

## **Guide to the Dayton-Miami Valley Consortium Records (MS-234)**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Wright State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives

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## Summary Information

**Repository:** Wright State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives

**Creator:** Dayton-Miami Valley Consortium

**Title:** Dayton-Miami Valley Consortium Records

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**Physical Description:** 1 linear feet

**Language of** English

**Materials:**

## Abstract

A precursor to the Southwestern Ohio Council of Higher Education (SOCHE), the Dayton-Miami Valley Consortium was an affiliation of ten local colleges and universities seeking to increase cooperation and support. Records include minutes, financial reports, grant proposals, correspondence, and annual reports.

## History of Dayton-Miami Valley Consortium

The beginning of the Dayton Miami Valley Consortium (DMVC) can be traced to a meeting that was held on March 16, 1967. During this gathering, the colleges and universities of the future DMVC decided to expand a plan for a joint research program into a full-blown consortium. The particulars of such an organization were to be submitted as a formal proposal to the Research Branch of the U.S. Office of Education. The University of Dayton consented to act as the submitting agent for the rest of the schools. At a meeting on March 31, 1967, these institutions approved the actual proposal and its submission to the above mentioned agency. Although the proposal did not set forth any special projects that the DMVC wished to have funded, it did state that the goals of its research would be the facilitation of increased institutional cooperation, improvement of curricula, development of new programs and courses, reduction of costs, and centralization of certain functions. This declaration of a five-fold purpose appears to be more of a mission statement than an outline of clearly focused projects.

The collection does not indicate any definite date on which the Dayton Miami Valley Consortium came into being as a legal entity. A mailing sent out by the consortium stated that it was founded in the Spring of 1967. It is assumed that the DMVC saw the light of day when it was awarded funds under the Consortium and Research and Development (CORD) grant in May of 1967. This grant was remarkable since it went into effect prior to the appointment of an executive director. Although not unheard of, such a procedure was highly unusual. In the absence of a CEO, the Reverend Raymond Roesch, then president of the University of Dayton, acted as the administrator of the consortium until its first president, Dr. Charles J. Armstrong, assumed his duties in November of 1967. The criticism has been voiced that the time lapse between the legal beginning of the Dayton Miami Valley Consortium and the commencement of Dr. Armstrong's term of office resulted in a delay of planning. However, one must be cautious of any judgment based on these papers. It must be kept in mind that the collection is the contribution of only one member of the Dayton Miami Valley Consortium and that it covers a limited time period.

The financial means to start-up the consortium came from two sources, the CORD grant and the Charles F. Kettering Foundation. In the application for the CORD grant, a total amount of \$120,000 was requested with

\$50,000 to be received during the first year of the grant. Also asked for were two renewal extensions. The life of the grant was anticipated to run from September of 1967 to August of 1970. In addition, the consortium applied to the Kettering Foundation for a sum of \$200,000 to be spent over the same period as the CORD grant. The money from the Kettering Foundation was earmarked for the initial operating expenses, including the appointments and salaries of a staff. Additional funds were to be raised from other local foundations and industries, but the benefits to the latter were never spelled out. The proposal to the Kettering Foundation is of further interest because it identifies the objectives of the consortium as well as its governance. Too, it lists the founding members of the Dayton Miami Valley Consortium.

The early meetings of the DMVC dealt with the inaugural chores that are necessary to establish an organization such as the number and identity of officers and members of the board of trustees, adoption of by-laws as well as the election of officers. It seems that the consortium, at least for its first two meetings, was very publicity-shy to its own public relation personnel as well as the press.

According to the Summary Report of Activities for the year ending August of 1968, the first year of operation was one of exploration and experimentation rather than the start of any actual projects. Indeed, the lack of projects apparently was the bane of the Dayton Miami Valley Consortium throughout all of the years covered by this collection. There is considerable evidence that the DMVC suffered from a sparsity of programs for which it was created, namely educational research. Most of the programs that were initiated by the consortium, for example its involvement the Dayton Urban Corps, the VISTA program, Headstart Supplementary Training Program, CETA, etc., were more in the nature of social action than educational research. The Summary Report of Consortium, Activities for 1970 stated as much when it said that the most important development within the consortium was the expansion of the community service activities. Yet few of these had much to do with the five-fold purpose of the DMVC, as presented in its application for the CORD grant, and it had little in common with the objectives as expressed in its application to the Kettering Foundation. The impression one gets from reading the papers is that more of the consortium's projects were improvised than carefully planned. Probably the most lasting contribution of the Dayton Miami Valley Consortium was in the area of inter-library activities. But these programs were already in operation prior to the founding of the DMVC. However, one successful program for which the consortium could claim complete credit was that of Cross-Registration.

