Archives Month

Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White, the Illinois State Archives, the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board (ISHRAB) and the Chicago Area Archivists are once again joining together to coorporate Illinois Archives Month in October. This year’s Archives Month poster features images of Illinois in the time of pandemics.

During this unprecedented time, archives, museums, historical societies, libraries and other groups are invited to celebrate Archives Month by hosting local events, exhibits and activities virtually and/or socially distanced that highlight the management and preservation of our documentary heritage, especially as they relate to unprecedented historical events.

To assist in publicizing Illinois Archives Month events, the ISHRAB is hosting an online Events Calendar. For a downloadable poster and information on showcasing your institution’s collections and activities or promoting your institution’s Archives Month activities on the Events Calendar, please visit (click Department; Illinois State Archives; Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board) or call 217-524-9844.

The Illinois State Archives Centennial (1921-2021) Records Management Unit

In 1943, the Illinois General Assembly created the State Records Commission to provide recommendations concerning the disposal of records produced by state agencies. Before 1943, the only legal way an agency could dispose of records was to ask permission from the General Assembly. The record management bills passed by the General Assembly made the state in charge of coordinating a statewide records management program and allowed him to operate records centers, and a centralized microfilming unit. In 1983, the act was expanded to include all state universities.

Local Records Management

The success of the State Records Act led the General Assembly to create a similar records management program for units of local government. The result was the 1961 Local Records Act (5 ILCS 205), which again placed the Secretary of State as administrator of records management, but this time for units of local government. The act created two local government records commissions: one for Cook County and one for the other 101 counties in Illinois. Membership for the two commissions consists of local government officials, the State Historian and the Secretary of State.

Due to COVID-19 and Governor Pritzker’s proclamation waiving certain requirements of the Open Meetings Act, until further notice all State, Local and Cook County Local Records Commission meetings will be held by conference call after proper notice has been posted on the website of the Illinois State Archives.

Downstate Local Records Commission Meeting
1st Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m. (unless otherwise noted)
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

Cook County Local Records Commission Meeting
2nd Tuesday of the month, 11 a.m.
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

State Records Commission Meeting
3rd Wednesday of every month, 9:30 a.m.
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

NOTE: Due to COVID-19 and Governor Pritzker’s proclamation waiving certain requirements of the Open Meetings Act, until further notice all State, Local and Cook County Local Records Commission meetings will be held by conference call after proper notice has been posted on the website of the Illinois State Archives.

Downstate Local Records Commission and Secretary, 1971.

The theme of the 2020 Archives Month poster is “Illinois in the Time of Pandemics.” A copy of the poster can be downloaded from the Illinois State Archives website, ISHRAB section.

ISHRAB and COVID-19

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing, the ISHRAB Board was unable to meet in person for its May 27, 2020 meeting. Instead, the board met via teleconference for the first time in its history.

The success of the State Records Act led the General Assembly to create a similar records management program for units of local government. The result was the 1961 Local Records Act (5 ILCS 205), which again placed the Secretary of State as administrator of records management, but this time for units of local government. The act created two local government records commissions: one for Cook County and one for the other 101 counties in Illinois. Membership for the two commissions consists of local government officials, the State Historian and the Secretary of State.

To implement the act, the Archives hired records analysts and stationed them in different regions of the state to assist the local governments with their records management programs. Today, local government field officers are located in Chicago, West Chicago, Silvis, Rantoul, Springfield and Salem.

For 60 years, the State and Local Records Acts have governed governmental records practices in Illinois. By the mid-1960s, these acts were so successful that the dean of American Archivists, Dr. Ernst Posner, wrote in 1964 that “The archives and records management program of the state of Illinois is known as one of the outstanding programs in the United States.” After 60 years, this is as true today as it was in 1964.

