy development
- Stretching institutional resources through thoughtful design
- Building a replicable framework for responsible AI use
- Strategies for preserving and accessing records in AI-enhanced environments
- Leadership and people management in emerging technologies

As many organizations struggle to create AI guidelines, this presentation offers practical steps for initiating policy development and building a cohort of informed professionals.

Speakers:	Danielle Hall, Kansas State University (Session Chair)
	Ryan Leimkuehler, Kansas State University
Session Type:	Standard Presentation (60 minutes)

FRIDAY, May 15
2:00 PM–3:00 PM
#S501

"Find It Here!" But Where Is "Here"?

Conducting institution-wide inventories can be a challenging adventure. The size and scope of such a project, the unexpected roadblocks, and the surprising finds are sure to keep things interesting. This session will describe how three institutions tackled these challenges, including lessons learned and tips for anyone interested in embarking on their own journey.

Come hear how staff at Wayne State University systematically inventoried its 75,000-linear-foot collection, dealing with physical challenges, staying flexible, and grappling with legacy recordkeeping practices; how the University of Wisconsin–Madison is surveying over 28,000 linear feet of collections to identify shelf locations, collection size, physical condition, materials types, unaccessioned collections, and undocumented digital materials; and how the University of Minnesota has used a digital inventory to track 350 TB of digital materials across multiple collecting areas for the past 10 years. We are confident these shared processes are scalable to institutions of various sizes and hope to encourage you to dive in and see what you can find in your institution!

Speakers:	Stefanie Caloia, Wayne State University (Session Chair)
	Elizabeth Clemens, Wayne State University
	Carol Kussmann, University of Minnesota
	Mackenzie Ryan, University of Wisconsin–Madison
Session Type:	Standard Presentation (60 Minutes)

FRIDAY, May 15
2:00 PM–3:00 PM
#S502

Lightning Tour: Archival Projects Across Ohio

This series of lightning talks highlights a selection of projects in archives around Ohio. In "Telling Akron's Black History: A Classroom Approach to Archiving," CJ Jacobs from the University of Akron will present on how students worked with archival materials from Akron's Black community to understand the lived experiences of marginalized voices in their city. In "17 TB of Photos?! : Getting Started Processing the Digital Photography of Dan Dry," Laura Smith and Aurora Charlow from Ohio University will talk about their approach to processing a challenging digital collection, which involved making decisions to surmount issues of scope, original order, and copyright. In "Resounding Histories: Podcasting for Archival Outreach," Nick Pavlik from Bowling Green State University will present on the potential for narrative podcasting in archival outreach, reflecting on his experience producing the "Archival Encounters" podcast at Bowling Green State University that highlighted how archivists and subject experts can leverage their potential as storytellers to increase archival engagement.

Speakers: Aurora Charlow, Ohio University (Session Chair)
                   CJ Jacobs, University of Akron
                   Nick Pavlik, Bowling Green State University
                   Laura Smith, Ohio University

Session Type: Lightning Talks (60 minutes)

FRIDAY, May 15
2:00 PM–3:00 PM
#S503

Graceful in Grief: Experiences in Archival Trauma

Three religious archivists share their experiences with grief and trauma in archives. Sarah Aisenbry, Sarah Lubelski, and Michelle Ganz will talk about how their experiences shaped their archival practice and then open the session up for discussion. The panelists will also share a little from their recently published book *A Practical Guidebook to Trauma Informed Archival Practice: Best Practices and Case Studies*.

Speakers: Michelle Ganz, Dominican Sisters of Peace (Session Chair)
                   Sarah Aisenbry, Sisters of the Precious Blood
                   Sarah Lubelski, Women Religious Archives Collaborative

Session Type: Roundtable Discussion (60 minutes)

FRIDAY, May 15
2:00 PM–3:00 PM
#S504

But Can They Actually Find It? Reviewing Our Digitization Program to Meet Our Users' Needs

Digitization is not just preservation; it is access. Digitized records enable institutions to highlight underserved collections, weave connections between disparate curatorial areas, and approach archives through a nonhierarchical, rhizomatic lens. How we accomplish this mission changes rapidly with new technological innovations and new standards. These changes are reflected in the work we produce now, but what about the work we've completed in the past? Over the past five years, Georgia State University's Digital Projects has critically reexamined our existing workflows and the state of digital collections to rework several key aspects of our program to increase archival accessibility. As part of this process, GSU has established new standards, completed extensive structural changes to digital collections, started revising existing metadata, optimized our digitization workflows, and utilized new AI-empowered processes to increase the productivity and searchability of our digital content.

