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Utah Phillips Papers at the Reuther Library

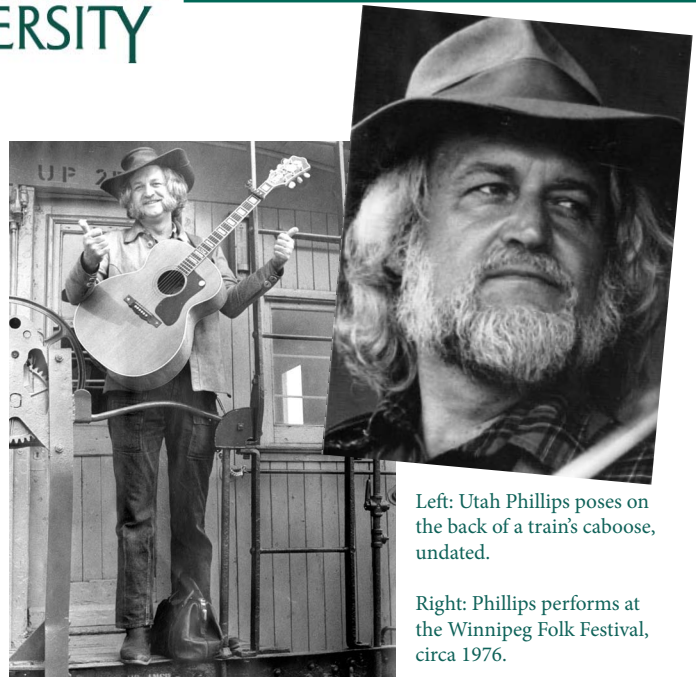
By Louis Jones, Field Archivist

In September 2013, the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs became the home of the Utah Phillips papers. Bruce Duncan “Utah” Phillips (1935-2008) a preeminent storyteller and a Grammy-nominated folksinger, was also a labor organizer, poet, philosopher, pacifist, two-time candidate for political office and anarchist. In each of these roles he always espoused universal equality, peace in a world plagued by conflict and war, and the dignity of the human spirit.

Phillips had an amazing grasp of history and brought clarity to complex ideas about oppression and struggle, without patronizing those to whom he was speaking or singing. In song and in spoken word he gave voice to a working class community and culture that is often misunderstood. In keeping with his sense of working class unity was his invitation to audience members to join with him in song. As these were as much their songs as his, the arrangement made sense. It also made sense that he could connect with these audiences because he himself was working class and had lived a life similar to theirs.

Bruce Phillips was born in Cleveland to labor organizers, served in the army after the Korean War, rode the rails as a hobo, worked as an archivist for the state of Utah, and ran for Senate on the Peace and Freedom ticket. After 1968 he adopted the stage name U. Utah Phillips and devoted himself to his life’s work of storytelling and songwriting. His songs were covered by Tom Waits, Emmylou Harris, and others, and he collaborated with Ani DiFranco on two of his later albums. Phillips spent the last decades of his life in Nevada City, California, where he hosted a syndicated public radio show (“Loafer’s Glory”) and founded a nonprofit charity to benefit the homeless.

Until his death in 2008, Phillips was a proud dues-paying member of the Industrial Workers of the World. His papers include many contracts for performances he gave throughout



Left: Utah Phillips poses on the back of a train’s caboose, undated.

Right: Phillips performs at the Winnipeg Folk Festival, circa 1976.

the United States, Canada and Europe, identifying “Entertainment Workers – I.U. 630/IWW” as the union that represented him for many years. One could argue that he provided more exposure and publicity to the IWW through his songs, stories and poems than anyone else in recent years.

The Reuther Library is the repository for the records of the IWW, and Utah Phillips’ papers will join those of the stalwart Wobblies Joe Hill and Frederick W. Thompson. The Reuther also holds the records of the Catholic anarchist Ammon Hennacy, and the Joe Hill House, a homeless shelter where Bruce Phillips lived for a while after his Army service.

Consisting of correspondence, sheet music, contracts for performances, reel-to-reel recordings, newsletters, photos, flyers and posters announcing concerts, songs, and poetry, the Utah Phillips papers make a unique and meaningful contribution to our archival holdings. With the addition of these 32 boxes of papers to the Reuther Library’s collections, scholars, students, fellow folksingers and others will now have the opportunity to learn more about Phillips, the people and organizations with which he interacted, and his contributions to the world in which he lived. ■

A Letter from the Director

Dr. Elizabeth Myers



The past year at the Reuther Library was filled with an amazing array of accomplishment and change. Archival work rarely appears complete—new collections are always arriving requiring care—and so it is important to recognize and celebrate just how much we've done.

