North Carolina
DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

Quarterly Report, April - June 2010

This was an important quarter for the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center. In this three-month period, the Center's Advisory Board met for the first time, the website for the Center was launched, and the final full-time staff member was hired.

Staff

Maggie Dickson began work as Digital Projects Librarian for the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center on June 1, 2010. Maggie was the project manager for the "From Beaux Arts to Modernism" architectural drawing digitization project at North Carolina State University and had also served as the project manager for the Thomas E. Watson Papers digital collection at UNC-Chapel Hill. Maggie's experience with digital projects have enabled her to make an immediate positive impact on the NC Digital Heritage Center.

DigitalNC.org

The web portal for the NC Digital Heritage Center, DigitalNC.org, was launched in mid May. DigitalNC.org will be the online home for all materials published by the NC Digital Heritage Center. The site was designed with users in mind, and presents a variety of options for searching and browsing the online materials. In the short time that it has been available, DigitalNC is already attracting visitors. The site is seeing an average of over 3,000 visitors a month. We expect this number to grow substantially as we continue to add materials and to publicize our efforts.

Projects

During the second quarter of 2010, the NC Digital Heritage Center has made significant progress on six of the initial pilot projects, all of which now have materials available online.

"Digital Davie"

http://digitalnc.org/collections/digital-davie

This collection of historic photographs from the Davie County Public Library now includes 87 images, with more to be added soon. In addition to the images and descriptive information, the project home page includes introductory text prepared by the local history librarian at the Davie County Library. "Digital Davie" could serve as a model for future local history projects to be developed with Digital Heritage Center.

Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

http://digitalnc.org/institutions/sallie-mae-ligon-museum-archives-masonic-home-children-oxford

Thirty-six items from the Sallie Mae Ligon Museum and Archives at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford are now available online. The materials include early photo albums, architectural drawings, and a very impressive panoramic photo of the campus. This project is completed.

Wilson County's Greatest Generation: The Memories of the World War II Veterans of Wilson County, N.C.

http://digitalnc.org/collections/wilson-wwii

The Digital Production Center at UNC-Chapel Hill made great progress in the digitization of these scrapbooks, which were compiled by the Wilson County Historical Association. To date over 3,000 pages have been digitized. These comprise files for 260 veterans, which are now accessible online.

Durham County Urban Renewal Records

http://digitalnc.org/collections/durham

Digitization of this important collection has been completed. Nearly 6,000 pages have been digitized and are now being processed and uploaded by NC Digital Heritage Center staff. There are currently 378 photographs and 206 property appraisals available on the project website, with more added on a regular basis.

Orange County Historical Museum

http://digitalnc.org/institutions/orange-county-historical-museum

UNC-Chapel Hill library staff photographed a diverse group of materials from the Orange County Historical Museum in the Digital Production Center in Wilson Library. This was an all-day affair, and required the participation and expertise of the museum director. The results were excellent. The experienced photographers in the Digital Production Center were able to get high-quality digital photographs of the museum objects, which ranged from small antique teaspoons to large colorful quilts. Most of these photographs are now available online.

The work with the Orange County Historical Museum has demonstrated to us both the challenges and rewards of working with museum collections. By their very nature, historic artifacts pose more challenges for digitization than flat paper and photographs. Digitizing museum artifacts is a time-consuming process and will nearly always require the participation and supervision of trained museum staff. But the results are worth the effort. Small museums like the Orange County Historical Museum hold rare and fascinating collections that are essential for our understanding of the history and culture of North Carolina. The NC Digital Heritage Center will continue to experiment and investigate efficient and effective means of including museum collections in our work.

Elizabeth City State University

http://digitalnc.org/institutions/elizabeth-city-state-university

Over 100 historic photos from the Elizabeth City State University Archives have been added to the Images of North Carolina project. These images were scanned by the Elizabeth City State University Archives, and the archivist provided all of the metadata. This project can serve as an example of how the NC Digital Heritage Center can work with organizations that have the capacity to digitize and describe their materials, but could still look to the Center to publish the collections online.

