The Adult and Continuing Education Collections at Syracuse University

Terrance Keenan

Syracuse University

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News of the Syracuse University Library and the Library Associates
HISTORY OF THE COLLECTIONS

Since 1949 Syracuse University has assembled historical documents, including manuscript, print, visual, and media materials, related to adult education. The Adult and Continuing Education Collections, housed in the George Arents Research Library, now form one of the world's largest compilations of English-language materials in this field. They occupy 900 feet of shelf space and contain more than 50 groups of personal papers and records of organizations, all of which reveal much about the development of adult education as a field of study and as a practice in such areas as literacy and civic education.

These papers document efforts to define educational authority, to establish creditable standards for learning, and to build programs that teach people to read, to plant better crops, and to adapt to new technologies. One can trace in them the strong threads of anti-intellectualism ironically paired with the equally strong threads of civic mindedness that are part of our cultural fabric, and take note of the perennial conflict between individualism and bureaucracy.

The Adult and Continuing Education Collections came to Syracuse because of the University's reputation for supporting innovative adult education programs, and they are used today by social historians, philosophers of education, and adult educators, including third world researchers who face practical challenges and seek to know "how it was done in America".

But initially, materials were gathered through the efforts of Alexander Charters, whose career as an administrator and professor at Syracuse University began in 1948. Dr. Charters was also a member of many of the organizations—and a colleague of most of the individuals—represented in the Collections.

The Adult and Continuing Education Collections began in 1949 as a staff library at University College, Syracuse University's continuing education unit. In those days the materials, referred to as the Adult Edu-

1. This account of the Collections' development is based on information provided by Alexander Charters.
cation Collection, became part of a branch library opened in 1957 at University College. There they stayed until 1966, when they were moved to the Continuing Education Center, a new conference complex of University College on Roney Lane in Syracuse, and renamed the Library of Continuing Education (LCE). In 1972 the contents of LCE were incorporated into the new E. S. Bird Library and the George Arents Research Library for Special Collections. The name then was changed to Syracuse University Resources for Educators of Adults (SUREA). When the Kellogg Project was funded in 1986 to process (among other tasks) the adult education materials, the name became Adult and Continuing Education Research Collection. Recently, the Library settled on the name Adult and Continuing Education Collections, which reflects the fact that the aggregate contains many collections.

A separate but complementary development in the late 1960s was Syracuse University Publications in Continuing Education (SUPCE), which was designed to gather adult education publications and make them available in the field. Many of these publications were contributed by adult education organizations, including the Adult Education Association of the U.S.A. Others, such as directories developed under contract with UNESCO, were generated at Syracuse University. In all, there were about 400 publications. These are no longer actively distributed.

Over the years many institutions and individuals have donated funds and materials for the Collections. The Ford Foundation is a noteworthy example. In 1954 a Foundation subsidiary, the Fund for Adult Education (FAE), contributed all the publications of its Center for the Study of Liberal Education for Adults (CSLEA). In 1957, in memory of Paul Hoy Helms, FAE granted $10,000, which was used to collect materials on liberal adult education. Helms had been a Syracuse University alumnus and was, at the time of his death, FAE’s vice president. When the FAE ended in the early 1960s, the University acquired its library—including archives, kinescopes of the “Omnibus” television series, and 10,000 photographs—and $70,000 in residual funds. The Ford Foundation itself gave a grant of $100,000 in 1967.

The United States government has also provided significant support. In 1964 the U.S. Office of Education granted $249,000 to set up a model library in adult education. This led in 1966 to the establishment at Syracuse University of the Educational Resources Information Clearinghouse on Adult Education (ERIC/AE) (which remained here until
1973, when it merged with two other clearinghouses). ERIC provided an additional vehicle for collecting and disseminating adult education information. In 1975 the New York State Education Department gave approximately $350,000 to create a clearinghouse specifically for adult education practitioners in the state (it was called Clearinghouse of Resources for Educators of Adults, and is no longer in existence).

Adult education papers and records, often unsolicited, continued to come to Syracuse. In 1986, Roger Hiemstra (then chairperson of Syracuse University's Adult Education Program) sought a way to make the Collections more accessible to the adult education community. The Kellogg Foundation encouraged him to submit a proposal for “tapping the potential” of the Collections using new technologies, which resulted in a large grant.

One of the far reaching successes of the Kellogg Project was its visiting scholar program, which drew researchers to campus not only from the United States, but also from India, China, Japan, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Ireland, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Australia, and South Africa. The Project also sponsored three conferences on adult education history, bringing in educators as well as cultural and social historians to study documents that related to numerous topics such as the professionalization of the field and issues of race, gender, and class.

CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTIONS

The bulk of our materials originated in the 1950s and 1960s, a period that saw many changes in the field of adult education. This was the era during which the Peace Corps, VISTA, Project Head Start, and educational television all arose.

In the documents, as with any historical record, subjects for study are more varied and complex than the general headings would suggest. One might fruitfully pursue such questions as these: how the process of educating adults differs from the process of teaching children; how American educators were for a brief period fascinated by Nazi efficiency in education; how liberal education programs occasioned some of the first stirrings of raised consciousness in the Civil Rights movement; and how the United States addressed the growing educational needs of women. The following excerpts from four of the major collections may give some idea of the scope of the subject matter and the treasures available to scholars eager to do the digging.

