North Carolina
DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

Quarterly Report, October – December 2014

In the fourth quarter of 2014, the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center presented at statewide conferences, visited partner libraries, launched a new newspaper viewer, and was awarded with a new grant, all while continuing to digitize materials from around the state.

New Partners

South Piedmont Community College
The library at South Piedmont Community College in Polkton contributed a large set of property maps and aerial photographs that document the landscape and property ownership in the region, primarily in the mid-20th century. These items were digitized using the large-format scanner available in the Digital Production Center at UNC. South Piedmont Community College is the first institution from Anson County to work with the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center.
http://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/south-piedmont-community-college/

Lexington Library
The public library in Lexington, part of the Davidson County Public Library System, brought 48 high school yearbooks to the Center for digitization. The yearbooks are from several different schools and span the years 1930 through 1965. The Lexington Library is our first partner institution from Davidson County.
http://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/lexington-library/

The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons in North Carolina
The Center worked with the archives at the Masonic Lodge in Raleigh to digitize a variety of historic materials from their collections, including catalogs, photographs, directories, scrapbooks, and other materials that document the history of this longstanding organization and its members. The large number of names in many of these items will make this a valuable collection for genealogists.

Caldwell Heritage Museum

The Caldwell Heritage Museum in Lenoir worked with the Center to digitize more than 50 high school yearbooks from the towns of Lenoir, Patterson, and Hudson. The yearbooks begin as early as 1912 (unusually old for a high school yearbook) and go through 1966. The Museum is the first institution from Caldwell County to work with the Digital Heritage Center.
http://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/caldwell-heritage-museum/

North Davidson Public Library

The North Davidson Public Library in Welcome, part of the Davidson County Public Library System, contributed six yearbooks (1959-1964) from North Davidson High School for digitization.
http://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/north-davidson-public-library/

Thomasville Public Library

The Thomasville Public Library, also part of the Davidson County Public Library System, brought eleven yearbooks from Fair Grove High School for digitization. The yearbooks are from 1948 through 1961.
http://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/thomasville-public-library/

Richmond County Public Library

The Richmond County Public Library in Rockingham contributed high school yearbooks from Ellerbe and Hamlet for digitization. These cover the years 1950 through 1964.
http://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/richmond-county-public-library/

Ongoing Projects

In addition to work with the new partners listed above, the Center continued work digitizing and publishing online materials from many of its current partners, including: scrapbooks and photographs from the **Oliver Nestus Freeman Round House Museum** in Wilson; large bound aerial photos, ledgers, and manuscripts from the **Stanly County Museum**; photos, booklets, and programs from the **Old Jamestown High School Association**; scrapbooks and campus publications from **Randolph Community College**; the Ecusta Mill company newspaper from

the **Transylvania County Library**; the *Tribunal Aid*, an African American newspaper from the **High Point Museum**; photos from **Edgecombe Memorial Library**; scrapbooks, yearbooks, and a ledger from **Rockingham County Public Library;** historic photos from **Harnett County Public Library**; photos, scrapbooks, and Rotary Club materials from the **Montgomery County Public Library**; and yearbooks and scrapbooks from the **Granville County Public Library.**

The Digital Heritage Center worked with **18 different partners** this quarter.

News

On the Road

Staff from the Digital Heritage Center continued their participation in the Fabulous Fridays one-day conferences sponsored by the North Carolina Library Association. Lisa Gregory presented at the conference in Charlotte, and Lisa and Nicholas Graham presented at the event in Fayetteville. Both sessions were well attended, primarily by staff from public libraries.

Digital Heritage Center staff visited current and potential partners this quarter at the **Olivia Raney Library** (part of the Wake County Public Library system) in Raleigh, the Masonic archives at the **Grand Lodge of North Carolina** in Raleigh, and **Guilford Technical Community College** in Jamestown.

Heritage Center Receives Grant from the Digital Public Library of America

In December, we were happy to announce that the Center received a $75,000 grant from the Digital Public Library of America. The grant was awarded as part of the DPLA's "Digital Hubs" project, funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. The grant funds will enable the Center to temporarily increase its staff, thereby expanding the amount of work that we will be able to do for our partner organizations.