By processing collections, Reuther staff opened up over 1,000 linear feet of archival records for research. That work helped to drive researchers to the Reading Room, which welcomed visitors from across the county and abroad, as well as dozens of students from Wayne State and the metropolitan Detroit community. Visitors explored labor and urban history from a wide variety of perspectives, from labor strikes to community activism, local politics to Detroit's music roots. Of particular interest were our records related to the 1963 March on Washington, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this year.

To complement the ever-growing number of collections open for research, the Reuther also greatly expanded its web presence. The Library's website greeted almost 90,000 visitors who took advantage of the nearly 1,600 new record additions including 25 new audio clips, 30 researched blog posts, and an astonishing 1,037 images. Some of the new online content features gems from the Wayne State University Archives including university publications, commencement programs, and yearbooks. The Library also greatly expanded its social media presence and continues to look for new and inventive way to promote and improve access to our collections.

Some of the most significant change at the Reuther Library centers on the physical space. Happily, the Library received a new roof, additional shelving, and completed a major off-site move of over 6500 linear feet of collections. The off-site move freed up space within the building. At the same time, the off-site collections are less than a mile away and enjoy a secure and environmentally controlled environment. The atrium also received a facelift and now features the stunning paintings of UAW artist John Gelsavage, while the Leonard Woodcock Wing is the showcase for the sponsored six-panel exhibit, "Dance Pioneers: Michigan's 20th Century Movers."

I cannot let the year pass, however, without recognizing the important impact of our donors—both in terms of collections and support for the collections and their use. The Reuther welcomed ten researchers who received travel support as part of the Sam Fishman Grant. In addition, 2013 marked the launch of the inaugural Ronald Raven Annual Award, which supports one student per semester who works under the

supervision of the University Archivist. This funding helps us fulfill the mission of the Reuther while at the same time helping researchers and students achieve their own goals.

While this overview only encompasses a fraction of the important work done at the Reuther Library, it does illustrate the expansive and public nature of archival work. Managing archival collections is really a partnership between researchers, students, staff, and donors—collaboration necessary for our continued and future success in 2014! ■

Recent Events at the Reuther

Representatives of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit visited the Reuther Library on August 20. They toured the facilities and participated in a lively discussion led by Reuther Library Director Beth Myers. The topics of discussion included the relationship between the Jewish Community Archives and the Reuther Library, the digital future of archives, and future efforts to collect the records of Detroit's urban and Jewish communities. The Women's Philanthropy Board of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit will tour the Reuther Library on October 29, when Michael O. Smith will introduce the Jewish Community Archives collections.

On September 18 and 19, the Executive Board of SEIU Healthcare Michigan held a training session at the Reuther Library. With over 55,000 members, SEIU Healthcare Michigan is the largest local union in the state of Michigan. Alexandra Orchard, SEIU Archivist, presented a brief introduction to the SEIU resources in the Reuther's collections.

On September 26, the Reuther Library hosted the Wayne State University Symposium on Scholarly Editing and Archival Research, an interdisciplinary conference inviting new perspectives on current practices in the editing and presentation of literary texts in all media. The speakers at the symposium included Johanna Russ, AFSCME Archivist, and Steven Putt, Social Sciences Librarian, who jointly delivered the presentation "Physical Materials and their Digital Surrogates: The Role of Archivists and Librarians in the Research Process."

Art Exhibits at the Reuther Library

Highlights from 2013

The year 2013 saw a resurgence in the Reuther Library's exhibit program: four exhibitions were mounted this year, our first since the fall of 2010. This spring saw the first of these exhibits, a selection of theater posters from Wayne State University's Bonstelle Theatre. The nine posters in the exhibit date from 1961-1965, a particularly strong period in the history of the University Theatre, and include advertisements for productions of *King Lear*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Caesar and Cleopatra*, and *The Member of the Wedding*. The posters were on display in the Woodcock Gallery from May until October, and can now be viewed in the image gallery of the Reuther Library's website.

