



North Carolina

DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

Quarterly Report

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2020

This quarter the Digital Heritage Center continued to navigate work during a pandemic, presented virtually to partners and other stakeholders, contributed over 580,000 records to DPLA as part of a biannual harvest, and made progress on a replacement for our current newspaper software.

New Partners

J. T. BARBER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

We were excited to add another alumni association to our partner list with the J.T. Barber Alumni Association. J.T. Barber High School was the Black high school for New Bern from 1955 to 1971, closing following integration of New Bern and Craven County schools. It was preceded by West Street Graded School, which was the first free public education school in New Bern for African Americans, opening in 1905. John Thomas Barber was the first principal of West Street Graded School and the namesake of J.T. Barber High School. Both schools played an important role in the Black community in New Bern for much of the 20th century. We digitized yearbooks dating from 1948 to 1971, as well as student newspapers and photographs for the Alumni Association.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/j-t-barber-alumni-association>

Ongoing Projects

We aren't currently taking new materials for digitization, but have been able to work on materials dropped off before we began quarantine and digital materials submitted to us directly from partners. Here are the items digitized and published online by Ashlie Brewer, Lulu Zilinskas, and Kristen Merryman:

- Oral histories from **Methodist University***, **Mount Airy Museum of Regional History**, and **Surry Community College**

- A transcript of a diary from **Chatham County Public Library**
- Photographs from **Johnson C. Smith University**
- High school yearbooks from **Tyrrell County Public Library**
- Video and audio recordings from **Appalachian State University***
- Materials related to college history from **Pamlico Community College**
- A book on Wake County history from **Olivia Raney Local History Library**
- Microfilmed newspapers for **Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library**, **Swannanoa Valley Museum and History Center**, and **Trenton Public Library**

The Center worked with a total of **13 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.

** Items converted to digital thanks to a joint project with the Southern Folklife Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries, funded by the Mellon Foundation.*

On the Virtual Road

One of the positive sides of quarantine is that many conferences and learning opportunities have transitioned to virtual, making it easier for more staff to attend and/or present. During this quarter, one or more staff members attended each of the following virtual events: TRLN (Triangle Research Library Network) annual meeting, the National Digital Newspaper Program annual meeting, Talking White: An anti-oppression view towards transcribing Black narrators webinar, and the AASLH (American Association for State and Local History) annual meeting. Presentations were given at an NCLA (North Carolina Library Association) conference, for the Southern

Historical Collection's Archives Seedlings program, for a UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries Brown Bag Lunch, for the J. T. Barber Alumni Association (read more under Project Highlight) and at a Wilson Library Special Collections Learning Forum. All NCDHC staff have taken part in the UNC Libraries' book discussion series on Ibram X. Kendi's book *How to be an Anti-Racist*.

Project Highlight

J.T. BARBER VIRTUAL REUNION

Over Labor Day weekend our new partener, the J. T. Barber Alumni Association, met for a virtual reunion celebrating the 50th anniversary of the last senior class at J. T. Barber High School. J. T. Barber and its predecessor, West Street School, were the Black high schools in New Bern.

NCDHC staff hosted the meeting on Zoom, where class members reminisced about their time as students. Over 100 students and family members attended.

There was a presentation about school history and representatives from specific class years shared memories. During the reunion we shared how to view the yearbooks and other materials we've scanned for them. We were glad to provide this avenue for the alumni to get together until they're able to meet again in person.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/blog/materials-from-new-berns-j-t-barber-alumni-association-are-now-available-on-digitalnc>

