



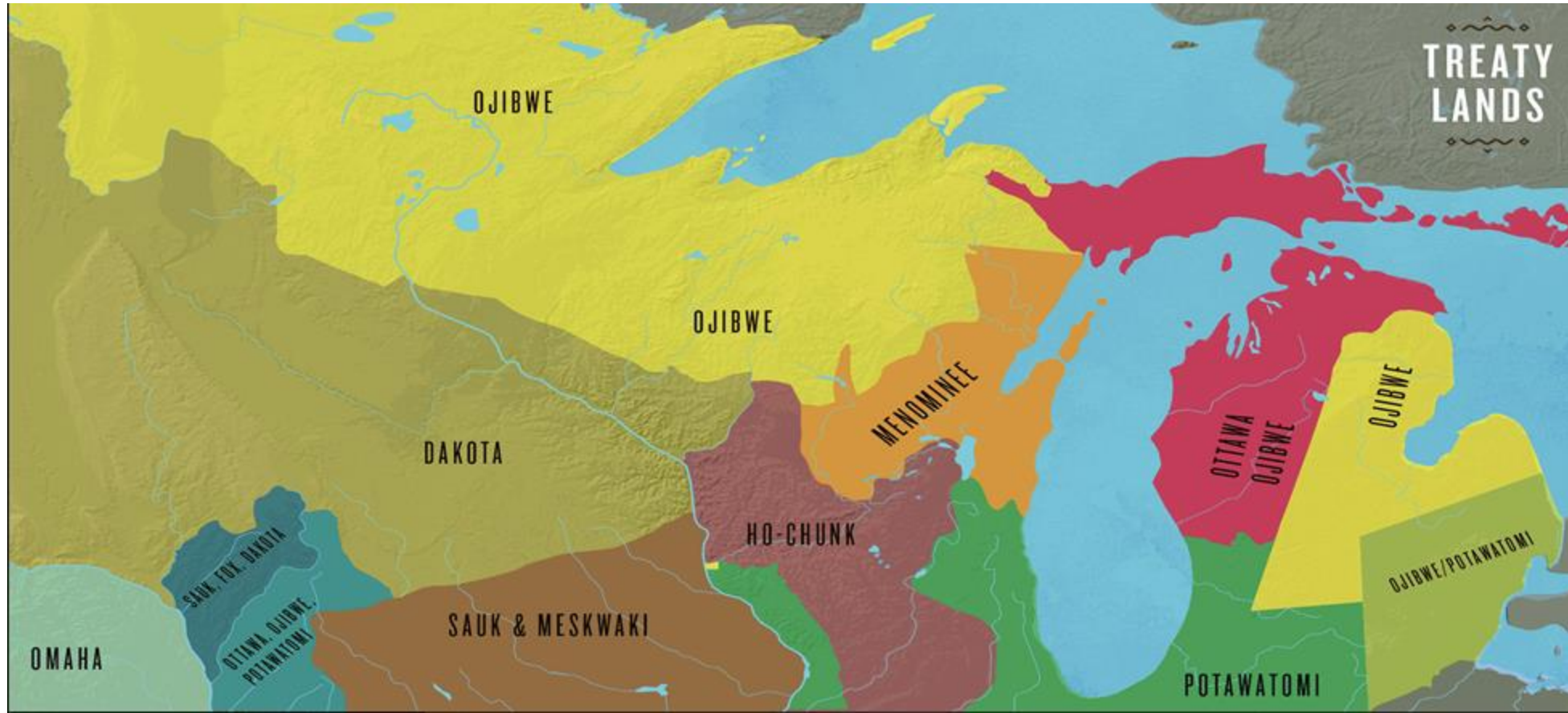
# All Ages Archives

**Working Together to  
Share History and Stories**

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Michigan Technological University  
MLA Spring Institute for Youth Services

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Michigan Technological University is located within Ojibwa (Chippewa) homelands and ceded-territory established by the Treaty of 1842, the territory of Native American nations in Gakiwe'onaning (Keweenaw Bay), Gete-gitgaaning (Lac Vieux Desert), Mashkii-ziibing (Bad River), Odaawaa-zaaga'iganing (Lac Courte Oreilles), Waaswaaganing (Lac Du Flambeau), Miskwaabikong (Red Cliff), Wezaawaagami-ziibiing (St. Croix), and Zaka'aaganing (Sokaogon Mole Lake).



