This quarter Digital Heritage Center staff continued to attend and present at virtual conferences and meetings, and received supplemental grant funding to support digitization of African American newspapers.

New Partners

CLEAR RUN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

We were excited to add another alumni association this quarter with a batch of yearbooks and graduation portraits. Clear Run High School, in Garland, NC, was only open for twelve years (1957-1969), but has a very dedicated alumni group that is still quite active. Prior to 1957, Garland Colored and Bland High School served Sampson County's southeastern Black population. The county's Board of Education decided to consolidate the two smaller high schools, purchasing land for the new school in November of 1956. Eleven months later Clear Run High School opened its doors. As a result of the integration in 1969, Clear Run High School students were moved to Union High School while the Clear Run building was converted to a middle school. The building operated as Clear Run Middle School until it was permanently closed in the 1980s. According to our contact at the Association, there have been attempts to preserve the school building but they are unlikely to succeed. She stated that their ability to have an online presence on DigitalNC allows them to show that the community built at Clear Run existed and still exists today.

https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/clear-run-high-school-alumni-association/

Ongoing Projects

Lulu Zilinskas, Ashlie Brewer, and Kristen Merryman digitized and published online materials from many of the Center's current partners, including:

- High school yearbooks from Burke County Public Library, Cape Fear Museum, the George H. and Laura E. Brown Library, Haywood County Public Library, Person County Public Library, Randolph County Public Library, Stanly County Museum, and Surry Community College
- Print, microfilmed, and born-digital newspapers from Brevard College, Forsyth County Public Library, History Committee of the Town of Pine Knoll Shores, New Hanover County Public Library, and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Photographs and scrapbooks from Mitchell Community College
- Photographs digitized by Chapel Hill Historical Society
- Yearbooks and photographs from Johnston County Heritage Center
- Architectural materials and newspapers from Edgecombe County Memorial Library
- In partnership with the Southern Folklife Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, audiovisual materials from The Forest History Society and Mars Hill University
- Photographs from Central Carolina Community College
- Scrapbooks digitized by staff and volunteers at Transylvania County Library
- Photographs, minute books, and other documents from the First Baptist Church of New Bern in partnership with New Bern-Craven County Public Library

The Center worked with a total of 23 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.
Presentations, Conferences and Committees

Spring brought a number of opportunities to participate in online presentations and collaborate with a variety of partners on different projects despite staff still working primarily from their homes. Kristen Merryman presented to a UNC-Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science Class on geographic metadata in digital collections. She also worked with the North Carolina African American Archives Working Group, a multi-institutional group trying to get a sense of where African American historical documents and items might be stored around the state. All NCDHC staff participated in the UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries’ library-wide reading of Ibram X. Kendi’s book How to Be an Antiracist. Staff also attended the LAUNC-CH (Library Association at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) conference, which had the theme “Imagining a New Normal: Working Through Change and Changing Our Work.” Stephanie attended Code4Lib’s 2021 virtual conference and participated in Wikimedia Foundation’s #1lib1ref citation drive through UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries.

Grant-Funded Initiatives

This quarter NCDHC received word from UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries that two IDEA (Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility) grants we proposed or helped propose were going to be funded. IDEA grants are internal awards that support the Libraries’ Reckoning Initiative, which seeks to examine and reform or dismantle Library structures and procedures that inhibit equity. One grant will provide funding for newspaper digitization, including early issues of the Star of Zion (Charlotte, N.C.) and a missing year of The Carolina Times (Durham, N.C.). The other grant, a partnership with UNC-Chapel Hill’s Southern Folklife Collection and the Repository Services Department, will involve work with a consultant to learn about creating equitable and inclusive transcriptions of oral history recordings, specifically oral histories of Black interviewees. The training will help staff create realistic and equitable guidelines for increasing access through transcription without censoring the authentic voices and narratives of the speakers.
Over the past year, NCDHC has been partnering with the State Archives of North Carolina and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro on a grant from the State Historical Records Advisory Board, “Preserving and Sharing Community Histories Online.” This grant provides funding to offer training and guidance to individual cultural heritage institutions, both through a series of online videos and one-on-one visits. Although quarantine has delayed some of the planned in-person activities, this quarter the grant team released a series of videos on the basics of archives and digitization. The eight videos (https://go.unc.edu/Ha3c9) are each four to eight minutes long and cover topics like arrangement and description, policies, and digitization basics. The team also reviewed the nominations to select a final list of participants. Next quarter we will be talking with the organizations we hope to visit either virtually or in-person later this year.

Technology Update

This quarter, Stephanie continued to make incremental improvements to DigitalNC’s new newspaper platform, Open ONI; user feedback led to browse enhancements and more-robust image clipping capabilities. She continues to participate in Open ONI’s developer community and was asked to contribute in an advisory capacity on planning for Open ONI’s next round of grant-funded development.

This January’s DPLA harvest provided an opportunity to further streamline the Digital Heritage Center’s DPLA AWS metadata repository and the tools used to gather submission statistics and assess incoming feeds for required information. In addition, Stephanie continued to monitor and process handwriting transcriptions completed through the Digital Heritage Center’s pilot project on the Zooniverse platform, including a large volume prepared and uploaded at the request of Mars Hill University for students to work on while under quarantine.

Finally, Stephanie began initial planning and development on an accessibility-first redesign of DigitalNC.org, a project expected to continue through the coming 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 staff members of the City of Winston-Salem about their African American Heritage initiative
• discussing oral histories with Mount Airy Museum of Regional History
• providing information and advice around TIND migration to Easthampton Library (part of the NY Heritage Digital Collections Portal)

TOTAL CONSULTATIONS: 7
### Statistics

#### ITEMS PUBLISHED ONLINE TO DATE

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<tr>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Number of Objects</th>
<th>Number of Files</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Images of North Carolina</td>
<td>24,674</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Carolina Memory</td>
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<td><em>Includes Urban Renewal Collection</em></td>
<td>9,455</td>
<td>338,005</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Carolina Yearbooks</td>
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<tr>
<td>College and University Yearbooks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Campus Publications</td>
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<td>High School Yearbooks</td>
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<td>North Carolina City Directories</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Carolina Sights &amp; Sounds</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3,044,432</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Titles</th>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>Number of Pages (Scans)</th>
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<tr>
<td>North Carolina Newspapers</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>168,127</td>
<td>1,492,940</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### VISITORS TO DIGITALNC.ORG, JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2021

- Unique visitors: 100,975
- Average sessions per day: 1,122
- Total number of sessions: 189,091
- Sessions from North Carolina: 119,118
- Total number of page views: 1,372,044

#### VIEWS OF DIGITIZED MATERIAL AVAILABLE THROUGH ARCHIVE.ORG, JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2021

- 351,292

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**North Carolina Digital Heritage Center**

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