



The Ohio Historical Society has taken steps to deal with significant budget shortfalls for the remainder of this year and in the next fiscal year (beginning July 1, 2008). Information about those actions is included in the attached April 11, 2008 press release.

The Society's Archives/Library operations are affected in the following ways:

Archives/Library Reading Room Hours

The Ohio Historical Society will continue to offer twenty-four hours of public access per week. To be consistent with the new Ohio Historical Center hours, the Archives/Library Reading Room will change its public hours to Thursday 1-9, Friday 9-5, and Saturday 9-5. This will provide researchers with three consecutive days of public access. While hours of operation will move from Wednesday to Friday, there will be no reduction in public hours. These changes are effective May 1, 2008. (The Archives/Library will not be open to the public on Wednesday, April 30, but will open Friday, May 1).

Conservation

The Ohio Historical Society will suspend its in-house paper conservation operations beginning April 14, 2008. The Society will continue to maintain and preserve collections, employing accepted techniques and best practices, and will seek outside expertise for collections requiring intensive conservation treatment.

Microfilm

While the Ohio Historical Society will continue its microfilm program, the in-house microfilm operations will be discontinued as of April 14, 2008. The Society is finalizing an agreement with OCLC Preservation Service Centers to provide preservation-quality microfilming through a partnership with OCLC, a recognized leader in library and preservation services. By partnering with OCLC, the Society will be able to provide high-quality microfilming. In addition, the Society will be able to achieve efficiencies in pricing by serving as a clearinghouse for microfilm activities in the state. OHS will continue to provide duplication services of its microfilm collections held by the Society. This arrangement will not affect the storage of and access to microfilm collections held by OHS.

State Archives

The Society is grateful for the advocacy support that helped convince the State to provide more funding for State Archives in the current state operating budget. OHS is committed to re-building State Archives operations based on that support. State Archives will retain all current staff positions and will hire an electronic records archivist position in the coming months.

The Society's museum, program and site operations are also affected by these budget reductions. For more information, see the attached press release.

We appreciate your support and concern. Access to the "real stuff" of history is a core value of the Society. You can continue to voice your support for state funding of our Archives/Library operations and other OHS services by communicating with the Governor and your state representative and senator. Information about how to do so is available on the Society's web site (www.ohiohistory.org).

Thanks again for your support.

OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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