Summary of The Ohio State University Center for Folklore Studies Archive Collections

Regional & Fieldwork-Based Research Collections

Genre Cards: Boxes of filing cards and student papers categorized by genre. Materials were collected by OSU students. Major genres include belief, custom, legend (character, etiological, contemporary).

Key Ingredients: Ohio by Food: Images, audio, and transcription from a foodways exhibit coordinated by the Ohio Humanities Council and supported by We the People, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Materials include photographs, interviews, and transcriptions.

Lake Erie Fishermen: Laborlore in Ohio: The Lake Erie Fishermen Collection was compiled by Timothy Lloyd and Patrick Mullen from 1983 to 1984 in northern Ohio. The collection includes interviews with 20 individuals, thirty 90-minute TDK cassette tapes, 35 sheets of negatives, 35 contact sheets, 725 slides, 393 black-and-white photographs, 131 pages of logs of 16 interviews, 746 pages of transcription from 25 interviews, and one hardcover book. A secondary collection includes one binder of 52 CDs of audio material and three DVDs of audio material digitized from the cassette tapes.

New Harmonies: Ohio Vernacular Music Today: Digitized music (original field recordings of folk music festivals in Ohio and selected records of Ohio musicians), research notes, and images (forthcoming) from the New Harmonies tour in Ohio. The project was coordinated by the Ohio Humanities Council and supported by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit Service’s Museum on Main Street initiative.

Ohio Arts Council Projects: Consists of several fieldwork projects funded by the Ohio Arts Council in the 1970s and 1980s. Materials include interviews, slides, and recordings documenting Ohio folklore, such as fiddle contests, foodways, and religious practices.

Ohio Valley Folk Publications: Publications of the Ohio Valley Folklore Research Project carried out by the Ross County Historical Society in Chillicothe, Ohio, in the 1950s and early 1960s. The items originally were printed by mimeograph and assembled using wallpaper (taken from sample books) as covers and stapling the pages on the spine. This on-line collection is of the covers or first-pages only of items held in the collection.

Student Fieldwork Papers: Over 10,000 OSU folklore student research projects stretching back to the early 1960s, focusing on regional oral traditions (with a particular strength in contemporary and historical legends, anecdotes, jokes, and oral history), beliefs, customs, festivals, material culture, and traditional ways of living.
Say Amen: Religion in Ohio: Materials collected by the Southern Ohio Folklife Radio Program. Materials include reel-to-reel audio of the series sponsored by the Ohio Arts Council.

University District Project: Oral histories collected from OSU University District residents by students in English 367.05: The American Folk Experience (winter and autumn 2008). Materials include interviews, photographs, and transcripts.

Donor-Specific Collections

Erika Bourguignon: Personal correspondences, publications, and articles produced and collected by Dr. Bourguignon, OSU professor emeritus of Anthropology.

Francis Lee Utley Folklore Collection: Documents, photocopies, and music records collected by Fancis Lee Utley (1907-1974), founder of the Center for Folklore Studies Archives. The manuscript portion of the collection includes over 200 boxes of Utley’s Medieval Studies research files. The Utley Record Collection contains over 7,000 music records (78s, 33½s) produced throughout the 20th century by various labels and spanning numerous genres and countries of origin.

John Stewart: Bibliographic cards from Dr. Stewart’s Afro-Caribbean research.

Pat Mullen Research & Teaching: Research and teaching files, including numerous reel-to-reel fieldwork tapes and lectures. Collection includes reel-to-reel recordings of fieldwork in Texas in 1967 and of the Ohio Folklore Festival in the early 1970s.

Rosemary Joyce: Materials include slides, audiotapes, fieldwork guides, event publications, bibliographies, songbooks, journals, magazines, record albums, books, and articles from Joyce’s personal collection. Collection focuses on Ohio traditional crafts, such as basket-making and quilting, and includes slides of Ohio fairs.

Teaching, Research, and Resource Collections

Dissertation and Theses: Dissertations and theses completed by Ohio State University folklore students in various departments. Printed and electronic copies of manuscripts.

Folklore Research Materials: Books, journals, DVDs and CDs of interest to folklorists.

Teaching Aids: Collection contains reels of lectures from folklore courses taught through the English department at OSU.