Working During COVID-19 Quarantine

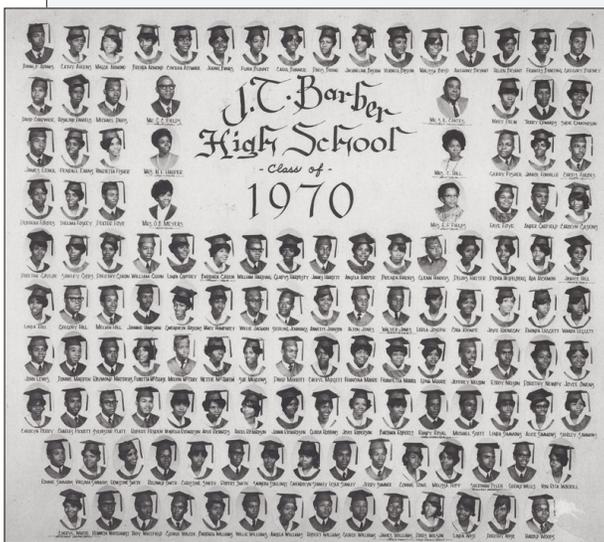
Beginning in August, one NCDHC staff member has been returning on site to scan each week on a three week rotation to help keep everyone safe. This isn't close to our usual capacity, but it does mean we've been able to resume scanning of materials. In addition to our onsite work, we continue to work remotely. Here are some updates about what's been happening.

ACCESSIBILITY OF AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS

As mentioned in our previous quarterly report, we've been using time working from home to increase the accessibility of audiovisual content on DigitalNC.org by providing transcripts and captions as appropriate. Lulu Zilinskas has transcribed seventeen oral histories. Ashlie Brewer has captioned fourteen additional videos, including the first recording of a Zoom conference to be loaded to DigitalNC.

WORK FROM HOME PROJECTS FOR UNC LIBRARIES STAFF

We continue to provide work from home opportunities for UNC Libraries' staff beyond NCDHC, through Zooniverse, a crowdsourcing platform. Stephanie doubled the extent of the images available for transcription on Zooniverse to ensure continued content for all staff who need it, and has processed many completed record transcriptions back into DigitalNC collections for searching. UNC Libraries' staff have transcribed 629 pages of handwritten content. Each of these pages were transcribed three times to help ensure accuracy making the actual total pages transcribed 1,887!



LEFT *J.T. Barber High School Class of 1970.*

ABOVE *Lisa joins members of J.T. Barber High School's last graduating class as they participate in a virtual reunion.*

Technology Update

Even though we weren't in our offices, visits to DigitalNC collections this quarter saw as much as a 30% increase in online visitors this quarter over the same period last year! Stephanie continues to work remotely maintaining and improving DigitalNC systems.

TIND UPDATES

This quarter, NCDHC staff tested two major updates to TIND, the content management system used to organize and publish all non-newspaper content to DigitalNC.org. As an early-access partner, NCDHC receives TIND updates sooner in exchange for our willingness to assess new feature implementations and document issues.

COMING SOON: NEWSPAPER IMPROVEMENTS

Stephanie began working with UNC Libraries' infrastructure team on a major overhaul of DigitalNC's newspaper systems. Migrating newspaper content to our own instance of Open ONI (<https://open-oni.github.io/>) on an updated server will increase accessibility, maintainability, and performance for the North Carolina Newspapers collection, with highly-anticipated improvements: get ready for full-color images!

This quarter saw all 1.3 million newspaper pages migrated to the new system and several rounds of user experience modifications. We expect that the new system will be publicly available in Q₄ of this year.

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 with developers of open newspaper software about security improvements and explaining NCDHC workflows to a potential community college partner.

TOTAL CONSULTATIONS: 4

Statistics

ITEMS PUBLISHED ONLINE TO DATE

Collection	Number of Objects	Number of Files
Images of North Carolina	24,213	40,149
North Carolina Memory <i>Includes Urban Renewal Collection</i>	9,190	327,788
North Carolina Yearbooks		
College and University Yearbooks	4,445	835,462
Other Campus Publications	5,736	792,699
High School Yearbooks	4,051	462,494
North Carolina City Directories	1,021	551,824
North Carolina Sights & Sounds	789	1,111
Total	49,445	3,011,567

Collection	Titles	Issues	Number of Pages (Scans)
North Carolina Newspapers	461	151,459	1,322,903

VISITORS TO DIGITALNC.ORG, JULY 1 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Unique visitors	91,739
Average sessions per day	1,937
Total number of sessions	170,903
Sessions from North Carolina	104,904
Total number of page views	1,194,478

VIEWS OF DIGITIZED MATERIAL AVAILABLE THROUGH ARCHIVE.ORG, JULY 1 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

345,257

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<https://www.digitalnc.org>

digitalnc@unc.edu

(919) 962-4836