

Dear Governor Engler:

I just wanted to add my support for Bentley Historical Library as a site for archiving your papers from years of leadership as Michigan's governor. As you are aware, the Bentley Library began archiving the gubernatorial collections of Michigan's governors in the 1930s, first locating and subsequently accessioning the papers of 27 of Michigan's governors prior to G. Mennen Williams. Since that time it has been the tradition for each of Michigan's governors (Williams, Swainson, Romney, Milliken, and Blanchard) to transfer their papers to the Bentley Library.

Over the years the Bentley Historical Library has assembled an extraordinary archival collection on all aspects of the history of the State of Michigan. What started in 1953 as a small faculty project to collect historical documents has resulted in an internationally known collection on the history of the state. Every county is represented in the collections that now number in excess of 60 million documents.

The particular strength of the collections is in the area of Michigan politics, particularly the executive office. Because of the breadth and continuity of the gubernatorial holdings at the Library, today it is regarded as a national center for the study of the evolving role of the governor.

On a more personal note, the Bentley also has my papers. I can tell you from first hand experience that they have done a superb job in all the professional work that surrounds the arrangement and description of large and complex collections. It has an excellent facility and a talented staff. Furthermore, its collections are actively used by scholars from all over the world. In fact, Anne and I have used the Bentley on occasions in some of our own history projects, and we can testify to the skill and professionalism of the staff and the state-of-the-art nature of the facilities.

One of the regrets of no longer being the University's president is that I don't have the opportunity to chat with you from time to time. But if I can ever be of assistance to you now or in the future, don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,