Among the recently processed manuscripts—previously unavailable to scholars—are the papers of Malcolm S. Knowles. Born in 1913, he is
considered to be a founding father of the adult education profession. (For further information on Knowles and his papers, see the following Description of the Adult and Continuing Education Collections.)

In a 1983 letter Henry Klein, a junior college president, wrote to Knowles: “You are the acknowledged American Guru on Adult Education . . .” Although Knowles’ influence on the field has been broad, he is perhaps best known for his writings on andragogy (that is, the education of man as opposed to the education of child) and self-directed learning. His progressive and at times controversial ideas have helped shape adult education practice during recent decades.

In the first folder of Box 28 is the draft of a 1968 article entitled “The Application of Andragogy to the University Classroom”:

The reason for this semantic differentiation [of ‘andragogy’ from ‘pedagogy’] is that adult educators have become increasingly aware of the fact that their field has been held back by the application of principles of pedagogy to the education of adults. Most teachers of adults have been teaching their adult students as if they were children, since pedagogy was the only formulation of the theory and practice of teaching that they knew. . . . A group of adults are [themselves] . . . a richer resource for their own learning in most areas of inquiry than is usually true of a group of youths; and so in andragogy a high value is placed on the experience of the students as a principal resource for their learning. But the adult places high value on his experience, too—in a sense, his self-identity is defined in terms of his experience to a greater degree than is true of youth—and so when his experience is ignored as a resource for learning he feels rejected as a person of worth.

Because of this assumption the technology of adult education places relatively less emphasis on the transmittal techniques of teaching (lectures, assigned reading, audio-visual presentations) and greater emphasis on the experiential techniques of learning (various forms of discussion, case method, critical incident process, simulation exercises, skill practice exercises, laboratory methods, action projects, and the like).

In an April 6, 1970 letter to Dr. James W. Dykens, Associate Commissioner, Department of Mental Health of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Knowles writes:
Now perhaps we'd better devote some space to clarifying what we mean by adult education as we use the term in our proposal. We most certainly are not using the term in the sense in which it has been predominantly used during the past forty years—to describe an à la carte menu of more or less palliative activities, such as remedial reading, hat-making, public speaking, current events, and the like. We are using the term here to describe a newly emergent social process which is concerned with helping mature people continue to improve their competence to cope with life problems throughout their life.

I want to emphasize that this use of the term is new, and that the theory and technology for implementing the concept are in the early stages of formulation and testing. To differentiate this new body of theory and practice from traditional education we are giving it the label “andragogy”—the art and science of helping adults learn. And, as is the [case] in the early stages of any new field of social practice, its theoretical bases are still largely speculative and therefore badly in need of field testing. . . .

It is especially relevant to note that probably the single richest source of theoretical underpinnings for andragogy has been the field of psychodynamics. For example, I was recently asked to list the people who had exerted the greatest influence on my andragogical theorizing, and I came up with Rank, Dewey, Kilpatrick, Sullivan, Horney, Rogers, Whitehead, Fromm, Maslow, Tyler, Hilgard, Havighurst, and Erikson. When I looked over the [list] I was surprised to find that over half of my main sources were from psychotherapy and less than half were from education and philosophy.

In the difficult years following the Depression, educators found themselves dealing with adults forced into career changes and in doubt about the soundness of their society. One of the prominent educators of the period following the Depression was Paul Henry Sheats, who lived from 1907 to 1984. (Further information on Sheats and his papers can be found in the following section.)

As a Yale Traveling Fellow, Sheats visited Germany in 1935, studying the Nazi educational system. Among his papers are extensive notes on this visit, as well as correspondence between Sheats and Dr. Theodor Wilhelm, director of Germany’s Institute of International Education. Wilhelm had a profound effect on the educational philosophy that
Sheats presents in his book *Education and the Quest for a Middle Way*, published in 1938.

The book generated heated response. In a memo of 17 April 1939 to his superior at the U.S. Office of Education, Dr. John W. Studebaker, Sheats notes a review of the book by Wilhelm himself:

> The Macmillan Company has supplied me with copies of numerous reviews. . . . None has proved more interesting than the copy attached to this memorandum. As you will note, it is written by Dr. Wilhelm with whom I am personally acquainted and who undoubtedly ranks as one of the topnotch educators in Germany today. . . .

> While it is undoubtedly true that the philosophical basis for the Nazi educational system has been constructed after the superstructure of practice was decided upon, it is nevertheless exceedingly interesting to me that an attempt is being made to justify philosophically the practices of the Nazi leadership.

Wilhelm's review reads in part:

> The book by Sheats . . . belongs to those recent American publications that wish to be and must be taken seriously. It attempts to make philosophical fundamentals such as freedom, individuality, and unity the beginning point for an explanation of the purpose of education, particularly to find through the medium of philosophy a means and a solution of the struggle now going on in the United States concerning these and similar conceptions. . . . We note that the author is essentially influenced in the direction of his thoughts by the political conditions surrounding him.

> That is why we do not take lightly that Sheats in the presentation of the “totalitarian” or “fascist” opponents draws the picture in the customary manner. There is the discussion of the “unscientific theory of race” which serves only to demonstrate the superiority of the world of the Germans—while it should be common talk that for us race means the challenge to count in the sphere of humanity and history with the strict constancy of a definitely directed power. We hear that in Germany there is no longer any education, only “propaganda”—a view that becomes comprehensible when one takes cognizance of the American conception that everything that really definitely influences
a person is no longer permitted education, but forbidden pro-
paganda. And we find that the “spiritual unity” of National So-
cialism has reduced the spiritual and intellectual demands of
German youth to a minimum—wherefore we can only hope
that the author may be given the opportunity of defending the
theses of his book before a German student body. We regret
these and other misrepresentations, because they are the foun-
dation of the conceptions with which the author is engaged in
the entire book.