A selection of photographs from the Tony Spina Collection is now on permanent display in the hallway of the Audiovisual Department. Spina, the former Chief Photographer for The Detroit Free Press, donated his



National guardsman Gary Ciko watches for snipers as buildings burn on Detroit's Linwood Street during the 1967 Civil Unrest. Photo courtesy the Tony Spina Collection.

collection of 23,000 vintage photoprints and negatives to the Reuther Library in 1993. The prints on display, shot over the six-decade career of the celebrated photojournalist, feature portraits of political, labor, civil rights and business leaders, entertainers, sports figures and ordinary people, historic events, and international travel. Of particular note is his work from the 1967 Civil Disturbances, which helped

the Free Press win the Pulitzer Prize for Photography. To view more of Spina's photography, please visit our online image gallery.

In October, the exhibit "Dance Pioneers: Michigan's 20th Century Movers" opened, showcasing trailblazers in Ballroom, Show Biz, Ballet, and Modern dance styles who have made a significant impact on the American dance scene, and who hailed from or made their careers in Detroit and Michigan. The text and images are drawn from the Harriet Berg Dance Archives, and focus on dancers, arts professionals, and prominent figures who promoted dance in Michigan and nationwide. "Dance Pioneers" will be on display in the Reuther's Leonard Woodcock Gallery until May 2014.

In the Atrium of the Reuther Library, fourteen paintings by the American artist John Z. Gelsavage portray the history of work and labor activism. The 1957 series "This Union Cause" was commissioned by the UAW Education Department, and these colorful, vivid, and detailed paintings depict pivotal moments and important figures from the American labor movement, spanning the period from the early 19th century to the mid-20th century.

The Reuther's galleries are open to the public from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. ■



Collections Now Open for Research

South Eastern Michigan Gay and Lesbian Association Records

1976-2011 (1.25 linear feet)

The South Eastern Michigan Gay and Lesbian Association (SEMGLA) was formerly known as the Association of Suburban People (ASP). Primarily a gay male social organization, the group originally held meetings in Berkley, Michigan. In an effort to recruit more women to the organization, ASP officers encouraged Nita Firestone to join them in a leadership position. By the mid-1980s, with increased visibility in the community, ASP evolved into Michigan's largest LGBT educational organization and in 1985 changed its name to more accurately reflect its mission. Records of the association show the organization's evolution as a group.



SEMGLA members join in the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights, April 25, 1993.

Westside Mothers Records

1967 - 2005 [7.5 linear feet]

Westside Mothers is a welfare rights organization located in Detroit, Michigan. It was founded by its coordinator, Selma Goode, in December 1965, and advocates for people who receive public assistance, such as food stamps, Medicaid, childcare, Supplemental Security Income, and disability. Westside Mothers works with various local, state, and national welfare rights organizations to aid welfare recipients in receiving sufficient benefits and in protecting their civil liberties. The organization holds meetings, organizes rallies, contacts legislators, and provides legal defense at court hearings in its efforts to protect the rights of welfare recipients in Detroit and Michigan. The Westside Mothers Records collection contains material related to the Westside Mothers and affiliated welfare rights organizations, such as the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization (MWRO) and the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO).

Flora Hommel Papers

1950-2005 (26 linear feet)

Flora Suhd Hommel was one of the pioneers who brought the Lamaze psychoprophylactic method of painless childbirth to the United States, establishing an important teaching organization in Detroit, the Childbirth Without

Pain Education Association (CWPEA). She championed the rights of women to control childbirth, creating a grass-roots movement contemporaneous with the women's movement of the 1960s-1970s. Hommel and the CWPEA were important catalysts in establishing similar childbirth and parenting organizations and teacher-monitrice accreditation programs across the United States. Hommel's papers reflect her career working with the Lamaze method. Of particular interest may be the many birth reports—extensive narrations of the birth experiences of CWPEA students.

ALPA President's Department Records, Part 3

1931-1998 (139 linear feet)

Part III focuses on the careers of the fourth, fifth, and sixth presidents of the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), J.J. O'Donnell (1970-82), Henry Duffy (1982-90), and J. Randolph Babbitt (1990-98). One of the major issues the presidents from this era had to contend with was deregulation, which completely changed the landscape of the airline industry and the way unions functioned in that system. All three presidents struggled in the aftermath of unforeseen problems and challenges to ALPA pilots including Alter Ego airlines, Chapter 11 union-busting tactics, and the introduction of a B-scale. Other issues they faced include Hijacking, Crew Complement, Age 60 Rule, Cabatoge, Drug and Alcohol Testing, and Strikes at Continental and Eastern Airlines.

