



North Carolina

DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

Quarterly Report, January – March 2012

During the first quarter of 2012, North Carolina Digital Heritage Center staff expanded outreach activities, continued digitization of a broad range of materials, and completed a significant technical upgrade.

New Partners

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

Chatham County Historical Association

The Chatham County Historical Association, located in Pittsboro, holds a collection of more than 800 African American funeral programs. These programs, largely from Chatham and surrounding counties, contain photographs and detailed biographical information, making them important sources for anyone studying family and community history. This collection complements the growing number of resources on DigitalNC.org that document North Carolina's African American communities.

<http://digitalnc.org/exhibits/chatham-county-funeral-programs>

Old Salem Museums & Gardens

The Digital Heritage Center digitized ten 18th-century school exercise books held by the archives at Old Salem Museums & Gardens. These volumes contain handwriting and drawing

exercises from students at the Moravian school in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. They give an interesting glimpse into educational practices in the late 1700s and are fascinating volumes on their own. The Digital Heritage Center will work on additional volumes from Old Salem later this spring.

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

Piedmont Aviation Historical Society

The Piedmont Aviation Historical Society, based in Winston-Salem, documents the history of Piedmont Airlines, the North Carolina-based airline that served the southeast from the 1940s through the 1980s. One of the most important and heavily-used holdings of the Historical Society is a full run of the *Piedmonitor*, the Piedmont employee magazine. The Digital Heritage Center worked with the Historical Society and with the current owner of the airline, US Airways, to obtain permission to digitize this title. More than 350 issues were digitized and published on DigitalNC.org. The *Piedmonitors* give an interesting glimpse into the culture of air travel in the mid-20th-century.

<http://digitalnc.org/institutions/piedmont-aviation-historical-society>

The Digital Heritage Center has worked with a total of 83 different partners to date.

Outreach and Presentations

SNCA

Digital Heritage staff members and students were active at the **Society of North Carolina Archivists** annual meeting, held March 29-30 in Greensboro. Maggie Dickson gave a talk on determining the copyright status for post-1923 publications, Nicholas Graham moderated a

session on crowdsourcing strategies in libraries and archives, and graduate students Liz Johns and Jackie Chapman presented a poster about newspaper digitization.

LEARN NC

The Digital Heritage Center and LEARN NC, the statewide K-12 teacher resource site based at the School of Education at UNC-Chapel Hill, have begun working together on a project to promote and interpret digitized primary sources for students and teachers in North Carolina. Laina Stapleton, a student in the School of Information and Library Science at UNC-Chapel Hill, was hired to work with LEARN NC where she will focus on outreach to K-12 teachers with an emphasis on using materials from DigitalNC.org in the classroom. Laina has already prepared a series of podcasts designed to introduce teachers to some of the resources available on DigitalNC. These will be available through the LEARN NC website at [<http://www.learnnc.org>] later this spring.

Twitter

The Digital Heritage Center began promoting the North Carolina Newspapers collection on Twitter beginning January 1. Each day, a historic headline from that day in history is posted. This has been an interesting and fun way to introduce users to the variety of newspapers available on DigitalNC.org. The Twitter account, @ncnewspapers, has a steadily-growing group of followers (127 at the end of March).

Meetings and Visits

In January, Nicholas Graham traveled to Madison to meet with staff members from the **Rockingham County Public Library**, **Rockingham Community College**, and the **Rockingham County Historical Society**. These organizations are in the early stages of planning for a collaborative digitization project. The Digital Heritage Center will likely work

with these groups, and others in the county, on a community-wide effort to digitize historic materials and share the history of Rockingham County online. Additional meetings and visits are planned for later this year.

Nicholas Graham and Maggie Dickson went to Pittsboro to meet with volunteers from the **Chatham County Historical Association** and to discuss potential projects, possibly in conjunction with the re-opening of the historic Chatham County courthouse, where the Historical Association will be based after renovations are completed.

Staff members had additional discussions and consultations over the phone with new and potential partners, including **UNC-Wilmington** and the **Hickory Public Library**.

Digital Collections

North Carolina College and University Yearbooks

The college and university 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 **Methodist University** and **Gaston College** were digitized. Yearbooks from 51 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 **Campbell University**, **Chowan University**, **Davidson College**, **Guilford College**, **Montreat College**, **North Carolina Wesleyan College**, **St. Andrews University**, and **Salem College** were digitized and published online.

Over the course of the whole project, 820,905 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

The North Carolina Newspapers digital project is quickly becoming the largest and most complicated collection that the Digital Heritage Center is working on. This quarter, staff and students continued work on community and student newspapers, adding several new titles that were digitized from microfilm, and digitizing a large number of papers from the originals.

