Webography: Archiving Theater Materials
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Theater History/Collections

1. "The Billy Rose Theatre Collection." *The New York Public Library*. The New York Public Library, 2010. Web. 17 July 2011.
http://legacy.www.nypl.org/research/lpa/the/the.html
    The Billy Rose Theatre Collection of The New York Public Library, with its massive collection of around 5 million theater-related items, is one of the most comprehensive and valuable collections of theater resources in the world. Although the collection covers a wide range of theater performance types and materials, the strengths of the collection are its theater ephemera and film/videotape recordings. The website includes collection descriptions and guides, finding aids, digital gallery materials, and links to performing arts resources for more in-depth research into the collection.

2. "Federal Theatre Project Collection." *American Memory*. The Library of Congress, 23 September 1999. Web. 20 July 2011.
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/fedtp/fthome.html
    The website for the Library of Congress' Federal Theatre Project Collection, part of the American Memory collections, is an excellent example of a digital performing arts collection. The Federal Theatre Project was developed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt as an effort to provide work for the many unemployed theater professionals during the Great Depression and lasted from 1935-1939 before losing federal funding. Over 13,000 images of stage and costume designs, still photographs, posters, scripts, notebooks and administrative records from the collection are provided. Also included is a finding aid, four illustrated articles, links to related collections and exhibits, and search tips. Particularly helpful for the theater practitioner or archivist aiming to create their own digital collection is the information on how the collection was built and the copyright statement.

3. "Global Performing Arts Database (GloPAD)." *Glopad.org/*. Global Performing Arts Consortium, 2006. Web. 20 July 2011. http://www.glopad.org/pi/en/
    The Global Performing Arts Database (GloPAD) is an authoritative collection of performing arts material from around the world in the form of digital images, texts, video clips, sound recordings, and complex media objects. It was developed with the support of Cornell University and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The website contains approximately 4,500 objects, with new items being added and older items being revised on a daily basis. Each record contains copyright information in the form of a rights statement, credit line, and ordering information. There is also an abundance of information about performing arts productions, performers and creators. It is possible to search and view information in English, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, German and French.

4. *IBDB: Internet Broadway Database*. The Broadway League, 2011. Web. 19 July 2011. http://www.ibdb.com/index.php

You are probably familiar with the Internet Movie Database (imdb.com), but here is the theater version. As an official and comprehensive guide to Broadway Theater, the user can search the site by show titles, people, theatres, or seasons. Included under each production are detailed cast and crew listings, awards and nominations, images, and hyperlinks to other related entries. The user can rest assured knowing that the information provided will be accurate and up to date.

5. Ohio State University Libraries. "Charles H. McCaghy Collection of Exotic Dance from Burlesque to Clubs." *Flickr.com*. Yahoo! Inc, 2011. Web. 20 July 2011. http://www.flickr.com/photos/60966199@N08/sets/72157626312413421/

The Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute of the Ohio State University Libraries present a digital performing arts collection on Flickr: 163 photographs from OSU's Charles H. McCaghy Collection of Exotic Dance from Burlesque to Clubs. This is an excellent example of how to create a collaborative cataloging project using Web 2.0 technology; website users familiar with the photographs are encouraged to contribute to the content. Theater practitioners and archivists can use this website as an example of how to attach appropriate metadata to photographic collections, promote access to their collections, and enhance catalogs through social media.

6. "Performing Arts." *Harry Ransom Center*. University of Texas at Austin, 24 July 2011. Web. 24 July 2011. http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/collections/performingarts/holdings/

The University of Texas at Austin holds an impressive performing arts collection at the Harry Ransom Center and provides a wealth of material on their website. There is detailed information about access, the history of the collection, and a description of the major performing arts collections, including links to a description of each one. It is also possible to browse by subject, including costumes, images, and popular entertainment to find out information about how to search for and access desired records. The website also contains photographs and images from the collection. A feature that is sure to bring more people into the library is a link on the main page to sign up for eNews about the performing arts collection and events. This is an excellent example of how to create and maintain a comprehensive website for a performing arts collection that would be helpful to the theatre practitioner or archivist looking to create a web presence.

7. "Performing Arts, Music." *American Memory*. The Library of Congress, 2011. Web. 18 July 2011. http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/ListSome.php?category=Performing%20Arts,%20Music

The American Memory Collection website includes links to 32 collections pertaining to the performing arts held in the Library of Congress. Although this website focuses on music collections, there are links to theatrical collections,

including the Printed Ephemera collection, Federal Theater Project and helpful archival resources, including a technical orientation to building digital collections. A particularly rich collection is the Variety Stage, which includes a searchable catalog of theater playbills and programs, sound recordings, scripts, and motion pictures from vaudeville and popular entertainment from 1870-1920.

