
CARLI Preservation Committee
FY 2021 Annual Report of Activities and Projects

Members

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

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

CARLI Staff Liaisons: Elizabeth Clarage and Nicole Swanson

Meetings

The Preservation Committee met 11 times during 2020-2021:

- 11 conference calls (all meetings held online due to COVID-19 restrictions) – August 28, September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14, 2020; January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, and June 14, 2021

Activities

- Maintained and updated the Preservation Resources webpage:
<https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/preservation-resources>
- Tonia Grafakos of Northwestern University Libraries hosted a CARLI Professional Development Alliance (PDA) event “Incoming Library Collections: A Unified Approach to Newly Acquired Material” (April 20, 2021) <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/pda-event-incoming-library-collections-unified-approach-newly-acquired-material>
- Adapted annual projects to meet the remote requirements of committee members, with the committee also acting as a conduit to share news updates regarding staff and collection decisions from member libraries. All meetings were conducted via Zoom.
- Annual Project 1: Reviewed and shared recommendations about the Preservation Committee’s Charge with the CARLI Board of Directors.

- Annual Project 2: Preservation Interviews <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/preservation-interviews>
 - Building off the success of last year’s annual “Preservation Tips” interview project and with the knowledge that this format works well in a remote work environment, this year’s committee decided to conduct interviews that would provide readers with a “snapshot” of how various CARLI member libraries are handling the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/preservation-response-covid-19>
 - Closure of physical locations
 - Creation of safety policies and guidelines for staff and library materials
 - Expanding access to digitized content
 - Maintaining awareness of emerging research and recommendations
 - Challenge in shifting to a work-from-home environment
 - Adapting and shifting projects to meet new realities imposed by COVID-19 restrictions
 - Budget and staffing cuts
 - 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. Questions were decided upon by the committee prior to the interviews are as follows (with some variation depending on the interview):
 - *What was your institution's original response to the statewide closure in March 2020?*
 - *Were there special considerations for how your institution handled physical resources?*
 - *What were some preservation or conservation activities that were accomplished during the closure?*
 - *How did the closure and then re-opening impact preservation/conservation at your institution?*
 - *What are you doing to fulfill patron requests during this time?*
 - *What is your institution doing to incorporate lessons learned into future practices?*
 - *What did you learn from this experience? Has your institution changed?*
 - *Which sources have you relied on to inform your institutional policies? How did you learn about those sources?*
 - CARLI Preservation Interviews for 2020-2021
 - **September: Introduction to Annual Project** – Meghan Ryan, Special Collections and Cataloging Librarian, National Louis University <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/preservation-response-covid-19>

- Meghan discusses some of the challenges that libraries faced during the pandemic and introduces the Preservation Committee's annual project: A Snapshot of our Preservation/ Conservation Response to COVID-19.

- **October: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** – William Schlaack (Digital Reformatting Coordinator, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) interview with Jennifer Hain Teper (Head, Preservation Services, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).
<https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/snapshot-uiuc>
 - Jennifer discussed the shifting of preservation staff and projects to a mostly remote environment, with a special focus given to a unique advertising collection that proved to be a great project for the circumstances.

- **November: DePaul University** – Nora Gabor (Rare Books Librarian, DePaul University) interview with Kyle Henke (Digital Archivist, DePaul University).
<https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/snapshot-depaul>
 - Kyle reflects on the projects preservation staff were able to accomplish remotely. Additionally, Kyle also reflects on what working remotely means for him as a digital archivist and highlights the opportunities that remote conferences and Twitter have brought to the field.

- **January: Chicago History Museum** – Melina Avery (Conservator, University of Chicago) interview with Ellen Keith (Director of Research and Access and Chief Librarian, Chicago History Museum).
<https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/snapshot-chicagohistorymuseum>
 - Ellen details how the Chicago History Museum transitioned from being a completely on-site workplace to the remote realities of COVID-19 restrictions.

- **February: Lake Forest College-** Meghan Ryan (Special Collections and Cataloging Librarian, National Louis University) interview with Anne Thomason (Associate Director of the Library and Head of Archives and Special Collections at Lake Forest College)
<https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/snapshot-lakeforestcollege>
 - Anne discusses how her institution collaborated to address the changes brought on by the pandemic, and how they shifted their focus to providing remote resources.

- **March: Southern Illinois University Carbondale-** Susan Howell (Cataloging and Metadata Librarian, Southern Illinois University Carbondale) interview with Susan Tulis (Associate Dean) with additional comments by Marissa Ellermann (Head of Circulation Services at Morris Library, Southern Illinois University Carbondale)
<https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/snapshot-southernillinoisuniversitycarbondale>
 - Susan and Marrison speak to their institution's task force creation to address the safety and needs of their community, and how they navigated filling requests and staffing.

- **April: Northern Illinois University-** Mary Burns (Special Collections Catalog Librarian) interviews Leanne VandeCreek, (Associate Dean for Public Services and Acting Associate Dean for Collections Management until September 1, 2020) and Sarah McHone-Chase, (Head of User Services and Faculty Librarian) with additional comments by Susan Kapost, (Head of the Technical Services Preservation Section at Northern Illinois University)
<https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/snapshot-niu>
 - Leanne, Sarah, and Susan discuss how they opened and operated their library in a very limited capacity after a month of closure, how they adjusted to meet the needs of their patrons, and how their environment was monitored and maintained while people worked remotely.

- **June:** Interviews in process

Respectfully submitted by

Meghan Ryan (National Louis University) and William Schlaack (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Co-chairs, 2020–2021