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# Road Map

All-Ages Archives is intended to provide real-world inspiration for working with youth and collaborative partners in archives and public history contexts.

This session will include:

- Introduction
- Overview of Michigan Tech Archives
- Examples of archival outreach
- It takes a village
- Reflections and Q&A





# About Me

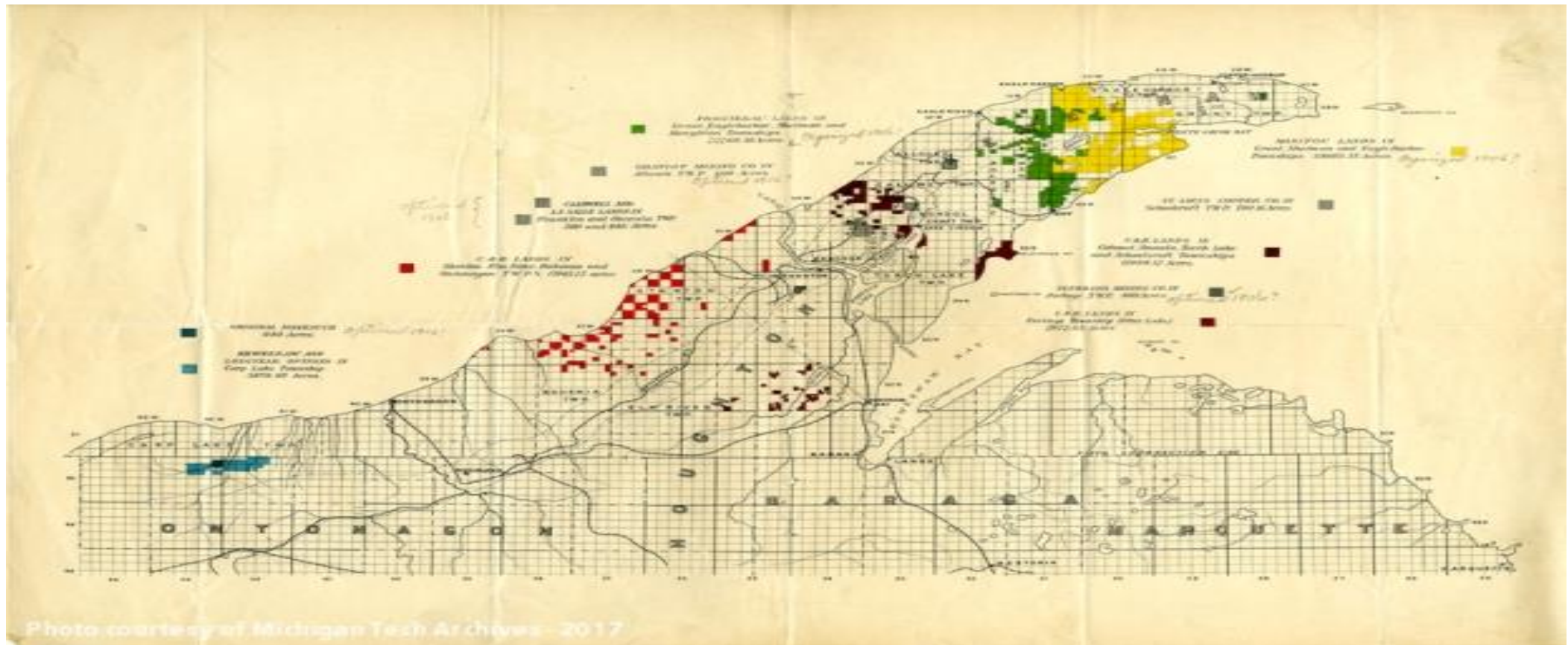
- University Archivist and PhD Student
- Subject specialties public history, youth services in public history and archives, memory, industrial heritage, social history, labor history, environmental rhetoric, sports and recreation – especially hockey history.
- Accomplished grant writer and reviewer: Since coming to MTU have served as PI or Co-PI on over a dozen projects, totaling over \$950,000 in request funding.
- Diverse professional background in public and academic, rural and urban libraries; service to the profession includes SAA, MAC, MAA, MSHRAB, MOHA, HSM, and QMHA.