8. "SIBMAS International Directory of Performing Arts Collections and Institutions." *Theatrelibrary.org*. Ed. Paul S. Ulrich and Directory Working Group. SIBMAS, 18 Oct. 2009. Web. 24 July 2011. http://www.sibmas.org/idpac/index.html
      The International Association of Libraries and Museums of the Performing Arts (SIBMAS) now makes their previously print directory available online. This comprehensive and user friendly website contains contact, access, and collection holdings information for over 7,000 institutions around the world that contain performing arts material ranging from ballet, to theater, to radio and mime. The user can browse alphabetically by institution, collection or geographically by location. Other than the fact that links are sometimes broken, this is an invaluable resource for locating desired collections all over the world.

9. "Technical Information." *American Memory*. The Library of Congress, 21 June 2011. Web. 22 July 2011. http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/about/techIn.html
      As part of its American Memory historical collections, the Library of Congress maintains a helpful and reliable website that "documents current solutions to technical challenges and solutions devised and implemented in the past." Links to the websites of other Library of Congress papers and projects that deal with copyright, metadata, preservation, scanning and conversion, text mark-up, and early technical history are provided. This is an authoritative resource for theater practitioners and archivists interested in creating digital collections.

10. "Theatre in Video." *Theatre in Video*. Alexander Street Press, LLC, 2011. Web. 24 July 2011. http://ativ.alexanderstreet.com/
      The Theatre in Video website includes approximately 235 hours containing 213 videos of theater performances and film documentaries and is available through the Boston Public Library website or through a free trial. It is possible to browse the videos by genre (ex. biography, fantasy, history), material type (documentary or performance), or other (ex. actors, companies, dates). It is also possible to save playlists and clips. This is a fabulous example of a collection of performance recordings that can be used by a performing arts institution (copyright issues pending).

Theater Organizations

11. "American Theatre Archive Project (beta)." *Americantheatrearchiveproject.org*. American Theatre Archive Project, 25 July 2011. Web. 25 July 2011. http://americantheatrearchiveproject.org/
      The American Theatre Archive Project (ATAP) is an initiative of the American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) and a national project that "supports theatre

makers in archiving records of their work for the benefit of artists, scholars, patrons, and the public." Although it is only a beta site at this stage, the site provides information about how to become involved in the project through joining regional teams. There is regional team information, including contact information and meeting minutes, articles about regional theatre archival projects, and links to helpful resources. The New York City team, which is paving the way for the rest of the project, provides a link to their additional website, with valuable information about current projects, grants, an initial theater archive survey, and timelines for the project.

12. "American Society for Theatre Research." *Astr.org*. American Society for Theatre Research, 25 July 2011. Web. 25 July 2011. http://www.astr.org/
   Established in 1956, the American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) is "a U.S.-based professional organization that fosters scholarship on worldwide theatre and performance, both historical and contemporary." The website features membership information, articles and videos on the organization, dramaturgy, and theater research, links to related theater organizations and resources, and information about grants, contests and scholarships. Their journal, *Theatre Survey*, is available to members via Cambridge University Press, with issues dating back to 1960. This is an excellent resource for the theater practitioner or archivist looking to keep up-to-date on the field of theater research.

13. *Theatre Library Association*. Theatre Library Association, 2011. Web. 18 July 2011. http://www.tla-online.org/
   The Theatre Library Association is a professional academic organization that claims to "promote professional best practices in acquisition, organization, access and preservation of performing arts resources in libraries, archives, museums, private collections, and the digital environment." Housed at the Lincoln Center of the New York Public Library, the organization was founded by theatre curators, librarians, and historians in 1937 and is a prolific publisher of theater research and archival resources. The TLA newsletter, *Broadside*, is published three times annually and issues dating back to 1973 are free for download on the website. There are also plenty of links to related organizations and performing arts libraries, archives, and museums.

Theater and Archival Grants

14. "Apply for a Grant." *Neh.gov*. National Endowment for the Humanities, 1 Dec. 2010. Web. 23 July 2011. http://www.neh.gov/grants/index.html
   Like the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) website, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) website provides excellent information about applying for federally funded grants. As opposed to the NEA grants, the NEH grants that would be most helpful for the theater archivist/librarian are in the fields of education, digital humanities, and preservation and access. Unfortunately, the website is not updated as frequently as the NEA website.

15. "Foundation Center." *Foundation Center*. Foundationcenter.org, 2011. Web. 23 July 2011. http://foundationcenter.org/
       The Foundation Center is an authoritative and continually updated resource for grant seeking, because, let's face it, you can't do anything without money. There are advanced searching options by grant maker, geographic location and Employment ID number (EIN). There is also practical information on grant writing, grant seeking, and grant statistics to help the grant seeker find and apply for a grant.

16. "Grants." *Grants.gov*. National Endowment for the Arts, 23 Mar. 2011. Web. 27 July 2011. http://www.nea.gov/grants/index.html
       The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) provides an excellent website about federally funded grants that would be helpful to any performing arts institution looking to apply for and organizational grant. There is information about applying for a grant, including guidelines and application forms, managing the award, and a listing of recent grants that have been awarded. It is also possible to register for webinars on the Arts in Media guidelines and to search for NEA grants within certain disciplines, including theater and musical theater.