

R Guide to Ethnic Museums, Libraries, and Archives in the United States

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Libraries

Архиви

Múzeumok

Archives

圖書館

Museums

Библиотеки

Bibliotheken

Μυзеΐ

die Museen

les bibliothèques

los Museos

las

les

di

Lubomyr R. Wynar
and Lois Buttlar

Gen. Sl.

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Kent State University

**GUIDE TO ETHNIC MUSEUMS,
LIBRARIES, AND ARCHIVES
IN THE UNITED STATES**

**FOR USE IN
READING ROOM ONLY**

by

Lubomyr R. Wynar

and

Lois Buttlar

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INTRODUCTION

This *Guide to Ethnic Museums, Libraries and Archives* is the first comprehensive reference directory to major ethnic cultural institutions in the United States. The fact that hundreds of museums, archives, libraries, and art galleries, established and sponsored by various ethnic communities, exist in the United States demonstrates the pluralistic character of the American society.

The historian, sociologist, political scientist, or any other researcher studying American ethnicity must closely scrutinize the phenomenon of ethnic cultural institutions as it is reflected in their goals and objectives. Ethnic museums, archives and libraries and their collections constitute the major source of information on the cultural heritage and historical development of individual ethnic groups in the United States. Therefore, it is essential for any serious researcher involved in ethnic studies to become familiar with the ethnic cultural institutions. For the reference librarian, archivist, museum curator and information specialists this *Guide* will serve as an indispensable tool for providing answers or solving various reference questions pertaining to the resources on various ethnic groups in the United States.

This publication has its own "history." In 1972 our Center conducted the first major survey of the ethnic press in the United States which resulted in the publication of *Encyclopedic Directory of Ethnic Newspapers and Periodicals in the United States* (Littleton, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, 1972. 260p.). The second revised edition of the *Directory* was published in 1976. This publication was well received by both students of ethnicity and librarians, and was selected by the American Library Association as one of the "Best Reference Books for 1972." Another comprehensive survey of ethnic organizations in the United States was conducted during the years 1973 to 1975 and on the basis of findings the *Encyclopedic Directory of Ethnic Organizations in the United States* (Littleton, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, 1975. 414p.) was published. Also, in 1974 the staff of the Center of Ethnic Publications was asked by the Cleveland Ethnic Heritage Studies Program to survey relevant materials on ethnic groups in the United States with special emphasis on Cleveland and Ohio. As a result of our work the first reference guide on *Ethnic Groups in Ohio with Special Emphasis on Cleveland* was published in 1975 (Cleveland State University, Ethnic Heritage Studies, 1975. 254p.). After several years of conducting comprehensive surveys and searches of the professional literature on reference sources in the field of ethnicity, it became apparent that a great amount of historical and educational materials appropriate for use by students and researchers could be found in ethnic museums, libraries, and archives which are sponsored by individual ethnic groups. As a result of this discovery a special proposal was submitted to the U.S. Office of Education which called for conducting a comprehensive survey of ethnic cultural institutions. Our effort was successful and a grant from the U.S. Office of Education (Funded under Title IX of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act) enabled us to execute this project. Hence the decision to prepare this publication in the hopes of filling a major gap in the reference literature.