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So, What is a COE? The ASERL Center of Excellence Model for Collaborative Federal Depository Libraries

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So, What is a COE?

The ASERL Center of Excellence Model for Collaborative Federal Depository Libraries

Presentation for University of Kentucky Libraries’ Faculty Meeting, Feb. 27, 2012
History of UK’s COE

- 2007: Collaborative Federal Depository Program (CFDP) Steering Committee starts meeting to design Center of Excellence (COE) project
- 2008: UK volunteers to be COE for Works Progress Admin. (WPA)--our WPA inventory begins
- 2009: ASERL receives a 3-year IMLS National Leadership Grant to support ongoing development of ASERL CFDP Centers of Excellence project--WPA cataloging begins at UK
- 2010: UK signs Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as COE for the WPA--collection development/evaluation begins at UK for WPA
Goals of the CFDP

- Create “Centers of Excellence” at depositories to ensure multiple, complete retrospective collections by agency
- Collections will be supported by subject matter experts, able to provide sophisticated, in-depth reference services
- Work within USC Title 44, including respect for the Regional depository library model
UK’s COE Responsibilities

- Inventory and evaluate holdings for WPA (FDU)
- Catalog each WPA item (Access Records)
- Create a bibliography of all WPA titles, owned and not owned (FDU)
- Add WPA records to the ASERL COE database (Access Records)
- Fill gaps to ensure comprehensive collection (FDU)
- Make materials available (ILL, Circ. & Ref.)
- Digitize (FDU & Digital Library Serv.)
- Promote the use of the collection (FDU, Special & Ref.)
Examples of WPA Publications

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The interior of the house, although bearing the signs of age, shows its early elegance. It was furnished by a resident cabinet-maker who fashioned most of the pieces from designs brought over from England. The hand-carved woodwork probably ranks with the best found in Kentucky. Each principal room is equipped with a fireplace, but no two mantels are alike, indicating the skill of the craftsmen who carved the graceful sunbursts, leaves and other ornamentation. The ceilings are unusually high and this feature is accentuated by the lack of cornices. The walls in each room are bare, relieved only by a wood dado, or wainscot, of paneled design, a few feet above the floor.

Gideon Shryock, architect for the dwelling, was born in Lexington, Kentucky, November 15, 1804, the son of Matthias Shryock, a builder and contractor. At the age of twenty-one he went to Philadelphia to study under William Strickland, the most noted architect and civil engineer in the United States at that time. Shryock gave to Kentucky many beautiful buildings which rank in design with the national capital at Washington and other noted structures.

Henry Clay Home

Fayette County, Ky.
Examples of WPA Publications
Examples of WPA Publications

IN THE LAND OF BREATHITT

Compiled by Workers of the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Kentucky

AMERICAN GUIDE SERIES ILLUSTRATED

BACON, PERCY & DAGGETT
Publishers NORTHPONT, N. Y.
Examples of WPA Publications

MIGRATORY COTTON PICKERS IN ARIZONA

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION DIVISION OF RESEARCH
Voyager Record
ASERL COE Database

- COE’s must add cataloging records to the ASERL COE database
- Records include both owned and not owned titles for each COE
- Other ASERL libraries can add records for COE agencies, compare collections, analyze differences
What the ASERL COE Database Does

- Owned vs. Available Gap Report—compares what we own to other libraries’ holdings for WPA; tells us what we can acquire elsewhere
- Owned vs. Universe Gap Report—compares what we own to all known titles for WPA; tells us what we are missing
- Holdings condition report—compares condition of our WPA titles to condition of those same titles owned by other libraries
ASERL Shared Disposition Database

- Goal is to share withdrawn materials throughout the Southeast in an easy to use database
- Developed at the University of Florida
- Regional, Selective, COE (can be either Regional or Selective) each participate at different points in 45-day offer cycle
- Allows us to advertise our needs, including WPA
Promoting the WPA collection

- Maintaining a LibGuide for the WPA collection
- Using WPA as an example of primary source material from a government agency in information literacy program
- Displaying WPA images in Hub in 2012
- Creating an end-of-grant program in Sept., 2012
UK’s LibGuide for our WPA Collection

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) collection at the University of Kentucky dates from the early 1930s to the late 1940s and is becoming more comprehensive thanks to the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) and the Collaborative Federal Depository Program (CFDP). UK has been given the opportunity to develop a Center of Excellence for the WPA through an Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant as a Center of Excellence. UK is developing a collection of archival pieces that are non-circulating and will preserve the WPA publications in their original format. The libraries are also acquiring microfilm for use by researchers. Currently, UK’s collection has over 2,000 items published by the Works Progress Administration.

The WPA published many American Imprints Inventories, which are quite fascinating historical accounts of library collections in each state. The Supplemental Check List Of Kentucky Imprints, 1780-1920, American Imprints Inventory No. 38 lists the titles of books published about or in Kentucky. This particular book lists the holdings of 50 libraries around the United States.

The University of Kentucky’s collection has many items that chronicle Kentucky’s development and history with the WPA, such as:

- **Inventory of The County Archives of Kentucky, no.34 Fayette County (Lexington)**
- **Promoted by The Federal Relief Survey, the Daughters of Women’s and Professional Projects, and the Works Progress Administration.**
- **This publication contains an historical sketch of Lexington as well as a layout of the governmental organization.** It also states that the State Office of the Industrial Benefits Survey was originally located in Lexington.

Another interesting publication from the WPA is the Ancestral Occupations of persons employed on WPA projects, published in November 1937. This publication is also printed with tables listing and numbering how many people were employed on WPA projects organized by state. The introduction provides a brief description of the data as well as the occupational groups and maps of types of projects.

The WPA was also responsible for publishing many books, one of which is the **Guide to Depositions of Manuscript Collections in the United States, Minnesota.** This guide contains lists organized by library of all the manuscripts held in Minnesota libraries.
Material Formats

- Print
  - Young, Storage, Special Collections, Branches
    - SuDoc and LC classifications
- Microform
- Digital
  - Future accessibility of many items via the web
- Photographs
- Posters
- Art (UK Art Museum collection)
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