These conceptions are the Scylla and Charybdis between
which there leads a just-middle-way. The Scylla is the supposed
values and methods of the “fascist” states: Force, inequality,
collective massiveness, blind obedience, propaganda, and—re-
markable—security. The Charybdis is: Unrestrained freedom,
doctrinaire equality, extreme individualism, and the resulting
methods. That between the two extremes there may exist a
middle way . . . is basically the simple conception . . . [of] the
book. . . . Conviction instead of persuasion. That is real De-
mocracy in contrast to the European dictatorships.

We ask the question, if thereby a new more relevant con-
tribution is given . . . to the problem of the “individual and soci-
ety” or to the problem of freedom?[?]. This we must deny. . . .

To the Democratic theory of freedom . . . there is an area of
separation between the individual and the State—of liberties
sold and rights thereby purchased. All mathematical examples of
this kind have their source in a static conception of humanity
and its world and therefore remain outside the real human asso-
ciation. To all attempts of this kind to place the Anglo-Saxon
Democracy as the preserver of individual freedom and the mid-
dle European dictators as despots in opposing groups we always
have one answer: That it is not the more or less amount of free-
dom that moves the individual and determines his actions, nor
even the consciousness of this freedom, but that the conduct of
the individual is based and takes its issue from those deep strata
of his being where feeling and will receive their unified power
and affect a decision. . . .

The conception of the “middle way” represents a static think-
ing by which we never enter the real world of the individual,
and that is the real world of education. . . . It is Homo Sapiens
and not the individual living in a certain historic situation and
belonging to a certain community that receives instruction in this book. . . . It is a man who can do this and also otherwise, on whom at least as a man, no limits are made as to choice. As such he is not a real human being.

The chill that rises from these words is almost palpable as we look back on them with the knowledge of where such ideas led.

As World War II progressed, educators observed that the nation’s adults were ill-prepared to grapple with the domestic and international implications. Sheats followed the lead of Dr. Studebaker, who implemented public forums that were designed to foster greater civic awareness throughout the country. Sheats’ role can best be understood by studying his contributions to the Public Forum Project as reflected in his scrapbooks and reports.

Postwar activity saw a flowering of adult education organizations, many of them supported by major foundations. The Fund for Adult Education (FAE) was established by the Ford Foundation in 1951. Its purpose was to encourage liberal adult education in political, economic, and international affairs. It helped establish the Educational Television Network (ETV) in the U.S. and financed the Test Cities Experiment, which organized discussion groups in one community after another. Among the FAE papers there are important materials on urban development, civil rights, women in the workplace, the Peace Corps, VISTA, and science education after SPUTNIK. There are also numerous data on the following discussion group projects: “Great Men, Great Issues”, “Meet the Humanities”, “Ways of Mankind”, and the “Experimental Discussion Project”. In the 97th (and last) box of papers is an overview of FAE activities entitled: “The Challenge of Lifetime Learning—Continuing Liberal Education, Report 1955–1957”.

Among all these efforts the Test Cities Experiment is of particular interest. FAE chose thirteen demographically representative cities from several sections of the country and presented to them a packaged program—a kind of market test for liberal educational ideas. The hope was to attract blue-collar workers, but the discussion groups caught on with the middle classes only. In the south, not unexpectedly, there was some resistance to the program. In Chattanooga, for example, the reality of segregation had to be addressed. On 30 September 1951, Robert J. Blakely, the FAE coordinator in Chattanooga, wrote a memo to his superior at the Ford Foundation, Scott Fletcher:

I found the usual interest in the idea, perhaps rather more.
There are two possibilities looming: One, that the ‘coordinator’ be in the University of Chattanooga; two, that he be in the public library. There are difficulties implicit in each. The President of the University of Chattanooga seems to think of the coordinator chiefly as a kind of promotion and contact man for the community college of the University; I wonder whether he would not influence the coordinator to slight all the informal adult education activity in which we are also interested. Also, the University of Chattanooga is an all-white school. This, combined with the emphasis on formal classes, would make the program almost entirely ‘Jim Crow.’

The Librarian, Miss Elizabeth Edwards, has vision and enthusiasm. But her library has no money. They have to close on Wednesday as well as Sunday. However, the library board, partly to make better use of the money available and partly out of progressivism, has opened up the main library to Negro adults.
Ms. Edwards wrote to Blakely herself on 1 October 1951:

I am particularly interested in the response of some young couples who have . . . tried the Great Books and have also gone to evening college at the University. The evening college, they say, costs more than the University of Chicago, and it is not credits they want. They want something not quite as prescribed as the Great Books. Although they enjoyed the last, they doubt the Foundation's belief that it has broad popular appeal.

Many of us feel that the old order in Chattanooga is changing, but have a hard time finding an answer for the general statement, "That may be all right some place else, but not in Chattanooga. We just are not ready for anything like that yet anyway. You know that the people in Chattanooga just won't support anything out of the ordinary." This feeling does not have anything to do with chronological age, as some of the younger people are more conservative than their elders; although some of the elders are working hard to preserve the status quo.