The theme of the 2020 Archives Month poster is “Illinois in the Time of Pandemics.” A copy of the poster can be downloaded from the Illinois State Archives website, ISHRAB section.
**2020 ISHRAB Awards 10 Historical Records Grants**

The Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board (ISHRAB) at its May meeting awarded grants to ten Illinois archival institutions to assist them with preserving and making accessible records of historical importance. Funding for these grants was made possible by a State Board Programming Grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). This is the 11th year of the grant program. To date, the ISHRAB has awarded 86 grants to Illinois historical records repositories totaling almost $300,000. The following institutions received grants:

**Belleville:** St. Clair County Historical Society

- Senator Alan J. Dixon Collection Digitization Project - $1,515 to digitize the manuscript collection of the papers of Sen. Alan J. Dixon and make these records available to the public through the Illinois Digital Archives.

**Blue Island:** Blue Island Public Library

- Blue Island Sun-Standard Newspaper Digitization - $1,890 to contract with Konica Minolta Business Solutions to digitize 75 rolls of 35mm microfi lm of the Blue Island Sun Standard Newspaper and host it in the Illinois Digital Archives.

**Chicago:** Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

- Processing the William J. Beecher Papers - $1,238 to arrange, re-house, and describe the papers of its longest serving director, William J. Beecher (1914-2002). This remarkable collection of unpublished manuscripts, original scientific illustrations, and thousands of photographic prints, negatives and slides promises to tell a unique story of Academy history, environmental activism, and the natural world in 20th century Chicago.

**Chicago:** Midwest Nursing History Research Center

- Illinois Training School for Nurses Digitization Project - $4,309 to digitize parts of the Illinois Training School of Nurses (ITS) Collection, including photographs, documents and audio oral history files from graduates.

**Chicago:** North Park University

- Improving Access to the Dorothy Vann Oral History Collection - $3,761 to improve access to the Dorothy Vann Oral History Collection by contracting with outside experts to assess, conserve and digitize 38 audiocassette tapes consisting of oral histories related to the North Park neighborhood of Chicago with a focus on Swedish immigration and religious life.

**Chicago:** Northeastern Illinois University

- Digitizing the Luis V. Gutierrez Congressional Archives at NIU - $5,000 in grant funds to digitize the Luis V. Gutierrez Congressional Archives, including legislative files, press releases, news articles, bills, floor speeches, awards and photos spanning Rep. Gutierrez’s congressional career from 1993-2018.

**Cicero:** Czechoslovak Heritage Museum Library and Archives

- Czechoslovak Heritage in Chicago: 30th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and Counting - $5,000 to present and capture the unique history of the Czechs, Slovaks, Moravians and Bohemians in Chicago and the surrounding area by scanning and categorizing holdings (paintings, historical docs, photos etc.), digitizing 3-5 oral history videos, developing k-12 curriculum, creating an online portal on their website, and working with IDA as repository for the digital archives.

**Evanston:** Evanston Public Library

- Evanston Enterprise Newspaper Digital Conversion - $500 to convert microfilm of the Evanston’s newspaper, the Evanston Enterprise (early-1900s to 1984), to digital to aid in quick public access and to preserve physical copies.

**Mahomet:** Museum of the Grand Prairie

- Early Frisian Oral History Transcription Project - $1,914 to transcribe 35 oral history interviews from Champaign County’s East Frisian Community. The original audioscassettes were digitized and reformatted with the support of a 2018 ISHRAB Illinois Historical Records Grant award.

**Rockford:** Midway Village Museum

- Digitizing Rockford’s Development and Redevelopment - $2,873 transcribe and digitize 300 business receipts from the first 50 years of settlement in Rockford (1834-1884), and to digitize 1200 color slides of Rockford’s urban renewal and redevelopment efforts from 1964-2002.

**2020–2021 IRAD interns selected**

The Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) system, a program of the Illinois State Archives, is dedicated to the preservation of local governmental records. The IRAD depositories, located at seven universities throughout the state, preserve the official records of local governmental agencies that have permanent legal, administrative, historical or other research values. Each year graduate students are selected to serve as interns at the depositories.

