



North Carolina

DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

Quarterly Report

APRIL – JUNE 2020

This quarter the Digital Heritage Center welcomed a new staff member, celebrated DigitalNC.org's 10th birthday, and worked entirely off site while the University remained closed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

New Partners

DUNN AREA HISTORY MUSEUM

Dunn Area History Museum works to document the history of Dunn, NC and the surrounding area. Through exhibits, social media, and preservation work they share this history with the community. The first batch DigitalNC did for the museum was to digitize 1,134 issues of the *Dunn Daily Record*, covering 1950 to 1956. It is one of the few daily papers available on DigitalNC.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/dunn-area-history-museum>

LITTLE RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Little River Historical Society is located in Zebulon, NC, a part of the Little River watershed in Wake County. The mostly rural area has many small communities including Rosinburg, Wakefield, Hopkins, Pearces, Riley, Sutton, Pilot, Rocky Cross, Middlesex, Lees Chapel, Earpsboro, Lizard Lick, and Wendell with a rich history. With the growth in population and suburban development in eastern Wake County the past few decades, many of these small communities have been annexed by larger towns such as Zebulon and the work of the Society is important to help keep the memory of the communities alive. The first batch we did for the society were issues of the *Zebulon Record*.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/little-river-historical-society>

PAMLICO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Pamlico Community College is the 30th community college to join DigitalNC, meaning we now have representation from over half of NC's community college system. The first batch we did for Pamlico was their course catalogs, an important resource

to have digitized for community colleges as former students often use these and often do not have the ability to easily get back to campus if they have moved from the area.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/pamlico-community-college>

TYRRELL COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tyrrell County Public Library, part of the larger Pettigrew Regional Library, is located in the eastern part of the state in Columbia, NC right along the Scuppernong River. Their first batches with us were two local newspapers that they nominated for digitization, the *Tyrrell County Herald* and the *Tyrrell Tribune*.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/tyrrell-county-public-library>

Ongoing Projects

Nicole Cvjetnic and Lulu Zilinskas digitized and published online materials from many of the Center's current partners, including:

- College yearbooks and course catalogs from **Chowan University, Fayetteville State University, Johnson C. Smith University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and University of North Carolina at Pembroke**
- A newspaper from Johnson Air Force Base from **Wayne County Public Library**
- Photographs from **Johnston Community College**
- Scrapbooks from **Nash Community College**
- High school yearbooks from **Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, Currituck County Public Library, Forsyth County Public Library, Marianna Black Library (Bryson City, N.C.), University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Tyrrell County Public Library, and Wendell Historical Society**
- Community newspapers from **Johnson C. Smith University**

- Microfilmed community newspapers from **Olivia Raney Local History Library, Polk County Public Library, and Wayne County Public Library**

The Center worked with a total of **18 different partners** during this quarter. To learn more about each of these projects, or to keep up with new items added to DigitalNC, check out the DigitalNC blog.

On the Virtual Road

We miss traveling, but were pleased to attend some virtual events during this quarter. Kristen, Stephanie and Lulu took part in Digital Commonwealth's Annual Conference in April. Kristen also presented on metadata work during the Best Practices Exchange virtual conference in May. We conducted our first ever virtual Advisory Board meeting in June!

Working Remotely During COVID-19 Quarantine

Since the University closed to on-site work on March 20, NCDHC staff have been working remotely. We're disappointed not to continue scanning, but this time has given us an opportunity to catch up on back burner projects, and it's also allowed us to get creative with ways to improve DigitalNC and increase access to our partners' collections. Here are a couple of featured projects from this quarter.

ACCESSIBILITY OF AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS

In April, we welcomed Ashlie Brewer as our new Digitization Technician. She's joining us during a very interesting time, but has hit the ground running. Kristen has been training her on our metadata procedures. In addition, she has been improving the accessibility of DigitalNC's moving image collection by generating and correcting captions! From April - June, she has completely captioned 41 moving images files. We are grateful for her work and glad to have her on the team.

WORK FROM HOME PROJECTS FOR UNC LIBRARIES STAFF

In early March, when it became apparent that UNC-Chapel Hill staff would be off campus for a while, we joined a team of other UNC Libraries staff to prepare projects that would allow people to work from home, regardless of their on-campus job duties. One of the first things that came to mind was transcription. Last Fall, Stephanie proposed a pilot project using Zooniverse for manuscript transcription. Zooniverse



QUARANTINE CLUB

MOTTO—Dance, chat, and be patriotic, for tomorrow we study.
 CHIEF OCCUPATION—Soldiering
 AIM—To extend the Quarantine
 FLOWER—Wallflower (?)
 SONG—"Merrily We Roll Along"

From The Edelweiss, Queens University of Charlotte, 1918.