A few days later Blakely received a letter from David A. Lockmiller, the University's president, who wanted to participate in the program and to receive the FAE funding necessary to do so, but was not prepared to give up segregation:

There is a job to be done in Chattanooga, and we sincerely hope that some organization or group of organizations, with the support of the FAE, will do it. The University is interested, and we shall be glad to undertake it or to cooperate with others . . .

Under the most favorable circumstances our Negro citizens will present problems to any group, but these must be handled with tact and understanding. We are currently instructing Negroes in noncredit extension classes in music. They have not been admitted to the University as students, but Negro citizens frequently attend public forums in our library auditorium. A year or two ago the Public Library was opened to Negroes, and they are slowly making use of its facilities. The public schools in Chattanooga are segregated, and public school facilities will probably be needed for group neighborhood meetings. While mixed meetings may be possible, I am sure that some segregated meetings will be held by choice rather than compulsion if the
large numbers in need of this program are to be reached.

I think it wise for the Fund to keep "hands off", but helpful suggestions will be welcome to the end that our enthusiasm is balanced against realities to assure a successful and continuing program.

In spite of President Lockmiller's hesitation, the FAE went ahead with the program, spurred on by the vision and energy of Elizabeth Edwards. Such documentation of social movements is precious.

Although women and minorities had much to do with the development of adult education, they are not, with the exception of Eva vom Baur Hansl, well represented in the Collections, and the Library is attempting to redress this lack. Eva Hansl, who lived from 1889 to 1978, was a writer, editor, and radio broadcaster who dedicated herself to women's vocational issues. At the end of an autobiographical resumé (undated, mid-1960s) she writes:

Much of my lifetime I have devoted to promoting the interest, activities and welfare of women, in the family, the community and the labor force. In the midst of the feminist and suffrage movements (1911-1916) I reported their progress for the New York Tribune and the Sun. During the years of raising a family I pioneered in the parent-education movement; helped to launch the Parents' Magazine, served as its first editor and organized play-schools and parent study groups in Princeton and Summit, New Jersey, and in Greenwich, Connecticut.

My children grown, I returned to newspaper work on the New York Times, then supervised two radio network series reviewing the contribution of women to the American way of life.

In 1963 Ms. Hansl published "American Women"—a report of the Commission on the Status of Women (a commission set up by President Kennedy). In November 1968, Syracuse University sponsored an "Eva vom B. Hansl Day".

Her papers stand witness not only to a remarkable life, but to the changing roles of women and work during two world wars and then into the modern era. Rosie the Riveter may seem a 'quaint' character today, but the struggle of women to adjust to the workplace while men were at war, then to be sent back home when the boys returned, were real issues that Eva Hansl addressed in her broadcasts and journal articles.
What is the value of these records? Because of the constant need for adults to learn in our evolving world, society has risen to meet that need through what we have come to call adult education. It did not begin as a discipline or a concept but as a response. It became codified in the process of educators finding ways to make the response adequate to the need. This documentation shows us what we did and suggests what we might do now. It tells a story of how we became who we are. How we see ourselves is reflected in how we cultivate knowledge. These documents show that cultivation in action and reveal the very stuff of our modern cultural identity.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION COLLECTIONS**

Note: Certain collections of personal papers or organizational records are listed more than once. Second and third listings, called “Part 2” and “Part 3”, refer to additions made to an already-established collection.

The American Association for Adult Education and the National Education Association combined in 1951 to form the AEA. The organization’s goals were to further education throughout life, to assist adult educators, and to cooperate with adult education agencies internationally. AEA's interests are reflected in its commissions, among them the Commission on Research in Adult Education, the Council of State Associations, the Commission of Professors of Adult Education (CPAE), and the Commission on Adult Basic Education.

Subject areas within the records include Community College Education, Community Development, Liberal Adult Education, Mass Media in Education, and Training in Professional Development. There is much correspondence between important educators, including Andrew Hendrickson, Eugene Johnson, Malcolm Knowles, Paul Sheats, Cyril Houle, Herbert Hunsaker, Homer Kempfer, A. A. Liveright, and Howard McClusky. Also included are materials from two other national organizations: the Council of National Organizations and the National Association of Public School Adult Education (NAPSAE).

See also: AUEC, CSLEA, CPAE, Hendrickson, Jacques, Liveright, NAPSAE, NUEA, Sharer, Sheats.

2. Adult Education Association/American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AEA/AAACE) Records, Part 2, 1951–88, 19
boxes (numbered consecutively from the original collection, starting with Box 36).

The AAACE was formed in 1982 when AEA and the National Association of Public School Adult Education (NAPSAE) joined forces. The goals of AAACE continue those of AEA—to further the acceptance of lifelong education and to support programs for adult educators. Organizational records include those of AEA, National Association for Public Continuing Adult Education (NAPCAE), NAPSAE, and correspondence between Robert A. Luke and Wendell L. Smith.


AERC was originally the National Seminar on Adult Education Research, organized in 1960 as a forum for researchers. Part 1 contains records related to the twelfth annual AERC conference held in New York in 1971. Part 2 includes correspondence, memoranda, programs, abstracts, and drafts.

See also: Roy Ingham.


Founded in 1961, ASPA was concerned with the problems of the adult evening student. Throughout most of its existence, ASPA maintained strong liaisons with the United States Association of Evening Students (USAES), and the CAEO.

See also: AUEC, CAEO.

5. George F. Aker Papers, 1957–85, 7 boxes.

George F. Aker was born June 2, 1927. He held faculty positions at the Universities of Missouri, Wisconsin, and Chicago. In 1963 he joined the faculty of Florida State University at Tallahassee.

