

Archives

The Archives and Special Collections of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. 1900 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20091. Mike Everman, archivist. (703) 476-3423.

The Archives of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (Alliance) tells "The Physical Legacy" story of physical education and sport in the educational domain and its liaison relationships to the USOC/AAU and all other amateur sport bodies in the U. S. , to local, state and federal legislation, to the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sport, and to other health and fitness associations. The Archives reflects changing public and professional attitudes toward the discipline and the Alliance's response.

The Alliance was founded in 1885 by medical doctors, recreational leaders and leading physical educators. From its initial forty-nine members it grew to a national membership by the 1950s of more than 50,000 in every state, divided into six districts. The Archives was started in 1960 to prepare for the Alliance's 75th anniversary. A grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for its 100th anniversary established an archival and records management system. The Archives has a full time archivist, hired to develop the records management system, available from 8:15 to 4:30 Monday through Friday for in-person or telephone consultation.

The Archives includes papers from all six associations in the Alliance including: American Association for Leisure and Recreation, National Association for Sport and Physical Education, National Association for Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS), Association for the Advancement of Health Education, Association for Research, Administration, Professional Councils and Societies and National Dance Association. The largest category of holdings consists of official records of the Alliance and its associations and subdivisions. While these "office files" tell of the organization itself, they also contain information about trends, issues, philosophies and personalities within a wider context. The largest and best-indexed collection is that of NAGWS and its antecedents. The archive's records reveal the struggles of women physical educators for opportunity for women to attend college in spite of the protest of the medical profession, for an alternative model of athletics (play days and sport days) and unique female curricula. It also provides a history of establishing a separate sphere of women's educational athletics and sport, and women leaders in all phases of athletics. The rationale and disputes in the anti-athletic movement in the 1920s, change in attitudes toward athletic programs by the 1960s, issues surrounding Title IX, the physical education mergers of men's and women's departments of physical education and athletics, and finally physical

education women in leadership roles striving for parity in athletics are all to be found in abundance.

The organizational history of the American Academy of Physical Education (Academy) is an important feature of the Alliance Archives. The Academy's select members have traditionally been prime movers and scholars within the profession. Thus, this collection offers a wealth of knowledge about ideological, cultural, curriculum and legislative issues regarding fitness, sport and physical education. Records and publications of related organizations offer complementary perspectives on professional issues. The Athletic and Recreation Federation of College Women documents from 1917 and its "Sportlight" newsletter from 1922 are vital to examining women in sport. Materials from the Society of State Directors of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (1926-present) provides information about patterns and issues in elementary and high school physical education. The International Association for Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women (1949-present) and the International Council for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (1958-present) offer a view of recent international physical education activities.

Special collections include personal and professional papers of Alliance presidents and members of the Alliance and the Academy. The largest of these is the contribution by Mabel Lee (1886-1985), first woman president (1930) of the Alliance.

A brochure for the Alliance Archives accurately describes its inventory:

Typical examples of these records are reports from officers and committees; rosters of members; correspondence; constitutions, bylaws, and operating codes; minutes of meetings and subject files on a variety of sport topics. The archives also includes records of special projects undertaken with assistance from private industry or public funding. Correspondence among members and officers documents the pre-1930 era, when much association business was conducted by mail.

Additionally, curricula and program designs, convention programs, task force reports, special project reports and liaison relationship committees and reports, research abstracts, and professional conference proceedings are available for each association.

A majority of records date from the 1930s with scattered records from 1885 and complete women's records from the mid-1920s. Photographs of individuals and activities and audio recordings of convention presentations complement the written record. Slides, audio visual, loop films, cartridge films, video, and a large collection of other documentaries and teaching films are available. Tapes and transcripts of oral history interviews with professional leaders add recollections and perspectives. The book portion of the collection contains about 600 titles of rare books, classic works of scholarship, and textbooks and general books written by members of the profession. Women's *Sports Guides* for all of the major team sports and several individual sports from 1901 to the 1980s are available. Publications from newsletters to monographs and textbooks produced by the Alliance are arranged in the archives by sponsoring or creating

structures. The Archives maintains for permanent preservation and reference a master file of periodicals and publications produced by the Alliance.

There is moveable archival shelving with 374.5 linear feet of "Space Save Mobile Storage Systems" filled with materials which have been processed, indexed and arranged by series according to the six major divisions of the Alliance and special collections. There has been a preliminary inventory for at least that same amount of material in a storage area at the Alliance. The total collection consists of approximately 500 linear feet of storage boxes and 50 file drawers of materials with additional collections arriving monthly from retired faculty and members, past presidents and professional papers from Academy members.

The greatest strength of the Archives is its outstanding Women in Sports Collection. Additional strengths are the Academy papers, the oral history projects, the Dance Association Papers, and documents that provide the history of the Alliance in great detail. Sport historians whose focus is outside the educational domain will find limited sources for research. Legislative involvement in fitness, sport and physical education, liaison relationships, fitness and health issues and gender relations in sport may provide important auxiliary sources. However, even in the educational domain, there is very limited information on intercollegiate athletics for men, and information on inter-collegiate and interscholastic athletics for females is available only through 1975.

The major weakness of the Archives is the vast quantity of materials for which there has been only preliminary inventory. These are indexed under major topics, which limits accessibility. However, the archivist is able to retrieve materials if the researcher can identify clearly the desired documents. Another weakness is that there are very few records that link physical education to the black community or other ethnic groups.

A general finding aid is available for the preliminary inventory and a detailed finding aid for the processed materials. There is a closed stack policy. Within the Alliance is the opportunity for researchers to make photocopies. Arrangements can also be made for researchers to do their own photography. Photocopying and photography can be done by the staff.

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