North Carolina
DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

Quarterly Report, January - March 2010

The North Carolina Digital Heritage Center has made significant progress during the first three months of 2010. The newly-hired full-time staff of the Digital Heritage Center have established new partnerships and worked on the technological infrastructure that will be essential for an effective and long-lasting program.

Staff

Two full-time staff members were in place for the entire quarter. Nicholas Graham began work as Program Coordinator on December 14, 2009, and Stephanie Williams began work as Applications Analyst (Programmer) on January 4, 2010. The UNC-Chapel Hill University Library conducted a search for the third full-time position, Digital Projects Librarian, in early 2010. Three candidates came to campus for on-site interviews in March. The library hopes to fill this position in the next month or two. In addition to full-time staff, one graduate assistant was hired for the project. Meghan Gaherty, a student in the School of Information and Library Science at UNC-Chapel Hill began work with the Digital Heritage Center in January. Meghan is helping to coordinate the yearbook digitization project and is doing some digitization for one of the pilot projects.

Pilot Projects

In January 2010, the Program Coordinator contacted recent participants in NC ECHO digitization workshops about the possibility of working together on pilot projects for the NC Digital Heritage

Center. Several organizations expressed a strong interest in developing projects. Six projects were selected. These projects represent materials of varying format and complexity, and will give both the NC Digital Heritage Center and the partner institutions valuable experience that will inform future decisions about the type and the size of projects that the Digital Heritage Center will be able to take on.

"Digital Davie"

Historic photos from the Davie County Public Library will form the heart of the "Digital Davie" collection. The Digital Heritage Center will digitize the photographs in the Digital Production Center in the UNC-Chapel Hill University Library and publish them online. The first batch of photographs from the Davie County Library was delivered to Chapel Hill in late March 2010, with digitization beginning right away.

Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

The Sallie Mae Ligon Museum & Archives at the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford, N.C., holds early records and photographs documenting life at the orphanage going back to the late 19th century. The Digital Heritage Center has digitized two early photo albums, selected documents, and a set of early architectural drawings. Digitization for these materials has already been completed.

Haywood County Historic Photos

In preparation for the bicentennial of Haywood County in 2008, the Haywood County Public Library gathered historic photographs from community members. These photographs and accompanying descriptions will be published online by the NC Digital Heritage Center.

Wilson County World War II Veterans Project

The Wilson County Historical Association has compiled ten large scrapbooks containing letters, newspaper clippings, and memorabilia documenting the service of Wilson County residents who served in World War II. The Digital Heritage Center will digitize these materials and present them

online so that they are easily accessible by the name of each veteran. Digitization of these volumes will begin in April or May 2010.

Durham County Urban Renewal Records

The Durham Urban Renewal Records at the Durham County Library document the redevelopment of Durham's Hayti neighborhood in the 1960s and 1970s. These records, when presented online, will allow researchers to access property appraisals and photographs of many buildings that no longer exist. Community members will look to this information to contribute to the ongoing discussion about land use and planning in Durham. These records were delivered to the Digital Production Center at UNC in February 2010. The condition and the organization of these materials make them especially difficult to digitize. The Digital Production Center is making steady progress on the digitization, with excellent results to date.

Orange County Historical Museum

Selected materials from the Orange County Historical Museum in Hillsborough will be photographed and presented online. A staff member from the Digital Production Center will spend time photographing artifacts on site in Hillsborough. This project will help to introduce more people to the valuable holdings in this small museum.

Yearbooks

The college and university yearbook digitization project has continued throughout this quarter. This has proven to be an especially popular project. Several new schools have expressed interest in participating in response to letters sent by Sarah Michalak, University Librarian at UNC-Chapel Hill, to other library directors at UNC system schools, and by Hope Williams, President of the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, to the members of that organization. There are now enough schools signed up for the project to keep the Scribe book scanner dedicated to yearbooks busy well into 2011.

At the end of March 2010, eight different schools were represented in the yearbook project, and 440 volumes were available online. Seventeen additional schools have expressed interest in participating. Please see the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center page at http://www.lib.unc.edu/ncdhc/ for links to the digitized yearbooks.

Yearbooks Currently Available Online

Appalachian State University

East Carolina University

Elizabeth City State University

Elon University

Louisburg College

Meredith College

UNC-Chapel Hill

UNC-Greensboro

Yearbooks to be Digitized

Chowan University

Fayetteville State University

Johnson C. Smith University

Wake Forest University

North Carolina Central University

Greensboro College

Peace College

Livingstone College

Queens University

Warren Wilson College

Belmont Abbey

Brevard College

St. Andrews Presbyterian College

Mount Olive College

College of the Albemarle

Advisory Board

All seats on the NC Digital Heritage Center advisory board have been filled. Everyone who was asked agreed -- most of them enthusiastically -- to serve on the board. The board members represent a wide variety of institutions and professional organizations throughout the state. A list of the board members is attached to this report. All board members will be asked to serve for two years, or, for those who represent professional organizations, for as long as their term in office lasts. The first board meeting will be held on May 17 on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus.

Technology

The Applications Analyst worked closely with colleagues in the Library Systems department to set up an infrastructure to publish digital files online and maintain a website for the Digital Heritage Center.

Domain Name and Server

All digital materials hosted by the Digital Heritage Center will be available online through the website at www.digitalnc.org. This domain name was transferred from the State Library to the UNC-Chapel Hill University Library for use by the Digital Heritage Center. A server (maintained by staff in the UNC Library Systems department and dedicated to the Digital Heritage Center) was brought online in February and assigned to the new domain name.

Content Management for Digital Objects

The NC Digital Heritage Center purchased a new license for CONTENTdm, the digital collection management system owned by OCLC. This new installation of CONTENTdm will operate separately from the UNC Library's existing CONTENTdm collections, and will be used exclusively for materials hosted by the NC Digital Heritage Center. Staff members in the Library Systems department at UNC have been working on the installation and testing of the system, and expect that it should be fully functional in April 2010. The Applications Analyst will then work to customize the out-of-the-box CONTENTdm interface and extend it.

Content Management for Web Content

In addition to the digitized materials hosted by the NC Digital Heritage Center, the Center will operate an extensive website that will serve as a front page for the digital collections, and will give users the ability to browse by location, subject, and contributing institution. The Digital Heritage Center is planning to use a content management system to manage the program website. The Applications Analyst has experimented with Drupal, configuring a custom theme, project-specific content types, and relevant modules. This will, in the long run, make it easier for Digital Heritage Center staff to quickly add, remove, and edit site content (including pages for each contributing institution) while keeping the 'browsing' sections of the site (such as county and collection directories) as current as possible.

Interface Design

In addition to her work with Drupal, the Applications Analyst has also designed standalone interfaces for public and administrative functions of the DigitalNC website. The website is expected to be available no later than May 2010.