An activist in national adult education organizations, Aker was a member of the AEA, and its president from 1969 to 1970. He also was the author of several books, including the 1970 Handbook of Adult Education. Aker’s major professional interests were in the development of graduate study and research programs in adult education, and in psychological research to improve efficiency of adult learning, especially among the disadvantaged and in third world countries.

See also: AEA, A. Charters, Hendrickson, Houle, Knowles, Liveright, Sheats, NAPSAE.

Originally called the American Foundation for Political Education (AFPE), the AFCE was founded in 1947 to develop materials for liberal education in politics, law, and international affairs. From 1951 to 1965, with support from the Fund for Adult Education (FAE), its interests expanded to include economics, science, the arts, and the humanities. The cross-references contained in these records are far too numerous to summarize.


ACHE grew out of the AUEC in 1973. It provides a forum for institutions and individuals who are committed to providing higher education for adults in traditional and nontraditional programs. See also: AEA, ASPA, AUEC, CAEO.


The AUEC, which changed its name in 1973 to the Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE), was founded in 1939 by directors of 27 evening college programs affiliated with the American Association of Urban Universities (AAUU). Its purpose was to study the problems of evening colleges and to provide a forum for evening college administrators.

The collection is drawn from the files of officers. Major correspondents include Alexander Charters, A. A. Liveright, Bernard Reed, and Edwin Spengler. Convention materials include proceedings, clippings, photographs, and agenda. There is also a subject file on other adult education organizations.


These papers pertain to conferences, seminars, and workshops held by various adult education organizations across Africa. There is printed material related to continuing education programs at several colleges and universities in Africa, Hong Kong, India, and the West Indies. The organizations include African Adult Education Association; Distance Learning Association (formerly the Botswana, Lesotha, Swaziland Correspondence Committee); International Congress of University Adult Education; Nigerian National Council for Adult Education; UNESCO.
10. Center for the Study of Liberal Education for Adults (CSLEA) Records, 1951–69, 84 boxes and 19 packages.

Established in 1951 with a grant from the Fund for Adult Education (FAE), the CSLEA strove to help higher education develop a greater sense of responsibility toward the education of adults and to help universities initiate adult education programs. The Center produced an experimental study discussion guide for use in evening colleges. Later it focused on the quality of administrative leadership, faculty performance, and the status of continuing education in universities. In 1956, the CSLEA’s services were extended to include the member institutions of the National Education Association (NEA).

Correspondents include James Carey, Frieda Goldman, Morton Gordon, A. A. Liveright, and James Whipple. Important groups of material include the Carey Study, the Arts Project, the Evaluation Project, Liberal Education for Specialists, the Negro College Program, and the Leadership Conference.

James B. Whipple is the author of a history of the CSLEA, and the manuscripts of Whipple and A. A. Liveright are strongly represented.


Now Professor Emeritus of Adult Education, Charters was Dean of University College (1952–64) and University Vice-President for Continuing Education (1964–73) at Syracuse University. He has been active in many national and international adult education organizations, including CSLEA and ICUAE. Charters started the Adult and Continuing Education Collections housed in the University Library. Papers deriving from his administrative roles for the University reside in the University Archives.

See also: AEA, AFCE, AUEC, NUEA, and the Galaxy Conference. In the Archives see: University College, Division of Summer Sessions, Division of International Programs Abroad, East European Language Program, and Bureau of School Services.


Jessie A. and Werrett Wallace Charters were leaders in adult education. Jessie Charters received her Ph.D. in psychology in 1904 from the University of Chicago, where she studied philosophy under John Dewey and James R. Angell. Mrs. Charters was the first female in the western states to receive a Ph.D. Her primary areas of interest were parental education and working with girls and women.
W. W. Charters received degrees from MacMaster, Ontario Normal School, the University of Toronto, and his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He was founding editor of the *Journal of Higher Education*. His area of particular interest was the development of curricula from nursery school through the graduate level.

The papers in this collection were included in the personal material donated to Syracuse University by Alexander N. Charters. A larger collection of the Charters' papers is housed at Ohio State University. Correspondence between W. W. Charters and his nephew, Alexander N. Charters, will be found in the Alexander N. Charters Papers.

See also: A. Charters.


At the conclusion of the December 1969 Galaxy Conference, the CAEO ratified a constitution. The Coalition included the AEA, ALA (American Library Association), AVA (American Vocational Association), AUEC, CSLEA, CPAE, and the NUEA. Its purposes were to identify major adult education issues, to facilitate joint planning and projects among members, to be an information source and consulting service, and to promote government support. The CAEO has been recognized for its impact on federal legislation. Its active international presence is reflected in materials from UNESCO and ICAE, of which it is a founding member.

See also: AEA, AUEC, CSLEA, Cyril Houle, Malcolm Knowles, Howard McCluskey, NAPCAE, NUEA.


Founded in 1957, the CPAE was affiliated with the AEA and is now connected with the AEA's successor, AAACE. Its purpose is to strengthen graduate programs in adult education. It has been extensively concerned with the professionalization of the field.

See also: AEA, AUEC, CSLEA, Cyril Houle, Malcolm Knowles, Howard McCluskey, NAPCAE, NUEA.

Dowling was on the faculty of the Ohio State University in the College of Education. He was also active in national organizations such as the CPAE. His interests include adult basic education, and vocational and technical education for adults.