As time progressed, the DMVC seemingly strayed increasingly further from its declared objectives. In the early 1970's, though, it must have become aware of possible changes in the method used for federal funding of community revenue sharing. This may well have led the consortium to engage in some critical self-examination. This took place some time in late December of 1972 or early January of 1973. The results of the assessment were rather disappointing. The organization was deemed to be unsuccessful in research and also to have had negative success in both promoting projects of educational research and in experimentation. The evaluation further asserted that the initiation and development of such projects were the prime reason for the governmental funding that was instrumental in creating the consortium. Furthermore, it added that few, if any, undertakings of this nature were conducted. The lack of research enterprises may even have caused the premature termination of at least one grant. While the evaluation judged the DMVC to be successful in institutional cooperation, it was careful to point out that most of these programs were started before the DMVC came in existence. Too, it rated the consortium to be only moderately successful in various other fields.

Needless to say, these results evoked considerable self-criticism on part of the board of trustees. On February 21, 1973, a special board meeting was called to find ways of strengthening the consortium's position. The questions that were raised there dealt with defining more precisely the aim of the Dayton Miami Valley Consortium together with the need for community services. How, it was asked, did the latter relate to the missions of the DMVC's member institutions? Also, what was the relationship of those services to what was taught in the member schools? Dr. Marvin C. Knudson, then president of Sinclair College, best summed up the quandary of the trustees with these remarks, "-we spend too much of our time figuring out how much we can get out of the federal government," and "we should agree on what we really want to do. There is a lot of

thinking and a vague wonderment about what we have done." During the same year, nevertheless, two of the DMVC's more auspicious programs, REACH and the School of Packaging, were launched only to be closed out in 1978.

One by one government grants became sparser and less generous. The original CORD grant was reduced by 15% for its second year. All in all, the Dayton Miami Valley consortium did not come close to collecting the \$120,000 that it has requested in its 1967 application. Adding to the financial woes of the consortium was the mismanagement of the Public opinion Center (POC). Started with allocation of \$105,000 from the Kettering Foundation, it was so badly administered that it almost threw the DMVC into bankruptcy. This came even in spite of the infusion of money from other funds. Still, many of these programs could have been saved had the constituent schools of the consortium been willing to pay more in assessments.

It certainly cannot be said that the attrition of funds came as a total surprise to the DMVC. As early as 1968, the consortium was urged to plan for the time when federal funds could be terminated. Also, Mr. Orndorff, director of the OCS, attended a seminar in January 1973, that dealt with the fund-raising necessary to overcome the changes in federal funding.

As government grants began to dry up, the need to obtain more of them became increasingly more important. But by 1976, the DMVC had become so deprived of income that it could barely maintain a skeleton staff for the performance of its daily chores. It was suggested that, if the consortium had to pat for its own operation, it should not be expected to spend its time "selling" grants. Dr. Faiman reported to the executive committee, in 1977, that finances was the most critical issue facing the Dayton Miami Valley Consortium, mainly because it had no established, adequate source of income. Therefore, both the treasurer and the rest of the executive committee recommended to the board of trustees a considerable dues increase as essential to the continuation of a vital organization. A motion to increase the dues, brought up at a February, 1977, board meeting was tabled.

Few of the other income sources that were discussed at various times came to fruition. Even less of these paid off. A research park was envisaged, in part, to provide a long term income. Although forty acres were donated for this purpose near Fairborn, Ohio, this site evidently reverted to the donor because it could not be sufficiently utilized. Also, not much money could be raised from the local industries at that time. Even though they were encouraged at the beginning of the DMVC to join as associate members, a 1976 consortium study determined that industrial members had little to gain from their affiliation with the Dayton Miami Valley Consortium.