North Carolina College and University Yearbooks

http://digitalnc.org/collections/nc-yearbooks

The college and university yearbook collection has continued to be one of the most popular and most visible projects developed by the NC Digital Heritage Center. We have now heard from a majority of the public and accredited private colleges and universities in the state, and have yearbook digitization scheduled through September 2011.

Yearbook digitization was put on hold for about six weeks due to turnover among Internet Archive staff located on site in the UNC-Chapel Hill library. New staff members are now in place, and are working rapidly to catch up on the work that was missed. We are still on track to complete all of the yearbooks that we have scheduled.

<u>Yearbooks Currently Available Online</u>

Appalachian State University

Campbell University

East Carolina University

Elizabeth City State University

Elon University

Louisburg College

Meredith College

UNC-Chapel Hill

UNC-Greensboro

<u>Yearbooks to be Digitized</u>

Guilford College

Chowan University

Fayetteville State University

Johnson C. Smith University

North Carolina Central University

Wake Forest University

Greensboro College

Belmont Abbey

Brevard College

St. Andrews Presbyterian College

Gardner-Webb University

Winston-Salem State University

UNC-Asheville

UNC-Charlotte

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board for the NC Digital Heritage Center met for the first time on May 17 on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus. Following introductions by Sarah Michalak and Mary Boone, and a brief presentation by Nicholas Graham, the board discussed goals and priorities for Center in the coming year.

Board members presented a variety of opinions and suggestions, and focused on several important points:

- NC Digital Heritage Center staff members were encouraged to communicate regularly with other projects that provided guidance and services to cultural heritage institutions, such as the Travelling Archivist Program and the Connecting to Collections grant, and to work together with these projects when possible.
- Board members encouraged the Center to seek a variety of projects with many different institutions, even if this meant that the projects had to be limited in size, rather than focusing on large projects with just a few partners.
- The board agreed that the NC Digital Heritage Center should take over active management of the existing North Carolina Maps project, and should continue to add new maps from additional partners when appropriate.
- Board members stressed the importance of remaining flexible and open to project ideas from other organizations.

Technology

The Applications Analyst worked to prepare the DigitalNC.org website and its components to be publicly available on May 17th. Since the website has been live, she has worked to fine-tune both end-user and administrative interfaces and add functionality. She has also helped to prepare and upload digital objects.

End-user Development

As more content and contributors were added to the DigitalNC project, the Applications Analyst adjusted interfaces to aid in discovery and use of collections and objects. Both front-end DigitalNC.org Drupal templates as well as the original CONTENTdm templates were edited. Google Analytics and an "Add This" social networking button have informed interface changes by providing data such as click counts and the percentage of use from different devices and screen resolutions. A contact form has been added to solicit feedback from the user community.

Administrative Development

Back-end Drupal administrative components have also been adjusted to allow more fine-grained control over new content and contributor information. The Applications Analyst has worked with Library Systems staff to make sure that DigitalNC Drupal and CONTENTdm installations remain up-to-date, secure, and compliant with university policies and best practices for digital libraries.

Statistics

Items Online by Project and Contributor

Project / Contributor	Number of Items
Images of North Carolina	
Davie County Public Library	87
Masonic Home, Oxford	36
Elizabeth City State	110
Orange County Museum	34
UNC-Chapel Hill	19
Wilson County World War II	266
Durham Urban Renewal Records	415
NC College and University Yearbooks	743
Total	**1,710**

Scans Available Online (an item can contain many scans)

Project	Number of Scans
Images of North Carolina	398
Wilson County World War II	3,088
Durham Urban Renewal Records	584
NC College and University Yearbooks	176,013

Visitors to DigitalNC.org, May 17 through June 30

Unique visitors	2,554
Average visits per day	82.8
Visits from North Carolina	3,197
Total number of visits	3,726