

Annual Update for AQIP Action Project  
Missouri Western State University  
**Preserving Gold: The MWSU History Sequel**  
August 1, 2010

1. *Describe the past year's accomplishments and the current status of this Action Project.*

The Preserving Gold Action Project has two goals: 1) Begin the implementation of and conduct the research for the university history sequel and 2) Accomplish the writing, editing, and publication of the sequel to an earlier published history of Missouri Western State University.

In relation to the first goal, a timeline for the three-year project was developed. Literature searches were conducted on the subject of "university histories" to aid in the process. The project manager (who is the university library director) identified library personnel who would help with the research. In addition, she identified and talked with potential committee members who were then chosen to serve from among interested faculty, staff, and retirees. Preserving Gold committee members identified library and other resources necessary to accomplish the research for this project. An exhaustive listing of resources was developed. Also developed was a list of topics or events that have occurred in the life of the university since the previous university history.

Early in the process a university faculty retiree had volunteered to serve as the writer, and met with the Project Manager several times, but later withdrew due to personal issues. A replacement writer has been identified and has been working with the Project Manager and committee members. She has begun contacting persons of interest for interviews. Persons have been identified to serve as editors for the manuscript. Through a broadcast email, the campus community has been invited to submit information, anecdotes, and memorabilia in support of this project.

2. *Describe how the institution involved people in work on this Action Project.*

In order to support this project, a cross-section of faculty, staff and retirees were asked to serve on the Preserving Gold Committee. A variety of academic departments are represented on the committee. Some committee members as well as other interested individuals volunteered or were asked to serve as an editorial sub-committee when appropriate. This Preserving Gold Committee reports to the university Strategic Plan Steering Committee.

3. *Describe your planned next steps for this Action Project.*

Future work on this project includes the continuation of research, then the writing of the manuscript, with editing following. After that, the publishing process will occur, including marketing of the work, designing the cover, and assessing the final product. With the one-hundredth anniversary of the university happening in 2015, this project takes on increased meaning as it will help to mark that important milestone in the life of the university.

4. *Describe any “effective practice(s)” that resulted from your work on this Action Project.*

With a broad cross-section of the campus community being involved in the Preserving Gold Action Project, communicating between and among institutional levels will occur and will enhance a shared mission, vision and values. These interested individuals will help to ensure that through this year’s research process, and the future writing and publishing activities, the history of the university will be preserved, recorded and communicated for posterity.

5. *What challenges, if any, are you still facing in regards to this Action Project?*

Time demands on the writer and continually emerging topics to address present challenges facing this Action Project. Regular communication with the Preserving Gold Committee will be key in keeping focused on the goals within the set timeline.