Women’s Archives Project

Women in the Archival Record
MARAC, 2014 Spring Conference
Amy Vilz, University at Buffalo
Mission of UB University Archives

- Institutional records
- Manuscript collections
  - Parallel mission to document local and regional history
  - Activism, environment, architecture, education, and...
Women’s Archives Project

- ...Women’s history
- 1977
- Shonnie Finnegan
- State of women’s archives

Shonnie Finnegan
Women’s History Sources Survey

- Census of women’s history sources
- Survey started in Spring, 1976
- Guide to Women’s History Sources, published 1978

Eva Noles, circa 1945, MS 125
“Women have graduated from the University since 1876 and have been represented on the faculty and administration in significant numbers since the 1920s. The histories of thousands of women students and numerous faculty are inextricably intertwined in the basic records of the University. There are really very few record series which could not be used in some way to write the history of women at this institution....

[but a researcher] would have to search through many linear feet of records for occasional references to women.”

Letter, October 5, 1976, UB Assistant Archivist Chris Densmore to survey editors Clarke A. Chambers and Andrea Hinding
Currently...

International Women Playwrights Conference Records, MS 136
**Discoverability**

**National Organization for Women. Buffalo Chapter papers and records,**

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<th>Contributors</th>
<th>National Organization for Women. Buffalo, N.Y. Chapter. Women's History in Buffalo and Western New York Collection (State University of New York at Buffalo)</th>
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**Online**

http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/archives/ead/ms60/ms60.frame.html
Outreach

University at Buffalo, University Libraries
The University Archives

Women's Work:

a tribute to the women who make UB work

opening September 28, 2004
Special Collections Reading Room

also presented online in a special multi-media exhibit
http://cobbb.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/archives/womens_work/
Challenges

- Unprocessed, backlog collections
- Inconsistent cataloging
- Hidden documentation
- Institutional vs. manuscript collections
Successes

- Collections beget collections
- User support and interest
- Accruals and additions
- The greatest success is...

Silver Creek Shakespeare Club, MS 53
The Greatest Success is Context

Dorothy Haas, Director of Norton Union at the University at Buffalo
Thank You!

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