



North Carolina

DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

Quarterly Report

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2021

This quarter the Digital Heritage Center completed a biannual DPLA harvest, held our 2021 Advisory Board meeting virtually, and finally reached our goal of working with at least one partner organization in all 100 counties!

New Partners

HISTORIC HOPE PLANTATION

We added Historic Hope Plantation when Kristen was able to get back out on the road in May (after over a year of staying close to Chapel Hill!) This partner is located in Windsor, N.C., which is in Bertie County, one of the last counties to be represented with a partner on DigitalNC. The Historic Hope Foundation, Inc. was established in 1965 by Bertie County citizens concerned about the fate of the decaying Hope Mansion, built for Governor David Stone in 1803. According to their website, the site's mission is "to provide educational, cultural and recreational benefits for the public by the preservation, maintenance and the administration of Historic Hope Plantation as an element of the heritage of the Roanoke-Chowan Region and as an illustration and interpretation of agrarian life in Eastern North Carolina from 1760 to 1840." The majority of materials in our first batch from Historic Hope are materials relating to the running of the site, including a very large collection of brochures and programs detailing fundraisers for the Museum, as well as visitor pamphlets. A yearbook from the Black high school in Windsor, W.S. Etheridge High School, is also included in this batch.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/historic-hope-plantation/>

MARTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Martin Community College (MCC) is located in Williamston, North Carolina and was established in 1968 as Martin Technical Institute. On June 26, 1975, the college

was granted community college status by North Carolina's General Assembly. Our first batch from MCC includes an audio series detailing the history of Martin County. Videos in this batch feature a look at the MCC campus in the 1990s and provide information about various programs offered by the college at the time. These programs included basic skills, equine management, and medical assisting. Additional videos highlight the exciting MCC "Stampede in the Park" rodeo. This event, which continues to be held annually, raises money for Martin Community College student scholarships. Audio and video digitization for this partner was made possible through assistance from our colleagues in UNC-Chapel Hill's Southern Folklife Collection and their Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant.

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

RUSSELL'S BACK IN THE DAY MUSEUM

The second institution in Bertie County to be added this quarter is a small local history museum in downtown Windsor, N.C. Owned and operated by one of the town's sons, Russell's Back in the Day museum has an eclectic collection that includes one of our favorite things at DigitalNC: high school yearbooks! Our first batch from Russell's was a 1956 volume from Windsor High School.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/russells-back-in-the-day-museum-windsor-n-c/>

WATTS SCHOOL OF NURSING

The Watts College of Nursing was organized in 1895 as part of Watts Hospital, making it North Carolina's oldest nursing program. Located in Durham, N.C., Watts' nursing program is now part of Duke University Health System. Our first batch for the school was 44 yearbooks covering 1937 through 2017.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/watts-school-of-nursing/>

WILSON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The primary mission of the Wilson County Genealogical Society is to preserve the records, heritage, history, and genealogy of the families who settled in Wilson; the society also promotes genealogy through education and fostering collaboration in research. Our first batch for Wilson County Genealogical Society included genealogy newsletters from 1992 to 2017; the newsletters contain information on the society's officers and events, meetings, member research reports, research tips, and more.

<https://www.digitalinc.org/institutions/wilson-county-genealogical-society/>

Ongoing Projects

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

- Record books related to voting, town government, and education from **Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library (Clayton, N.C.)**
- High school and nursing school yearbooks from **Rowan Public Library**
- Oral histories from **Wilkes Community College**
- Course catalogs from **Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College**
- Videos related to university history from **University of North Carolina at Pembroke**
- Correspondence, clippings, photos, and other ephemera from the Crystal Lee Sutton collection at **Alamance Community College**
- Drawings and minute books from the New Bern First Baptist Church, in partnership with **New Bern-Craven County Library**
- Documents and photos about Edgecombe County architecture from **Edgecombe County Memorial Library**
- Student newspapers from **Greensboro History Museum**
- Community newspapers and yearbooks from the **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**
- Community newspapers from **Farmville Public Library, Harnett County Public Library, Iredell County Public Library, Margaret and James Harper, Jr. Library, Mauney Memorial Library, Olivia Raney Local History Library, Polk County Public Library,**

Swannanoa Valley Museum and History Center, Transylvania County Library, and Washington County Library

- News clippings, yearbooks, and a written history of the Black community from **Rockingham County Public Library**
- High school yearbooks from **Anson County Historical Society** and **Wayne County Public Library**
- Scrapbooks from **Johnston Community College**

The Center worked with a total of **29 different partners** during this quarter. To learn more about each of these projects, or to keep up with new items added to DigitalINC, check out the DigitalINC blog.

