



North Carolina

DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

Quarterly Report, April - June 2012

During the second quarter of 2012, North Carolina Digital Heritage Center staff continued work on existing collections, worked with vendors to outsource large digitization and markup projects, and held its annual advisory board meeting.

New Partners

Several organizations had materials published through the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center for the first time this quarter.

Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library (Clayton, N.C.)

The Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library, the town library for Clayton, N.C., holds a large collection of local history materials. The library worked with the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center to share online a small collection of historic photographs showing people, buildings, and events in Clayton in the early 20th century. Based on the success of this pilot effort, the Digital Heritage Center and the Hocutt-Ellington Library plan to work on additional projects in the future.

<http://digitalnc.org/institutions/hocutt-ellington-memorial-library-clayton-nc>

Pfeiffer University
Western Piedmont Community College
St. Mary's School

Randolph Community College Southeastern Community College

These schools all contributed student yearbooks to the **North Carolina Yearbooks** digital collection.

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

The Digital Heritage Center has worked with a total of 90 different partners to date.

Outreach and Presentations

Lesson Plans

LEARN NC has published its first two lesson plans featuring North Carolina Digital Heritage Center materials. The lessons were developed by Laina Stapleton, a student working on Digital Heritage Center materials for LEARN NC. Both are designed for 8th grade language arts and social studies students.

- “Life On a North Carolina Military Base in Wartime” explores the daily lives of soldiers and civilians at the Basic Training Camp in Greensboro during World War II using digitized copies of the base newspaper, contributed by the Greensboro Historical Museum. <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/7492>
- “This Day in Headlines” introduces students to primary source research by looking at the @ncnewspapers Twitter feed, which features a different historic headline from the North Carolina Newspapers collection every day <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/7497>

LEARN NC will publish more lesson plans as well as a series of podcasts featuring NC Digital Heritage Center materials later this summer.

Meetings and Visits

In April, Nicholas Graham and Maggie Dickson visited current and future partners in Hickory and Winston-Salem. They met with staff at the **Hickory Public Library** to talk about the

possibility of digitizing materials from the library's excellent local history and genealogy collection. As a result of these conversations, the Center will be digitizing selections from the library's vertical file on local businesses, as well as a set of early high school yearbooks.

Nick and Maggie also visited the **Forsyth County Public Library** to talk about digitization projects and the archives at **Winston-Salem State University**, where they looked at early trustee minutes to be digitized as part of a larger effort to document the founding and early histories of North Carolina's historically black colleges and universities.

In May, Nick and Maggie met with library staff from **Campbell University** to talk about newspaper digitization projects. The Campbell University Library is interested in expanding its own digitization efforts and wanted to visit the Digital Heritage Center to talk look at equipment, talk about standards and workflows for newspaper digitization, as well as strategies for publishing historic newspapers online. This was a productive meeting, and an example of how the Digital Heritage Center provides consulting services to libraries interested in doing their own digitization work.

Digital Collections

North Carolina Yearbooks

The student yearbook collection continues to be one of the most popular and most visible projects developed by the NC Digital Heritage Center. This quarter, yearbooks from several colleges and community colleges were digitized. Yearbooks from 56 different schools are now available through DigitalNC.org.

In addition to student yearbooks, the Digital Heritage Center is also working on course catalogs, literary journals, and other campus publications that have been selected by the holding institutions for their importance and interest to researchers. This quarter, campus publications

from **Fayetteville State University**, **Chowan University**, and **Carolina College** (a now-defunct school located in Maxton, N.C., contributed by **Methodist University**) were digitized and published online.

Over the course of the whole project, 880,751 pages from yearbooks and other non-newspaper campus periodicals have been digitized and made available online.

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

North Carolina Newspapers

This quarter, staff and students continued work on community and student newspapers, adding issues to community newspapers, working with vendors to digitize and markup newspapers on microfilm, and continuing to digitize student papers from the originals.

Graduate students working with the Digital Heritage Center organized and published online additional issues of the *Carolina Times* from Durham, the *Roanoke News* from Weldon, and *The Pilot* from Southern Pines. Students and staff also worked on the digitization of student newspapers, working on papers from **Elon University**, **Louisburg College**, and **UNC Wilmington**.

