

## **Digital Preservation and Discoverability Plan - Digitizing the Prohibited Special Collections of The Cannabis Museum**

The Cannabis Museum is committed to long-term digital preservation of all materials in its collection along with any or all of its collaborative projects directed at the preservation of historical data regarding the history of cannabis use. Digital archival redundancy, proven standardization adherence, and thorough quality control methods are utilized to protect digital objects.

In the overall landscape of digital humanities and archival information resources, as intended, this project is not technically cutting edge or highly difficult. We are not intending to push the envelope of archival technology or develop novel techniques related to digital preservation or discoverability. Frankly, we are attempting to bring the Cannabis Museum into the 21st century by using best-practices and community tools to digitize its unique, one-of-a-kind holdings. This digitization effort is to serve as the bellwether for the museum (and the only other one like it in Spain) in making its most precious holdings available to a broad audience as possible. For this reason, by seeking funding from a community leading group like CLIR we are hoping to ensure that the best practices used for digital preservation and discoverability are followed.

We believe that the project plan distills and phases the overall workflow into its most basic elements to maximize efficiency. Our project team is composed of subject matter experts, who will be able to provide the detailed and granular metadata, description and transcription elements that would not be as rich or informative if done by experts in archival sciences alone. We are intending to use standard file formats and tools for digitization of these types of materials - nothing exotic.

We are currently establishing a formal, working relationship with the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy team - whose support levels are attached below. We hope this demonstrates that, by the time this project commences, the Cannabis Museum will be expanding itself within a growing network of broader institutional support. Adding the AIHP to other groups the museum is currently associated with - Ohio University, Hocking College, Lloyd Library and Museum.

By including the digitization products of this project within AIHP's infrastructure, along with that provided by the Internet Archive (see: <https://archive.org/search.php?query=journal%20of%20pharmacy>) we are making all efforts possible to ensure that even if the Cannabis Museum should cease to exist (for whatever reason) the items digitized here will sustain online accessibility.

We are committed to using appropriate standards, tools and services that will make the digitized items easily indexed and discoverable. This includes the expert created relationships between items within the collection and those that will be linked to AIHP's Pharmaceutical Trade Catalog Collection. Given pursuit of the Cannabis Museum's mission, our previous initiatives and this digitization project propose we hope it's clear that we are willing to share the metadata and digitized items with the broadest audience possible and with any other institutions with related material. Should any technical or procedural revisions be needed, we sincerely hope the grant selection committee will allow us to provide those revised specifications within the final grant submission period.

Conclusively, this project's goals are to embody standard digitization best practices to material once so completely hidden due to its targeted prohibition and eradication by the federal government.



## Social & Administrative Sciences Division

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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05.18.2020

### **Cannabis Museum Grant – Letter of Support**

I unreservedly endorse the Cannabis Museum's application for CLIR funds to digitize elements of its unique collection. As the George Urdang Chair in the History of Pharmacy (at UW-Madison) and the Historical Director of the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy (AIHP), I am dedicated to widening access to and fostering greater multidisciplinary understanding of medicine, pharmacy, and drugs.

The recently established Cannabis Museum, led by Don Wirtshafter, holds an impressive and carefully curated collection of artifacts, catalogs, and ephemera, that sheds light on drug regulation, science, advertising, and popular culture, among other potential research areas. I have not seen a collection with such wide breadth, and it is still growing. The CLIR funding scheme, Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives: Enabling New Scholarship through Increasing Access to Unique Materials, will enable the Cannabis Museum to better facilitate novel research projects as well connect the public with complex histories of cannabis.

Digitization of the Cannabis Museum's materials would serve a growing educational and curricular focus on the endocannabinoid system. Schools of pharmacy across the country, including at the University of Wisconsin, are developing new classes to prepare students for their pharmacy practice. UW-Madison's SoP is also in the process of creating a new master's degree in Psychoactive Pharmaceutical Studies. I could easily use digital materials in my suite of courses. In addition, as the editor of the forthcoming book entitled *Cannabis: Global Histories* (The MIT Press, 2021), I can confirm that fundamental gaps in existing scholarship still remain; and the Cannabis Museum's sources, with wider circulation, have the potential to underpin new analyses (in multiple fields of study) that further build upon the existing historiography.

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The American Institute of the History of Pharmacy (AIHP), founded in 1941, is an independent member-based non-profit organization dedicated to “advancing knowledge and understanding of the history of pharmacy and medicines.” It is based in the UW-Madison SoP. A working archive and research center, AIHP maintains numerous historical collections and, for nearly eighty years, has collected, documented, and preserved the history of pharmacy, pharmaceuticals, and medicines. Since 1959, AIHP has published the quarterly academic journal, *Pharmacy in History*, and the Institute fosters humanistic research into the history of pharmacy, pharmaceuticals, and medicines with conferences, grants, awards, and prizes. The Institute sponsors public talks and lectures, designs historical exhibits, encourages the inclusion of history in pharmacy education, and seeks to make the history of pharmacy, pharmaceuticals, and medicines accessible to the general public.

