

# Ohio Memory Project Progress Report

July 2001 – October 2001

## OVERVIEW

Since June 2001, the Ohio Memory Project Team has been very busy. They visited more than eighty cultural institutions and had 1310 contacts with current and potential participants. Nearly 450 collection description forms arrived at the Ohio Historical Center. Staff have made significant progress evaluating these potential additions to the Ohio Memory Online Scrapbook and accepting those that meet project selection criteria, although more work remains to be done in this area. A beta version of the online scrapbook, populated with a small number of accepted collections, was made available for testing. Input received from testers informed refinements of the design and functionality. OhioLINK's continuing assistance has been invaluable in efforts to ensure that the site meets the needs of its users.

## ACTIVITIES

### Submissions

For the August 2001 deadline, the following institutions submitted collections (a complete list of participating institutions is attached as an appendix):

Akron-Summit County Public Library	Highland County District Library
Allen County Museum	Highland County Historical Society
Amherst Historical Society & Sandstone Museum Center	Hiram College
Athenaeum of Ohio (Cincinnati)	Hiram Historical Society
Auglaize County Historical Society	Historic Southwest Ohio
Bellevue Public Library	Jackson Center Historical Society
Brecksville Historical Association	Kent State University Library & Media Services
Briggs-Lawrence County Public Library	Kent State University Museum
Butler County Museum	Kinsman Free Public Library
Castle (Marietta)	Lake Erie Islands Historical Society
Center for Archival Collections, Bowling Green State University	Lake Township Historical Society
Cincinnati Art Museum	Lakeside Heritage Society
Clark County Historical Society	Logan County Historical Society
Clark County Public Library	Madison County Historical Society
Clermont County Historical Society	Mechanicsburg Public Library
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo	Mentor Public Library
Cleveland Museum of Natural History	Miami University
Cleveland Orchestra	Munroe Falls Historical Society
Cleveland Public Library	National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center
Columbus Metropolitan Library	Noble County Historical Society
Defiance Public Library	Norwalk Public Library
Delphos Canal Commission	Ohio University
Dominican Sisters, St. Mary of the Springs (Columbus)	Piqua Historical Area State Memorial
Dover Historical Society	Portage County Historical Society
Flesh Public Library and Museum	Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County
Fort Laurens State Memorial	Puskarich Public Library (Cadiz)
Garst Museum – Darke County Historical Society	Reed Memorial Library (Ravenna)
Geneva Public Library	Ritter Public Library (Vermilion)
Greene County Records Center and Archives	Ross County Historical Society
Herrick Memorial Library (Wellington)	Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center
	Salem Public Library
	Sandusky Library-Follett House Museum
	Sauder Village
	Shelby County Historical Society

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (Cincinnati)  
 South Euclid Historical Society  
 St. John's Episcopal Church of Worthington  
 Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library  
 Tiffin-Seneca Public Library  
 University of Akron  
 Upper Sandusky Community Library  
 Wadsworth Public Library

Wayne County Public Library  
 Western Reserve Historical Society  
 Wilberforce University  
 William Howard Taft National Historic Site  
 Wyandot County Historical Society  
 Youngstown Historical Center of Industry & Labor  
 Zoar Village State Memorial

The project team evaluated collections based on established criteria and selected 148 of those submitted for the Aug 15 deadline for inclusion in the Ohio Memory Online Scrapbook as of November 1, 2001, although at least one item from each institution will eventually be included in the scrapbook. As collections have been accepted, staff made arrangements for transfer of materials, digitization, and cataloging. More than 1200 pages from 19 collections have been scanned at the Ohio Historical Center.

At each quarterly deadline, submissions increased significantly.

<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Participating Institutions</b>	<b>Collections Submitted</b>	<b>Collections Accepted</b>
<b>November 15, 2000</b>	13	65	59
<b>February 15, 2001</b>	31	92	85
<b>May 15, 2001</b>	46	131	128
<b>August 15, 2001</b>	79	293	148*
<b>November 15, 2001</b>	35*	160*	0*
<i>* as of November 1, 2001</i>			

Staff attribute increases to the success of the workshops, intensive outreach efforts, publicity, and positive word of mouth. Many institutions submitted materials followed initial submissions with additional contributions, and actively encouraged other repositories to participate in the project. The statistics prove two assumptions made about the project during its planning phase: that the concept will be attractive to cultural heritage repositories of all varieties and that small institutions with few staff and little or no digitization experience can participate on an equal basis with the largest, most technologically savvy organizations.