This presentation will highlight key takeaways from our accessibility projects: what worked, what did not, what we wished we did differently and the surprising benefits that emerged as part of this process. We will discuss simple ways to increase scanning productivity, what we learned from our metadata revision process, and our AI-empowered transcription workflow.

Speakers: Rachel Senese Myers, Georgia State University (Session Chair)
Abigail Martin, Georgia State University

Session Type: Standard Presentation (60 minutes)

Stewarding Records of Incarceration: Access, Use, and Challenges in Academic Archives

Many institutions hold collections related to incarcerated people, but stewardship of these materials remains an underexamined part of our responsibilities. Sometimes created by prisoners themselves and sometimes created by government agencies or advocacy groups, materials documenting incarcerated people encompass everything from zines and correspondence to oral histories and government records. In this session, academic archivists consider how access policies for these materials change when incarcerated people are placed at the center of stewardship functions.

Derek Potts will discuss how he helps incarcerated individuals access the Anthony Rayson zine collection, which was created by and for people detained in prisons and jails. Jenny Mitchell and Anu Kasarabada will discuss correspondence with prisoners located in the papers of federal judges, with a particular focus on the tensions between protecting the privacy of incarcerated individuals and enabling access to voices that are often invisible in the public sphere. Gideon Goodrich and Alexis Miettinen will discuss processing and determining access to materials documenting both targeted arrests and the general incarceration of queer folks, particularly gay men, in the Equality Michigan records and James W. Toy papers. Finally, Katie Nash will discuss donor relations and access issues related to the LGBT Books to Prisoners collection, an unprocessed collection that contains extensive correspondence with incarcerated people.

Drawing on their experiences with acquiring, processing, and providing access to the materials, the presenters will discuss the challenges and opportunities involved in managing collections that document incarcerated people, with a particular focus on issues related to access, privacy concerns, and donor relations.

Speakers:	Anu Kasarabada, University of Kentucky (Session Chair)
	Gideon Goodrich, University of Michigan
	Alexis Miettinen, University of Michigan
	Jenny Mitchell, Washington and Lee University
	Katie Nash, University of Wisconsin–Madison
	Derek Potts, DePaul University
Session Type:	Lightning Talks (90 minutes)

**SATURDAY, May 16
8:30 AM–10:00 AM
#S602**

Find It Here and Share It Everywhere: Bringing Diverse Regional Histories to Light in Archives and Beyond

For archivists and other memory workers, the theme "Find It Here" prompts questions about how we ensure that members of typically underrepresented groups can find themselves reflected in the archives and in the stories of the past we share through teaching, exhibits, and other outreach. Through four case studies, this panel explores a range of approaches to preserve and increase access to materials that shed light on diverse regional histories, centering the voices of working-class union activists, Jewish women, LGBTQ+ communities, and tribal nations.

John McKerley will discuss an Iowa oral history project to document the participation of UAW Local 450 in a nationwide strike against John Deere, to make content digitally accessible, and to create a website placing the interviews in a broader historical context. Heather Cooper will present on the "Jewish Life and History in Iowa" LibGuide, which provides topical descriptions of collection materials across repositories and serves as a resource for teaching, research, and a public history initiative aimed at connecting the memory of Anne Frank to Iowa public spaces. Claire Du Laney Dunker will talk about a traveling exhibit drawing on materials from the Queer Omaha Archives to share Nebraska LGBTQ+ history, giving communities the opportunity to learn, engage, and reflect through the exhibit and materials online. Finally, Zeineb Yousif will discuss a partnership with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction and Office of Indian/Multicultural Education to update, republish, and create ebook access to a series of Tribal History and Culture books produced by and about North Dakota tribes from the 1970s onward, increasing access to Indigenous-authored accounts for use in K–12, university, and tribal college classrooms.