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# Where I Live and Work



Map is included with Calumet and Hecla Mining Co. Abstracts, MS-048, Michigan Tech Archives.



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# Michigan Tech Archives

- University and regional archives in Michigan's Upper Peninsula
- Premier collections include those related to the area's rich industrial heritage
- Patron base is diverse and includes regular researchers from across the United States and Europe
- Robust collections, reference, research, outreach, programming, and oral history programs
- Co-sponsor of Michigan History Day and collaborator on several projects related to youth



# The Public Reading Room



The Michigan Tech Archives is open Monday-Thursday, 1-5 by appointment. Call, email, or fill out the web form for appointments. Photograph courtesy of L. Hiltunen, 2016

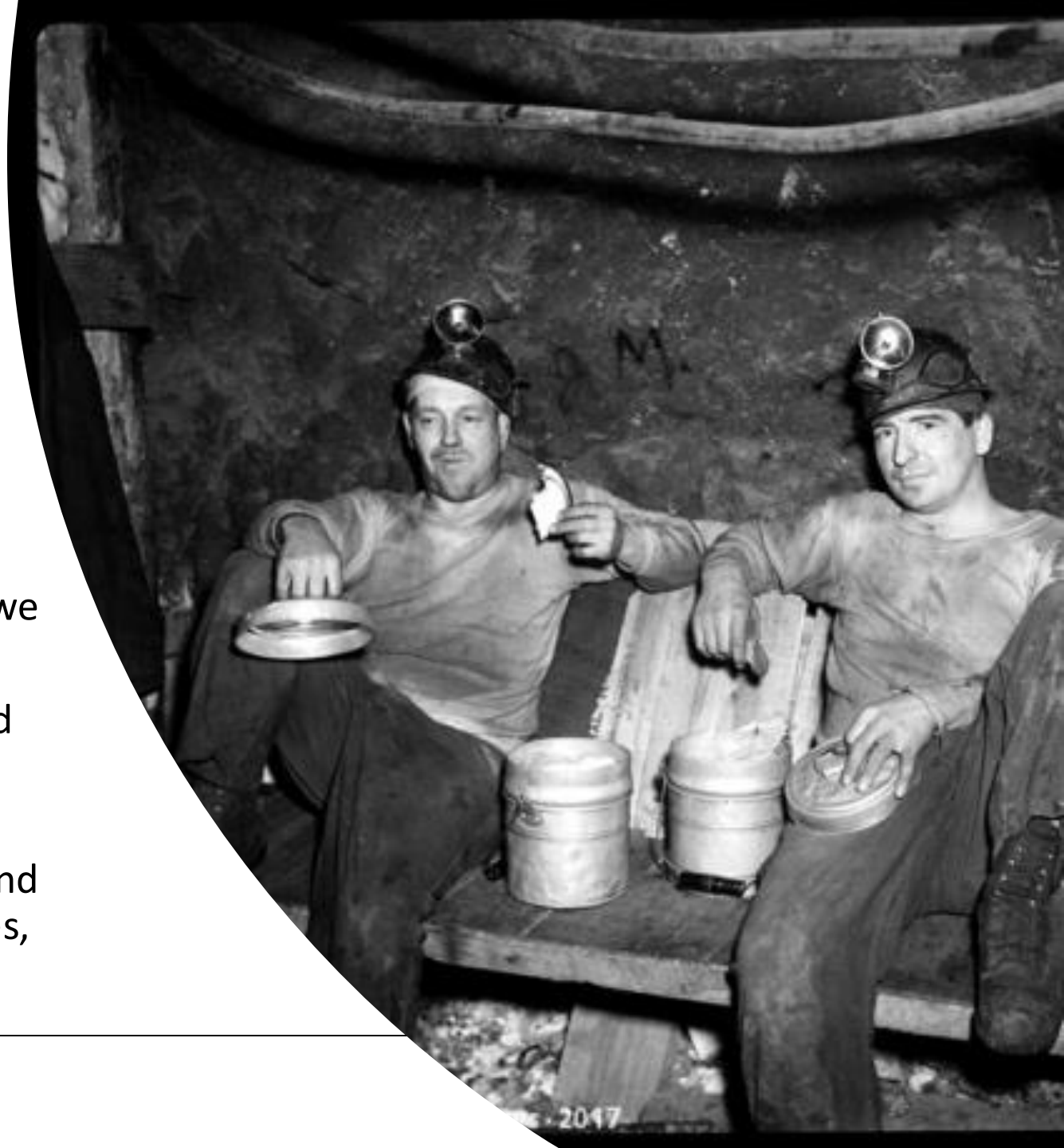


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# Digital Archives at Michigan Tech

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- Preservica client since 2016
    - Migrated from a homegrown platform that was nearing obsolescence
    - Actively work to improve the product and how we use it
  - Major Assets: Copper Country Historical Images and the Copper Mine Employee Cards Databases.
  - Seeking to expand our digital assets; working with partners at the Keweenaw Time Traveler, MDPN, and UPLINK; forthcoming projects relate to oral histories, drill reports, and WGGL.
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# Archives Access and Policies

- By appointment only, 1-5 p.m., Mon-Thurs
- Appointments must be booked in advance/no walk-ins
- Capacity is limited and an archives staff member must confirm your visit
- Individual or small groups
- No pens or personal scanners
- Photography is permitted; staff can scan items for a fee
- No food or beverages
- Staff can train on how to use various formats and special equipment



Photo courtesy of Michigan Tech Archives - 2017



# Who We Serve

- Local, national, and global patrons
- Historians
- Professionals
- Students
- Genealogists
- General Public






# What is an Archive?

## *Place, Record, Construct, Inscribing Practices*

- a physical or digital collection of historical records
- a fonds (the entire body of records of an organization, family, or individual)
- an individual record of continuing value
- a curated online collection of information and contextual data relating to a particular theme
