

**CONSORTIUM OF ACADEMIC & RESEARCH LIBRARIES IN ILLINOIS**

**BOOK DIGITIZATION PROJECT PROPOSAL COVER SHEET  
FY 2009**

PROJECT NAME: Illinois Culture and Heritage: Stories, Essays, and Addresses by Elizabeth Harrison (1849-1927)

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CARLI MEMBER INSTITUTION: National-Louis University

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PROPOSAL INFORMATION:

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(Include the **name, title, full U.S. Postal address, phone number, and e-mail address** of a contact person at each participating library.)

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## Materials to be Digitized: Elizabeth Harrison's Stories, Essays, and Addresses

National-Louis University proposes to digitize 25 pamphlets and other publications written by Elizabeth Harrison between 1889 and 1920. These pamphlets contain stories for children—or rather stories to be read or told to children—and essays, speeches and addresses addressed to a wide audience emphasizing the significance of the kindergarten experience and early childhood education in the development of children. Many were published by the Chicago Kindergarten College, which Elizabeth Harrison established in 1891 after six years teaching the mothers of young children and aspiring kindergarten teachers the fundamentals of the “Children’s garden” of learning developed by Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852) in Germany in the 1830s. Virtually all the pamphlets were printed by the Chicago firm R.R. Donnelley and its Lakeside Press imprint, which was gaining a national reputation for quality design and execution in bookmaking. Although the typography of the text of these pamphlets is not exceptional, the design of their covers was influenced by the Arts and Crafts aesthetic popular around the turn of the 20th century. As of 1 March 2008, only seven of these publications (28%) have been cataloged in WorldCat/OCLC—one by NLU alone, one by NLU and other libraries, and five by a handful other libraries—and 18 (72%) appear not to have been cataloged by any library. Digitization of this collection, thus, will provide general access to an important body of generally overlooked literature produced in Chicago that focuses on progressive educational ideas and practices at the turn of the 20th century.

### Relation to Illinois Culture and Heritage

Elizabeth Harrison (1849-1927) was a practitioner, theoretician, publicist, and political activist in the cause of kindergarten and early childhood education in late 19th- and early 20th-Century Chicago. Arriving in Chicago in 1879, Harrison studied with Alice Putnam (who opened the first private kindergarten in Chicago in 1874), then with Susan Blow (who opened the first public school kindergarten in the U.S. in 1873) in St. Louis, and with Maria Boelte (who studied with the widow of Friedrich Froebel, 1782-1852, founder of the kindergarten movement in Germany in the 1830s) in New York. Thus, within a few years Harrison had worked with the major figures in the nascent kindergarten movement in the United States. Beginning her teaching in the mid-1880s, from which National-Louis University traces its roots, in 1891 Harrison opened the Chicago Kindergarten College, one of the earliest private colleges in Chicago. Subsequently, her school evolved into the National Kindergarten College (1912), National Kindergarten and Elementary College (1917), National College of Education (1930) and National-Louis University (1990). In 1892 she was one of the founding members of the International Kindergarten Union and two years later organized the first national Mother’s Convocation in Chicago, forerunner of the Parent and Teachers Association (PTA), which drew 1,200 attendees. Her early efforts were noted by the *New York Times*:

Chicago is the great educational kindergarten centre of the United States, with its three large training schools for kindergarten teachers. One of the first mothers’ classes in the country was started there under the direction of Miss Elizabeth Harrison, who is so well known for her kindergarten work and writings. (“Teaching the Mothers / Brooklyn’s Revolution in Kindergarten Methods,” *NYT*, April 14, 1895)

Yet, Harrison is not widely recognized today for her pioneering contributions, compared to Jane Addams at Hull House and Frances Willard, president of the Women’s Christian Temperance

