

Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board

Strategic Plan, January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2014

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board's (OHRAB) mission is to serve the people of Ohio by advocating, nurturing, and advising programs that identify, preserve, and provide access to their documentary heritage, which enriches the culture and protects the rights of Ohioans.

In order to fulfill that mission, OHRAB has developed a strategic plan to guide its endeavors for the next three years. This plan focuses on key areas where members believe OHRAB can make the most significant impact. The goals, objectives, and actions outlined in the plan will build on past achievements and address areas where more concentrated efforts are needed. Annual reviews will allow OHRAB to revise and refine the plan and reevaluate priorities.

Goal 1: Increase community engagement with Ohio's historical records.

Objective A: Promote an understanding of the value of historical records and the board's mission.

Action 1: Create public service announcements and/or publications that focus attention on Ohio's historical records.

Action 2: Encourage the use of primary sources in Ohio's classrooms by presenting an award for the best use of Ohio's historical records in a History Day project.

Objective B: Strengthen the statewide awareness of Ohio's archives.

Action 1: Collaborate with the Society of Ohio's Archivists to promote Ohio's archives during Archives Month.

Action 2: Publicly recognize archival programs for significant achievements in the management, preservation, access, advocacy, and use of historical records in Ohio.

Goal 2: Encourage investment in Ohio's documentary heritage.

Objective A: Advocate for reliable, sustainable investment in Ohio's records management and archival programs.

Action 1: Encourage the Federal government to increase funding for programs such as the NHPRC, IMLS, and NEH that provide grants for non-federal historical records projects.

Action 2: Work with the Ohio Historical Society to educate state officials on the benefits of fully-funded records management and preservation programs by identifying priorities relating to records for Ohio's Statehood Day advocacy event.

Action 3: Collaborate with archival and records management organizations such as the County Archivists and Records Managers Association to promote funding local government records management and preservation activities.

Objective B: Increase public support for improved archival and records management funding.

Action: Create a pamphlet discussing the importance of public funding for archives and records management programs and distribute it to genealogists and other record users.

Goal 3: Foster capacity building and strategies to manage Ohio's historical records.

Objective A: Increase the number and quality of grant applications to the NHPRC from Ohio's repositories.

Action 1: Promote NHPRC grant opportunities through archival and records management listservs.

Action 2: Share information about OHRAB and NHPRC grants at meetings of regional archival associations in Ohio.

Action 3: Encourage prospective grant applicants to contact OHRAB for advice and recommendations prior to submitting applications to the NHPRC.

Objective B: Provide funding to Ohio's records repositories for records preservation and access.

Action: Apply for funding from the NHPRC to administer a re-grant program.

Objective C: Collaborate with the Ohio Electronic Records Committee to address the challenges of electronic records management and preservation.

Action: Provide financial assistance for the development of best practices workshops and guidelines.