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

PROJECT NAME: Illinois Culture and Heritage: Chicago Kindergarten College,
"Kindergarten Journal," 1910-1911

CARLI MEMBER INSTITUTION: National-Louis University

PROPOSAL INFORMATION:

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contact person at each participating library.)

Please use additional sheets of paper if necessary.

Materials to be Digitized: *Kindergarten Journal*, Five Issues, 1910-1911

National-Louis University proposes to digitize five issues of the *Kindergarten Journal* published 1910-1911 by the Chicago Kindergarten College, “Being a continuation of newsletters sent to members in Nineteen-four and Nineteen-five, inspired by the success of the Alumnae Annual of Nineteen Hundred, and successor to the Alumnae News.” The *Journal*, published by the faculty and staff of the Chicago Kindergarten College, established by Elizabeth Harrison in 1891, served to inform College alumnae of news about the College, current issues in kindergarten education, news of kindergarten schools affiliated with the College—e.g., Cleveland; Pratt Institute in New York; Fort Worth, Indiana; Grand Rapids, Michigan; and other outposts of CKC alumnae across the country—and advertize personal and professional items. The *Journal* exemplifies current interests in the kindergarten community in Chicago and nationally in the early 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, which drew 1,200 attendees and was the forerunner of the Parent and Teachers Association (PTA). 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 volumes will contribute to a understanding of the central role the Chicago Kindergarten College played in the development of early childhood education and its contributions to the cultural heritage of Illinois.

Title	Publication Year	# of Volumes	Edition	Publisher	OCLC #	Checked OCA site yes/no
Kindergarten Journal	Spring 1910	1		Chicago Kindergarten College		yes
Kindergarten Journal	Summer 1910	1		Chicago Kindergarten College		yes
Kindergarten Journal	Vol. 1 no. 3, Autumn 1910	1		Chicago Kindergarten College		yes
Kindergarten Journal	Vol. 6 no. 1, Winter 1910-11	1		Chicago Kindergarten College		yes
Kindergarten Journal	Vol. 7 no. 2, Summer 1911	1		Chicago Kindergarten College	53817392	yes