The IRAD internships introduce graduate students to the functions of an archives institution and allow them to develop basic archival and research skills. Duties include arranging and processing records, preparing descriptive inventories and providing reference service to the public. Due to COVID-19, training of the interns for the 2020-2021 academic year was done remotely at their respected depositories.

Below are the names of the 17 interns, with their academic majors and the IRAD where they are serving:

**Eastern Illinois University**
- Shelby Hummel: History
- Tanner Skym: History

**Illinois State University**
- Chelsea Perkins: Criminal Justice
- Justin Woods: Anthropology

**Northern Illinois University**
- Deborah S. Barnes: Political Science
- Alexandra D. Dumitriu: History
- Donald M. Etsen: History
- Robert Wolff: Political Science/History

**Southern Illinois University**
- John Patrick Cohan: Philosophy
- Emily Humbert: Philosophy
- Logan Plummer: History

**University of Illinois at Springfield**
- Derek Joseph Shaw: Political Science
- Brandon Trupp: History

**Western Illinois University**
- Reeka Nadine Edwards: Political Science
- Riley Gober: History

The Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) system, a program of the Illinois State Archives, is dedicated to the preservation of local governmental records. The IRAD depositories, located at seven universities throughout the state, preserve the official records of local governmental agencies that have permanent legal, administrative, historical or other research values. Each year graduate students are selected to serve as interns at the depositories.

The IRAD internships introduce graduate students to the functions of an archives institution and allow them to develop basic archival and research skills. Duties include arranging and processing records, preparing descriptive inventories and providing reference service to the public. Due to COVID-19, training of the interns for the 2020-2021 academic year was done remotely at their respected depositories.

Below are the names of the 17 interns, with their academic majors and the IRAD where they are serving:

**Eastern Illinois University**
- Shelby Hummel: History
- Tanner Skym: History

**Illinois State University**
- Chelsea Perkins: Criminal Justice
- Justin Woods: Anthropology

**Northern Illinois University**
- Deborah S. Barnes: Political Science
- Alexandra D. Dumitriu: History
- Donald M. Etsen: History
- Robert Wolff: Political Science/History

**Southern Illinois University**
- John Patrick Cohan: Philosophy
- Emily Humbert: Philosophy
- Logan Plummer: History

**University of Illinois at Springfield**
- Derek Joseph Shaw: Political Science
- Brandon Trupp: History

**Western Illinois University**
- Reeka Nadine Edwards: Political Science
- Riley Gober: History
The Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board (ISHRAB) at its May meeting awarded grants to ten Illinois archival institutions to assist them with preserving and making accessible records of historical importance. Funding for these grants was made possible by a State Board Programming Grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). This is the 11th year of the grant program. To date, the ISHRAB has awarded 86 grants to Illinois historical records repositories totaling almost $300,000. The following institutions received grants.

**Belleville: St. Clair County Historical Society**
Senator Alan J. Dixon Collection Digitization Project - $1,515 to digitize the manuscript collection of the papers of Sen. Alan J. Dixon and make these records available to the public through the Illinois Digital Archives.

**Blue Island: Blue Island Public Library**
Blue Island Sun-Standard Newspaper Digitization - $1,880 to contract with Konica Minolta Business Solutions to digitize 75 rolls of 35mm micro filme film of the Blue Island Sun Standard Newspaper and host it in the Illinois Digital Archives.

**Chicago: Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**
Processing the William J. Beecher Papers - $1,238 to arrange, re-house, and describe the papers of his longest serving director, William J. Beecher (1914-2002). This remarkable collection of unpublished manuscripts, original scientific illustrations, and thousands of photographic prints, negatives and slides promises to tell a unique story of Academy history, environmental activism, and the natural world in 20th century Chicago.

**Chicago: Midwest Nursing History Research Center**
Illinois Training School for Nurses Digitization Project - $4,309 to digitize parts of the Illinois Training School of Nurses (ITS) Collection, including photographs, documents and audio oral history files from graduates.