As indicated before, not much planning preceded the appointment of the first DMVC president. Moreover, it did not seem that planning improved much thereafter. For example, to correct the oversight of not having provided for tax exemption in its Articles of Incorporation, the consortium had to approve an amendment which, in its original form, was rejected by the Ohio Secretary of State. In 1974, the consortium discovered that it owed the Internal Revenue Service \$8,000 in FICA back taxes. The consortium claimed that failure to withhold the taxes was due to a misunderstanding of the IRS regulations.

Other factors could also have been responsible for, what many considered, the less than satisfactory performance of the Dayton Miami Valley Consortium. In its effort to serve a great variety of member institutions with their own vested interest, unity of purpose, other than to secure funds, was hard to achieve. The collection speaks of differences between private and public schools, large and small schools, as well as industry and academic institutions.

In conclusion, it should be mentioned that the Dayton Miami Valley Consortium underwent a name change sometime after 1980. It is now called the Southwestern Ohio Council of Higher Education (SOCHE).

## **Scope and Content**

The Dayton-Miami Valley Consortium Records include minutes, financial reports, grant proposals, correspondence, and annual reports.

The entire collection, most of which is made up of photocopies rather than original documents, appears to have come from Wright State University.

File 1, as well as File 2, record the beginning of the Dayton Miami Valley Consortium. They also indicate the desire of its officers and trustee to avoid publicity.

File 4 describes the origin of the POC. It also includes a reference to obtaining tax exemptions through amending the Articles of Incorporation. The remarks of Ambassador Lightner shed light on student attitudes during the 1970's.

File 7 deals with the results of the DMVC evaluation, the special board meeting of February 21, 1973, and it also contains an invitation to a seminar regarding fund raising.

File 8, in part, refers to the consortium's failure to pay FICA taxes. In addition, it contains a statement of primary and secondary goals and an informal bulletin on a proposal to the National Science Foundation in which the coordinators claim that they did almost all of the work with little cooperation and support from the rest of the staff.

File 10 includes the findings of the Committee on Regional Planning. It mentions the shrinkage of the consortium staff. It also suggests conflicts between private and public schools as well as between large and small schools. The DMVC Notes show the total amount of grant money received by the consortium since its founding.

File 11, Dr. Millet's conversation about an evaluation of the Educational Opportunity Center, requested by the DMVC, may warrant some attention.

In file 12, a roster of the chairmen of the DMVC's Board of Trustees from 1968 to 1978 can be found.

## **Statement of Arrangement**

The collection is arranged into a single series of files.

## **Restrictions on Access**

There are no restrictions on accessing materials in this collection.

## **Restrictions on Use**

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

## **Other Finding Aid**

A complete box and folder inventory for this collection is available on the Special Collections and Archives web site at [http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collection\\_guides/guide\\_files/ms234.pdf](http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collection_guides/guide_files/ms234.pdf).

## Preferred Citation

[Box #, Folder #], MS-234, Dayton-Miami Valley Consortium Records, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

## Acquisition Information

The Dayton-Miami Valley Consortium Papers were discovered while the Wright State University Archives was in the process of moving its location in the summer of 1989. The donor of this collection is unknown.

## General

Since acronyms are dispersed throughout the papers, it was thought that a partial list, and their meanings, could be helpful.

AFIT = Air Force Institution of Technology  
AED = Academy of Educational Development  
AICOU = Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio  
APC = Area Progress Council  
CAI = Computer Assisted Instruction  
CETA = Comprehensive Employment Training Act  
CHERS = Center of Technological Studies  
COSIP = College Science Improvement Center  
CONRAD = Consortium of Higher Educational Religious Studies  
CORD = Consortium Research and Development  
CREF = College Retirement Equity Fund  
CRI = Community Research Institute  
DATA = Dayton Area Technical Assistance  
EIC = Educational Information Center  
EOC = Educational Opportunity Center  
ERIC = Educational Research Information Center  
ETV = Educational Television  
FERA = Frigidaire Employees Recreational Association  
FUMAR = Faculty Utilization of metropolitan Research  
GCU = Greater Cincinnati Consortium  
MCTI = Model Cities Training Institute  
MISCO = McCall Information Service  
MVETVF = Miami Valley Educational Television Foundation  
NSF = National Science Foundation  
NTDS = National Training Development Service  
OBR = Ohio Board of Regents  
OCS = Office of Community Service  
OIG = Ohio Instructional Grant  
POC = Public Information Center  
REACH = A project that offered college courses through cable television  
TIAA = Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association  
USOE = United States Office of Education  
VISTA = Volunteers in Service of America

