

Archives and Special Collections Honors Program Project Ideas

Topic: Disability Studies (overlapping disciplines in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences) national and international perspectives, policies, literature, culture, and history, placing current ideas of disability within their broadest possible context. Encourage participation by disability studies researchers, or students living with disabilities.

Unit: Wangensteen Historical Library of Biology and Medicine, Social Welfare History Archives

Type of project: mapping, timeline, exhibit, inventory or pathfinder guide to UMN or MN resources.

Lead archivist/curator: Lois Hendrickson

Topic: Immigrant and refugee autobiographical narratives - a digital projects national/international survey to complement the resources available at the IHRC Immigrant Stories website

Unit: Immigration History Research Center Archives

Type of project: web page/resource guide/content for classes

Lead archivist/curator: Daniel Necas

Topic: The "forgotten man" and "welfare mothers:" economic justice before the Occupy movement. Collections in the Social Welfare History Archives give students a chance to explore the impact of economic disparities and the assistance programs designed in response them and document the connections between economic justice and social justice in the U.S. from the 1930s-1980s. This is also an opportunity to evaluate how the rhetoric, tactics and status of information creators influences the sources available and the historical narrative. Students will have access to photographs, protest fliers, publications and pamphlets, and other documents.

Unit: Social Welfare History Archives

Type of project: Poster or digital exhibit, "short" or youtube, pro/con or policy proposal, or open to ideas from students

Lead archivist/curator: Linnea Anderson

Topic: World War I - Digital exhibit showcasing the experiences of women, African Americans, troops, or some other focused narrative

Unit: Kautz Family YMCA Archives, Wangensteen Historical Library of Biology and Medicine, Special Collections and Rare Books

Type of project: Digital exhibit

Lead archivist/curator: Ryan Bean

Topic: Poetry of Protest: "Our country's mood now is of apprehensive fatigue, of lightning flashes on the horizon, of passion not spent." Though written nearly 50 years ago, by a small group of poets, these sentiments are shared by many today. By exploring the work of poets, performers, musicians, lyricists, and public speakers, students will analyze the poetry of protest across the 20th century, making connections to the words that inspire us to action in the 21st century.

Unit: Upper Midwest Literary Archives; Performing Arts Archives; Givens Collection of African American Literature, *Umbra Search*; Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies; Special Collections and Rare Books

Type of project: The output for this project may be research-oriented and/or creative in nature. Possible outputs include an exhibit display in Andersen Library, a digital exhibit, a bibliography, or an illustrative handout or zine. Students will be encouraged to write a post for the University Libraries' blog as well.

Lead archivist/curator: Cecily Marcus

Topic: Native Americans - Digital exhibit on the early years of the Sioux YMCA (1879) founded by survivors of the Dakota Uprising

Unit: Kautz Family YMCA Archives, Special Collections and Rare Books

Type of project: Digital exhibit

Lead archivist/curator: Ryan Bean

Topic: Feminist Theatre and/or Socially-Engaged Performance: Using the archives of At the Foot of the Mountain Theatre, Alive and Trucking Theater, Mixed Blood Theater, Penumbra Theatre, and others, students will explore themes related to socially-engaged performance.

Unit: Performing Arts Archives; Givens Collection of African American Literature, *Umbra Search*; and Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies

Type of project: The output for this project may be research-oriented and/or creative in nature. Possible outputs include a display in Andersen Library, a digital exhibit, an annotated bibliography, creative writing, or performance activity.

Lead archivist/curator: Kate Hujda

Topic: Social Justice and Human Rights: Students will explore historical sources on programs to fight racial and religious prejudice from the 1920s-1960s. Explore the work of organizations such as the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the National Social Welfare Assembly Comics Project to reveal and combat prejudice and build "Brotherhood" between different religious and racial communities.

Unit: Social Welfare History Archives

Type of project: Poster, digital exhibit, or open to ideas from students

Lead archivist/curator: Linnea Anderson

Topic: Women in Technology - "Before We 'Leaned In'": Before Sheryl Sandberg and Ellen Ullman there were NASA's human computers, the women technologists of Bell Labs, Grace Hopper, Jean Sammet, and Margaret Fox. Reviewing CBI's extensive oral history project on women in the tech industry, as well as reviewing materials from our computing company corporate records for depictions of women in tech, students will have the opportunity to present varying perspectives of women technologists - how they dealt with the "boys club" mentality of the corporate environment, and their feelings about sexism in the workplace. In addition, students may also examine gender roles in advertising, marketing, and PR campaigns for tech companies.

Unit: Charles Babbage Institute Archives

Type of project: Digital exhibit featuring Oral Histories and other still and moving images from corporate records collections, documentary film, other options depending on student interest.

Lead archivist/curator: Amanda Wick

Topic: Documenting Antisemitism: Students will take a look at the extensive records created by the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), a local non-profit advocacy group that acts as the public affairs voice of the Jewish community. One of the many things the JCRC does is promotes the security of the Jewish community and Jewish institutions by combating Antisemitism with education. By surveying the internal records that the JCRC have kept throughout the years regarding incidents of Antisemitism in the Twin Cities, we can examine a few different questions: How do we document hate? What are these local acts of Antisemitism -- who is committing them and where are they taking place? What information is kept regarding Antisemitism and how is that information then acted upon? And how and why does the JCRC's documentation differ from police records and numbers of hate crimes during the same period?

