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**2019–2020 CARLI Preservation Committee:  
Annual Report of Activities and Project**

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**Members:**

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| Mary Burns       | (2017–2020) | Northern Illinois University, Co-Chair     |
| Rob DeLand       | (2019–2022) | VanderCook College of Music                |
| Nora Gabor       | (2018–2021) | DePaul University                          |
| Tonia Grafakos   | (2018–2021) | Northwestern University                    |
| Susan Howell     | (2017–2020) | Southern Illinois University Carbondale    |
| Becky Koch       | (2019–2022) | Illinois State University                  |
| Ann Lindsey      | (2017–2020) | University of Chicago, Co-Chair            |
| Meghan Ryan      | (2016–2019) | National Louis University                  |
| William Schlaack | (2018–2021) | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign |

Board Liaisons: Fred Barnhart, Northern Illinois University and  
Pattie Piotrowski, University of Illinois at Springfield

Staff Liaisons: Elizabeth Clarage and Nicole Swanson

**Meetings:**

The Preservation Committee met 11 times during 2019–2020:

- 1 in -person meeting August 9, 2019, CARLI Office, Champaign
- 10 conference calls- September 6, October 21, November 18, and December 9, 2019; January 13, February 10, March 9, April 13, May 11, and June 9, 2020

**Activities:**

- Maintained and updated the Preservation Resources webpage:  
<https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/preservation-resources>
- Planned in-person guided tours of the Newberry Library and the Chicago History Museum archives with a focus on their conservation and preservation efforts on March 29, 2020. This program was full and had a wait list. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, this program was cancelled.
- Other newsletter articles contributed by the Committee included:
  - "Two CARLI Preservation Events Summaries: Choosing and Constructing Protective Enclosures for Library Materials Workshop and Conservation Lab Open Houses at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and the Illinois State Military Museum," Tonia Grafakos, Northwestern University; Susan Howell, Southern Illinois University Carbondale; and Bonnie Parr, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum  
<https://www.carli.illinois.edu/spring2019-preservation-events-summaries>
  - "Resources for Collection Management Response to COVID-19," Ann Lindsey, Head of Conservation at the University of Chicago Library  
<https://www.carli.illinois.edu/resources-collection-management-response-covid-19>
- Annual Project: Preservation Interviews <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/preservation-interviews>
  - This year the annual project for the CARLI Preservation Committee was devoted to written interviews of preservationists/conservators and librarians with preservation responsibilities. The interviews were published in the CARLI Newsletter as Preservation Tips with the project culminating into a website of all the interviews. A call for prospective interviewees

with a list of potential interview topics was published in the September issue of the CARLI Newsletter. The list of topics included:

- Planning surveys or assessments
  - Creating or implementing a long-range preservation/conservation plan
  - Staff training
  - Preservation of digital collections
  - Emergency response
  - A program for environmental controls
  - A program for conservation treatment
  - Preservation of archival materials
  - Improvements to reduce exposure to light
  - Collections security
  - Exhibit design and preparation
  - Integrated pest management
- Each Committee member asked questions prepared by them with input from the Committee members. With the help of the interviewees who agreed to be a part of our project and offered to share their experiences and knowledge, the Preservation Committee was able to offer a very interesting and informative series of interviews to the CARLI community. A summary of these interviews is provided at the end of this report.
- CARLI Preservation Interviews for 2019-2020
- September: Introduction to Annual Project -- Ann Lindsey, Head of Conservation, The University of Chicago Library
    - Ann introduced our yearly project to the CARLI Community and put out a call for interviewees. A list of potential interview topics was provided.
  - October: Planning Surveys and Assessment -- Mary Burns (Special Collections Catalog Librarian, Northern Illinois University) interview with Ann Lindsey (Head of Conservation, The University of Chicago Library) <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/preservation-interview-surveys-and-assessments>
    - Ann discusses the six-week Mary and Samuel Somit Preservation Internship that the University of Chicago Library has every summer. It is intended for students or recent graduates of a library training program who would like to pursue preservation in their careers. Their 2016 internship was devoted to a condition survey on a large portion of their Special Collections Research Center. They surveyed 300 randomly chosen items and developed a questionnaire with over 40 questions for each item.
  - November: Planning for Special Collections Exhibits -- William Schlaack (Digital Reformatting Coordinator, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) interview with Marco Vinicio Valladares Perez (Exhibits Conservator at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/collections-management/preservation-interview-planning-special-collections-exhibits>
    - Marco discusses his work preparing the UIUC exhibit in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library called “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Conservation Treatments and Decision Making Through the Ages.” For the first time a small group from the conservation lab were curators, in charge of almost every step of the process, from conceptualizing the exhibit, to choosing the objects to display and deciding how to display them.

- January: Preparing Exhibits -- Susan Howell (Cataloging and Metadata Librarian, Southern Illinois University Carbondale) interview with Bonnie Parr (Historical Documents Conservator, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum); with contributions from Lance Tawzer (ALPLM Exhibits Director), Carla Smith (ALPLM Registrar) and Mike Casey (ALPLM Exhibit Designer) <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/preservation-interview-preparing-exhibits>
  - Bonnie discusses her role in creating exhibits which is concerned with preserving the objects displayed. She shares how preservation practices figure into display and how the preservation professional contributes to exhibit design and preparation.
- January: Disaster Response -- Ann Lindsey (Head of Conservation, The University of Chicago Library) interview with Tonia Grafakos (Marie A. Quinlan Director of Preservation, Northwestern University Libraries) <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/preservation-interview-disaster-response>
  - Tonia shares her knowledge and expertise about responding to a disaster situation in their special collections storage area when mold was discovered.
- March: Preservation Week -- Meghan Ryan (Special Collections and Cataloging Librarian, National Louis University) interview with Moriah Caruso (Co-chair, ALCTS/PARS Preservation Outreach Committee, Digital Preservation Librarian, University of Washington Libraries) <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/preservation-interview-community-college-archives>
  - *This interview took place before library closures due to COVID-19.*
  - Moriah discusses Preservation Week, an initiative of ALCTS, that aims to inspire action to preserve collections. These collections are found not only in libraries, archives, and museums but also include items that belong to individuals, families, and communities.
- April: Preservation of Archival Materials -- Nora Gabor (Rare Books Librarian, DePaul University) interview with Jenny Dunbar (Archivist, College of DuPage) <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/preservation-interview-archival-materials>
  - Jenny shares what her preservation responsibilities are as a solo archivist at a community college and the many additional contributions she makes through her work.
- June: Digital Preservation -- Mary Burns (Special Collections Catalog Librarian, Northern Illinois University) interview with Matt Short (Metadata Librarian, Northern Illinois University) <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/preservation-interview-digital-preservation>

Matt gives an overview of the digital preservation policies and practices at NIU and offers insights into the benefits of having preservation policies in place.

Respectfully Submitted by  
 Ann Lindsey (University of Chicago) & Mary Burns (Northern Illinois University)  
 Co-chairs, 2019–2020