

# INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS ADVISOR

A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

Issue 135 | January 2023

## Online Collection Resources

By Karen DePauw, Manager, Local History Services

When researching and writing our monthly Collections Advisor e-resource, there are a few go-to online resources I rely on for trustworthy collection information. I thought that as the new year begins it would be a good time to bring some of these resources together and help you start your own trustworthy resource list. Although some of these have resources available behind membership pay-walls, do not let that stop you from heading to their sites, because they often provide lots of information for free as well.



*Milton Allen, Owner-Operator of Computer Kids (Indianapolis Recorder Collection, Indiana Historical Society)*

[American Alliance of Museums](#)

[American Association for State and Local History](#)

Even though these organizations are membership based, they both offer various resources and training to non-members. While many of the other resources on this list focus on museum practice, these also offer theory-based resources. It can often be helpful to understand both what to do and why we do it.

[Connecting to Collections Care](#)

This site is a go-to for webinars on all things collections care. Run by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation, they offer topics ranging from telling your collections' stories through social media to the care of basketry. With archived webinars back to 2010, you can find just about anything you might need.

[Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts](#)

Based in Philadelphia, CCAHA offers a variety of resources through their website. You can find a Collection Housekeeping Guide, environmental infographics, vendor lists and more. They also provide collections education through webinars and consultations.



[Scott Electric Company Worker](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0569)

[Department of Natural Resources](#)

### [DNR Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology](#)

When looking for resources specific to historic preservation, archaeology, or cemeteries, we tend to go first to our DNR and DHPA websites. They may have a slightly different name depending on your state, but they are certainly a resource worth hunting down. In Indiana, these departments offer publications, presentations, and a variety of other resources, not to mention one-on-one help with a simple email or phone call.

### [Indiana Landmarks](#)

Landmarks organizations offer a great resource for building preservation. Indiana Landmarks has resources about historic house DIYs, preservation advice, and access to architectural surveys throughout the state. They are also happy to answer questions when you reach out to your regional office.

### [National Park Service: Museum Management Program](#)

You probably think of nature when you think of the National Park Service, but they have a bunch of resources about museum work as well. In their Museum Management Program are copies of many publications created by and for the NPS sites. Some of the resources are created for internal use, like the NPS Museum Handbook, but even these provide great insight into how to care for certain types of museum collections. Conserve O Grams are a top-notch way to learn about collections care in a bite-sized package.



[Set Open House](#) (Indianapolis Recorder Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

### [Northeast Document Conservation Center](#)

Focused on the preservation and conservation of paper-based collections, NEDCC offers a number of resources for archives. Their workshops, webinars, and courses address topics from preservation of physical items to digitization as a form of preservation. Along with trainings you will find PDFs containing information on specific collection conservation and preservation treatments and concerns.

### [Society of American Archivists](#)

If you are looking to learn more about the ins and outs of archival care, look no further than SAA. Much of their information is presented as courses, but some of those courses are free and offer a great introduction to archive management.

### [Texas Historical Commission](#)

As the state agency for historic preservation in Texas, they concentrate on telling stories and saving places important to Texas history. While several of their webinars focus on state-specific content, a number of them each year also focus on broader museum and preservation topics. Check out their archived webinars and keep an eye out for upcoming ones.



*[Paved Road and Restaurant](#) (Martin Collection, Indiana Historical Society)*

While the above online resources are go-to for everyone in our department, never underestimate the power of simply emailing your colleagues in the field. Whether they are your friendly local field services officer (HELLO!) or just someone else who works at a heritage organization, we sometimes forget to just ask their advice. Perhaps they have run into a similar situation and found a good way to handle it...or, a lot of bad ways to handle it that could save you the trouble of trying!

## Further Resources

- [Collections Advisors](#) (Indiana Historical Society)

Timely Tips (Indiana Historical Society)

## Collection Trainings

[Conservator's Corner: Where Does the Mold Go? A Conservator's Decisions about Dry-Cleaning](#)

**Jan. 12** – (Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts)

[Sustainable and Passive Ways to Improve your Collection Environment](#)

**Jan. 26** – (Connecting to Collections Care)

[Throwing Flames \(Safely\): Building Safety Programs at Living History Sites](#)

**Jan. 26** – (Texas Historical Commission)

[Webinars](#)

**Recorded** – (Indiana Historical Society)

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[Local History Services](#)

(317) 232-1882 | [localhistoryservices@indianahistory.org](mailto:localhistoryservices@indianahistory.org)