Speakers:	Amy C. Schindler, University of Nebraska at Omaha (Session Chair)
	Heather L. Cooper, University of North Dakota
	Claire Du Laney Dunker, University of Nebraska at Omaha
	John McKerley, Iowa Labor History Society
	Zeineb Yousif, University of North Dakota
Session Type:	Standard Presentation (90 minutes)

SATURDAY, May 16
8:30 AM–10:00 AM
#S603

Connecting People through Exhibit Work: Four Case Studies of Physical and Digital Exhibits in Academic Libraries

The histories of our institutions, spaces, collections, and communities come to life through the stories we tell with exhibits. As a tried-and-true way to promote collections, facilitate collection development, and engage users, the best exhibits go far beyond strategic goals and informational value. Exhibits have the power to connect people. As technology changes and our audiences evolve, exhibit strategies and impacts evolve too. This session explores four recent case studies of exhibits, both physical and digital, pop-up and longer term, that support a range of outreach, deep collaboration, and collection development opportunities.

Projects from Ohio State, Iowa State, Illinois State, and Bowling Green State illustrate multiple ways that exhibits can engage. Capitalizing on significant university milestones and special collections, these case studies cover diverse approaches to exhibit formats, multiyear and short-term partnerships, and building sustainable practices. The projects include working across library departments to create digital exhibits; collaborations with faculty, alumni, and university departments on curation and promotion; development and enhancement of related digital and physical collection building; instruction, outreach, and extending the life of exhibits; and aspects of community building around exhibit work that center viewers and provide ample space for them to share their perspectives.

Specifically, panelists will discuss the development of their exhibits; tools and platforms used; collaboration, promotion, and engagement strategies that worked (or didn't); the impact on using and generating collections; and takeaways for you to consider at your institution.

Speakers:	Jaycie Vos, Iowa State University (Session Chair)
	Jolie Braun, The Ohio State University
	Rebecca Fitzsimmons, Illinois State University
	Jennifer Long Morehart, Bowling Green State University
	Olivia Wikle, Iowa State University
Session Type:	Standard Presentation (90 minutes)

SATURDAY, May 16
10:00 AM–11:00 AM
#S701

The Grants Landscape: Where Are We Now?

This session will help you identify grant opportunities, despite the changing landscape of federal funding. Speakers will briefly discuss the current state of affairs with federal grants, then delve into other strategies for funding procurement.

Strategies include resources for finding grants at the state and local levels, and how to appeal to organizations that you may not think give grants for archives but do. Speakers will also discuss the programs and resources they offer, including free grant services from the Lyrasis Grant Coaching Program, as well as other helpful guidance and tips. Additional state-level resources for Midwest institutions will also be shared.

The goal of this session is for you to get the resources you need to confidently pursue grants independently or collectively, with colleagues who can guide you through the grant-getting process.

Speakers:	Katy Klettlinger, Lyrasis (Session Chair)
	Tom Clareson, Lyrasis
	Virginia Dressler, Kent State University
	Andy Verhoff, Ohio History Connection
Session Type:	Standard Presentation (60 minutes)

SATURDAY, May 16
10:00 AM–11:00 AM
#S702

Find It Here Because It Was Managed There: Strategic Records Management Outreach and Engagement

Effective outreach and engagement are essential to a successful records management program. This session presents three case studies that demonstrate practical strategies for connecting with employees and improving records practices across campus.

Hannah Pryor, an archivist and records manager at the University of Louisville, shares her approach to developing a structured outreach plan aimed at improving institutional records management practices. Her initiative demonstrates how progress can be achieved even with limited staffing and resources.

Anne Ryckbost, an archivist at Xavier University, describes her role coordinating evidence for the university's accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission. She shares how archivists and records managers are uniquely positioned to succeed as institutional accreditation team members and how the process serves as a vehicle for records management outreach and engagement. She proposes strategies for university archives collection appraisal and acquisition based on her accreditation experience.

Amanda Rindler, university records manager at Indiana University, was tasked with increasing visibility and awareness of a young records management program. Rindler will detail the development of a records management newsletter targeting records coordinators and partnering with the library communications team to send out messaging promoting online training and office hours. She will share techniques to promote records management awareness among employees.

As a profession, we all have to do more with less. Outreach, collaboration, and maximizing hidden opportunities can be efficient methods to ensure that employees know procedures and follow records disposition.

