

Activity report ATOS 2019-20

Bill Gellhaus

Over the last year I have been involved in three areas.

The first has just been learning how the board operates, and who does what. Being the newbie on the board, meeting the other board members and staff and learning who does what has been interesting. I have also attended the virtual board meeting when called.

The second area was attending various chapter events in the area as both a theatre organ enthusiast and as a board member.

The third was my main area of interest - the Archives. I had been in contact with Bailey Hoffner at the OI since early last year having monthly phone calls with her. However, since Feb she is no longer at the OI and now has a job in the main library archive. The last information she forwarded to me, is the material, is still sitting on the shelves at OI. Hopefully, Dave has more information on the status of the Archives.

One of the items we talked about was how to handle the digital items. Currently we have no real way of dealing with them. ASpace is good with physical items, but does not really deal with digital right management and cataloging.

My plans were to visit OI at OU in Oct. Unfortunately, due to the shutdown of the program that trip was canceled. I was hoping to meet the archive when it arrived at the OHS location(s) but since the world has been put on hold, I have no ideal as to when it will be arriving.

One of the things I was working on was learning Archive Space which was the archives information management application that the OI used to keep the records of the archive in. It appears the OHS uses a product from SirsiDynix as a card catalog for their collections. The two products serve different functions. The questions are how compatible are they, can the data be moved to it without a lot of rework, or will they spin up an instance of ASpace and keep our data in it?

I have recently found out who the archivist at the OHS is and hope to be working with him when the material finally arrives, as the OHS is local to me, and I feel that the board needs a presence at our archive.

As a side note I was also able to attend the Technical Experience again this year. A number of years ago, there were some thoughts in videotaping the workshop and creating a series, much like the "JOHN FERGUSON & FRIENDS, THE ART OF PLAYING THEATRE ORGAN". Several of the reasons that this was not followed through with, from what I understand, was the amount of work involved, production cost vs the return on investment, and the technical aspect of trying to "film", while running the class. Having gone to the last two classes, I now have a better understanding of the technical constraints involved. However, I now feel it might be time to take a look at it again, as the technology has improved, the cameras have shrunk in size becoming less intrusive and has also come down in price. With several volunteers, I think this could be done with minimum disruption to the class, and at a minimum cost to ATOS.