



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA.

*Political Communication Center
Julian P. Kanter Commercial Archive*

I want to share some of the outcomes of the American Archive of Public Broadcasting and IMLS Grant Project (PBPF). First, let me say how delighted I am to have been selected for this important project. The depth and breadth of its effects will create ripples through the AV preservation community for years as professionals emerge with training we never hoped to provide. The equipment purchased also kick-started progress in my archive; my plans had been to write grants and send everything out to be transferred, but this project made me realize we can do this and we can do it well! Not only have you provided equipment for students, but you have provided for the profession's future by 'raising our own' archivists.

The PBPF project has flown by and when I look back on the experiences of the University of Oklahoma fellows I am pleased by the amount accomplished and the education obtained. The School of Library Science (SLIS) provided two very passionate fellows for the PBPF project and together we have left a permanent mark on the audiovisual landscape. Evelyn Cox and Laura Haywood are both very hard workers who, with their cohorts across the country, helped forge a model for public broadcast archiving and put 62-year-old PBS Station OETA on the map. These emerging professionals encourage me for the future of archiving. In addition to the bonds formed through mentoring I am fortunate to have developed professional relationships with Susan Burke and Janette Thornburgh. The training was superb and the hands on with the heavy hitters of the industry was the kind I dream of. Thank you for such a rich experience and fabulous hospitality. The changes I am making are many.

In my new role as 2019 president for the Oklahoma Archivists Association the professional contacts I developed are invaluable. The privilege of spending time with current and emerging professionals from across the country empowers me in so many areas from seeking student scholarships, internships, and jobs, to providing educational opportunities for Oklahoma's collection professionals. I see the chance to expand Oklahoma's knowledge base by being a liaison and bridge to educational opportunities for archivists, librarians, and museum personnel across the state who are struggling with the many hats of the lone arranger. In our current economic climate, where we lack certified K-12 teachers and education budgets have been slashed, we each must step up, advocate, and fill the gap for our future professionals. I am grateful to the PBPF project for expanding my state's opportunities as well as my own.

The equipment purchased for the project will remain at the library and be available for student projects and I intend to make myself available to assist in any way I can. As a direct consequence of the project and new professional relationships I am now able to offer academic internships for credit hours for School of Library Science undergraduates. I have my first SLIS intern this semester and we are working on cataloging, metadata, and transferring analog material to digital formats. While I don't look at interns as free labor it has been wonderful to have an intern to reinforce my own knowledge base and invigorate the center with fresh enthusiasm.



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Another direct result of the PBPF project and the training provided has been a big shift in thinking about our processing procedures. In the face of the worst budget cuts in the history of the university we have decided to transfer our cassette-based formats in house instead of trying to fund sending them out for transfer. I have become a regular visitor to the surplus department of the university for all things electronic and have made some real finds! Some departments have budgets for AV upgrades and it is working out well since we want the older equipment. I am currently attempting to set up 'digitization stations' on carts for DVC, DVC pro, MiniDV, Beta SP, $\frac{3}{4}$ " U-Matic, and VHS. These will be available for students and interns.

I am now looking inward to the resources I have on hand to make my material accessible. Using ideas from Boston I had some code written to automate several of my more time-consuming processes which provided a project for a computer science graduate student. I had an undergraduate history intern this summer who also benefited from this project; she helped with catalog corrections and setting up the workstation carts. We are in the process of cleaning up our catalog because we are moving it to a University of Oklahoma consortium of archives and collections hosted here in ArchivesSpace. Tools I picked up in Boston are also facilitating this process!

The project has had a snowball effect on my department and an unintended consequence of the project has resulted in an equipment inventory, cord sorting and storage development making everything easier to find and use in the limited space we occupy.

I think the biggest overall change though has been in me. I was feeling overwhelmed, we lost our video technician to early retirement and he was not replaced. We suffered cut after cut and loss after loss until I felt like I had no support. Then you reemphasized what wonderful support there is in the archival community. The hand holding done through this process for us is a testament to that support. I felt like I couldn't write grants for what we really needed with so much on my plate and the lack of staff but as a result of the project I see new ways of looking at it. Your use of the grant was so creative it made me think about new approaches and how I might enlist help there as well. We are a staff of two with a part-time graduate assistant, but we have renewed vigor and are charging forward with making our material accessible.

Thank you to everyone involved with this project!

