

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008-2009

I. Function

The function of the Archives Committee is to determine policies governing the control and use of the University Archives and Records Management Services.

II. 2008-2009 Activities

The University Archives continued to work with the UW Digital Collections Center and the Aldo Leopold Foundation on a National Historic Publications and Records Commission grant to digitize the entire Aldo Leopold Collection. The project received an extension and should be completed in September 2009.

The University Archives web site (<http://archives.library.wisc.edu/>) was updated in a manner that should improve users' access to information. The new web site is divided into two sections, one on archives and university history and one on records management.

The Oral History Program of University Archives held its second Wisconsin Oral History Day on April 26-27, 2009 at UW-Eau Claire. Full details about the conference can be found at: <http://www.slis.wisc.edu/continued/oralhist/>. Oral history staff are also interviewing faculty and academic staff who were involved in campus governance after merger, and Troy Reeves is working with members of the LGBT community on campus and in Madison to document their history.

A graduate student from the School of Library and Information Studies, Tyler Kennedy, was hired by the UW Digital Collections Center to work for the archives. In addition to scanning many images, he worked on a web site about the Haresfoot Club, UW's musical comedy organization. More substantively, he mounted a web site on student protest at UW-Madison throughout the 20th century. http://archives.library.wisc.edu/uw-archives/exhibits/protests/1910s_1920s.html

III. Current Issues or Concerns

Records management issues remained a major focus. Nancy Kunde, who developed the records management program in the early 1980s and who had been on campus for 36 years, retired in December 2009. That position is extremely important campus-wide, and replacing her is one of the committee's major concerns. There has been increasing activity by the UW Records Officer Council, led by UW System, to develop system-wide records schedules. In general this is a positive development and the archives hopes to see more general schedules instead of smaller, unit-specific schedules.

IV. Future Issues

Research data curation is an increasing concern on campus. The archives has been approached by some faculty members about archiving their research data, including lab notebooks, and decisions as to what materials to add to the archives are being made on an ad hoc basis. An overall campus policy on the preservation of research data is needed.

The archives lost one position in General Library System budget cuts. The archives had planned to use that position to create online, EAD ('encoded archival description') finding aids for much of the collection, along with other duties. Getting more of the archives' finding aids online and available for researchers is a continuing priority, and that work may have to be done with student workers.

(continued)

V. Summary/Recommendations

The two primary issues facing the archives continue to be: 1) how best to deal with electronic records; and 2) how to improve and maintain storage space for physical materials.

VI. Archives Committee, 2008-2009 Membership

Susan Bernstein, English, Gender and Women's Studies, Center for Jewish Studies
Peter Gorman, General Library System
John Niles, chair, English, Institute for Research in the Humanities
Peter Vranas, Philosophy

Ex officio

Laurie Mayberry, designee, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Colleen McCabe, Secretary of the Academic Staff
David Musolf, Secretary of the Faculty
David Null, Director, University Archives

Named Members

Kenneth Frazier, Director, General Library System
Peter Gottlieb, State Archivist and Director, Library-Archives, Wisconsin Historical Society
Joseph Kemnitz, Director, Wisconsin National Primate Research Center