What is happening to the SCCA’s archives and historical keepsakes? We currently have more than 2,000 square feet of historical documents and memorabilia in Indianapolis, Ind., and it’s constantly growing. To put this into perspective, this is the equivalent of a nice size ranch home. That’s a lot of stuff! Consequently, the SCCA Foundation is looking at several alternatives to help preserve what we have, as well as ways to handle growth as we receive donations of personal and Regional archives.

The SCCA Foundation has been working with Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) in Indianapolis, Ind., since 2011. The relationship has been good for our Foundation and for the university—we have both learned a great deal through our partnership. They have been of great help as the SCCA Foundation tries to get its arms around how to protect and utilize our greatest asset: our history. Jennifer Johnson, the Digital Scholarship Outreach Librarian at IUPUI, has assembled what follows below:

IUPUI is an urban university situated on the western edge of downtown Indianapolis. This location makes collaboration with geographically close businesses and cultural heritage institutions ideal to provide library services that include access and preservation to archival collections that currently are not available to the public. Since 2004, the IUPUI University Library has been working with organizations like the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the Indianapolis Recorder to assist in the creation of digital collections. These collections consist of photographs, audio, video, maps, monographs, and other archival material. University Library implements best practices for the creation, description, preservation, and sharing of digital collections.

In 2011, librarian Kristi Palmer gave a presentation to an IUPUI engineering class. She shared the services that the library offers including a list of digital collections that have been created. It is always exciting to provide outreach to the campus faculty about the work the library does with the community. It is the intention of our work to facilitate the use of digital collections to enhance and complement faculty research.

SCCA archivist and IUPUI faculty member Pete Hylton followed up with Kristi after the meeting to discuss the possibility of creating a digital archive for the SCCA collection.

"Dating back to its inception in 1944, the SCCA has been collecting artifacts."

Dating back to its inception in 1944, the SCCA has been collecting artifacts that capture the proud history of its diverse motorsports organization. The collection includes photographs, reel-to-reel movie collections, race programs, posters, and SportsCar issues. The physical collection resides in storage and is currently unavailable to the public. Lacking the ability to meet the needs for public use of the collection, there was a need to figure out the best way to provide access to these materials. Digitization and online access seemed like a simple solution to meet that need. By digitizing this material, the digital collection not only captures the heritage of the SCCA, but it allows for open access to images that can be used by SCCA members, motor enthusiasts, and historians.

University Library worked with Dr. Pete Hylton and the SCCA Foundation to establish a project plan for digitization. With limited resources within SCCA to organize and prepare materials, the photograph collection was selected as a top priority. Utilizing internal library funding that supports faculty research, the library digitized 1,554 photographs. Coinciding with each image is information that describes what is happening in each photograph. The online collection provides various features, allowing a user to search. The collection can be viewed by clicking on a single link allowing access to the entire photograph collection. To perform a more advanced search, a user can specify a search term. The collection can be found at www.uiib.iupui.edu/digitalscholarship/collections/SCCA.

The IUPUI University Library looks forward to supporting the SCCA and providing guidance as the Foundation determines additions and enhancements to the digital collection. For further comments or questions regarding the project please contact Raleigh Boreen with the SCCA Foundation. 📚