AFSCME Career Development Program Records

1966-1975 (24 linear feet)

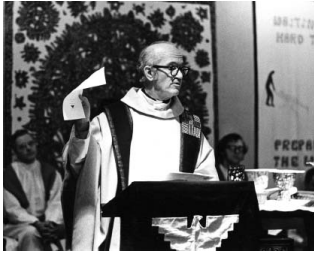
This collection documents the planning, execution, and evaluation of the Association of Federal, Municipal, and State Employees (AFSCME) Career Development Program, 1966-1975, which primarily involved the Hospital Career Development Program (HCDP). HCDP developed and implemented career ladders training curricula for hospital employees. The records are composed of correspondence, reports, meeting minutes, curricula, job descriptions, organizational charts, contracts, releases, news clippings, lesson plans, course schedules, graduation invitations and announcements, recruitment material, newsletters, and a small number of photographs.



AFSCME members participate in the Appalachia on-the-job training program, undated.

UFW Missouri Boycott Office Records

1967-2005 (7.5 linear feet)



Archbishop John Joseph Carberry of St. Louis holds aloft a proclamation in support of the UFW Grape Boycott.

The records of the United Farm Workers (UFW) Missouri Boycott Office relate to the various strikes and boycotts that occurred nationally during the period of the 1970s. The Missouri Boycott Offices were located in two locations, Kansas City and St. Louis. The people directing these boycott offices worked on petitions, boycotts of grocery store chains and

agricultural products, and raising awareness about the UFW's dispute with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

AFA Chicago/Rosemont: McDonald v. UAL Case Records

1959-1992 (55 linear feet)

McDonald v. UAL was part of a series of legal cases involving United Air Lines (UAL), their former flight attendants, and the Association of Flight Attendants (AFA). The cases centered around flight attendants who lost their job due to UAL's no-marriage policy of the 1950s and 1960s in which the company insisted that their female flight attendants remain unmarried. If a stewardess married she had to transfer to a ground job, was forced to resign, or was fired. The collection includes court documents, UAL marriage grievances from the mid-1960s, lawyer's correspondence, class membership lists, and research.

SEIU Secretary-Treasurer's Office: Richard Cordtz Records

1920-1995 (13 linear feet)

Richard Cordtz's affiliation with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) spanned nearly 50 years, beginning in the late 1940s as a member of Local 102 while he worked at the Del Mar Racetrack, and ending in 1996 as President of the International. During his journey from member to president, Cordtz held a variety of positions within SEIU including union organizer, Local 79 President, Joint Council 35 President, Central States Conference President, and Secretary-Treasurer of the International. Cordtz was elected to Secretary-Treasurer in 1980 and remained in this position until President John J. Sweeney resigned to assume presidency of the AFL-CIO in October 1995. Cordtz was immediately elected president to finish Sweeney's term (through April 1996). The majority of the records in this collection are from Cordtz's time as International Secretary-Treasurer.

Central High School Records

1860-2004

(28 linear feet)

Central High School (CHS) was originally located at the intersection of Warren Avenue and Cass Avenue in Detroit. It was the successor to Capitol High School, the first high school in Detroit, founded in 1858. CHS began to offer college courses in 1913, and this program evolved into the Detroit Junior College, which became the City College of Detroit, Wayne University, and finally Wayne State University. In 1925, CHS relocated to 2425 Tuxedo Street in Detroit. It now operates as Central Collegiate Academy. The Central High School Records consist primarily of yearbooks and student publications of the Detroit Central High School for the years 1902 - 2004.



The Central High School class of 1903.

Wayne State University Department of Theatre Photographs

1920-1995 (13 linear feet)

The Wayne State University Department of Theatre, part of Wayne State University's College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, performs several plays each year at the Bonstelle Theatre, the Hillberry Theatre, and the Studio Theatre. This collection consists primarily of photographs, negatives, programs, and other promotional materials from the Wayne State University Department of Theatre's productions as performed by companies from the Bonstelle Theatre, Hillberry Theatre, Black Theatre Touring Company, Movin' Theatre, and Studio Theatre. Also included are materials related to Department of Theatre administration and productions, including photographs, programs, newsletters, and reports, and materials related to the history of the Department of Theatre prior to the existence of the Bonstelle Theatre.



