

Housing, care and accessibility of records

A note addressing the housing, care, and accessibility of records in the Wyandotte County Court House in Kansas. This letter comes from the W.P.A. historical records survey.

Date: Between 1935 and 1939

Callnumber: Records of the U.S. Work Projects Administration, Federal Writers Project, Historical Records Survey, Counties, Wyandotte

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HOUSING, CARE AND ACCESSIBILITY OF RECORDS

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Part a
Wyandotte*

The Wyandotte County Court House was erected in the years of 1926 and 1927 and it is architecturally the most modern of any building in this County. The building is fire proof and each of the various County Offices are equipped with spacious vaults and a large basement vault is used for the permanent storage of record not in current use.

Nevertheless with all the facilities this modern building affords, here is a lack of care taking and no preparation for the retirement of these record are made. Bad conditions *IN STORAGE VAULT IS* increasing rapidly, no one is in charge and the retiring records are carelessly handled by many, the volumes as well as the unbound material is thrown most anywhere, employees or other persons digging for a record, very seldom returns the volume or what have you, in the same place it was found and perhaps left open on top of a box or stack of other books laying on the floor.

The accumulation of obsolete material gives the vault a crowded appearance. All records should be rearranged, classified, some of the volumes needs repairing and labelling an index or guide to record could be made to facilitate the finding of records and all absolute material should be disposed.

I was informed that years a go a librarian was employed and if ever a librarian, curator or caretaker was need, is most need now, the records are not accessible by the public, first because they are kept under lock and kee, secondly should a person know where to get the key, in entering the vault he would face a greather problem and most generally the hunt is given up before it is started.

With the exception of the County Coroner, Phisitian and Poor Commissioner all other County records are kept in the Court House.

R.M.Barbier