Speakers:	Hannah Pryor, University of Louisville (Session Chair)
	Amanda Rindler, Indiana University
	Anne Ryckbost, Xavier University
Session Type:	Standard Presentation (60 minutes)

SATURDAY, May 16
10:00 AM–11:00 AM
#S703

Students Taking Center Stage: Sharing a Student-centered Archival Outreach Model

Academic archivists and librarians dedicate significant time, energy, and resources to outreach programming with the goal of encouraging students to visit, donate to, and use campus archives. A*CENSUS II reports that external outreach is a primary job duty for 17 percent of those working in archives. Yet, the literature consistently shows that student awareness of archives is low, which means that students are highly unlikely to engage with archives as researchers or donors. Because college and university students are at a point in their studies when they develop critical thinking skills through more intense research, academic archives are a prime entry point for students to familiarize themselves with the essential evidence of our societies and our cultures. So, what forms of outreach will not only catch the attention of our students, but also promote collaboration and foster a sense of belonging in the archives?

This IMLS-funded study aimed to fill a gap in the literature by developing a data-driven, cost-effective, best-practice model for student-centered outreach in academic archives. To achieve this goal, we conducted a series of focus groups in 2025 that brought together undergraduate and graduate students, academic library and archives practitioners, and faculty from across the country to discuss major themes of outreach, awareness, and engagement and make suggestions for improving existing outreach programming. We gained valuable insight into how students perceive the archives, how they could see themselves engaging as researchers or donors, and how practitioners and faculty members might best encourage meaningful student engagement with the archives. Our presentation will discuss highlights of our data, share our initial model for student-centered outreach, and offer insight into how the model can be implemented at a range of institutions with diverse populations, varying resources, and unique outreach goals.

Speakers:	Bryan Whitledge, Central Michigan University (Session Chair)
	Brittany Newberry, Georgia State University
Session Type:	Standard Presentation (60 minutes)

Corner of High and Long Streets, 1935.

MIDWEST ARCHIVES CONFERENCE AND SOCIETY OF OHIO ARCHIVISTS JOINT ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 14–16, 2026

Registration Rates

Advance registration for MAC/SOA members (on/by April 14, 2026) $200

Advance registration for nonmembers (on/by April 14, 2026) $250

Advance registration for students (on/by April 14, 2026) $50

Regular registration for MAC/SOA members (April 15, 2026, or later) $235

Regular registration for nonmembers (April 15, 2026, or later) $285

Regular registration for students (April 15, 2026, or later) $50

One-day registration for MAC/SOA members $125

One-day registration for nonmembers $150

Workshops

SAA DAS Workshop: Email Archiving: Strategies, Tools, Techniques (capacity 35) .... (Cost through SAA)

Working Simply with Integrity: Practical Digital Preservation for Small Teams and Solo Archivists (capacity 20) $50

Preserving the Unusual: Caring for Artifacts in Archives (capacity 20) $50

Tours

All tours are free.

Cancellations and Refunds

If for any reason you must cancel your registration for the Annual Meeting or MAC workshops, your written request must be received on or before Thursday April 16, 2026, to receive a full refund. No refunds will be issued after Thursday April 16, 2026.

Refunds will be granted for tours on MAC workshops that are canceled by MAC due to low enrollment or other reasons.

Midwest Archives Conference — Society of Ohio Archivists 2026 Annual Meeting Checklist

WEDNESDAY, May 13, 2026

9:00 am–5:00 pm _____ SAA DAS Workshop: Email Archiving: Strategies, Tools, Techniques

THURSDAY, May 14, 2026

8:00 am–12:00 pm _____ Council Meeting

8:00 am–12:00 pm _____ Workshop: Working Simply with Integrity: Practical Digital Preservation for Small Teams and Solo Archivists

8:00 am–12:00 pm _____ Workshop: Preserving the Unusual: Caring for Artifacts in Archives

10:00 am–11:00 am _____ Tour: Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum

10:00 am–11:00 am _____ Tour: Local History & Genealogy, Columbus Metropolitan Library