Andrea Green was hired as the Community Digitization Project Manager in December and is helping to coordinate the work being done with the DPLA funds. Andrea is managing digitization and has already completed projects from several institutions around the state.

http://blogs.lib.unc.edu/news/index.php/2014/12/grant-to-unc-library-will-expand-digitization-of-historic-materials-across-north-carolina/

Migrating the North Carolina Newspapers Collection to New Software

The Center began a major transition for the North Carolina Newspapers collection this quarter. Since its launch more than four years ago, the newspaper collection has been available using OCLC's CONTENTdm content management system. As the collection grew (it currently contains more than 300,000 pages), both staff and users were becoming frustrated by the increasingly slow and unreliable performance of the software. After significant research into alternatives and conversations with other libraries that are hosting major newspaper collections, the Center decided to move our newspaper collections to the Chronicling America Newspaper Viewer, open source software developed by the Library of Congress and used by other libraries around the country.

Following a substantial amount of work last spring and summer, the first titles were moved to the new software and made available to the public in early October. Since then, the majority of the community papers that the Center has worked on have been moved. We are currently in the process of migrating the college newspapers that we have digitized. Although we have only been using the new software for a few months, we are already seeing a much improved user experience, both in the speed and reliability of the software. We have received several unsolicited positive responses from users of the website.

While the newspaper migration has involved a lot of work from Stephanie Williams and Lisa Gregory, it has been worth it. The newspaper collection on DigitalNC is one of the most heavily-used sections of the website and it is very important that we provide users with the best experience possible. However, this process has also demonstrated that as the DigitalNC.org website continues to grow, staff members will have to spend an increasing amount of their time on technical issues involved with maintaining and upgrading the complex systems that we use. We are making every effort to ensure that this work causes as little disruption as possible, both to the availability of our website and to our continued work digitizing and publishing online new materials from our partners.

http://www.digitalnc.org/collections/newspapers/

Harnett County Library Digital Images

The Center worked with the Harnett County Library this quarter on a project to migrate a large collection of digital images. The library had digitized more than 1,000 images from its local

history collection. Many of the photos were shared online through the library's catalog, but staff in Harnett County were finding the system increasingly complicated to maintain and were concerned that researchers were not able to locate the photos that they needed. Staff from the Digital Heritage Center worked closely with the Harnett County Library to export all of the existing metadata and transfer the images so that they could be added to DigitalNC.org.

All of the Harnett County images are now easily searchable and viewable in the Images of North Carolina collection on DigitalNC. This was the first large-scale migration of an existing collection that the Heritage Center worked on with a partner library. This is an important service that the Center makes available to North Carolina institutions. While our primary focus is on digitizing materials from rare and often fragile originals, it is important to remember that digital collections can also be at risk. We were very pleased to be able to help Harnett County revive their digital photo collection and share it with a wider audience.

http://www.digitalnc.org/blog/large-collection-of-harnett-county-public-library-photos-now-on-digitalnc/

Digital Public Library of America

The Center serves as the statewide service hub for North Carolina for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). This quarter, the DPLA took a temporary harvest hiatus while upgrading infrastructure. During this hiatus, we talked with Davidson College about adding their content to the DPLA.

The Digital Heritage Center is currently sharing metadata from 14 different libraries and archives, bringing in content from a total of 166 different institutions. Combined, these institutions are sharing more than 260,000 records with the DPLA.

Statistics

Items Online by Project

Project	Number of Objects	Number of Pages (Scans)
Images of North Carolina	8,975	9,533
North Carolina Memory	3,544	119,761
North Carolina Newspapers (number of issues)	46,403	338,894
North Carolina Yearbooks		
College and University Yearbooks	4,153	692,489
Other Campus Publications	4,195	589,315
High School Yearbooks	2,145	219,565
North Carolina City Directories	947	518,666
Total	70,362	2,758,223

Visitors to DigitalNC.org, October 1 through December 31, 2014

Unique visitors	71,461
Average sessions per day	1,134
Sessions from North Carolina	56,796
Total number of sessions	104,354
Total number of page views	554,628