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Archives & Special Collections Preservation and Reformatting Report

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The timelines below list the full-scale projects and isolated needs that were identified and resolved in Illinois Wesleyan's unique collections from 2002-2016. Priorities for digitization are assigned after an assessment of research value and/or risk of information loss through media obsolescence or degradation. Artifacts that have intrinsic value and may be lost due to deterioration receive physical preservation or stabilization treatments. Funding sources acquired to date include external grants as well as University budgets administered by Alumni Relations, The Ames Library and Physical Plant.

Major digitization projects (primarily accessible through <http://libguides.iwu.edu/iwuhistory>)

- 2015: Course catalogs (1851-1954)
- 2013: Seven books about IWU history
- 2014: Selected Commencement recordings on outdated audio and video (A/V) media
- 2010-2013: The Wesleyana (1895-2000)
- 2011-2012: IWU Bulletins (1902-1986; project included preservation microfilming)
- 2008-2009: Selected student works and faculty governance records to develop collections in Digital Commons (<http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/>)
- 2007: All known copies of 19th Century student and alumni news publications
- 2007: A/V items in several outdated formats (*e.g.*, wire recording and multiple film types)
- 2002-2003: The Argus (1894-2004; project included preservation microfilming, two types of digital formats and full size acid-free paper reproductions)

Artifact preservation

- 2016: The Ames Library begins subscribing to a digital preservation service for the most vulnerable of IWU's electronic records.
- 2016: Replacement of Powell Pottery Case (located on the library's entry level) lighting with more reliable and energy-efficient system and repairs to sliding glass door tracks.
- 2013: Stabilization of a rare, facsimile medieval music edition used by faculty in MCLL.
- 2009: Repairs to former Congressman Les Arends' chair which is used with his desk by students who staff the public area of archives & special collections.
- 2007: Cleaning and stabilizing of the architect's plan for Old Main (1869), IWU's second building which was later known as Hedding Hall.
- 2007: Ultraviolet light protection film applied to pottery and other display cases.
- 2005: Installation of two ventilation/filtration systems for pottery display cases and replacement of fluorescent light ballasts.
- 2004: Pueblo pottery and basketry described, cleaned and stabilized.

And at varying times, Physical Plant staff have repaired and/or renewed furniture with historic significance that is used throughout The Ames Library.

Prepared by [Meg Miner](#), University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian, December 2016