10:00 am–11:00 am _____ Tour: Nationwide History & Archives Center

10:00 am–11:00 am _____ Tour: Thompson Library

10:30 am–11:30 am _____ Tour: Wexner Center for the Arts Collection

11:30 am–12:30 pm _____ Society of Ohio Archivist Meet-Up

12:00 pm–1:00 pm _____ MAC Pals Midday Meet and Greet

1:30 pm –5:00 pm _____ Vendor Fair

1:30 pm –5:00 pm _____ Poster Session

1:30 pm –3:00 pm _____ Plenary

3:00 pm –3:30 pm _____ Break

3:30 pm–5:00 pm _____ Concurrent Sessions:

_____ Session: #s101: Find It Here! Ohio LGBTQ+ Archival Perspectives and Projects

_____ Session: #s102: Finding Our Way with AI: Practical Tools for Archival Access and Discovery

_____ Session: #s103: Cultivating Connections: Sustainable Support for Archival Futures

_____ Session: #s104: Beyond the Classroom: Expanding Special Collections Instruction to Meet Learners' Needs

6:00 pm–8:00 pm _____ Opening Reception (at the Blackwell Inn)

FRIDAY, May 15, 2026

8:30 am–3:30 pm _____ Vendor Fair

8:30 am–9:30 am _____ Concurrent Sessions:

_____ Session: #s201: Getting Started on a Shoestring: Digitization on a Dime

_____ Session: #s202: Say My Name: Identifying the African Americans Enslaved at White Hall

_____ Session: #s203: Finding It: The Elusive Gap Between Accessioning and Stacks Management

9:30 am–10:00 am _____ Break

9:30 am–3:30 pm _____ Poster Session

10:00 am–11:00 am _____ Concurrent Sessions:

_____ Session: #s301: In Medias Res: Inheriting Archives as Solo Archival Workers

_____ Session: #s302: Focusing In on Image Backlogs: Processing Photograph Collections with Efficiency and Care

_____ Session: #s303: Find It Again: Renovation Planning from All Angles

_____ Session: #s304: Advocacy, Activism, and Archiving FOCAS-ed on the Community: A 360 Perspective

X:xx am–x:xx pm _____ SOA Silent Auction

11:00 am–11:30 am _____ Break

11:30 am–12:30 pm _____ Concurrent Sessions:

_____ Session: #s401: #Archives: Using Social Media to Engage Communities with Archives and Collections

_____ Session: #s402: Big, Born-Digital Challenges: Practical Workflows for Impractically Large Collections

_____ Session: #s403: Finding Your Way through Large Collections: Strategies for Small Institutions

_____ Session: #s404: Ctrl + Alt + Comply: Practical Steps toward AI Governance

12:30 pm–2:00 pm _____ Lunch on your own

1:00 pm–1:45 pm _____ Friday Forums

1:00 pm–1:45 pm _____ Society of Ohio Archivists Business Meeting

2:00 pm–3:00 pm _____ Concurrent Sessions:

_____ Session: #s501: "Find It Here!" But Where Is "Here"?

_____ Session: #s502: Lightning Tour: Archival Projects across Ohio

_____ Session: #s503: Graceful in Grief: Experiences in Archival Trauma

_____ Session: #s504: But Can They Actually Find It? Reviewing Our Digitization Program to Meet Our Users' Needs

3:00 pm–3:30 pm _____ Break

3:30 pm–5:00 pm _____ MAC Members Meeting

6:00 pm _____ Restaurant Tours

Midwest Archives Conference
2025 Annual Meeting Checklist
(continued)

SATURDAY, May 16, 2026

8:30 am–10:00 am _____ Concurrent Sessions:

_____ Session: #s601: Stewarding Records of Incarceration: Access, Use, and Challenges in Academic Archives

_____ Session: #s602: Find It Here and Share It Everywhere: Bringing Diverse Regional Histories to Light in the Archives and Beyond

_____ Session: #s603: Connecting People through Exhibit Work: Four Case Studies of Physical and Digital Exhibits in Academic Libraries

10:00 am–10:30 am _____ Break

10:30 am–11:30 am _____ Concurrent Sessions:

_____ Session: #s701: The Grants Landscape: Where Are We Now?

_____ Session: #s702: Find It Here Because It Was Managed There: Strategic Records Management Outreach and Engagement

_____ Session: #s703: Students Taking Center Stage: Sharing a Student-centered Archival Outreach Model

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