This quarter the Digital Heritage Center began a pilot for a satellite location in Elizabeth City, welcomed several new staff members, and started a project that will more than double the amount of newspaper content on DigitalNC.org.

New Partners

CAMDEN COUNTY HERITAGE MUSEUM
The Camden County Heritage Museum was one of two institutions that helped NCDHC reach partners in its 100th county! The museum holds a plethora of materials related to Camden County’s history and is run primarily by two very enthusiastic gentlemen who have long ties to the county. Collection topics include the Dismal Swamp and Moses Grandy; Grady was born into slavery in the late 1700s, worked on the Dismal Swamp, and became an expert navigator of the waterways in northeastern North Carolina. He purchased his freedom and became a very prominent abolitionist, publishing *Narrative of the Life of Moses Grandy, Late a Slave in the United States of America*, a firsthand account of the experience of slavery that encouraged people in the United States, Ireland, and England to support abolition. We scanned our first batch for the museum onsite in August 2021 as part of our 100th county celebration: included in this batch are photographs, materials related to schools in Camden County, ledgers, and poll tax lists.  
https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/camden-county-heritage-museum/

DISMAL SWAMP CANAL WELCOME CENTER
The Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center also helped NCDHC reach partners in its 100th county! The Welcome Center provides a gateway for visitors to the Dismal Swamp Canal which today serves as both a nature refuge and popular location for water sports. Our first batch for the Welcome Center includes photographs documenting the history of the Canal, digitized onsite in August 2021 as part of NCDHC’s 100th county celebration.  
https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/dismal-swamp-canal-welcome-center/

GATES COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
Our first batch for Gates County Public Library features issues of the *Gates County Index* from November 1942 to February 1956, covering local stories from Gates County and surrounding areas. We also scanned a Sunbury High School pamphlet from 1908. As our first partner in Gates County, Gates County Public Library helped NCDHC extend its services to 99 counties across the state.  
https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/gates-county-public-library/

THELMA DINGUS BRYANT LIBRARY
The Thelma Dingus Bryant Library is located in Wallace, North Carolina. Our first batch for the library included 1,000 issues of the *Wallace Enterprise* digitized from microfilm, covering 1931 to 1955. The paper covers local stories from Duplin County and surrounding areas of eastern North Carolina, with the tagline “Devoted to the Best Interests of the People of Wallace and Duplin County.”  
https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/thelma-dingus-bryant-library/

Ongoing Projects
Ashlie Brewer, JoCora Moore, Kristen Merryman, and Sophie Hollis (our new graduate assistant) digitized and published online materials from many of the Center’s current partners, including:

- Correspondence, newspaper clippings, and ephemera documenting the life of Crystal Lee Sutton from Alamance Community College
The Center worked with a total of 27 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.

Our First Satellite Location: Elizabeth City State University

We are pleased to announce that we are partnering with the library at Elizabeth City State University to pilot our first satellite digitization center! Funding generously provided by the State Library of North Carolina has allowed us to expand our scanning services to ECSU. We welcome Vicky Tillett, Library Technician and Digitization Services Operator, who oversees the satellite center, and two student assistants, Zaina Goggins and Barry Ward. Vicky, Zaina, and Barry will focus

Collection Highlight

MOST-VIEWED ON DIGITALNC IN 2021

As this quarter came to an end, we took a look at our web statistics to find out what was the most popular content on DigitalNC in 2021. This year’s top hit shows that basketball is always on top in North Carolina: the single item with the most views on DigitalNC in 2021 was page three of the November 25, 1991 issue of the Daily Tar Heel, added to our site thanks to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Libraries. After doing some digging, we realized that its popularity was almost entirely thanks to a post on the basketball enthusiasts’ site “Inside Carolina,” welcoming UNC-Chapel Hill Basketball’s new head coach, Hubert Davis. The page features a story titled “Tar Heels’ New Uniform features designer’s touch,” about Alexander Julian’s new design for the team’s uniform in 1991—but the real draw is a photograph showing then-player Hubert Davis modeling the new look.

on scanning print newspapers from partner organizations in eastern North Carolina. Ashlie Brewer and Lisa Gregory traveled there this quarter to meet with staff and drop off a temporary portable scanner. Though delivery of a large-format scanner purchased for the satellite was delayed and is not expected to arrive until January 2022, satellite staff have been able to use the portable scanner to get familiar with workflows. They have also been working to describe and organize images scanned by NCDHC in Chapel Hill. We look forward to announcing the services of this satellite location more broadly in the first quarter of 2022.

Millions of Additional Newspaper Pages On the Way!

