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Connecting with Community: Developing Skills through Community Research

Heidi Gauder University of Dayton, hgauder 1@udayton.edu

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About the University of Dayton and Environs

- Approximately 90% undergraduate students live on/near campus.
- 11% students from Dayton MSA (Fall 2016)
- Surrounding neighborhoods includes housing stock from early 1900s.
- Many houses now owned by University of Dayton.
- Students proud to live in these houses.

Workshop: House and Home Histories

- Co-curricular workshop
- Shared with History Department > overflow crowd
- Ancestry Library and Sanborn Map databases to explore neighborhoods around campus
- Playback.fm and Measuring Worth websites to add more context

Student Response

I LIKED: "Looking back at Dayton's history and comparing today to then!" "Learning more about the community I live in today"

ILEARNED: "People used to live in the houses before UD and they were very determined to make a living" "The history of the neighborhood goes way back! Cool people lived in the area."

I WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT: "The ancestry of our student neighborhood"

ENG200 Student Feedback

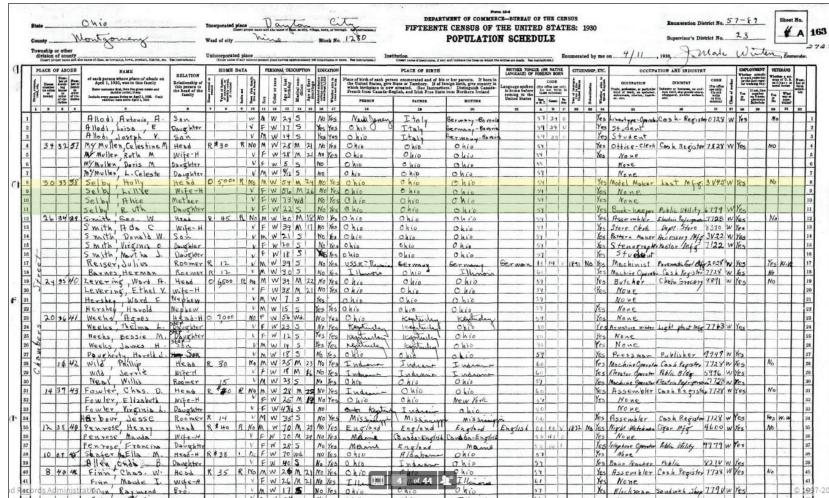
"Working on this project taught me a lot about the new community of Dayton that I have become a part of in the last few years and what its struggles and strengths have been over the years. I was also able to get a first-hand look at the life of a community member and listen to what they had to go through and the love they have for this place. I feel that being a part of this project was significant for me not only because I learned about my new community but I also learned about my role as a youth that I will play for the future of my community back home and here at the University of Dayton." — Student response

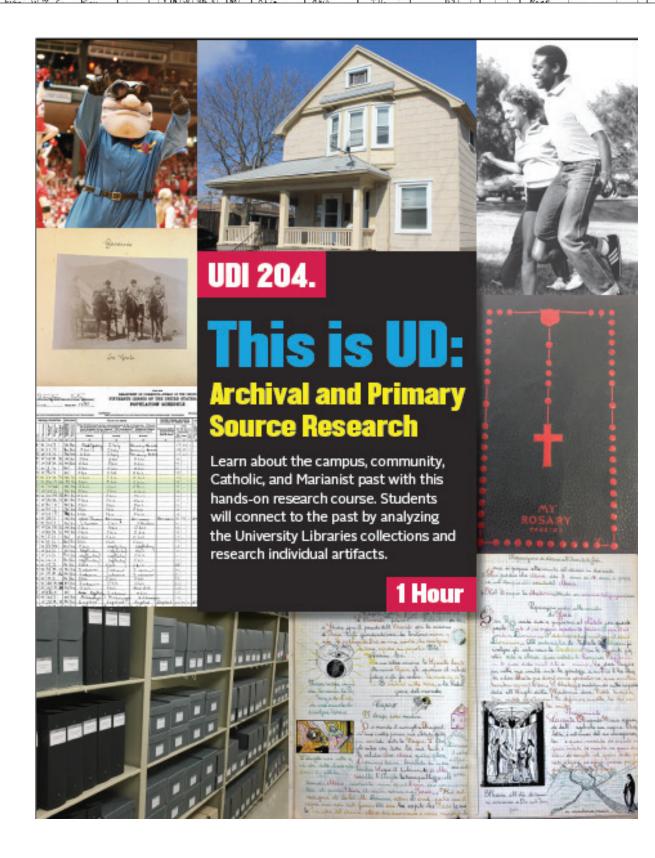
Connecting with Community:

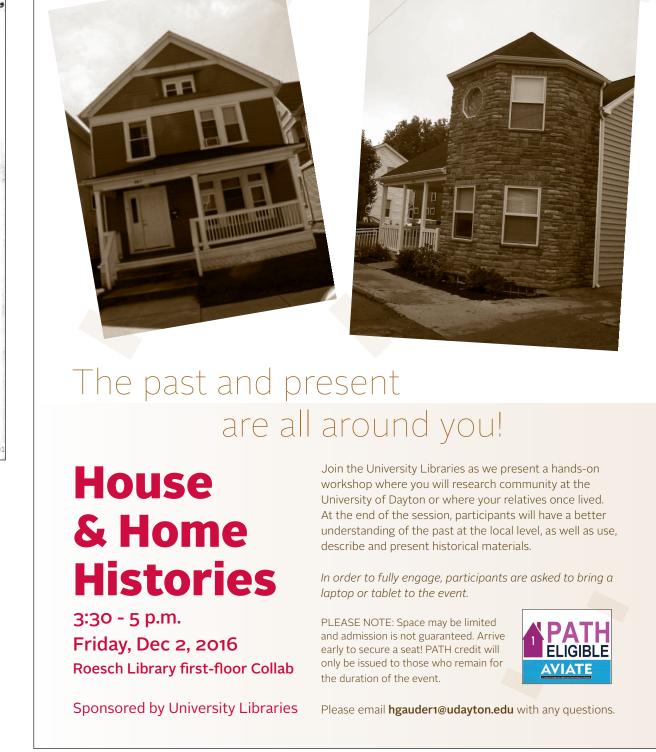
DEVELOPING SKILLS THROUGH COMMUNITY RESEARCH

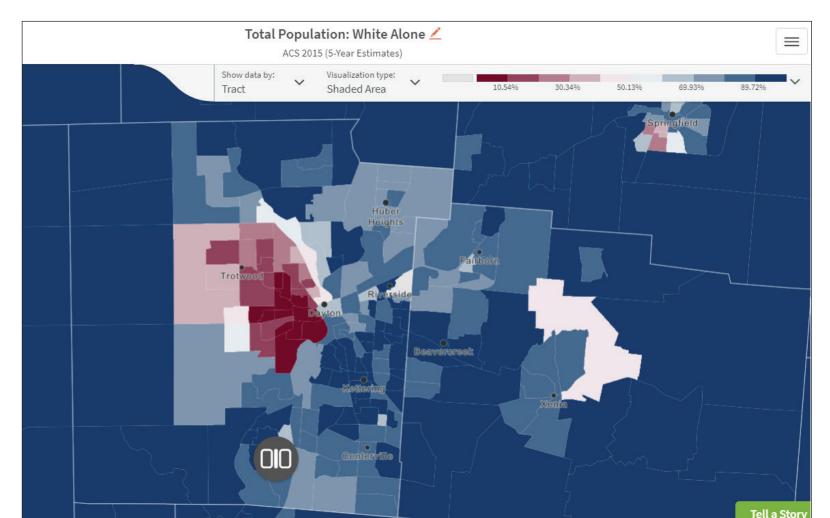
Link to Libguide: http://libguides.udayton.edu/2017alao

Learn how to empower students through primary resources! Teach students how to research their communities, past and present, in order to understand their place and meaning in the world. On this residential campus, the library has found ways to connect students with the surrounding community while developing information literacy skills.



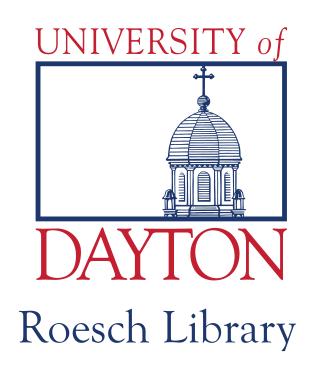






ENG200 Faculty Feedback

"In my experience, students approached the community based project with more enthusiasm. Because they were being asked to conduct primary research, both within the community and through Social Explorer and other library resources, students were able to draw more intimate connections not only with their assigned neighborhoods, but also with the research process as a whole. Being in the community and interacting with members of the community allowed students to trace the relationship between their data and research and the concrete, lived experiences of the communities they were researching. Furthermore, I saw how some students were drawn to the interactive nature of Social Explorer, and in return I feel that students who might have bulked at the use of traditional database research found an interest in the visual and multi-modal features of the platform."



Heidi Gauder, Coordinator of Research and Instruction

Library Instruction

Sophomore-level writing course, ENG200

Experiential learning component via Facing Project

Assignment: Final course project requires a profile of a Dayton neighborhood. The project goal is to identify some of the challenges and opportunities existing in the neighborhood. To accomplish this you will work with a partner to collect primary and secondary data on the neighborhood, including history, physical geography, demographics, economic characteristics, visuals.

LIBRARY SESSION 1

Prework: Submit 3 questions related to neighborhood demographics. Examples: How many single mothers are raising children in Twin Towers? What is the average value of a house in the Madden Hills neighborhood?

Session: Social Explorer, Census data. Guided worksheet.

LIBRARY SESSION 2

Find secondary literature and additional primary source materials, including local documents

Result: 2 essays published in undergraduate journal

What's Next

UDI 204. This is UD: Archival and Primary Source Research. 1 credit hour

Learn about the campus, community, Catholic, and Marian past with this hands-on research course. Students will connect to the past by analyzing the University Libraries collections and research individual artifacts. Spring 2018