See also: CPAE, Hendrickson.

ERIC/AE, sponsored by the Education Resources Information Center (ERIC) of the United States Office of Education, was begun at Syracuse University. A primary function of ERIC/AE was printing adult education materials, such as annotated bibliographies and reviews of literature. In 1972 ERIC/AE moved to Northern Illinois University and later to Ohio State University, where it became part of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Adult, Career, and Vocational Education.


The Ford Foundation established the FAE as a subsidiary in 1951. Its purpose was to encourage liberal adult education in political, economic, and international affairs. The Fund also helped establish the Educational Television Network (ETV) in the United States. The FAE financed the Test Cities Experiment, which was an effort to stimulate adult education community by community.

There are materials on urban development, civil rights, women in the workplace, the Peace Corps, VISTA, and science education after SPUTNIK, and considerable data on the following projects: “Great Men, Great Issues”, “Meet the Humanities”, “Ways of Mankind”, and the “Experimental Discussion Project”. An overview of FAE activities is in Box 97, and is entitled “The Challenge of Lifetime Learning: Continuing Liberal Education, Report 1955–1957”.

See also: AEA, AFCE, AUEC, CSLEA, NAPSAE, NUEA, Hendrickson, Jacques, Liveright, Sheats.


This addition to the FAE consists of correspondence, memoranda, reports, essays, and other materials that supplement the records in Part 1 on Experimental Discussion Groups (EDP). There are also three folders related to the Cooperative Extension Services Project in Public Affairs and for Public Responsibilities.

See also: AEA, AUEC, CAEO, A. Charters, CPAE, ICUAE, NAPCAE.


The Galaxy Conference of adult education organizations was held in Washington, D.C. in 1969. It was the outgrowth of the Conference of Adult Education Organizations, convened in 1964. The Galaxy Conference brought together major professional associations in the field to focus on common concerns. By 1969 nineteen organizations were participating.

See also: AEA, AUEC, CAEO, A. Charters, CPAE, ICUAE, NAPCAE.
20. Wilbur C. Hallenbeck Papers, 1887–1987, 2 boxes. Hallenbeck began his career as a Presbyterian minister, later becoming a professor of adult education and sociology in 1932. He was also a consultant to the United States Military in Korea and for the University of Natal, South Africa.

21. Eva Elise vom Baur Hansl Papers, 1889–1978, Part 1 (personal papers and scripts) 21 boxes; Part 2 (vocational materials) 35 boxes. Eva Hansl was a writer, editor, and pioneer in women’s radio broadcasting. In the mid-1930s, she joined the Education Department of the New York Times, and for the next forty years concerned herself with the education and employment of women. Among other activities, she supervised three network radio series: “Women in the Making of America”, “Gallant American Women” (both NBC), and during World War II, “Womanpower” (CBS).

The papers include speeches, correspondence, radio broadcast files, and a printed file of “The Eva vom Baur Hansl Collection of Women’s Vocational Materials, 1927–1967”.

22. Andrew Hendrickson Papers, 1933–71, 15 boxes. As a faculty member and administrator Hendrickson was affiliated with three universities: Columbia, Western Reserve, and Ohio State University. These papers focus on his work in the office at OSU. He was also vice president of the NEA and a member of the Delegate Assembly of the AEA. There is much correspondence with leaders in the field, including William Dowling, Cyril Houle, Homer Kempfer, Malcolm Knowles, Herschel Nisonger, and Coolie Verner.

See also: AEA, CPAE.

23. Andrew Hendrickson Papers, Part 2, 1925–66, 4 boxes and one package. This addition to the Hendrickson papers contains miscellaneous adult education pamphlets and a few documents reflecting his involvement with AEA, NAPSAE, and the National Education Association (NEA). Topics of particular interest include the AEA, educational television and radio, leadership training, community development, and UNESCO.

24. Cyril O. Houle Papers, 1929–86, 14 boxes, 1 tube, 4 film canisters. Cyril Houle has been a major figure in the history of continuing education as teacher, writer, and researcher. He has received numerous hon-
orary degrees and was the first recipient of Syracuse University’s William Pearson Tolley Medal for Distinguished Leadership in Adult Education. A faculty member at the University of Chicago, he has been a visiting instructor and advisor around the globe. He was twice appointed to the National Advisory Council of Extension and Continuing Education by Lyndon B. Johnson.

See also: AEA, AUEC, Knowles, NAPSAE.

Hunsaker’s involvement with adult education spanned more than 60 years. He was active in many professional organizations and civic groups. In 1967, he was president of AEA. As a well known speaker, his interests and concerns centered on three themes: internationalism, school and community relations, and continuing education. His international activities began with UNESCO while at Cleveland College. Later he was a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Adult Education Advisor, stationed in Turkey and Afghanistan. In 1965 USAID loaned him to UNESCO to help plan a pilot project in functional literacy for Pakistan.

See also: AAACE, AEA, AUEC, CAEO, CPAE, NUEA.

Ingham taught at the University of Chicago, was program advisor at University College at Syracuse University, and was associate professor at Florida State University. This collection is composed of papers and publications Ingham collected. The documents reflect his interest in university adult education and in adult learning.

See also: A. Charters, CSLEA, ERIC.

The ICUAE was organized by a group of 35 adult educators from universities in 14 countries. They met in September 1960 in Syracuse after the UNESCO World Conference on Adult Education in Montreal. The papers reflect the association’s concern with all aspects of university adult education.