### **Project Web Site**

Currently, the Ohio Memory web site (<http://www.ohiomemory.org>) features project information, such as the history of the project, frequently asked questions, staff and contact information, links to digitization resources, and listserv subscription information. Also available for downloading in multiple formats are presentations, handouts, and forms. Online submission is possible via this site.

The following statistics summarize web site usage over the past four months:

	<b>Entire Site</b>	<b>Home Page</b>	<b>Page Views</b>	<b>Visitor Sessions</b>
<b>July 2001</b>	73,806 hits	1,354	5,619	3,950
<b>August 2001</b>	54,704 hits	774	4,209	2,119
<b>Sept 2001</b>	51,005 hits	816	4,889	2,336
<b>October 2001</b>	55,170 hits	963	4,804	2,573

## **Online Scrapbook Interface**

Project staff worked closely with OhioLINK staff to develop the online scrapbook search interface functionality. Most recently, staff has worked to develop several features, including:

- browsing by subject, contributor, place, or format
- browsing by county, using a clickable Ohio map
- zooming into images to view more detail
- highlighting search terms in item records
- saving users' own selection of images, together with their annotations in a personal online space, "My Scrapbook"
- browsing subject category descriptions with sample images

## **Usability Testing**

The Web Designer conducted usability testing with approximately 25 various potential users of the online scrapbook including advisory group members and staff from participating institutions. Findings were generally positive, particularly in regard to the browse and My Scrapbook features, but also indicated some areas where modifications would improve usability. Appropriate changes were made to the online scrapbook interface.

## **Presentations and Outreach**

Ohio Memory Project staff gave presentations at Ohio Library Council Annual Meeting in Toledo, the Midwest Archives Conference in Indianapolis, the Ohio Educational Library Media Association's GOTEK conference, and the Ohio State University Library Lecture Series. Staff also updated the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) at their August 2001 meeting and provided information to the OHS Board of Trustees Programs and Publications Committee.

Project staff met with staff from the following institutions to encourage project participation and review potential submissions:

### **Historical Societies and Museums**

Alexandria Historical Society & Museum	Holmes County Historical Society
Allen County Museum	Jefferson County Historical Association
Attica Historical Society	John Paulding Historical Society
Auglaize County Historical Society	Kent State University Museum
Brimfield Memorial Association/Kelso House	Killbuck History Museum
Bucyrus Historical Society	Lucy Hayes Heritage Center
Carroll County Genealogical Society	McCook House
Cincinnati Museum Center	Mercer County Historical Society
Clinton County Historical Society	Milan Historical Museum
Cuyahoga Falls Historical Society	Monroe Falls Historical Society
Delphos Canal Commission	National Afro-American Museum & Cultural Center
Edison Birthplace Museum	National Heisey Glass Museum
Firelands Historical Society	Pickaway County Historical Society
Fostoria Area Historical Society	J.E. Reeves Museum/Dover Historical Society
French Art Colony (Gallipolis)	Ross County Historical Society
Gallia County Historical and Genealogical Society	Shelby County Historical Society
Geauga County Historical Society	Stark County Historical Society/McKinley Museum
Hancock Historical Museum	Summit County Historical Society
Hardin County Historical Society	Van Wert Historical Society
Harrison County Historical Society	Welsh American Heritage Museum
Highland County Historical Society	William Howard Taft National Historic Site

Worthington Historical Society

Zoar Village

### **Public Libraries**

Brumback Library  
Bucyrus Public Library  
Carroll County Public Library  
Dr. Samuel Bossard Memorial Library (Gallipolis)  
Greene County Public Library  
Hancock County Public Library  
Highland County Public Library

Massillon Public Library  
Mechanicsburg Public Library  
Oak Hill Public Library  
Seneca East Public Library  
St. Mary's Public Library  
Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library

### **Academic Archives/Libraries**

Antioch College  
Denison University  
Miami University (Special Collections, Western  
Memorial Archives, University Archives)

Pontifical College Josephinum  
University of Akron  
University of Rio Grande (University Archives  
Madog Center for Welsh Studies)

### **Special Libraries/Archives**

Archdiocese of Cincinnati  
Children's Hospital  
Greene County Records Center and Archives  
O.O. McIntyre Park District

State Library of Ohio  
Toledo's Attic  
Ursuline Sisters of Brown County

Staff also made follow-up visits to the Kent State University Special Collections, Massillon Public Library, Jackson Center Historical Society, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Reed Memorial Library, Athenaeum of Cincinnati, Mechanicsburg Public Library, Cincinnati Medical Heritage Center, and Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) to examine collections and discuss scanning options.