Project Highlight

PANDEMIC HISTORY, IN YEARBOOKS

We often talk about how you never know what you might find in the materials on DigitalNC but we have to admit we never thought that items on the 1918 flu pandemic would prove to be so relevant in 2020. In May, our graduate assistant Lulu, who as a student in the School of Library and Information Science program is being affected not only in her work life but school life too during this time, took a deep dive into the yearbook collection to see if those yearbooks from 1918-1920 had any discussion of the Spanish Flu pandemic and its impact on students' lives. In short, Lulu found plenty of commentary from the students of the late 1910s on how the pandemic altered their lives at school and home. We encourage you to take a look at the blog post and see how history really can feel like the present sometimes:

<https://www.digitalnc.org/blog/quarantine-club-a-retrospective-of-the-1918-influenza-pandemic-through-north-carolina-students>

is a web-based platform that's used all over the globe to crowdsource annotations for digital images. The project was officially published at Zooniverse.org in February, asking volunteers to provide typed text of handwritten documents. The call for work from home projects provided the perfect opportunity to ramp up this experiment. We added large sets

of handwritten documents and asked staff to transcribe them. Thanks to the interest of staff working from home, Stephanie received enough data to develop and test a process for loading Zooniverse transcripts back into our content management system. This allows the handwriting to be searchable and for transcriptions to be downloaded as a text file.

We also wanted to make our audiovisual content more accessible. While many of the oral histories available on our site have transcripts, many do not. We asked staff to listen to oral histories and provide brief summaries so that users can quickly figure out the subjects discussed in an audio file.

Between April - June 2020, we provided work for 58 UNC Libraries staff (both student workers and permanent staff) who in turn gifted us with 5,607 transcriptions of handwritten text, and 108 oral history descriptions.

In addition, our graduate student, Lulu, has been working on generating automatic transcriptions for oral histories and correcting the transcripts to make sure they are accurate. She has generated 120 transcripts in addition to other metadata projects mentioned below.

We're excited to add all of this additional content to DigitalNC, and to make the images and audiovisual files more accessible for all users.

MAKING METADATA MORE EQUITABLE

In January of this year, we published a blog post that talked through changes we were making to our metadata practices related to gender. Focused specifically on the description (or lack thereof) of women and children in photographs, this effort helped to more equitably represent all individuals without privileging the men. Since that time, we've been working towards other practices we can use on a daily basis as we take the information our partners entrust to us and put it in a format sharable to the world.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/blog/we-can-do-better-making-our-metadata-more-equitable>

While working from home, our graduate student Lulu researched the current state of "conscious editing" in libraries, archives, and museums, looking for things we could adopt. Thanks to her research and efforts, we no longer guess about the gender of people in photographs on DigitalNC. We are explicitly stating all races when we know them for sure and omitting them otherwise. We will be using active voice instead of passive. You can read more about Lulu's efforts to remediate some of our metadata in the blog post she wrote for us:

<https://www.digitalnc.org/blog/moving-forward-with-equitable-metadata-changing-exclusive-terminology>

This work is an ongoing process that we will continue to refine and grow. We'll be working closely with colleagues in UNC Libraries as they address many of the same biases.

Technology Update

In addition to regular maintenance activities, Stephanie worked this quarter to update the software and systems used to support NCDHC's work as the North Carolina service hub for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA): our updated aggregator now runs in the cloud! In addition, Stephanie developed the first "draft" of a tool that gives our data providers an overview of the records they're submitting to <https://dp.la>. We hope this tool will be useful in identifying metadata errors that may prevent records from appearing in DPLA's catalog in advance of each biannual harvest.

Consultations

For this statistic, we're counting NCDHC full-time staff consulting on NCDHC services, digitization, digital publication or another related topic. These consultations are substantive, last at least 10-15 minutes, can take place virtually or in person, and do not include presentations or workshops.

Examples this quarter include talking to a few other organizations about TIND and working with an architectural historian interested in some digital resources.

TOTAL CONSULTATIONS: 9

Statistics

ITEMS PUBLISHED ONLINE TO DATE

Collection	Number of Objects	Number of Files
Images of North Carolina	24,173	40,149
North Carolina Memory <i>Includes Urban Renewal Collection</i>	9,137	324,970
North Carolina Yearbooks		
College and University Yearbooks	4,445	835,462
Other Campus Publications	5,736	792,699
High School Yearbooks	4,014	458,976
North Carolina City Directories	1,021	551,824
North Carolina Sights & Sounds	699	1,083
Total	49,225	3,005,163

Collection	Titles	Issues	Number of Pages (Scans)
North Carolina Newspapers	459	150,942	1,315,478

VISITORS TO DIGITALNC.ORG, APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2020

Unique visitors	93,473
Average sessions per day	2,010
Total number of sessions	175,534
Sessions from North Carolina	106,735
Total number of page views	1,184,977

VIEWS OF DIGITIZED MATERIAL AVAILABLE THROUGH ARCHIVE.ORG, APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2020

367,527

NORTH CAROLINA DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

<https://www.digitalnc.org>

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