**Chicago: North Park University**
Improving Access to the Dorothy Vann Oral History Collection - $3,761 to improve access to the Dorothy Vann Oral History Collection by contracting with outside experts to assess, conserve and digitize 38 audocassette tapes consisting of oral histories related to the North Park neighborhood of Chicago with a focus on Swedish immigration and religious life.

**Chicago: Northeastern Illinois University**
Digitizing the Luis V. Gutierrez Congressional Archives at NIU - $5,000 in grant funds to digitize the Luis V. Gutierrez Congressional Archives, including legislative files, press releases, news articles, bills, floor speeches, awards and photos spanning Rep. Gutierrez's congressional career from 1995-2018.

**Cicero: Czechoslovak Heritage Museum Library and Archives**
Czechoslovak Heritage in Chicago: 30th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and Counting - $5,000 to present and capture the unique history of the Czechs, Slovaks, Moravians and Bohemians in Chicago and the surrounding area by scanning and categorizing holdings (paintings, historical docs, photos etc.), digitizing 3-5 oral history videos, developing k-12 curriculum, creating an online portal on their website, and working with IAD as repository for the digital archives.

**Evanston: Evanston Public Library**
Evanston Enterprise Newspaper Digitization Conversion - $950 to convert microfilm of the Village of Evanston’s newspaper, the Evanston Enterprise (early-1900’s to 1984), to digital to aid in quick public access and to preserve physical copies.

**Mahomet: Museum of the Grand Prairie**
East Frisian Oral History Transcription Project - $1,914 to transcribe 35 oral history interviews from Champaign County’s East Frisian Community. The original audocassette were digitized and reformatted with the support of a 2018 ISHRAB Illinois Historical Records Grant award.

**Rockford: Midway Village Museum**
Digitizing Rockford’s Development and Redevelopment - $2,873 transcode and digitize 300 business receipts from the first 50 years of settlement in Rockford (1834-1884), and to digitize 1200 color slides of Rockford’s urban renewal and redevelopment efforts from 1964-2002.

**East Frisian Oral History Transcription Project - $1,914 to transcribe 35 oral history interviews from Champaign County’s East Frisian Community. The original audocassette were digitized and reformatted with the support of a 2018 ISHRAB Illinois Historical Records Grant award.

**Funding for these grants was made possible by a State Board Programming Grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).**

**2020–2021 IRAD interns selected**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illinois State University</th>
<th>Cheryl Perkins</th>
<th>Criminal Justice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Justin Woods</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern Illinois University</td>
<td>Deborah S. Barnes</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alexander D. Dumitriu</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald M. Etsen</td>
<td>History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Wolff</td>
<td>Political Science/History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Illinois University</td>
<td>Derek Joseph Shaw</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brandon Trupp</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Illinois University</td>
<td>John Patrick Cohan</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emily Humbert</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Logan Hummer</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Illinois at Springfield</td>
<td>Gabriella Antonacci</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stanley Sharkey</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ISHRAB is offering professional development scholarships to Illinois archivists and archival volunteers to attend an archival workshop/seminar of their choice in Illinois (or an online professional archival development course). Awards are available for up to $200 per applicant, per fiscal year, and may be used toward the cost of registration, housing, and/or travel to the event. It is a reimbursable award. Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come basis until the funding is exhausted. Complete information and an application form can be found at www.cyberdriveillinois.com (click on Departments; Illinois State Archives; Illinois Historical Records Advisory Board).

If you have any questions, please contact:

David Joens, Director
Illinois State Archives
M. C. Norton Building
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: 217-782-3492
FAX: 217-524-3930

This archival educational opportunity is funded by a State Board Programming grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).
Archives Month

Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White, the Illinois State Archives, the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board (ISHRAB) and the Chicago Area Archivists are once again joining together to co-sponsor Illinois Archives Month in October. This year’s Archives Month poster features images of Illinois in the time of pandemics.