A performance of Moliere's *The School for Wives* at the Bonstelle Theatre, March 1962. Lily Tomlin, an undergraduate student at the time, is seen at left.



Above and Beyond: Adventures in the Archival Profession

By Alexandra Orchard, SEIU Archivist

Both of my parents attended Wayne State University, and growing up I heard tales of undergraduate life in the late 60s and early 70s: the inside of the Chatham apartments, male students throwing females into the DeRoy Auditorium's moat, and walking past protests on the way to class. But the only mention of the Reuther Library was as that "new building" under construction while my dad was in graduate school. Thirty years later, when it was my turn to attend WSU, the Reuther factored in, but only a bit more prominently. I often admired the sculpture of the dancing maidens in the adjoining courtyard, and I would peek through the Reuther's windows at the latest exhibit in the Woodcock Gallery as I hurried to my classes.

Ten years later, after two cross-country moves and a career change, I finally set foot inside the Reuther as a graduate student. While doing research in the Reuther Library, I hoped that at some point I would be able to work with the Reuther's materials as an archivist rather than as a researcher.

It was with great excitement that I joined the Reuther staff as the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Archivist in October 2012. The past year was full of new archival adventures, both inside the Reuther and throughout my involvement in the archival profession. Initially I focused on understanding the SEIU collections, which encompass over 1,000 linear feet. My first task was to expand the SEIU Archives online presence, a lofty goal, and one that is ongoing for the foreseeable future. To begin, I created @SEIUArchivist twitter account and digitized and uploaded over 600 photographs into the SEIU image galleries on the Reuther website. As the year went on, I digitized the District 925 oral history transcripts, a Local 535 scrapbook, and uploaded the SEIU Archives' first available born digital collection (the Pat Ford Papers). In addition to digitizing, I processed paper records from a variety of SEIU departments including International Affairs and the Secretary-Treasurers office, as well as Local records, such as SEIU Local 31-M, a prominent local throughout Michigan until 2005. Processing increased the archival materials' accessibility and revealed some gems, including a signed letter from President Gerald Ford.

Increasing accessibility also played a role when I tackled the SEIU Publications collection. To enhance findability, I consolidated the publication materials and described them all (over 46 linear feet) in a single finding aid. Making the SEIU archival materials easier for researchers to find through the creation of finding aids and other resources not only helps

them, but also helps me. I used these resources when assisting researchers. Some of this assistance was online, but a number of researchers including graduate students, scholars, and filmmakers from locations as varied as California, Canada, and even France visited the Reuther to work with SEIU materials.

In the past year, in addition to processing and describing SEIU materials, I expanded my involvement in the archival profession. At the Reuther, I collaborated with my colleagues on committees to help publicize the Reuther and its collections and assisted in crafting the Reuther's new mission, vision, and value statements.

Outside of the Reuther, I served on the 2013 nominating committee of the Michigan Archival Association (MAA), and presented a talk, "The Reel World: Archives," at the MAA annual meeting in June.

At the national level, shortly before beginning work at the Reuther, I became the Reviews Portal Coordinator for the Society of American Archivists (SAA). In this position I write and solicit reviews about digital archives, initiatives, and related resources. Since last November the Reviews Portal has published 11 reviews, and I look forward to increasing that number over the next year. In August I attended SAA's 2013 annual meeting in New Orleans, where I was elected co-chair of the Women Archivists Roundtable (and ate my first po' boy).

The last year has been nothing short of amazing for me professionally. I am incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to work at the Reuther, and look forward to contributing for years to come. ■

Congratulations are in order! Two of the Reuther Library's staff have recently been elected to the steering committee of the Society of American Archivists Regional Archival Associations



Consortium (RAAC). The RAAC provides an official venue for information exchange between the leaders of regional archival organizations, and between regional groups and the SAA. Kristen Chinery, the Reuther Librarian, will represent the Michigan Archival Association; Casey Westerman, Wayne State University Archivist, will represent the Metro Detroit Archivists League.

From the Reference Desk

Highlights from 2012-2013

The Reuther Library reference desk has been busy during the past year, with researchers visiting from across the globe.