New Staff

This quarter the Digital Heritage Center welcomed JoCora Moore as our new Digitization Technician. JoCora hails from Plymouth, N.C. and is a Ph.D. candidate studying Public History at N.C. State. JoCora's research examines the work of Black women during the Civil Rights Movement and their work on local levels. She is also a proud graduate of North Carolina Central University. JoCora has been scanning, describing, and promoting materials from our partners through blog posts. We're so glad to have JoCora on board!

On the Road: 100 Counties!

This quarter we achieved an exciting milestone: we now have worked with at least one partner organization in each of North Carolina's 100 counties. Over the past two years we've made a concerted effort to offer our services to the counties missing from our contributor list, believing that it's vital for history from all areas of North Carolina to be represented online. In late August, we traveled to our 100th county to scan materials from the **Camden County Heritage Museum** and the **Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center**. The State Librarian, Timothy Owens, and UNC-Chapel Hill's University Librarian, Elaine Westbrooks, joined us for the visit and we all learned more about Camden County history. Many thanks to the staff from these organizations as well as those from the **Camden County Library** and Camden County government who provided us with a warm welcome. You can learn more about the items we scanned in this report's Project Highlight.

This quarter NCDHC staff also took a day trip to Henderson to look at school records from Henderson Institute with community members and staff from the **Henderson Institute Historical Museum**. At their request we borrowed records related to Black students to digitize and publish on DigitalNC. These materials will be online during the final quarter of 2021.

Supplemental Newspaper Digitization Funding

This quarter we received an IDEA Action grant from the UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries. These grants “support the work of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility in the University Libraries.” From this funding we tested sending print newspapers to a vendor by scanning a year of a prominent



Project Highlight

CAMDEN COUNTY SCANNING DAY

In August, Camden County became the 100th county represented by an NCDHC partner! NCDHC staff members travelled to **Camden County Heritage Museum** and spent a full day scanning

materials from both the museum’s own collection and that of the **Dismal Swamp Welcome Center**. Our hosts were very welcoming, treating us to lunch from a local bakery and inviting local librarians and city government officials to stop by and see the action. Many of the materials we scanned were photographs, including some amazing views of bridges, roads, and canals built in the 1920s to encourage travel around Camden County. Scanned materials also include beautiful photographs of industry in the Dismal Swamp and along the coast line, as well as materials documenting area schools, the court system and other public entities. All the materials scanned during our visit can be viewed online at the link below.

<https://bit.ly/camden-county-scanning-day>

Black newspaper, *The Carolinian* (Raleigh, N.C.). This issue had yet to be digitized because we did not have access to a microfilmed copy. We also scanned reels of *The Star of Zion* (Charlotte, N.C.), the longest running continuously published Black newspaper in the state. There are now 19 African-American community newspapers and 15 African-American high school and college newspapers available through DigitalNC.

Thanks to funding from the **North Caroliniana Society**, we’ve been able to accomplish a much larger amount of microfilmed newspaper digitization this year. Digitization of microfilmed newspapers is an overwhelming need, and we routinely receive requests for many more reels that we can accommodate. This quarter, with this supplemental funding, we added almost 100,000 additional pages from a variety of titles:

- *The Black Mountain News* (Black Mountain, N.C.)
Swannanoa Valley Museum and History Center
- *Bladen Bulletin* (Elizabethtown, N.C.)
Bladen County Public Library
- *The Carolinian* (Raleigh, N.C.)
Olivia Raney Local History Library
- *Shelby Daily Star* (Raleigh, N.C.)
Cleveland County Memorial Library
- *The Daily Record* (Dunn, N.C.)
Dunn Area History Museum
- *The Farmville Enterprise* (Farmville, N.C.)
Farmville Public Library
- *The Goldsboro Herald* (Goldsboro, N.C.)
Wayne County Public Library
- *The Iredell Citizen* (Statesville, N.C.)
Iredell County Public Library
- *Jones County Journal* (Trenton, N.C.)
Trenton Public Library
- *The Kings Mountain Herald* (Kings Mountain, N.C.)
Mauney Memorial Library
- *The Roanoke Beacon and Washington County News* (Plymouth, N.C.)
Washington County Library
- *State Port Pilot* (Southport, N.C.)
Margaret and James Harper, Jr. Library
- *The Tarborough Southerner* (Tarboro, N.C.)
Edgecombe County Memorial Library
- *The Tryon Daily Bulletin* (Tryon, N.C.)
Polk County Public Library

Other Partnership Projects

Over the past several years, NCDHC staff have worked closely with audiovisual collection staff from the Wilson Special Collections Library at UNC-Chapel Hill University Libraries on digitization and preservation of partner materials. The University Libraries has received another grant from the Mellon Foundation to continue this work for an additional two years, and this quarter Kristen Merryman participated in a number of interviews for staff that will be hired in the coming months. Over the next two years we'll be figuring out a sustainable level of audiovisual digitization services that we can offer NCDHC partners moving forward.

In addition, Kristen Merryman and two colleagues from Wilson Library, Erica Titkemeyer and Morgan McKeehan, were recipients of another IDEA Action grant from the UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries. As mentioned above, these grants "support the work of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility in the University Libraries." This grant provided funding for an in-depth workshop led by Alissa Rae Funderburk, Oral Historian for the Margaret Walker Center at the HBCU Jackson State University. Alissa Rae discussed "concepts in the transcription of oral history to help us more accurately portray the voice of our narrators." This is especially relevant when transcribing the voices of Black narrators or other communities that have been marginalized or delegitimized throughout American history.

Technology Update

This quarter, Stephanie completed the first draft of an accessibility-first redesign of DigitalNC.org, which was distributed to NCDHC stakeholders for feedback. The new design will focus on making growing collections easier to browse and interact with. Next steps include incorporating feedback changes, expanding the approved design pattern to all content types, and performance audits.

In addition to her regular system maintenance activities, Stephanie also began work this quarter to streamline technical support for an upcoming expansion of newspaper content on DigitalNC. Improvements include updated documentation and new tracking tools to help manage the addition of externally-digitized newspapers from multiple, overlapping sources. NCDHC staff will welcome a Newspaper Technician next quarter to help manage additional content; the new Newspaper Technician will work closely with Stephanie to further optimize these processes.

Finally, this quarter saw the development of infrastructure to support NCDHC satellite digitization centers across the state. Stephanie worked with UNC-Chapel Hill University Libraries' infrastructure team to establish a pipeline for transferring large amounts of newly-digitized content between remote locations.

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:

- offering metadata guidance and technical assistance to DPLA partner institutions
- providing digitization cost estimates for a colleague in California
- talking with professors about community collections

TOTAL CONSULTATIONS: 12

Statistics

ITEMS PUBLISHED ONLINE TO DATE

Collection	Number of Objects	Number of Files
Images of North Carolina	24,935	42,931
North Carolina Memory <i>Includes Urban Renewal Collection</i>	9,800	353,154
North Carolina Yearbooks		
College and University Yearbooks	4,472	831,260
Other Campus Publications	5,879	811,005
High School Yearbooks	4,486	514,304
North Carolina City Directories	1,049	563,266
North Carolina Sights & Sounds	970	1171
Total	51,591	3,117,091

Collection	Titles	Issues	Number of Pages (Scans)
North Carolina Newspapers	484	188,285	1,733,886

VISITORS TO DIGITALNC.ORG, JULY 1 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

Unique visitors	89,961
Average sessions per day	1,836
Total number of sessions	168,954
Sessions from North Carolina	99,983
Total number of page views	1,144,411

VIEWS OF DIGITIZED MATERIAL AVAILABLE THROUGH ARCHIVE.ORG, JULY 1 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

245,067

NORTH CAROLINA DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

<https://www.digitalnc.org>

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