See also: A. Charters, CSLEA, Liveright, Sheats.

This addition consists primarily of minutes of executive committee meetings and meetings of organization officers. There are also papers of
incorporation, the constitution, and the by-laws.


The organization is a kind of international coalition to support adult education programs worldwide. The bulk of the records of this organization have been designated for the National Archives of Canada.

See also: A. Charters, CAEO.


There are twenty-one taped interviews with leading adult educators, including Mary Armstrong, Bradford Leland, Mary Louise Collings, Wilbur Hallenbeck, Andrew Hendrickson, and Howard McCluskey. The discussions touch on formative education experiences, the educators' philosophies of living, and their beliefs concerning current trends in adult education in the United States.

31. Malcolm S. Knowles Papers, 1930–85, 66 boxes and 1 carton of cassette and video tapes, films, and graphics.

Early in his career, Knowles held administrative positions with the National Youth Administration of Massachusetts, and with YMCAs in Boston, Detroit, and Chicago. From 1951 to 1959 he was Executive Director of the AEA. He helped establish the CPAE, and from 1960 to 1974, he was Professor of Education at Boston University. From 1974 to 1979 he taught as Professor of Adult and Community Education at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

This collection includes Dr. Knowles' own papers and papers from various individuals, associations, organizations, and corporations with which he was affiliated in his long career, including AEA, AAACE, ALA, CPAE, NUEA, UNESCO, YMCA, Boston University, General Electric, Girl Scouts of America, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, George Aker, Cyril Houle, Alan Knox, Imogene Okes, and Betty Wiser. The correspondence is extensive, touching most major figures in the field, and is rich with Dr. Knowles' ideas on education.


Dr. Laubach, creator of the "each one teach one" literacy teaching method, was a missionary, educator, and author of more than 40 books. He is credited with teaching well over 60 million people to read. From
1930 to 1970 he traveled to 103 countries, developing primers in 312 languages, working with missions, private agencies, governments, USAID, the Peace Corps, and UNESCO. In 1955, he established Laubach Literacy International Inc., headquartered in Syracuse. This nonprofit organization continues Laubach’s international efforts.

This is an ongoing collection. It contains both the organizational records of Laubach Literacy International Incorporated and the papers of Dr. Frank C. Laubach (1884 to 1970), its founder. His huge correspondence includes letters from world leaders including Harry Truman and Mahatma Ghandi.

This 1989 addition contains the files of major figures in the organization, including Robert F. Caswell, Priscilla Gipson, Effa S. Laubach, Robert S. Laubach, and Edward Pitts. There are also filmstrips, audio tapes, literacy journalism papers, motion pictures, newsletters, primers, photographs, scrapbooks, and slide/tape programs.

This 1991 addition includes materials from Laubach Literacy Action (LLA), which coordinates volunteer adult literacy programs throughout the United States.

LVA was founded in 1962 by Ruth J. Colvin in Syracuse, New York. A nonprofit educational organization, LVA trains tutors to teach adults and teens to read, write, and speak conversational English. The organization has grown to over 400 programs in 33 states. In this collection, areas of special interest are English as a Second Language, literacy in correctional facilities, production of reader’s workbooks, involvement in the National Right to Read effort, and the development of audiovisual tutor-training programs.

A. A. Liveright was director of CSLEA from 1956 until its dissolution in 1968. From 1967 to 1969 he was also associate professor in adult education at Syracuse University. Liveright was involved in a wide range of adult education issues and programs. He was a leader in such international organizations as the ICUAE.
See also: AUEC, CSLEA, CPAE, FAE, ICUAE, NUEA, A. Charters, Sheats.

This addition to the Liveright Papers contains materials from the last
decade of Liveright's career, including documents linked to CSLEA,
ICUAE, and ERIC. Notable are the papers of the Sagamore Confer-
ence of September 1960, which marked the inception of the ICUAE.
Other papers concern UNESCO, and adult education in Africa, Latin
America, and Australia.
See also: CSLEA, ERIC, ICUAE, Galaxy Conference, A. Charters.

38. National Association of Public School Adult Educators (NAPSAE)
Records, 1934–64, 6 boxes.
Founded in 1952 to provide leadership for the development of adult ed-
ucation in public schools, NAPSAE was a department of the NEA. It as-
isted local adult education directors in developing and improving their
programs.

There are three sections to the papers: States Projects, Workshops,
and Other NEA Affiliates, the latter primarily being the American As-
sociation of School Administrators (AASA) and the American Labor Ed-
ucation Service (ALES). NAPSAE is now known as National Associa-
tion of Public and Continuing Educators (NAPCAE).

39. National University Extension Association (NUEA) Records,
1924–68, 41 boxes.
The NUEA, founded in 1915, is an organization of universities and col-
leges engaged in extension programs. Since moving to Washington,
D.C. in the late 1960s, it has become known as the National University
Continuing Education Association (NUCEA). Its purpose is the devel-
opment and advancement of ideals, methods, and standards in continu-
ing education. Fifteen boxes of the papers deal with the Project Head
Start Training Program, which was funded by the Office of Education
and directed by the Association (1965 to 1966).
See also: AUEC, CAEO, CSLEA, FAE, Galaxy Conference, Liveright,
Sheats.

40. National University Extension Association (NUEA) Records, Part
2, 1950–72, 31 boxes.
This addition includes more general records and manuals on Project
Head Start, with some additional files on the Job Corps Driver Educa-
tion training program. The bulk of the materials, including photographs, are of the federally funded Teacher Training Institutes, administered for the United States Office of Education by NUEA and held at various colleges and universities around the country.