Union, to the intellectual ferment and progressive drive in the educational and cultural life of Chicago at the turn of the 20th century. Instead, scholarship has focused on John Dewey, Francis Parker, and other men who fueled the fire of progressive education in Chicago, rather than on Harrison and the other women who laid the groundwork and kindled the flame fanned by their (male) colleagues. In her memoir, *Sketches along Life's Road* (which cannot be digitized at this time because it remains under copyright by its publisher and editor), she summarized her philosophy thus: “[I]nformation is merely a tool, a most necessary tool, but never an end. The real end of education is individual growth and the right use of that growth is in the service of humanity.” Digitization of these various works will contribute to a reassessment of Elizabeth Harrison’s contributions to early childhood education and to the cultural heritage of Illinois.

Title	Publication Year	# of Volumes	Edition	Publisher	OCLC #	Checked OCA site yes/no
List of Books for Children	1889	1	1	n.p.	none	yes
Kindergarten Talks and Tales: Story of Friedrich Froebel	1889	1	1	Chicago: Chicago Printing Co	none	yes
The Legend of the Christ Child: A Story for Christmas Eve / Adapted from the German	1893	1	1	Chicago: Chicago Kindergarten College	145053592	yes
The Root of the Temperance Question From a Kindergarten Standpoint	1891	1	1	Chicago: Chicago Kindergarten College	43875842	yes
The Kindergarten as an Influence in Modern Civilization	1891	1	1	Chicago: Chicago Kindergarten College	145053592	yes
Toys and their Place in the Education of the Child	1893	1	1	Chicago: Chicago Kindergarten College	none	yes
Relationship Between the Kindergarten and Great Literature / Number One / Homer	1893	1	1	Chicago: Chicago Kindergarten College	none	yes
Relationship Between the Kindergarten and Great Literature /Number Two / Dante	1893	1	1	Chicago: Chicago Kindergarten College	none	yes
Relationship Between the Kindergarten and Great Literature /Number Three/ Shakespeare	1893	1	1	Chicago: Chicago Kindergarten College	81952944	yes
Story of Christopher Columbus for Little Children	1893	1	1	Chicago: Chicago Kindergarten College	45787599	yes
Kindergarten Talks and Tales: The Caterpillar and Butterfly	1893	1	1	Chicago: Chicago Kindergarten College	none	yes
Kindergarten Talks and Tales: Science Lessons	1893	1	1	Chicago: Chicago Kindergarten College	none	yes
Kindergarten Talks and Tales: Story of a Raindrop	1893	1	1	Chicago: Chicago Kindergarten College	none	yes

Title	Publication Year	# of Volumes	Edition	Publisher	OCLC #	Checked OCA site yes/no
Kindergarten Talks and Tales: Story of Friedrich Froebel	1893	1	1	Chicago: Chicago Kindergarten College	none	yes
A List of Toys Suggested by the Mothers in the Second and Third Year's Course of Study	1893	1	1	Chicago: Chicago Kindergarten College	none	yes
Suggestions for Summer Reading	n.d.	1	1	Chicago: Chicago Kindergarten College	none	yes
Some Evolutions in the Kindergarten Work	1893	1	1	Kindergarten Review	none	yes
Questions on a Study of Child-Nature	1897	1	1	Chicago: Chicago Kindergarten College	none	yes
Shop Windows	1900	1	1	Chicago: Chicago Kindergarten College	none	yes
The Scope and Results of Mothers' Classes	1903	1	1	Proceedings of the National Education Association	none	yes
America's Message to the World – How does this Effect the Education of the Young Woman?	1904	1	1	n.p.	none	yes
How Little Cedric became a Knight	1905	1	1	Chicago: A. Flanagan Co	54826155	yes
How Shall We Best Conserve our Nation's Moral Forces?	1910	1	1	Child Welfare Magazine	26495586	yes
How are We Educating our Young Girls?	n.d.	1	1	n.p.	none	yes
Some Evolutions in the Kindergarten Work	n.d.	1	1	n.p.	none	yes