In late May, the local history librarian from the **Braswell Memorial Library** in Rocky Mount brought several issues of extremely rare papers from Spring Hope, N.C. These fragile papers, primarily from the early 20th century, are the only known copies of these newspapers to have survived. Digital Heritage Center staff digitized the papers right away so that the Rocky Mount librarian could take them back that afternoon and had them online within a few days.

This quarter the Digital Heritage Center also worked with two vendors to complete large digitization and markup projects for newspapers. More than 40 reels of microfilm were digitized by Creekside Digital, and the resulting digital files were shipped to iArchives, where staff there

captured descriptive metadata and marked it up using the Library of Congress's METS/ALTO standard for newspapers. This work will enable the Digital Heritage Center to publish a significant number of newspapers online this summer.

At the end of June 2012, the North Carolina Newspapers collection contained more than 11,000 issues of historic community and student papers, a total of more than 80,000 pages.

North Carolina Memory

There were a couple of significant additions to the North Carolina Memory Project this quarter. The Digital Heritage Center worked with the **Forsyth County Public Library** to digitize and publish online a large, handwritten tax book from Forsyth County in 1890. The 1890 records are especially valuable for genealogists and local historians due to the loss of much of the 1890 Census. The tax book is extremely fragile, so library staff had limited its use on site. By presenting it online, the Forsyth County Public Library is able to share this important document with a much wider audience while preserving the valuable original.

<http://digitalnc.org/institutions/forsyth-county-public-library>

Continuing a project started in early 2012, the Digital Heritage Center finished digitizing a set of early student exercise books from **Old Salem Museums & Gardens**. Twenty-one original volumes were digitized and published online this quarter. These manuscript books are primarily from the late 18th century and contain writings, drawings, and exercise in math and geometry. They offer a fascinating glimpse into educational practices in a Moravian school more than two hundred years ago.

<http://digitalnc.org/institutions/old-salem-museums-gardens>

North Carolina City Directories

The North Carolina City Directories collection continued to grow this quarter, with more directories from the North Carolina Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill digitized, along with directories contributed by the **Forsyth County Public Library** and the **Braswell Memorial Library** in Rocky Mount. There are currently 478 directories available in the collection, ranging in date from 1860 to 1950.

Special Projects

Advisory Board Meeting

The Advisory Board of the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center met on May 7, 2012, in Chapel Hill. Board members heard updates from Digital Heritage Center staff, discussed priorities for the Center, and talked about potential new projects. Two of the most significant developments to come out of the meeting were the decisions to begin digitization of historic high school yearbooks and to allow content partners for the newspaper project to present historic newspapers by year.

High School Yearbooks

Many of the Digital Heritage Center's current partners have expressed the desire to digitize historic high school yearbooks from their collections. As the college and university yearbook digitization project winds down, the Digital Heritage Center is able to consider different types of content for its monograph digitization services. Advisory board members agreed that digitized high school yearbooks would be popular with many users in North Carolina and that this would be an important and valuable service for the Digital Heritage Center to provide. However, due to the potential size of the project and concern for the privacy of students pictured in the yearbooks, only certain yearbooks will be considered for digitization: yearbooks must be held by a library or other cultural heritage institution open to the public and must be at least 50 years old. In initial

talks with potential partners, there appear to be plenty of volumes that will fit these criteria. The first high school yearbooks will be digitized and published online this summer.

Publishing Newspapers by Year

One of the most time-consuming (and therefore, most expensive) parts of the newspaper digitization process is capturing issue-level metadata. It takes a lot of work to examine every page of a historic paper and assign appropriate dates, page numbers, and file names. One possibility for speeding up this process significantly would be to present historic papers by year. Rather than selecting the specific issue they want to look at, users would be presented with an entire year's worth of papers in a single file and would browse or search for the dates and pages they needed. This would limit some of the advanced search options for users and would make some titles a little more cumbersome to use, but it would lead to much more content available online. Advisory Board members agreed that the Digital Heritage Center should pursue this option, giving content partners the option of deciding how papers nominated by their institution should be presented online.

Statistics

Items Online by Project

Project	Number of Items
Images of North Carolina	4,002
North Carolina Memory	1,718
North Carolina Newspapers (number of issues)	11,906
Durham Urban Renewal Records	1,535
North Carolina Yearbooks	4,808
North Carolina City Directories	478
Total	24,447

Visitors to DigitalNC.org, April 1 through June 30, 2012

Unique visitors	36,928
Average visits per day	580
Visits from North Carolina	30,662
Total number of visits	52,791
Total number of pageviews	254,009