

# **Women's Archives Project**



**Women in the Archival Record  
MARAC, 2014 Spring Conference  
Amy Vilz, University at Buffalo**

# Mission of UB University Archives



- Institutional records
- Manuscript collections
  - ✦ Parallel mission to document local and regional history
  - ✦ Activism, environment, architecture, education, and...



Campfire Girls, undated, MS 32

# Women's Archives Project



- ...Women's history
- 1977
- Shonnie Finnegan
- State of women's archives



Shonnie Finnegan

# Women's History Sources Survey



- Census of women's history sources
- Survey started in Spring, 1976
- Guide to Women's History Sources, published 1978

Eva Noles, circa 1945, MS 125

# Hidden Collections – Hidden History



- “Women have graduated from the University since 1876 and have been represented on the faculty and administration in significant numbers since the 1920s. The histories of thousands of women students and numerous faculty are inextricably intertwined in the basic records of the University. There are really very few record series which could not be used in some way to write the history of women at this institution....

*[but a researcher] would have to search through many linear feet of records for occasional references to women.”*

Letter, October 5, 1976, UB Assistant Archivist Chris Densmore to survey editors Clarke A. Chambers and Andrea Hinding



# Currently...



# Discoverability



## National Organization for Women. Buffalo Chapter papers and records,

Contributors:	National Organization for Women. Buffalo, N.Y. Chapter. Women's History in Buffalo and Western New York Collection (State University of New York at Buffalo)
Format:	 <b>Archival Collection</b>
Language:	English
Location Note:	Please check for full location information Check Availability



Holdings

Description

Staff View

### Online

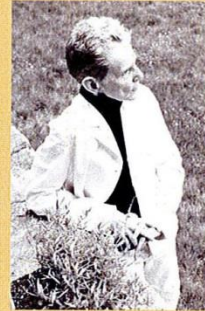
<http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/archives/ead/ms60/ms60.frame.html>



# Outreach



University at Buffalo, University Libraries  
The University Archives



## Women's Work: a tribute to the women who make UB work

opening September 28, 2004  
Special Collections Reading Room

also presented online in a special multi-media exhibit

[http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/archives/womens\\_work/](http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/archives/womens_work/)

 **University at Buffalo**  
The State University of New York



# Challenges



- Unprocessed, backlog collections
- Inconsistent cataloging
- Hidden documentation
- Institutional vs. manuscript collections

# Successes



- Collections beget collections
- User support and interest
- Accruals and additions
- The greatest success is...



Silver Creek Shakespeare Club, MS 53

# The Greatest Success is Context



Dorothy Haas, Director of Norton Union at the University at Buffalo



# Thank You!



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