Representatives from the Dayton and Montgomery County Public Library, Harbor Topky Library, Williams County Public Library, Massillon Public Library Tuscarawas County Historical Society, and the Lawrence County Public Library visited the Ohio Historical Center to meet with staff and have materials digitized.

One important insight gained through outreach efforts is that institutions are eagerly anticipating the second phase of the project, which has not yet been funded, in which materials from 1903 to the present will be accepted for the scrapbook.

### **Inquiries and Contacts**

Project staff had 1310 contacts with current and potential participants via phone, fax, and email. Staff also distributed a packet of information about scanning to four various institutions interested in digitizing materials at their own facilities.

The OPLIN-hosted listserv serves as an effective way to communicate with participants and potential participants. The list's 254 subscribers received project updates, reminders about approaching submission deadlines, news of web site additions, and monthly messages focusing on specific subject categories and providing examples of potential submissions. An archive of listserv messages is available via OPLIN at: <http://archive.oplin.lib.oh.us/archives/index.html>

## **Education**

Project staff met with INFOhio Users, which includes the Lakeshore Northeast Ohio Computer Association, INFOhio, OhioLINK, and Ohio Department of Education, to explore correlating learning materials to proficiency objectives and learner outcomes. Project staff presented a session on online educational resources at the Ohio Educational Library Media Association's GOTEC conference

## **Articles and Press Releases**

Staff wrote articles for various publications:

- An update appeared in the September/October 2001 issue of the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums (OAHSM) publication *The Local Historian* that encouraged local historical societies and museums to participate in the project.
- Article appeared in the Fall 2001 Society of Ohio Archivist's *Ohio Archivist* available at: <http://www.ohiojunction.net/soa/oa>
- Articles appeared in the following newspapers: the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, *Impact Weekly* (alternative Dayton paper), and the local Wapakoneta and Massillon newspapers
- Information about the project appeared on various Ohio websites including:
  - [http://www.tiffinsen.lib.oh.us/newsarchive/August2001/dimensions\\_august2001.htm](http://www.tiffinsen.lib.oh.us/newsarchive/August2001/dimensions_august2001.htm)
  - [http://www.infohio.org/ABOUT/Users\\_Groups/PhotoScrapbook01-05-16.htm](http://www.infohio.org/ABOUT/Users_Groups/PhotoScrapbook01-05-16.htm)
  - Toledo ABC affiliate web site
- A Jefferson County local television news program included a short segment on the project

## **Advisory Group**

The Ohio Memory Advisory Group, which is composed of twelve members, provides oversight for the project. Advisory group members were asked to test the scrapbook interface. The Advisory Group will meet November 9<sup>th</sup> to review progress and assist in future planning.

## **CONCLUSION**

The second round of workshops generated significant interest in the project and inspired participants to submit historical materials for inclusion in the Ohio Memory Online Scrapbook. Project staff have enjoyed working with the staff at the submitting institutions and look forward to the final submission deadline of the first phase of the project on November 15, 2001.

Important goals for the coming quarter are to complete the selection process for materials submitted in August 2001 and begin work on November submissions, to add digitized images and descriptions of collections to the online scrapbook database, and to finalize the design of the Ohio Memory Online Scrapbook interface. In addition, the project team and other society staff will strive to secure funding to continue the project and expand its scope to include materials created after 1903.

# Ohio Memory Project Participating Institutions

## Northwest Ohio

Allen County Museum  
Auglaize County Historical Society  
Bellevue Public Library  
Brumback Library (Van Wert)  
Bucyrus Historical Society  
Center for Archival Collections, Bowling Green  
State University  
Defiance Public Library  
Delphos Canal Commission  
Edison Birthplace Museum  
Firelands Museum (Norwalk)  
Hancock Historical Museum  
Harris-Elmore Public Library  
Huron Historical Society  
Jackson Center Historical Society  
Lake Erie Islands Historical Society  
Lakeside Heritage Society  
Logan County Historical Society

McComb Public Library  
Mechanicsburg Public Library  
Norwalk Public Library  
Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center  
Sandusky Library-Follett House Museum  
Sauder Village  
Shelby County Historical Society  
St. Paris Public Library  
Tallmadge Historical Society  
Tiffin-Seneca Public Library  
Toledo-Lucas Public Library  
Upper Sandusky Community Library  
Waterville Historical Society  
Wauseon Public Library  
Williams County Public Library  
Wood County District Public Library  
Wyandot County Historical Society