Several new titles have been published online since the beginning of 2012, including the *Fayetteville Observer*, notable in that it includes the Civil War years, with excellent coverage of North Carolina's role in the war; the *Mecklenburg Jeffersonian* from Charlotte; the *Sylvan Valley News* from Brevard; and the *Mebane Leader*.

In addition to work on these titles, the Digital Heritage Center collaborated with the UNC-Chapel Hill Digital Innovation Lab [<http://digitalinnovation.unc.edu/>] on the digitization of the *Charlotte News*, a daily paper from 1911. The Digital Innovation Lab paid for the digitization and provided student labor to capture metadata and help with digital publishing. The resulting digital files were published on DigitalNC.org as part of the North Carolina Newspapers project. This was a pilot project to experiment with the idea of working on digitization funded by outside sources. The project was a qualified success: while the work went quickly and the resulting online resource will be of great benefit to all researchers, this process did still require some work from Digital Heritage Center staff. As the Center addresses the possibility of additional projects like this in the future as a way of meeting the high demand for digitized historic newspapers, staff members will need to be careful to ensure that work funded from outside sources does not take a significant amount of time away from ongoing, "regular" digitization work.

Staff members, and especially student assistants, worked on several college papers this quarter. More than 850 issues of student papers from the **Brevard College** Archives have been digitized and are now online. These range in date from 1924 to 2011 and include a few papers from **Weaver College** and **Rutherford College**, small mountain schools that later became part of Brevard. Students also worked on the digitization of student papers from **St. Andrews University** in Laurinburg. More than 7,500 student newspaper pages were digitized this quarter.

To date the Center has published online over 60,000 pages of student and community newspapers.

Special Projects

CONTENTdm Upgrade

In late March, Stephanie Williams, the programmer for the Digital Heritage Center worked with the UNC-Chapel Hill University Library Systems department to migrate the Center's content management system from CONTENTdm version 5.4 to version 6.1. This required a significant amount of work to ensure that all of the images and data were successfully moved to the new system, and to make sure that the website was working properly for all users. There was a brief period during the upgrade when the website was unavailable, but service was quickly restored and users were able to get to the materials they needed.

CONTENTdm version 6.1 offers some improvements to the user interface, such as allowing for tags and comments to be added to digital images, but also presents new challenges to systems administrators. Staff members in the Digital Heritage Center and UNC-Chapel Hill Library Systems will continue to monitor the performance of the new software and make adjustments as necessary.

Statewide Federated Search

This quarter, the Digital Heritage Center staff worked with colleagues at NC LIVE and the State Library of North Carolina on the development of a statewide federated search system for North Carolina digital collections. The primary goal of the project is to enable users to search, through a single interface, the contents of digital collections at multiple institutions.

The statewide federated search harvests metadata from OAI (Open Archives Initiative) feeds from selected collections published by the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center, the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, and UNC-Chapel Hill, and presents the results in a custom interface. Stephanie Williams worked closely with a programmer at NC LIVE to develop the system.

The statewide search was presented in March to the NC LIVE Librarians Council, where it was very positively received. The project is now moving to a pilot phase, with plans to include metadata from additional institutions. If that effort is successful, the partners in the development of the search system will make plans for a public launch.

A statewide search system has been discussed for many years in North Carolina, especially as a component of the NC ECHO program. This is an exciting development that builds upon more than a decade of digital project work in North Carolina.

Historically Black College and University Digitization Project

After successful efforts to digitize student yearbooks and newspapers from many of North Carolina's historically black colleges and universities, the Digital Heritage Center will expand this effort to include selected manuscript and archival materials. The Center will also develop a shared portal for this material at DigitalNC.org.

This project will build upon work already completed by the North Carolina African American Archives Group, which surveyed holdings at all eleven of North Carolina's HBCUs and identified priorities for digitization. The Digital Heritage Center will work with selected schools on the digitization of early trustee minutes, and will also experiment with digitizing highlights from the manuscript collection at Saint Augustine's College.

Statistics

Items Online by Project

Project	Number of Items
Images of North Carolina	3,894
North Carolina Memory	1,498
North Carolina Newspapers (number of issues)	5,540
Durham Urban Renewal Records	1,535
NC College and University Yearbooks (all schools)	4,322
North Carolina City Directories	382
Total	17,171

Visitors to DigitalNC.org, January 1 through March 31, 2012

Unique visitors	31,227
Average visits per day	495
Visits from North Carolina	28,549
Total number of visits	45,086
Total number of pageviews	252,310