AIHP seeks to encourage all levels of humanistic research into the history of pharmacy, pharmaceuticals, and medicines. As the Historical Director of AIHP, I welcome forward-thinking and sustainable collaborations with groups such as the Cannabis Museum. To this end, AIHP and Cannabis Museum personnel have consulted about promoting new scholarly initiatives and the value of increasing access to historical materials. After discussion with Mr. Wirtshafter, the AIHP would gladly host the digital data from the CLIR project, which would in turn fully embed the Cannabis Museum in a larger network of researchers and organizations, including the American Association of the History of Medicine, Alcohol and Drugs History Society, and Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email or telephone (608-890-3676).

Lucas Richert, PhD

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May 19, 2020

Council on Library and Information Resources  
2221 South Clark Street  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Grant Selection Committee,

As President of the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy (AIHP) and curator of the Cook-Hayman Pharmacy Museum at the West Virginia University School of Pharmacy I write in support of the Cannabis Museum application for a grant for the Council on Library and Information Resources *Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives: Enabling New Scholarship through increasing Access to Unique Materials* project.

First and foremost, the variety of objects, ephemera, documents, a variety of print sources such as catalogs and texts and photos collected by The Cannabis Museum must surely be one of the most unique historical collections in existence. That any of these items have survived after 75 years of supposed mandated destruction is miraculous. That hundreds of these surviving items have been brought together in one collection is equally so. The aged condition and composition of much of these materials make digitizing essential if they are to maintain preservation and to make them available to scholars and researchers in a number of fields (health, social, legal and political history to name just a few) and to the public at large around the world. I can confidently say that most of the holdings of the collection have been unseen by anyone interested in the topic and digitization would provide unimpeded access to these priceless items.

The staff of The Cannabis Museum is committed to publicizing the collection and partnering with organizations and institutions to expand their audience. They have created an attractive user-friendly website and newsletter and reached out to museums and academic institutions around the U.S. For example, a number of their staff visited the Cook-Hayman Pharmacy Museum at the West Virginia University School of Pharmacy in Morgantown, WV to examine its cannabis-related holdings and explore opportunities for mutual educational efforts. This visit has expanded to include planning a health center-wide exhibit open to pharmacy, medical, nursing, dental, public health, allied health professionals and the public. Special note is made of their well-attended presentation made at the 44<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the History of Pharmacy held in Washington, D.C. last fall. The AIHP is currently exploring multiple areas of potential collaboration with The Cannabis Museum in preserving and publicizing this historical context.

With the revived national and international interest in the medicinal use of cannabis in both the health professions and the public at large, the historical background of the herb and its many dosage forms and usages is becoming ever more important. Consequently, the potential audience for the

digitized collection is quite large now and is destined for certain growth. I can think of no more appropriate use of CLIR's *Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives: Enabling New Scholarship through increasing Access to Unique Materials* project than that proposed by The Cannabis Museum.

With best wishes for the success of your preservation efforts, I am

Sincerely Yours,

W, Clarke Ridgway  
President, the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy  
Professor Emeritus, West Virginia University School of Pharmacy  
Curator, Cook-Hayman Pharmacy Museum



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May 18, 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

I serve as Executive Director of the Cannabis Museum, an Ohio 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation that was formed in October 2018. The museum curates the largest repository of cannabis artifacts and ephemera in the Americas. The collection was put together during my 35 year career as an attorney at the center of developments in industrial hemp and medical cannabis.

Education and research are the core missions of the Cannabis Museum. Making our vast collection of unique materials available to researchers has been ongoing since our inception.. We have used our own resources to make 8500 of our most important artifacts available to researchers using an Omeka database. We have recently committed to migrating to our own server to allow for the necessary expansion. Researchers are beginning to comb through our collection.

The Cannabis Museum is committed to undertaking the proposed project. We will commit the space and personnel necessary to meet the requirements of the grant. We are a small institution with a committed team of professionals enthusiastic to get this work done.

We understand that the scanning of our materials, even if done carefully, may cause damage to the artifacts we protect. We understand these risks and are confident that the public benefit of making our collection available to the public outweighs the risks of any meaningful damage.

We are quite excited to work with Jonathan Cachat, PhD as the PI on this proposed project. Dr. Cachat jumped on this project because he saw the extent of this collection and realized its importance to researchers. Dr. Cachat has the technical ability to supervise the scanning of the materials and to organize them for public presentation. He also has the medical knowledge necessary to interpret these materials.

Respectfully,

/s/  
Don E Wirtshafter  
Executive Director  
Cannabis Museum