

Walter P. Reuther Library  
Wayne State University Archives  
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

**Wayne Engineering Research Institute Records**

3 linear feet (2 SB, 1 OB)  
1942-1961, bulk 1946-1957

Finding aid written by Meghan McGowan on October 31, 2014.

**Accession Number:** WSR000575

**Creator:** Wayne Engineering Research Institute

**Acquisition:** Donated to Reuther Library by Michael Rabins, Department Chair of Mechanical Engineering, on August 1, 1984.

**Language:** Material entirely in English.

**Access:** Collection is open for research.

**Use:** Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*.

**Restrictions:** Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

**Notes:** Citation style: “Wayne Engineering Research Institute, Box [#], Folder [#], University Archives, Wayne State University.”

**Abstract**

The Wayne Engineering Research Institute was founded as a non-profit, self-governing research lab in 1945, with Dean Arthur R. Carr as its first president. WERI was not a direct affiliate of Wayne University, although the two institutions were closely intertwined, as most of the staff of WERI were also faculty at Wayne University. Additionally, at the founding of WERI, Wayne University agreed to rent facilities to them, as well as grant leave-of-absence leniency to the faculty that were involved both with Wayne University and with Wayne Engineering Research Institute. Furthermore, the by-laws of WERI indicated that the Board of Trustees was required to have at least seven members representative of the engineering industry, six members from Wayne State, including the President and Executive Vice President, and the superintendent of Detroit Public Schools. This portion of the by-laws strengthened the tie between Wayne Engineering Research Institute and the greater community of Detroit.

The purpose of the Institute was to advance engineering knowledge through research and development projects. WERI also provided research and project services to outside businesses. Between 1945 and 1957, the WERI fulfilled contracts totaling as high as \$150,000 annually. WERI worked with a multitude of businesses, ranging from small local business to branches of the United States military. As Wayne State University became more flexible in its research procedures and its scope of research broadened, however, WERI decided that it would be best to fold back into the university and incorporate its research within the confines of the university system. WERI stopped accepting new contracts in January 1956, and formally dissolved in 1957.

**Important Subjects:**

- Engineering
- Engineering projects
- Engineering – Research
- Engineering – Societies, etc.
- Research institutes
- Universities and colleges – Research institutes

**Important Names:**

- Carr, Arthur R., 1893-1956
- College of Engineering
- Detroit Rubber and Plastics Group
- United States Air Force
- Wayne Engineering Research Institute
- Wayne State University

**Arrangement**

The collection is arranged topically. The beginning of the collection focuses on administrative documents such as correspondence, tax information, by-laws, and meeting minutes, whereas the latter portion of the collection contains project and third-party information.

**Box 1**

1. Correspondence, 1943-1957
2. Correspondence, 1943-1957
3. Contract closing correspondence, 1956-1957
4. Insurance correspondence, 1947-1956
5. Correspondence within Wayne State University, 1946-1957
6. Publicity correspondence, 1946-1955
7. Robert Jamison, correspondence, 1956-1958
8. WERI project proposals, projects, and reports, 1946-1953
9. Faculty publications and newsletters, 1946-1959
10. Tax information, 1946-1956
11. WERI by-laws, 1944-1945
12. WERI policies, 1944-1956
13. WERI meeting notices, 1954-1956
14. WERI Articles of Incorporation, 1944-1945
15. WERI meeting minutes, 1946-1955
16. Meeting minutes, 1945-1960
17. WERI Board of Trustees meeting minutes, 1946-1957
18. Wayne Engineering Research Institute, tax and income documents, 1949-1956
19. Correspondence about patents, 1946-1947
20. Patent agreements, 1953-1954
21. University Research Committee, 1950-1957
22. Wayne Engineering Research Institute, balance sheets, 1952-1956
23. A proposal for the establishment of the Wayne Engineering Research Institute, 1944
24. Blueprints for the Wayne Engineering Research Institute, 1950
25. WERI property, 1946-1952
26. WERI paid loans, 1949-1954
27. Wayne Engineering Research Institute, invoices and catalogs, 1946-1957
28. Executive Board/Board of Trustees, 1945-1953

**Box 2**

1. WERI Reports of Call, 1946-1956
2. Wayne State University Graduate Division, 1960-1961
3. WERI financial overhead, 1948-1956
4. WERI employee benefits program, 1954
5. Engineering College Seminar, 1955-1958
6. Air Research and Development Command, 1951-1957
7. Report of Special Committee of University Research, A.C.C.L., 1949
8. Berry Brothers, Inc., 1946
9. Armour Research Foundation, 1943-1956
10. State Committee on Aviation Education, 1947
11. American Scientific Technical Research Organization, 1953
12. The Arnold Engineering Company, 1955-1956
13. Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, 1946

14. Preliminary report on a method for continuously processing varnish, 1946
15. Detroit Ordinance District, 1955-1957
16. Armed Services Technical Information Agency (ASTIA), 1954-1957
17. Michigan Annual Report on non-profit organizations, WERI, 1956
18. Synopsis of studies of hydrazine systems as fuel additives, n.d.
19. Interim report on hydrazine as fuel additive, 1951
20. Atomic Energy Commission, 1947-1957
21. Wayne State University, Committee on the Calendar, 1956-1957
22. University of Michigan Commission on Year-Round Integrated Operation, 1961
23. Equipment requests, inventories, and evaluations, 1946-1955
24. WERI security agreements, 1951-1956
25. Design manual, 1948
26. Wright Air Development Center, 1953-1957
27. Preparation of Air Force technical reports, 1950
28. Department of Defense, 1957
29. Correspondence inquiring about other institutions' research institutions, 1957
30. Mesuo, 1960-1961
31. Department of Commerce, 1947-1958
32. Reprints of reference articles, 1947-1948
33. Wayne Engineering Research Institute photographs, n.d.
34. Research on aluminum gears, 1946-1948
35. Vickers Electric Division, 1951-1955
36. National Science Foundation, 1951-1952
37. National Research Council, 1947-1955
38. Office of the Housing Expediter, 1947
39. Federal Mogul Corporation, 1947
40. Detroit Board of Commerce, 1946-1947
41. Naval Ordnance Laboratory, 1948-1955
42. Modern Industry, 1948
43. Communicable Disease Center, 1948
44. SAE Technical Committee, 1946-1954
45. Engineering College Research Council, American Society for Engineering Education, 1946-1959
46. Engineer Research and Development Laboratories, 1947
47. Automotive Council for War Production, 1943
48. War Department Headquarters, Signal Corps Engineering Laboratories, 1946
49. American Council of Commercial Laboratories, Inc., n.d.
50. Engineering College Research Association, 1946-1947
51. Ex-cell-o Corporation, 1946-1952
52. Society of Plastics Engineering, 1946
53. Rubber Foundation for Scientific Research in Rubber Technology, 1944
54. Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, 1946
55. Wayne University Rubber and Plastics Project, 1946
56. Detroit Rubber and Plastics Group, 1942-1946
57. Society of the Plastics Industry, 1946

58. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1942-1957
59. University of Michigan, Department of Engineering Research, n.d.
60. Proposal on investigation and design of wind tunnel testing means, 1955
61. Cooling of gas turbine blades, 1947-1948
62. Investigation on initiation and functioning of small arms primers, 1957
63. United States Air Force, n.d.

**Box 3**

1. Division of Engineering, n.d.
2. Newspaper clippings, 1944-1950