Unit: Upper Midwest Jewish Archives

Type of project: Digital exhibit, mapping, timeline, article (open to ideas from students)

Lead archivist/curator: Kate Dietrick

Topic: Eugenics: Students will explore sources on history of eugenic theories of racial, physical and moral characteristics and the eugenics movement with its focus on eliminating what were perceived as negative traits. Topics include general theories of eugenics: the better baby "birthright" movement; and eugenic sterilization of individuals who were viewed as "unfit," a public danger, or a criminal liability due to physical characteristics and conditions, mental health conditions, or developmental disabilities.

Unit: Social Welfare History Archives and Wangenstein Historical Library of Biology and Medicine

Type of project: Mapping or timeline project, history day guide, or open to ideas from students

Lead archivist/curator: Lois Hendrickson

Topic: The Innovator's Social Responsibility. The Edmund C. Berkeley papers documents one technologist's participation in a variety of social and cultural movements, with Berkeley advocating for scientists and engineers to consider the moral implications of their work. Other CBI collections present materials with a more morally neutral approach to technologists' social responsibility. Given today's environment of technology-driven warfare and talk of cyber surveillance on activists and politicians, it is an opportune time to have the discussion about any social responsibility an inventor, engineer, or software coder might have in his or her day to day job.

Unit: Charles Babbage Institute Archives

Type of project: Possible outcomes: Digital exhibit/short film/Pro-Con poster session and debate; other opportunities may present themselves depending on students' interests.

Lead archivist/curator: Amanda Wick

Topic: Youth Delinquency - Digital exhibit exploring the rhetoric of youth, specifically good vs. delinquent children

Unit: Kautz Family YMCA Archives

Type of project: Digital exhibit

Lead archivist/curator: Ryan Bean

Topic: Birth Control and reproduction. Print, archival and artifacts. Students will explore historical sources and artifacts on medical, and social aspects of reproduction in history. Topics include birth control, medicalization of reproduction, social stigma,

Unit: Social Welfare History Archives and Wangenstein Historical Library of Biology and Medicine

Type of project: Mapping or timeline project, 3D artifacts scanning, or open to ideas from students

Lead archivist/curator: Lois Hendrickson

Topic: Political Press: Publishing As Social Activism, 1960s-2000s. What function do small presses serve in the broader political arena? How do they approach social justice issues differently than larger publishers or the mass media? What is the role of zines in activism? Students will explore these questions and others as they examine archival material from small presses and publishers.

Units: Givens Collection of African American Literature, *Umbra Search*; Upper Midwest Literary Archives; Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies; Gorman Rare Art Books Special Collections

Type of project: The output for this project may be research-oriented and/or creative in nature. Possible outputs include an exhibit display in Andersen Library, a digital exhibit, a bibliography, or an illustrative handout or zine. Students will be encouraged to write a post for the University Libraries' blog as well.

Lead archivist/curator: Carissa Hansen

Topic: Adoption and Social Justice. Archival sources on adoption reveal the complexity of adoption as a personal, family, societal and policy issue. Students may explore a variety of issues or a single topic, such as International adoption, transracial adoption, adoption of Native American children by non-Indigenous families, adoptee rights, birthparent rights, access to adoption records, and others. Students will have access to reports and manuals, correspondence, personal papers, policy and legislative

materials, and case documents (with personal information removed) from collections in the Social Welfare History Archives.

Unit: Social Welfare History Archives

Type of project: Students may pitch ideas for projects, including students with personal experience with this issue. Possible outcomes include: interviews/short documentary; debate and pro-con posters, digital exhibit, arts/design/music/literary projects, or open to ideas from students

Lead archivist/curator: Linnea Anderson

Topic: Indigenous or traditional medicine defined as "the sum total of the knowledge, skills, and practices based on the theories, beliefs, and experiences indigenous to different cultures, whether explicable or not, used in the maintenance of health as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement. Students will have access to texts, journals, handwritten medicinal receipt books and artifacts to locate medical evidence in botanicals, herbals, pharmacopoeias, eclectic and homeopathic texts.

Unit: Wangensteen Historical Library of Biology and Medicine

Type of project: Project might include: digital exhibit, social media posts, short form blog posts, poster, background work to write a proposal to establish a cultural or traditional garden, research for a list of indigenous gardens in MN. Potential collaborative work with UM conservatory or other indigenous gardens, herbal medicine providers, researchers at UMN.

Lead archivist/curator: Lois Hendrickson

Topic: Politics, Protest, and Human Rights in Children's Books

Unit: Children's Literature Research Collections

Type of project: digital exhibit

Lead archivist/curator: Lisa Von Drasek

Topic: Immigrant and Refugee Rights: Debates about immigration are not a new issue. Historical sources in the Archives document attitudes towards immigrant groups, citizenship campaigns, rights movements, "Americanization" and assimilation efforts, assistance programs for immigrants and refugees. Student will have access to photographs, reports and studies, correspondence and other documents.

Unit: Social Welfare History Archives and Immigration History Research Center Archives

Type of project: Students may pitch ideas for projects, including students with personal experience with this issue. Possible outcomes include: interviews/short documentary; debate and pro-con posters, digital exhibit, arts/design/music/literary projects, or open to ideas from students

Lead archivist/curator: Linnea Anderson and Daniel Necas