## General

In addition to the list of acronyms, a rather incomplete roster of prominent personalities involved with the DMVC could be of assistance:

Dr. Armstrong, Charles = First president of DMVC  
Dr. Beljan, John = First dean of the Wright State University Medical School  
Brigner, Michael = Director of Cross Registration, Assistant to DMVC president, 1997  
Dr. Carrel, Jeptha = Second president of the DMVC  
Cherry, Robert = Director of EOC  
Dr. Fickler, Steward = Director of EOC  
Dr. Golding, Brage = First president of Wright State University  
Col. Gravenstein, D.J. = Director of the School of Packaging  
Holly Jr., W.L. = Director of MCTI  
Dr. McCoy, Presley = Third president of DMVC  
Orndorff, Joseph = Director of OCS  
Rev. Roesch, Raymond = President of the University of Dayton, Acting head of the DMVC until appointment of Dr. Armstrong  
Walk, Wendy = Director of EOC after Dr. Fickler

The following, among others, represented their schools on the DMVC Board of Trustees:

Brinkman, Richard O. (Clark Technical College)  
Dr. Faiman, Robert (AFIT)  
Dr. Keggeries, Robert (Wright State University)  
Dr. Lucas, Robert (Wilmington College)  
Dr. Ponitz (Sinclair College)  
Dr. Patzer, Roland (Urbana College)  
Rev. Roesch, Raymond (University of Dayton)

## Processing Information

The collection was originally contained in eight loose-leaf binders in addition to one file folder. Each binder covered a two year period with the exceptions of years 1969-1971, 1974, and 1975. Every one of these was in a different binder. The sheer bulk of the material in binder 1969-1971 made its separation necessary.

In the original processing arrangement, each binder was identified as a separate series, with each series coinciding with the content of one binder. And, if the series had to be split into more than one folder, then each of those folders was marked as a subseries.

Due to the collection's small size and in order to flatten the arrangement hierarchy into a more appropriate complexity, the "series" and "subseries" were eliminated during finding aid revisions in 2021, so that the "binder" arrangement is reflected in the folder titles but are not intellectually split into series or subseries.

## Administrative Information

### Publication Statement

Wright State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives

Special Collections and Archives



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## Controlled Access Headings

- Southwestern Ohio Council of Higher Education--History.

## Collection Inventory

Binder for 1967-1968 Years, Part 1 of 2, 1967	Box 1; Folder 1 (Mixed Materials)
Binder for 1967-1968 Years, Part 2 of 2, 1968	Box 1; Folder 2 (Mixed Materials)
Binder for 1969-1971 Years, Part 1 of 3, 1969	Box 1; Folder 3 (Mixed Materials)
Binder for 1969-1971 Years, Part 2 of 3, 1970	Box 1; Folder 4 (Mixed Materials)
Binder for 1969-1971 Years, Part 3 of 3, 1971	Box 1; Folder 5 (Mixed Materials)
Binder for 1972-1973 Years, Part 1 of 2, 1972	Box 1; Folder 6 (Mixed Materials)
Binder for 1972-1973 Years, Part 2 of 2, 1973	Box 1; Folder 7 (Mixed Materials)
Binder for 1974 Year, 1974	Box 1; Folder 8 (Mixed Materials)
Binder for 1975 Year, 1975	Box 2; Folder 9 (Mixed Materials)
Binder for 1976-1977 Years, Part 1 of 2, 1976	Box 2; Folder 10 (Mixed Materials)
Binder for 1976-1977 Years, Part 2 of 2, 1977	Box 2; Folder 11 (Mixed Materials)
Binder for 1978-1980 Years, Part 1 of 2, 1978	Box 2; Folder 12 (Mixed Materials)
Binder for 1978-1980 Years, Part 2 of 2, 1979 - 1980	Box 2; Folder 13 (Mixed Materials)
Miscellaneous	Box 2; Folder 14 (Mixed Materials)