See also: NAPSAE.

41. George A. Parkinson Papers, 1937–63, 1 box.
Parkinson was a member of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Extension and director of the Milwaukee Teachers College. He served many posts as board member and officer of AUEC. He was instrumental in bringing ETV to Milwaukee, and was vice president of the Midwest ETV Association.

This is a collection of Parkinson’s speeches, such as: “The Role of the Evening College in Community Education.”
See also: AUEC, NUEA.

42. Photograph Collection, 1932–75, 3 boxes and 2 packages.
Collected from many individuals and organizations, these photographs and slides date primarily from the 1950s. FAE programs are the best represented. They are arranged alphabetically by organization, and the majority of the people and places in the pictures are identified.

43. Bernard W. Reed Papers, 1915–62, 3 boxes.
At the University of Cincinnati Reed was assistant professor in the Evening College and Director of Informal Programs. From 1960 he was Dean of the School of Continuing Professional Studies at the Pratt Institute. He was also editor of “Who’s Who in the AUEC.”

This collection contains much primary material on the origins and history of the AUEC, along with some on the NUEA and the CSLEA for the years 1955 to 1962.
See also: AUEC, CSLEA, Parkinson.

44. Bernard W. Reed Papers, Part 2, 1956–61, 4 boxes.
This addition to the Reed papers contains course materials dating from Reed’s years at the University of Chicago. There are published reprints, news clippings, extensive typed excerpts, dittos, photocopies, and Reed’s own notes.

Sharer was chief of a division of the Michigan Department of Experimental Adult Education in the 1940s. Later he was Director of the Office of Adult Education Programs in Continuing Education and Di-
rector of the Evening College at Michigan State University. From 1968 to 1970 he was Executive Director of the AEA. Among his several other posts, he was vice-president of the NEA. Most of these papers derive from Michigan State adult education programs.

After a long career in education, Sheats joined the University of California as Associate Director of Extension in 1946, and in 1958 was named Dean of Extension. He was president of both the NEA and the AEA. He served as University Extension representative on the Executive Committee of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. For six years he served on UNESCO’s National Commission.

The Sheats papers are particularly strong in the periods immediately preceding and during World War II. There are extensive notes on a visit to Nazi Germany, as well as correspondence between Sheats and Dr. Theodor Wilhelm, Director of the Institute of International Education there. Sheats later helped develop public forums designed to foster greater civic awareness throughout the country.

47. Per Gustaf Stensland Papers, 1913–88, 14 boxes.
Per Stensland was a native of Sweden, where he studied with Gunnar Myrdal and Dag Hammerskjold. He was on the faculty of several United States institutions, including Kansas State University, Texas Technological College, New York University, and Hunter College. He consulted for the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and the Kellogg Foundation, among others. His areas of interest and expertise were community medicine, community development, educational sociology, nursing education, and teaching strategies.

48. Syracuse University Publications in Continuing Education (SUPCE), 1951–84, 19 boxes.
SUPCE was established in 1967 to collect and distribute adult education publications. This collection consists of many studies, occasional papers, readings for Peace Corps trainees, science and public policy series, and draft copies of books and anthologies. Significant authors include: A. N. Charters, Cyril Houle, A. A. Liveright, John Ohliger, and James Whipple.

Thompson was successively Director of the Evening Liberal Arts Pro-
gram, Assistant Dean, and later Dean of University College at Northwestern University. He served on the board of AUEC and was president from 1969 to 1970. He also served as president of the CAEO. These papers concern the regional and national affairs of the AUEC from 1966 to 1972.

Thompson was associated with the Department of Journalism at the University of Minnesota and served as Dean of the General Extension Division and Summer Sessions.

These papers concern the Wingspread Conference and the Galaxy Conference. They include papers from the Central Planning Group, the Advisory Committee, and the Public Relations Committee.
See also: AEA, CAEO, NUEA, Galaxy Conference, A. Charters.

The Council began as an experimental division of the CSLEA. It was funded by the FAE and member universities. Members included presidents of cooperating schools and deans or directors. Materials relate to programs on urbanism and education for public responsibility.

52. Coolie Verner Papers, 1953–72, 3 boxes.
Verner was professor of adult education at Florida State University from 1953 to 1961. Later he taught as a professor at the University of British Columbia.

This collection contains a wide variety of correspondence involving FSU, Washington State University, UBC, the Canadian Association for Adult Education, and the ICUE.

Whipple was assistant and then associate director of the CSLEA from 1953 until it ended in 1968. At that time he joined with Peter E. Siegle and Freda H. Goldman to form the consulting partnership New Directions for Education, which lasted until 1973. In that role he became involved in major planning projects for higher education, including state plans for Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
See also: CSLEA, NUEA.

Although the following manuscript collections are not considered part of the Adult and Continuing Education Collections, they are related in various ways and degrees to adult education:
- Edmund Chaffee, minister and founder of the Labor Temple
- Martha F. Crow, writer/lecturer on women in education
- H. L. Custard, author and educator
- W. R. Davey, educator
- W. Dean Mason, gerontologist
- The Osborne Family, correctional educators
- James Pike, early nineteenth-century textbook author and teacher
- D. C. Watson, art critic and lecturer
- F. A. Weiss, educator and social researcher.

Also available for research are the international adult education pamphlet file and the adult education newsletter collection.