Several notable journalists and editors paid a visit to our Reading Room to research topics for forthcoming projects, including Pulitzer Prize winner David Maraniss of *The Washington Post*, and the oral historian Michael Takiff. Takiff did extensive research within the David Bonior Collection for use in his forthcoming biography of the Congressman.



PBS's *The History Detectives* filmed part of a program in our Reading Room and used manuscripts and photographs from our collections to investigate the disappearance of Teamsters President Jimmy Hoffa. The episode will air in the 2014 programming season.

This image, the last known photo taken of Jimmy Hoffa, was used by PBS' *The History Detectives* during their investigation of the 1976 disappearance of Hoffa. Photo courtesy the Tony Spina Collection.

Throughout the year the Audiovisual Department provided images for a number of exhibits at institutions around the country, including: The National Center for Civil and Human Rights, the Smithsonian Institute, the National Parks Service, New York University, the African American Museum of Philadelphia, the

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library, the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MoCAD) and the Cranbrook Museum.

Photographs, audio and moving images were featured in news broadcasts by CNN, Al Jazeera America, PBS, the Canadian Broadcast Corporation (CBC), Comcast On-Demand, and in print by *New York Times*, *Time Magazine*, *Tacoma News Tribune*, *HOOR Detroit*, *Oakland Press*, *Detroit News*. Of particular note, photographs and audio from the historic 1963 March to Freedom were in high demand.

Several PBS documentaries and series used photographs from our collections to illustrate historical and cultural topics,



Grace Lee Boggs, whose collection is housed at the Reuther Library, was the focus of the award-winning documentary *American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs*.

including: *10 Buildings that Changed the World*, *The American Experience: Henry Ford*, *Makers*, *The Italian-Americans*, *Latino Americans*, and *African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*.

Film footage and extensive research were supplied for the documentary "American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs." The film, which examines the life of the

legendary community activist, won the Audience Award at the 2013 Los Angeles Film Festival, and both the Maverick Award for Best Feature Documentary and the Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature at the 2013 Woodstock Film Festival. ■



The 50th anniversary of two historic civil rights marches, Detroit's Walk to Freedom and the 1963 March on Washington, put Audiovisual resources in high demand.

Interested in using our collections? Please contact us for more information!

Business Hours:
9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday - Friday
phone: 313.577.4024
fax: 577.4300

Reading Room Hours:
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday
phone: 313.577.2643
email: reutherreference@wayne.edu

Audiovisual Hours:
By Appointment Only
phone: 313.577.1663 or 313.577.4864
email: reutherav@wayne.edu



Social Media at the Reuther Library

By Paul Neirink, Digital Resources Specialist

In the summer of 2009 the Reuther Library began its foray into the realm of social networking by creating a Facebook page. From modest beginnings, this page has made great inroads in connecting people to and informing them about the wonderful work being performed at our library. The Reuther's Facebook page has become nearly as useful as our main web-site in terms of advancing aspects of our mission. It has also provided a valuable avenue for linking people to additional resources from various external sources. Because of this early success at social media, we are now exploring other platforms, including the popular microblogging site Twitter.

In Facebook and Twitter, we now have multiple platforms that place information precisely at the point where many people interact in their daily routine. Our efforts paid dividends this past summer when a popular Detroit brand ("Pure Detroit") began promoting the Reuther's online content. This Facebook-based ad-campaign posted a series of historic Detroit images that linked back to our page with a clear citation. Their campaign doubled the number of overall "likes" to our page and extended our overall audience reach by tens of thousands of people. In the past year, over 3,500 of the visits to our main web site came directly from Facebook.

In addition to its Facebook page, the Reuther Library now boasts four separate Twitter accounts: @AFSCMEArchivist, @SEIUArchivist, @WSU_Archives, and @ReutherLibrary. The first three disseminate news and links about activities in the Reuther's AFSCME, SEIU, and Wayne State University collections, and the Reuther Library's primary account promotes events and developments in all of the Reuther's labor, urban, and university collections.

