





INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS ADVISOR

A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

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NEW READINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR

By Karen DePauw, coordinator, IHS Local History Services

This time of year often offers a quiet respite. A bit of calm after the holiday storm and before the onslaught of school children coming in the spring. If your museum is closed to the public during this time, or even if you just enjoy a bit of down time on the visitor front, it can be a good time to examine the collection and brush up on useful information to make your year run smoothly. Below are six books covering six different topics that might all help you get off on the right foot in 2019.

If you are interested in curling up with any of these books, all of them and more are available through our Lending Resource Center. This is a free borrowing library available to all nonprofit historical organizations in the state of Indiana. You can borrow each book for up to one month. Simply check out our [online catalog](#) and [contact me](#) if you find something interesting you would like to borrow.



SOLVING THE MYSTERIES

[Collection Conundrums: Solving Collections Management Mysteries](#)

If you have a collection, it is more likely than not there are a few mysteries hidden deep inside storage, from items without donation paperwork to objects with no history. This book offers a tremendous resource for how to solve the most common of these collection mysteries. While walking the reader through each conundrum, the authors provide guidance on how the problem typically comes about, how to solve the problem and how to prevent it from happening in the future. Also included are case studies and multiple appendices offering example policies and paperwork.



UPCOMING TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

[Caring for Architectural Records](#)

Jan. 10 -
Northeast Document Conservation Center webinar.

[Digitization for Small Institutions](#)

Jan. 16 and 17 -
LYRASIS webinar.

[The Power of 3 - Webinars to Help You Write Successful Grants](#)

Jan. 24; Feb. 7; Feb 21 -
GrantStation webinars.

LIGHTEN THE LOAD

[*A Deaccession Reader*](#)

In more recent years, the idea of deaccessioning has come more to the forefront of the museum conversation, both within the field and within the public. The act of deaccessioning is not innately negative, rather it is necessary to an organization's health. However, if done incorrectly, deaccessioning can cause problems. This book takes a detailed look at deaccessioning from museum policies on how to conduct deaccessioning activities, to the ethics and public scrutiny of removing items from museum collections. If deaccessioning is in your museum's future, this is a great resource.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

[*The Care and Display of Historic Clothing*](#)

Full disclosure, I wrote this book. The book came after realizing that, like many focused areas of museum collections, it can be difficult to find everything you need for basic care of clothing without purchasing numerous books for a chapter here and a chapter there. This book covers everything from storage and fiber identification to dating and exhibition. Learn how to identify condition issues in collection items and even simple ways to prevent, or repair, damage and prepare costumes for safe display.

GO GREEN

[*Environmental Sustainability at Historic Sites and Museums*](#)

Going green is becoming an increasingly important thing for all organizations to consider. Being intentional about the practices employed in collections care, building preservation, and even land use can greatly affect how communities see and understand the role that history and cultural heritage plays in this aspect of our earth's future. By incorporating discussions of environmental sustainability in the past and present, cultural organizations are leading a charge to help the planet. This book looks at changes large and small that can be done to increase sustainability by offering up insightful chapters and helpful case studies from organizations of all kinds.

BE AVAILABLE

[*Reference and Access: Innovative Practices for Archives and Special Collections*](#)

There are two sides to the coin regarding preservation of historical items. On one side is the need and desire to safeguard items for future generations. On the other is making those items available to the public so the objects can inform our knowledge of the past. Providing access to items is a very important part of historic organizations and having a good method of doing so can help both external and internal researchers. This book offers insight into making objects accessible while still protecting them. The authors offer numerous case studies regarding how individual institutions have balanced access and preservation.

GET DIGITAL

[*Digitization and Digital Archiving: A Practical Guide for Librarians*](#)

It is no longer news that everyone expects access to knowledge at the click of a mouse. To provide such instant information, museums and libraries are finding themselves increasingly digitizing items for representation on the internet. Whether through online databases with wordy descriptions or through images of the real object, organizations must create digital surrogates of their tangible collections. This book details the ins and outs of creating digital versions, preserving them, and providing access to them. Nearly everything you need to know about picking out equipment or migrating data can be found in these pages.

This is a free publication. Anyone may subscribe.

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