- a conceptual construct of a storehouse of recorded knowledge with outsized social and political significance that generally controls meaning and discourse and serves as a simulacrum of truth and fact





Archivists work where it is important to retain the records of people or organizations, including libraries, museums, universities, corporations, religious communities, etc.

- Typically have an MLIS
- Analog and digital material
- To tell the story of a community or organization, archivists collect and connect to the past by collecting, preserving and providing access to the historical record

## What is an Archivist?

Image courtesy of Northwestern University



# All-Ages Archives?

Archives are usually mysterious places for K-12 students. It can be intimidating working with old or fragile material; there can be equipment or functional barriers (microfilm, cursive writing, etc.); they can be difficult to visit due to hours, location, etc.

- By creating welcoming experiences we can decrease the anxiety of engaging
- By developing structure around engagement, we can build confidence in younger researchers
- By working together we can leverage resources to create more opportunities for engagement, which generates excitement, builds trust, and encourages future archivists and public historians.



# Making A Plan

To begin a youth engagement project, it is essential to plan realistic goals, identify partners, gather resources, and set clear learning outcomes or expectations.

Critical questions included:

- Why is a youth audience important?
- What resources do we need to accomplish this and who can help us?
- What should the balance be between outreach and onsite?
- What goals do we plan to reach? What will the benefit be to the youth audience? What will the benefit be to the collaborative partners?

Photo Courtesy Michigan Tech Archives



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# “Thinking Outward”

Our outreach initiatives work with junior and high school ages, so we needed to learn how to navigate school systems, private/charter schools, and youth groups. It was essential:

To build connections with schools and administrators

Work with librarians and teachers

Work with community organizations

Involve cultural heritage partners, such as historical societies, museums, and historic sites in our region



# Michigan History Day

HSM sponsors this contest throughout the state and it presents a great opportunity to encourage connections between youth and archives.

