

CARA (Chicago Area Religious Archivists) MEETING
September 22, 2009
Minutes

The CARA (Chicago Area Religious Archivist) Fall meeting was held at the Wheaton College Archives and Special Collections on Tuesday, September 22, 2009. The meeting began at 1:30pm and concluded at 4:00pm.

Present: Merle Branner, North Shore Congregation Israel -- M. Joella Cunnane, RSM, Sisters of Mercy -- Alison Eisendrath, Chicago History Museum -- Anthony Elia, Lutheran School of Theology -- Karen Fulte, Bishop Fulton Sheen Museum -- Nahoko Green, Chicago History Museum -- Peter Gunther, Robert M. Myers Archives, Society of the Divine Word -- Sister Anita Marie Gutierrez, Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters Archives -- Mary Hennessy, RC, Cenacle Archives -- Malachy R. McCarthy, Claretian Missionary Archives -- Marsha Stein, Robert M. Myers Archives, Society of the Divine Word -- Joan Sweeney, Viatorian Community Archives, and Dominique Tremblay, Chicago History Museum.

Educational Opportunity: David Malone, Head of Wheaton College Special Collections, gave an excellent and informative presentation on Archon, the Archival Content Management System developed at the University of Illinois. He explained why the Wheaton College Archives chose Archon. David highlighted the following features helpful to users as well as archivists:

- Records descriptive information about collections and digital objects
- Is a means to view, search and browse information in a fully functional website
- Publishes information and objects in a user-friendly format
- Is flexible, very helpful and effective in the operation of archives
- Simplifies your life and saves time
- Tracks locations for containers or groups of containers

The discussion evolved around the merger of Archon and Archivists' Toolkit. The consensus - this will not be settled for a couple of years. Meanwhile the recommendation is to use Archon.

Tour: Following the presentation, Bob Schuster, archivist of the Billy Graham Center Archives, gave the group a tour of the Billy Graham Archives and David Malone gave us a tour of the Wheaton College Archives and Special Collections.

Next Steps: The Board will be discussing the next steps to implement an archive content management system for CARA (Chicago Area Religious Archivists) and establishing a users group. As a follow-up to our

discussion, please send your input and suggestions to Malachy McCarthy. MCCARTHYM@claretians.org.

Sharing Your Archives: Merle Branner, Archivist – North Shore Congregation Israel, reported that Dominican University Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists, is looking for repositories to visit during the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 school year. If you are willing to speak to the group and show them your facility, please contact Merle at merleab@dom.edu or call 847-361-1170

Grateful: Malachy McCarthy, Marcia Stein and Joan Sweeney provided goodies and beverages. Beautiful rainbow was an added blessing to a wonderful afternoon. Thanks to all!

Adjournment: 4:30 p.m.