## Northeast Ohio

Akron-Summit County Public Library  
Amherst Historical Society & Sandstone Museum  
Center  
Ashland County Historical Society & Museum  
Ashland University  
Ashtabula County District Library, Geneva Public  
Library Branch  
Brecksville Historical Association  
Carroll County District Library  
Carroll County Historical Society  
Case Western Reserve University Library  
Cleveland Institute of Art  
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo  
Cleveland Museum of Natural History  
Cleveland Orchestra  
Cleveland Public Library  
Coshocton Public Library  
Cuyahoga County Archives  
Cuyahoga Falls Historical Society  
Dittrick Medical History Center  
Dover Historical Society  
Fort Laurens State Memorial  
Geneva Public Library  
Harbor Topky Memorial Library  
Harrison County Historical Society  
Henderson Memorial Public Library  
Herrick Memorial Library (Wellington)  
Hiram College  
Hiram Historical Society  
Historical Society of Mount Pleasant  
Hudson Historical Society  
Hudson Library  
Jefferson County Historical Association  
Kent Historical Society

Kent State University Library & Media Services  
Kent State University Museum  
Kinsman Free Public Library  
Lake County Historical Society  
Lake Township Historical Society  
Lake View Cemetery (Cleveland)  
Lorain Public Library System  
Mansfield Reformatory Preservation Society  
Mansfield-Richland Public Library  
Massillon Public Library  
Mentor Public Library  
Munroe Falls Historical Society  
Oberlin College  
Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center  
Ohio Genealogical Society  
Portage County Historical Society  
Puskarich Public Library (Cadiz)  
Reed Memorial Library (Ravenna)  
Richland County Historical Society  
Ritter Public Library (Vermilion)  
Salem Public Library  
Shaker Heights Public Library  
Shaker Historical Society  
Sisters of Notre Dame (Chardon)  
South Euclid Historical Society  
Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library  
Summit County Probate Court  
Tuscarawas County Historical Society  
University of Akron  
Wadsworth Public Library  
Wayne County Public Library  
Western Reserve Historical Society  
Youngstown Historical Center of Industry & Labor  
Zoar Village State Memorial

## **Southwest Ohio**

Antioch College  
Athenaeum of Ohio (Cincinnati)  
Butler County Museum  
Carillon Historical Park  
Carnegie Public Library, Washington Court House  
Cincinnati Art Museum  
Cincinnati Medical Heritage Center, University of Cincinnati  
Cincinnati Museum Center  
Cincinnati Nature Center  
Clark County Historical Society  
Clark County Public Library  
Clermont County Historical Society  
Clinton County Historical Society  
Dayton and Montgomery County Public Library  
Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park  
Flesh Public Library and Museum  
Garst Museum – Darke County Historical Society  
Greene County Records Center and Archives

Highland County District Library  
Highland County Historical Society  
Historic Southwest Ohio  
Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives  
Miami University  
Montgomery County Historical Society  
National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center  
Piqua Historical Area State Memorial  
Portsmouth Public Library  
Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County  
Scioto County Historical Society  
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (Cincinnati)  
Southern Ohio Museum (Portsmouth)  
Ursulines of Brown County  
Wilberforce University  
William Howard Taft National Historic Site  
Wright State University

## **Southeast Ohio**

Athens County Historical Society and Museum  
Briggs-Lawrence County Public Library  
Castle (Marietta)  
French Art Colony (Gallipolis)  
Lillian Jones Museum (Jackson)

Madog Center for Welsh Studies, U. of Rio Grande  
Nelsonville Public Library  
Noble County Historical Society  
Ohio University  
Watt Center for History & the Arts (Barnesville)

## **Central Ohio**

Alexandria Museum & Historical Society  
Chillicothe and Ross County Public Library  
Columbus Metropolitan Library  
Dawes Arboretum (Newark)  
Dominican Sisters, St. Mary of the Springs (Columbus)  
Gahanna Historical Society  
Hopewell Cultural National Historical Park  
Kelton House Museum & Garden  
Knox County Historical Museum  
Lucy Hayes Heritage Center  
Madison County Historical Society

Ohio State University Archives  
Ohio State University Cartoon Research Library  
Ohio State University Music & Dance Library  
Ohio State University Theatre Research Institute  
Pickaway County Historical Society  
Plain City Historical Society  
Plain City Public Library  
Ross C. Purdy Museum (Westerville)  
Ross County Historical Society  
St. John's Episcopal Church of Worthington  
Wornstaff Memorial Public Library (Ashley)

## **Partners**

Ohio Bicentennial Commission, Ohio Historical Society (OHS), Ohio Library Council (OLC), OhioLINK, & OPLIN

## **Supporting Organizations**

ALAO, CAMLS, GCLC, OAHSM, OHRAB and Worthington/Shaker Heights Cooperative Project

*\*as of October 2001*