Primary source-driven projects do well in competition

It provides space for teachers, librarians, archivists, and historians to work together

Volunteering allows time to work with youth and hear from them about their needs directly

Outreach tables at events allow new partnerships to bloom



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# Second Saturday

We realized much of our connection to History Day was administrative or took place on the day of the event. How could we help students research and plan their projects?

We began Second Saturday to encourage participants to develop primary-source driven projects. We held workshops and provided research help for students.



# Second Saturday Workshops

- How to Search Newspapers on Microfilm
- Researching with Cursive Writing
- Historical Images
- Exploring Digital Archives
- Engaging with Local History

Photo Courtesy of Margot Note Consulting LLC



# Keweenaw Heritage Sites

The spirit of teamwork from our Michigan History Day work carried into another major youth initiative, the Copper TRACES project.

Our connection to this event is through our status as a Keweenaw National Historical Park Heritage Site.



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# Copper TRACES

Copper TRACES, a partnership of the KNHP with schools and heritage sites, is a multi-day event to engage 4<sup>th</sup> graders with activity stations and education related to Technology, Research, Art, Community, Environment, and Service. We partner with the KNHP archives to conduct primary-source workshops. Recent projects have related to historical image literacy.



# A Note on Digital Archives

A digital archive is similar to a physical archive, except the material has been scanned and made available in some way or born digital material is assembled and made available.

Digital archives have enabled us to engage outside of our brick and mortar space and conduct outreach even when we can't get offsite in person.





# Digital is Dynamic

We are excited to innovate as we try new things with our regular outreach.

- We are developing a virtual outreach package for schools and community groups
- Keywords help us connect! Easy to find topical areas of interest with digital platforms: sports, ships, trains, dogs, etc.
- Our online sources are free and open, so teachers' can incorporate our collections and guides into their curriculum, info packets for history day, etc.
- Youth groups, homeschoolers, and community partners have used our digital archives for trivia nights, scavenger hunts, and photography contests.



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# Some Michigan Resources for Digital Archives

- Archives of Michigan and Library of Michigan  
<https://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan/libraries/digitization>
- Copper Country Historical Images  
<https://cchi.mtu.edu>
- CMU – Clarke Historical Library Digital Collections  
<https://www.cmich.edu/research/clarke-historical-library/explore-collection/explore-online/digital-collections>
- Michigan Service Hub for DPLA  
<http://michiganservicehub.org>
- UPLINK  
<https://uplink.nmu.edu>



# Be the Bridge

Our community partnerships have encouraged us to “be the bridge” when working to get K-12 audiences in touch with history through primary sources. We strive to create a welcoming environment, open communication, and fun activities to encourage the next generation of archives professionals, users and advocates.





# All-Ages, All-Places

Through outreach to K-12 we've learned that being present and accessible in physical and digital spaces keeps us connected and truly promotes all-ages archives.



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Photo courtesy of Michigan Tech Archives - 2017

