

The Role of the World Institute for Scientific Exploration (WISE) in the Preservation of Parapsychology Literature and Collections

John H. Reed, M.D., MPH, MBA
President

World Institute for Scientific Exploration (WISE)

joreed43@gmail.com

<http://wisewiki.org>

<http://instituteforscientificexploration.org>

June 12, 2014

Introduction

Thanks to Wim, Walter, and Eberhard

Background and formation of WISE

1. Founded, June, 2011, Boulder, Colorado
2. Founders: Current and former leaders of the Society for Scientific Exploration (SSE)
3. Original Name: ISE , now WISE
4. Home page:
<http://instituteforscientificexploration.org>

Mission of WISE

1. To conduct, lead, and promote groundbreaking scientific research on parapsychology, scientific anomalies, alternative medical therapies, and paranormal phenomena of all kinds;
2. To provide an online encyclopedic resource center covering all organizations, periodicals, people, and topics on the above subjects;
3. To identify and preserve the literature, writings, and other materials on these subjects;
4. To provide a global platform whereby such materials can be made freely available to the world;

Structure of WISE

1. Divisions cover all academic fields where there are unexplained phenomena, alternative and non-mainstream theories and practices;
2. Divisions are composed of research departments in specific subject areas;
3. Two divisions cover parapsychology and related subjects: Applied Consciousness Research Division and the Behavioral Medicine and Psychology Division;
4. Example departments in these divisions include Extra-sensory Perception, Dreams, Mind-Body Interactions, NDE's, Spirits and Spirit Communication, and Survival and Life After Death research departments;

WISE Programs and Projects

1. Numerous programs and projects in progress; Link from <http://wisewiki.org>;
2. Worldwide Resource Center (WISE Wiki), the most important program:
 1. Single source for information, with pages on all people, organizations, periodicals, books, topics, and activities in countries worldwide;
 2. Comprehensive bibliographies to be provided;
 3. Functions as gigantic online encyclopedia, database, directory and library covering all parapsychology and related subjects;
 4. Similar to Wikipedia, but some differences;
 5. Presently has over 30,000 pages;

The WISE Digital Library

1. One of the major parts of the WISE wiki;
2. Mission of library is to digitize and make freely available all periodicals, books, and other digitizable materials on parapsychology and related subjects;
3. Already 217 full text periodicals available; largest in the world;
4. Hundreds more periodicals to be added; Books to be added in the near future;
5. Copyright laws observed;

Parapsychology Literature Preservation as a Top Priority Program of WISE

1. One of WISE's original goals;
2. Concern about numerous organizations and periodicals going out of business or in financial difficulties;
3. Concern about collections and papers of prominent people at risk for loss when they pass away;

Kinds of Items That Should Be Preserved

1. Organization collections of books, periodicals, and ephemera, plus historical records and files of organization;
2. Periodical publisher records and files, especially correspondence, plus all issues published;
3. Prominent people's papers, research notebooks, correspondence, files and personal collections;
4. Government Agency records and documents on parapsychology and related subjects: intelligence, investigations of researchers, and use of psychics in murder and missing person cases;

Two Major Components of the WISE Literature Preservation Program

- 1. Physical Preservation Program:** physical collections, books, periodicals, papers, records identified, located, and preserved;
- 2. Digital Preservation Program:** physical items are digitized for preservation and made freely available to the world via the WISE Digital Library;

WISE Physical Preservation Program

1. Places where items can be preserved:
 1. College and University Libraries;
 2. Public Libraries;
 3. Non-profit organizations (financially stable)
 4. Trustworthy individuals;

Identifying likely candidates to accept materials on parapsychology

1. Most likely places: Those that already have collections;
2. Searched latest reference books and databases for subjects collections: DSLIC, RCD, IRCD, Lee Ash, Archivegrid (<http://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/>);
3. Many different terms searched for libraries and archives;
4. Two spreadsheets created:
 1. Libraries with collections on parapsychology: 150
 2. Repositories of archival collections: 1,826 spreadsheet rows, alphabetized by people's names; Archival materials on Patience Worth in two locations in the US
 3. Spreadsheets available on the WISE Wiki page for the CPEHE; <http://wisewiki.org/tiki-index.php?page=Coalition+for+the+Preservation+of+Extraordinary+Human+Experience+Collections+%28CPEHEC%29>