During this unprecedented time, archives, museums, historical societies, libraries and other groups are invited to celebrate Archives Month by hosting local events, exhibits and activities virtually and/or socially distanced that highlight the management and preservation of our documentary heritage, especially as they relate to unprecedented historical events.

To assist in publicizing Illinois Archives Month events, the ISHRAB is hosting an online Events Calendar. For a downloadable poster and information on showcasing your institution’s collections and activities or promoting your institution’s Archives Month activities on the Events Calendar, please visit (click Departments; Illinois State Archives; Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board) or call 217-524-9844.

The theme of the 2020 Archives Month poster is “Illinois in the Time of Pandemics.” A copy of the poster can be downloaded from the Illinois State Archives website, ISHRAB section.

ISHRAB and COVID-19

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing, the ISHRAB Board was unable to meet in person for its May 21, 2020, meeting. Instead, the board met via teleconference for the first time in its history.

NOTE: Due to COVID-19 and Governor Pritzker’s proclamation waiving certain requirements of the Open Meetings Act, until further notice all State, Local and Cook County Local Records Commission meetings will be held by conference call after proper notice has been posted on the website of the Illinois State Archives.

Downstate Local Records Commission Meeting
1st Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m. (unless otherwise noted)
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

Cook County Local Records Commission Meeting
2nd Tuesday of the month, 11 a.m.
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

State Records Commission Meeting
3rd Wednesday of every month, 9:30 a.m.
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

The Illinois State Archives Centennial (1921-2021) Records Management Unit

State Records Management
In June 2021, the Illinois State Archives will celebrate 100 years as an Illinois government agency. In anticipation of the centennial celebration, For the Record will feature past and current photographs of the various departments of the Archives.

In 1943, the Illinois General Assembly created the State Records Commission to provide recommendations concerning the disposal of records produced by state agencies. Before 1943, the only legal way an agency could dispose of records was to ask permission from the General Assembly. The record management bills passed by the General Assembly made for inconsistent and unprofessional records management practices.

The commission served as an advisory body to the General Assembly, recommending appropriate standard practices for all agencies. At the time of its creation, the State Records Commission consisted of the State Archivist, the State Historian, the State Librarian and, as an ex-officio member, the head of the agency being discussed. All recommendations had to be by unanimous vote, including the vote of the head of the agency.

Following a large scale survey of state agency records, in 1957 the legislature passed the State Records Act (5 ILCS 160). The act expanded the membership of the State Records Commission and granted it exclusive authority over the disposition of all state agency records. The act also placed the Secretary of State in charge of coordinating a statewide records management program and allowed him to operate records centers, and a centralized microfilming unit. In 1983, the act was expanded to include all state universities.

Local Records Management
The success of the State Records Act led the General Assembly to create a similar records management program for units of local government. The result was the 1961 Local Records Act (50 ILCS 205), which again placed the Secretary of State as administrator of records management, but this time for units of local government. The act created two local government records commissions: one for Cook County and one for the other 101 counties in Illinois. Membership for the two commissions consists of local government officials, the State Historian and the Secretary of State.

To implement the act, the Archives hired records analysts and stationed them in different regions of the state to assist the local governments with their records management programs. Today, local government field officers are located in Chicago, West Chicago, Silvis, Rantoul, Springfield and Salem.

For 60 years, the State and Local Records Acts have governed governmental records practices in Illinois. By the mid-1960s, these acts were so successful that the dean of American Archivists, Dr. Ernst Posner, wrote in 1964 that “The archives and records management program of the state of Illinois is known as one of the outstanding programs in the United States.” After 60 years, this is as true today as it was in 1964.

DATES AND REMINDERS

The theme of the 2020 Archives Month poster is “Illinois in the Time of Pandemics.” A copy of the poster can be downloaded from the Illinois State Archives website, ISHRAB section.