

MSU Archives & Historical Collections Receives Funding from NHPRC to Develop Electronic “Spartan Archive”

East Lansing, Mich.—A \$251,079 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to the Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections (UAHC) will fund the development of a digital archive to preserve university records in electronic format. “While most units at MSU are indeed storing their electronic records, we, like most institutions, need better ways to organize, manage and curate them over long periods of time. This will be the focus of the work funded by this grant.” said David Gift, Vice Provost for Libraries, Computing & Technology.

The three-year grant awarded in NHPRC’s Collaborative Electronic Records Projects category will support “Spartan Archive: An Electronic Records Archive at Michigan State University,” a prototype project to develop an electronic records archive for the university’s born-digital records. NHPRC-funded Collaborative Electronic Records Projects must increase the capacity of established archives and records management programs to create electronic records archives and preserve records of enduring historical value. This funding for UAHC’s *Spartan Archive* marks the largest Electronic Records Projects grant that NHPRC awarded in 2010.

During the three-year project period, UAHC will use a proof-of-concept approach to test the sustainability of an archival solution for the long-term access and preservation of three large electronic record series produced by MSU’s Registrar’s Office: the full catalog of Academic Programs, the Description of Courses offered each semester, and the annual Student Directory. UAHC will collaborate with multiple units within MSU on the project, and the Data Intensive Cyber Environments (DICE) Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Progress and outcomes will be shared with members of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) and other interested universities.

Several members of UAHC, the Registrar’s Office and MSU’s IT staff contributed to the successful grant proposal, including University Archives director Cynthia Ghering; archivists Deborah Gouin, Richard Adler, Whitney Miller and Lisa Schmidt; information technologists Ajay Patel, Craig Rosenberger, Kristin Schuette and Jim Smith; and Traci Gulick, Associate Registrar for Student Academic Records.

In addition to the three year award, UAHC is also a partner on an NHPRC funded project awarded to the University of Denver in Denver, CO to develop and test open-source records management software, Liaison, to assist archivists conduct records surveys, develop and distribute retention schedules, and maintain consistent information about permanent records. UAHC staff will implement and test the software in the second year of the two year project.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) is the grant making affiliate of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Established by Congress to promote the preservation and use of America's documentary heritage, the NHPRC supports a wide range of activities to preserve, publish, and encourage the use of documentary sources, created in every medium ranging from quill pen to computer, relating to the history of the United States. For more information on NHPRC, visit <http://www.archives.gov/nhprc/>.

The Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections (UAHC) maintains the permanent records of the university and provides management for MSU’s inactive records. Areas

of collection strength include the physical campus and grounds, early student life, and campus publications. Materials include written documents, photographs, oral histories, and films. UAHC also maintains more than 700 historical collections that document Michigan and the Great Lakes region, including large photograph collections of the surrounding communities of Lansing and East Lansing and historical records and papers relating to agriculture, lumbering, environmentalism, and the Civil War. For more information on UAHC, visit <http://www.archives.msu.edu/>.