



CRAIG BROWN
COLUMBIANA COUNTY RECORDER

Courthouse • 105 South Market • Lisbon, Ohio 44432 • Phone: 330-424-9517 ext. 640 • Fax: 330-424-5067

April 29, 2010

Brown Will Help Shape Social Media Guidelines

Columbiana County Recorder Craig Brown has been selected to participate on a committee of the Ohio Electronic Records Committee to help develop record guidelines for social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

According to Brown, "Although social media is being embraced by all levels of government, most users have no idea how to handle record storage and retrieval."

"Since the state of Ohio has placed such importance on access to public records in recent years, it is of the utmost importance that governmental bodies establish both rules and an understanding of how to use this media," stated Brown.

The committee has established several goals regarding its project. The group plans to produce a short paper regarding important considerations governmental bodies should think about before using social media. The group will accompany this charge with a more detailed paper addressing options, potential actions, reasons for usage, and policy suggestions.

"Unfortunately, the world of social media is like the wild west. There aren't any real rules out there and people are just doing what they need to do to get by. A real need for some degree of order exists," explained Brown.

The Ohio Electronics Records Commission was created in 1998 by the state of Ohio archives and the state office of policy and planning. According to its website, "Its charge has been to "develop guidelines and best practices for the creation, maintenance, and long term preservation and access to electronic records for Ohio state and local governmental agencies and other organizations."

The organization has drafted guidelines regarding electronic records management, hybrid microfilm, and others. Recently members of the organization have presented seminars on email management and digital imaging in Cleveland, Dayton, and Elyria.

Brown has served on the committee since 2005. He serves on the membership committee and was part of the Hybrid Microfilm Guidelines workgroup. Electronic Records Manager/ Archivist of The Ohio State University Archives Daniel Noonan chairs the committee. For additional information regarding the committee please visit its website at www.ohiohistory.org/ohiojunction/erc/.