The Coalition for the Preservation of Extraordinary Human Experience Collections (CPEHEC)

1. CPEHEC created, and Walter Meyer zu Erpen appointed as Director;
2. Contacting the Repository Libraries;
3. Example Libraries WISE has contacted
 1. University of Illinois, Mandeville Collection on occult sciences;
 2. University of Maryland, Baltimore County: Jule Eisenbud Collection on Ted Serios thought photography;
4. General response of libraries so far;
5. Plans to contact all repositories on spreadsheets;
6. WISE's willingness to preserve Physical Collections;

Digital Preservation Program (DPP)

1. Description and Mission of the DPP: To digitize all significant parapsychology periodicals and books, within copyright laws;
2. Scope of the task: There are hundreds of periodicals;
3. John Patrick Deveney has identified over 4,000 periodical titles alone, but many others exist;
4. Thousands of books on these subjects;

Avoiding Duplication of Effort

1. Digitizing periodicals very expensive and time consuming;
2. Need for WISE and partners to avoid duplicating what others have done, and for them to avoid what we have done;
3. Many parapsychology periodicals and books already digitized:
 1. Internet Archive: (<http://archive.org/index.php>)
 2. Hathitrust :(<http://www.hathitrust.org>)
 3. International Association for the Preservation of Spiritualist and Occult Periodicals (IAPSOP): <http://iapsop.com>)
 4. IGPP at the University of Freiburg that Dr. Eberhard Bauer heads: (<http://www.ub.uni-freiburg.de/?=125>)
 5. Lexscien: (www.lexscien.org)
4. Possible case of large duplication of effort already;

WISE's Program to Avoid Duplication of Effort: Three Parts

1. First: Identification of parapsychology periodicals that have already been digitized:
 1. WorldCat (<http://www.worldcat.org/>) shows all library holdings of parapsychology periodicals and if they have been digitized, and by whom;
 2. Many newly discovered digitized periodicals to be added to WISE Digital Library;

Master List of all Parapsychology Periodicals

1. Second: Based on WorldCat findings, Master List of all parapsychology periodicals ever published being created, with digitization status noted;
2. Master list to be added to WISE Wiki so anyone in world can check to see if a given periodical has been digitized;
3. Cautionary note on timeliness of information;

International Coalition of Periodical Digitizing Organizations and Individuals (ICPDOI)

1. Third, ICPDOI established by WISE;
([http://wisewiki.org/tiki-index.php?page=International+Coalition+of+Periodica+Digitizing+Organizations+and+Individuals+\(ICPDOI\)](http://wisewiki.org/tiki-index.php?page=International+Coalition+of+Periodica+Digitizing+Organizations+and+Individuals+(ICPDOI)))
2. Mission to coordinate worldwide digitization of parapsychology periodicals and books by organizations and individuals;
3. Twenty organizations and individuals have been identified and are invited to join this coalition;
 1. Examples: IAPSOP, IGPP, George P. Hansen (Zetetic Scholar)
4. Hopefully these three actions will minimize duplication of effort in digitizing parapsychology materials;

How You can Help

1. Digitizing all the hundreds of parapsychology periodicals is a large task;
2. Check your computer disc and external hard drives for digitized parapsychology materials and send them to WISE;
3. Check your university databases for digitized materials, and send them or the link to WISE;
4. Register with WISE Wiki and add information about yourself and the people, organizations, periodicals, and topics you know about;
5. Send copies of bibliographies on topics to WISE;

In Progress and Future Activities

1. Add information and links to the 30,000 + pages;
2. Clean up and removal of duplicate pages;
3. Add Comprehensive bibliographies for each subject, person, and country;
4. Add hundreds of full-text books and monographs to the WISE Digital Library, including dissertations and theses;
5. Add thousands of articles to the Digital Library;
6. Add audio-visual materials

Summary

1. WISE is taking significant action in both physical preservation and the digital preservation of parapsychology materials;
2. WISE will continue to expand the WISE Wiki and the WISE Digital Library;
3. With your help, together we can make an even greater contribution to the research efforts of researchers worldwide on parapsychology and related subjects.