

Clarke Historical Library
Film Preservation Project Challenges
MAC Lexington, KY, May 9, 2015

Clarke Historical Library

Major historical library, archives in mid-Michigan

Collections: Michigan history (Native Americans)

Children's literature

CMU history



Films in the Clarke

- A film or two in several collections, some collections entirely film
- Mostly 16mm acetate
- Document CMU or MI history.
- Oldest 1927 16 mm acetate Camp Custer



Channel 9 & 10 News Films

- Main source of news for 35 counties in both MI peninsulas and a section of Canada
- Largest film collection in the Clarke
- 1950s-1980s
- 70 cubic ft.
- 3,000 reels; the majority are small reels
- Includes: outtakes, stock footage, A and B rolls, and final products
- Some text records included

Existing Problems:

- Film in our collection:
 - In MS storage = inadequate for film preservation
- Some film in late stage decomposition
- Some inventory, minimal description= no use of film

Existing Problems #2:

- Lack of cores, film storage containers
- Little documentation
- Lack of labels, labels fallen off



Existing Problems #3:

- Lack of staff with film knowledge/experience
- Need to convince administration of The Plan!

The Plan, 2012

Gather statistics and standards

Write **great** project proposal

Inform Administration of state of events

Get Administration to agree to our project



The Plan:

- Need to determine deterioration levels
- Need to educate staff and student
- Need budget to buy equipment, storage containers, and refrigeration
- Need to rehouse films and label them
- Need inventory, description, and catalog records

The Plan Begins

- Got Administrative support, funding
- We attended AMIA-Dec. 2012
- Bought equipment
- Inventoried
- Determined decomposition status
- Developed standards for labels, description
- Implemented



Parts of Plan Still to Complete

- Tressa graduated May 2014
 - Not allowed to hire grads for temporary work
- Her position remained unfilled
- No work on project in 2014/15 school year
 - More discussion than physical project progress
 - Plan may continue with students in summer or fall

Remaining Plan to Complete

- Most of Channel 9 & 10 News needs to be reviewed, described, rehoused, labeled, and cataloged.
 - One reel also needs to be found
- Refrigeration unit still needs to be purchased (the Dean promises this)

The Misplaced 9 & 10 Footage

- KISS in Cadillac, MI for a 2 day high school homecoming event
 - October 9 & 10, 1975
- Photo courtesy of Kiss8mmfilms Project



Questions?

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