And if social media efforts are not enough, we've also fostered increased discovery of Reuther content by enhancing a more traditional approach to finding our library assets. Browsing OCLC's ArchiveGrid for our library holdings will return thousands of records, providing a direct link to Reuther collection guides. These guides are harvested by their system in a systematic and routine fashion, which complements our outreach efforts very nicely. However, if immediacy is your preference, our Twitter streams distribute valuable information directly from the Reuther Library staff in real-time. In using social networks and traditional discovery

systems, we hope to engage our online community of users whenever and however we can. Through outreach and engagement, we hope to ensure a very positive customer service experience. Like us on Facebook, and leave a comment to let us know how we're doing. ■

A Report on the Reuther Library Website

In terms of statistics, nothing measures success quite as well as a healthy increase in closely monitored benchmarks. In terms of those benchmarks, 2013 was another watershed year for the Reuther Library. Gains in our web traffic were achieved thanks to our staff, who put forth the time and effort to add a great deal of interesting and relevant online content.

At the Reuther Library we place heavy emphasis on two main benchmarks, pageviews and visitors. Two other important indicators, pages viewed per visit and average visit duration, help to round out our records.

Quick Numbers -- (Compared to same period last year)

Total Unique Visitors: 87,079 (+19.32%)

Total Pageviews: 417,499 (+12.21%)

Pages Viewed per Visit: 3.88 (-3.45%)

Average Visit Duration: 2.22 (-1.17%) minutes

As these numbers illustrate, we attracted more visitors to our site than last year. In fact, since officially launching our 2.0 Web site back in 2008, we've steadily increased the total number of unique visitors each year. Last year our total was 72,980, up from 52,805 in 2011.

Adding online content increases our web traffic. In the past year, the Reuther Library added 1,599 online records (nodes) to our site, bringing our grand total to 9,778. These additions contributed significantly to our overall increase in traffic volume, as visitors flocked to our image galleries, collection abstracts, and blog posts.

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Japanese Oral Historians Visit the Reuther Library

On September 9, 2013, the Reuther Library was pleased to host a meeting with Professors Kazuo Taguchi from Takachiho University, Osamu Umezaki from Hosei University, and their interpreter, Izumi Suzuki. Director Elizabeth Myers and archivists Troy Eller English, Dan Golodner, and Louis Jones met with the professors to discuss the Reuther Library's oral history collections, currently numbered at 1,660 interviews.

While Professors Umezaki and Taguchi are oral history veterans, having collected approximately 400 interviews as part of an ongoing labor oral history project, oral history is a relatively new field in Japan. As such they have visited several American oral history centers and labor archives, including Columbia University, the UCLA Center for Oral History Research, and the Tamiment Library in order to learn how different institutions collect and manage their oral history collections.

During their visit to the Reuther, Professors Taguchi and Umezaki and the library staff discussed practical administrative matters including managing oral history projects, accepting collections from outside donors, and methods for opening and sharing oral histories with researchers. They considered some of the more theoretical and academic aspects of oral history, and balancing the inherent



Professors Kazuo Taguchi and Osamu Umezaki pose for a photograph with Troy Eller English, Dr. Elizabeth Myers and Dr. Louis Jones during

subjectivity of oral history interviews with their research value. They found time to discuss a few of the legal and cultural differences between oral history practice in the United States and Japan, including differences in interviewing techniques and copyright laws. The meeting with overseas colleagues provided the Reuther staff members with the opportunity to examine their own oral history practices in some depth. ■

Reuther Library Website

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Our site content is highly indexed and optimized for discovery by search engines. This search engine optimization is by design and also leads to increased traffic. During this period 48.7% of all traffic arrived by way of search engine. Some popular queries included "March on Washington," "Cesar Chavez," and "Prohibition."

Pageviews have also steadily increased since our 2008 site launch, which was anticipated. We'll always see a positive gain in number of pageviews when our pages per visit do not significantly drop and our visitor numbers increase. Our 19% gain in unique visitors in 2013 is a healthy indicator despite being 19% less than the gain we saw during the same period in 2012. It should be noted that our positive gains in this indicator during 2011-2012 (previous period) was our largest increase since we began keeping statistics. ■

Ronald Raven Annual Award

The Walter P. Reuther Library is proud to announce the Ronald Raven Annual Award. Wayne State University students enrolled in the School of Information Science Archival Administration program are eligible for this award. The successful applicant must be in good academic standing and demonstrate financial need. The \$600 per semester stipend will be used to reward voluntary service or internship experience at the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs. Recipients of the award commit to 135 hours of archival processing and records management work with the University Archivist. The award is named in honor of Ronald Raven, a 1973 graduate of Wayne State University who interned in the Labor History Archives and assisted in the development of the university's records management program. For more information on the award please visit the Reuther Library Scholarship page. ■