

**Director’s Note**

In 1996, with the passing of a dedicated, perpetual millage, the Ann Arbor District Library transitioned from a public library within the Ann Arbor public school system to an independent district library. Those elected to the governing board of AADL during those past 20 years have remained forward thinking, and chose not to listen to the pundits in the mid 1990’s calling for the demise of public libraries. The creation of this strong, independent public library in Ann Arbor has been a community endeavor for two decades. The move to be a district library was originally compelled by legislation, but it is the local community that defined what this new entity would be. This community vision has led to the Ann Arbor District Library of 2016. The enduring values of knowing, sharing, and welcoming all comers are the legacy of Ann Arbor public library service. These values began in 1866 with the founding of the Ladies Library Association and remain today an essential part of the whole.

An EPIC MRA survey of the community conducted in February 2016 reported an extra-faithful (94%) satisfaction rate for AADL. This amazing vote of support by the community is for all that AADL is today and establishes clear direction for the future.
AADL’S HISTORY COLLECTIONS
For 20 years, your library has been developing an ever-growing assortment of online digital collections exploring local history and culture. Here are some highlights. Find out more at aadl.org/research.

MAKING OF ANN ARBOR
Our first in-house digital collection, done in collaboration with the Bentley Historical Library and UM’s Digital Library Production Services, Making of Ann Arbor presents local history through books, pictures, maps, and postcards. Visit moaa.aadl.org

AACHM LIVING ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
In partnership with the African American Cultural & Historical Museum of Washtenaw County, this project features video interviews sharing what local African Americans witnessed, experienced, and contributed to the community. Visit aadl.org/aachmvideos

UMS: A HISTORY OF GREAT PERFORMANCES
Created in partnership with the University Musical Society, A History of Great Performances is an online home for the UMS archives, featuring over a hundred years of concert programs and thousands of photos. Visit ums.aadl.org

OLD NEWS
Bringing you nearly 200,000 articles and over 10,000 photos, Old News is an online repository of local newspapers, including the archives of the Ann Arbor News. Browse the photos, follow the blog, and search the site by people, places, and topics. Visit oldnews.aadl.org

FREEING JOHN SINCLAIR
Through a series of interviews, essays, and photographs, Freeing John Sinclair chronicles the countercultural White Panther Party, the arrest of leader John Sinclair, and the Freedom Rally that drew John Lennon and other Rock notables to town. Visit freeingjohnsinclair.org