# Future Initiatives

Expanding History Day workshops

Summer reading tie-ins with the local public library

Michigan Tech's Summer Youth Program - Archives modules

Curriculum planning with local history and our digital archives

Intersections of art and archives



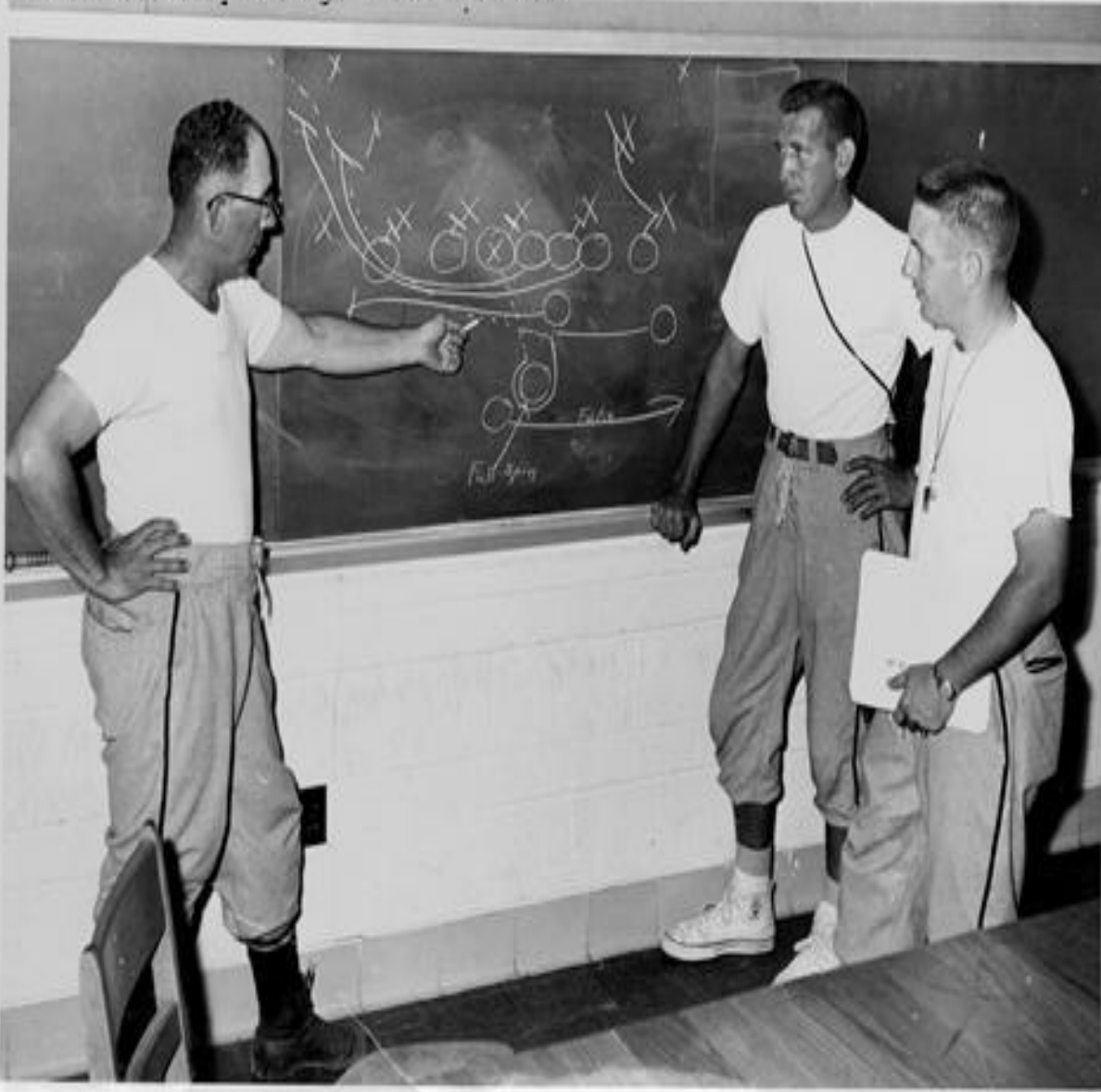
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# It Takes a Village

One lesson we learned from our All-Ages Archives initiatives is that many partners were necessary to make efforts successful. Support from the library, the Social Sciences department, local teachers, parents, archives staff, and of course, students were essential.







# Be a Part of the Team

We also learned that we can't be bystanders to the partnerships that are being developed. We have to be active and fully committed.

- Visit students in their classroom
- Host classes at the archives
- Volunteer for public events
- Share highlights and successes
- Check-in after events
- Cultivate the garden we grow!



# Free Consultation

As a professional librarian and archivist since 2008, and as a member of MLA, it is my pleasure to offer a free phone or Zoom consultation as part of the perks of this session. If you have an outreach project or a youth-focused collaborative project you are looking to undergo, but need help getting started, please feel free to reach out to me! I would be happy to set up a time for a 30 or 60-minute discussion about your project needs, share resources, and explore goals!





# Reflections on the Session

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Now is a great time to share ideas, ask questions, or offer anecdotes from your own journey into sharing public history and archives with youth audiences.





# Contact Information

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