In August 2013, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Libraries worked with Newspapers.com to digitize pre-1923 microfilmed newspapers available in Wilson Library’s North Carolina Collection. Over the next year, the microfilm was digitized and more than 2.9 million pages were made available through Newspapers.com. Though select locations in the state were given free access, most users had to subscribe to the site for a fee to use these papers. After the project was complete, the Libraries received copies of all digitized files and associated metadata. After an embargo period, the Libraries were permitted to reuse these files.

This quarter, thanks to supplemental funding from the North Caroliniana Society, we welcomed a new Digital Processing Technician, Geoff Schilling, who is spearheading a gigantic project to add all of these newspaper pages to the North Carolina Newspapers collection. This will more than double the number of newspaper pages on DigitalNC. This quarter, Geoff has already added over 900,000 images; users have been extremely excited about these additions, so stay tuned as more and more issues are added! Each Friday on our blog Geoff announces the titles added that week.

Technology Update

Maintenance of NCDHC’s tools and systems this quarter included work to improve NCDHC’s Google Analytics tracking data; fixing a mobile browsing issue affecting our newspaper software, Open-ONI; developing infrastructure and procedures to allow materials to be temporarily removed from public view at the request of our partners; updates to a North Carolina African-American High Schools data gathering tool; updating and expanding tools used by our DPLA partners to assess metadata contributions ahead of January’s DPLA harvest; rewriting cross-system data sharing mechanisms to better support an exponential increase in newspaper data, and increasing the performance of the newspaper search index; developing an internal tool to identify duplicate newspaper issues when batches are prepared for ingest into Open-ONI; fixing a bug in DigitalNC’s promotional materials generator at the request of a partner; processing and correcting in-house newspaper content; and keeping Wordpress up-to-date in preparation for a PHP and core version upgrade in early 2022.

Stephanie also continued planning a workflow management tool that will help multiple staff members track the status of NCDHC’s newspaper digitization activities through all stages of a complex process—including requests made by partners, vendor digitization activity, in-house digitization progress, and digital publishing tasks (ingest and quality control). NCDHC staff participated in several brainstorming activities this quarter to gather requirements, and we hope to put the first draft of this tool to the test during NCDHC’s 2022-2023 call for nominations.

On the Road

NCDHC staff were able to take a few trips this quarter, visiting a variety of partners both for consultations and for picking up or dropping off materials. As part of our ongoing State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) grant partnership with the State Archives of North Carolina, Kristen traveled to Eastern Cabarrus Historical Society to discuss digitization of their collections. Wrapped into that trip were visits to Rowan Public Library, Matthews Heritage Museum, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Ashlie and Kristen visited our contacts from the Henderson Institute Historical Museum to drop off and pick up materials. Ashlie, JoCora, and Kristen also took a trip over to Johnston County, with stops at the Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library (Clayton, N.C.), the Johnston County Heritage Center, and Johnston Community College. Lisa stopped by the Malloy/Jordan East Winston Heritage Center Branch Library, a new partner, to pick up some audio materials which we’ll be transferring to digital format.

Presentations and Events

NCDHC staff gave two presentations this quarter. Lisa served on a panel with other Wilson Library staff discussing
“Conscious Editing: Removing the Norm of Protestant Christianity.” Kristen presented a “Digitization 101” workshop at Johnson C. Smith University as part of their Diversity Archivist Partnership Fall Institute.

Kristen also helped organize and host a Wilson Library Work Day as part of her work with the Special Collections Assembly; the Work Day is an annual event where staff come together to focus on internal projects around the library. During this year’s Work Day, Ashlie and Kristen guided Wilson Library staff through a project to prepare a collection from Henderson Institute Historical Museum for digitization, and Stephanie was on hand to assist Work Day participants who elected to transcribe handwritten NCDHC materials on the Zooniverse platform.

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 about our work with students from the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University, and UNC-Chapel Hill
• sharing digitization best practices with several partners
• assessing a vendor’s new OAI-PMH feed configuration on behalf of a partner

TOTAL CONSULTATIONS: 6
Statistics

ITEMS PUBLISHED ONLINE TO DATE

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<th>Number of Files</th>
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<td>Images of North Carolina</td>
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<td>North Carolina Memory</td>
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<td>Includes Urban Renewal Collection</td>
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<td>North Carolina Yearbooks</td>
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<td>College and University Yearbooks</td>
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<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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<td>North Carolina Sights &amp; Sounds</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<th>Titles</th>
<th>Issues</th>
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<td>350,242</td>
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VISITORS TO DIGITALNC.ORG, OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2021

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<td>Sessions from North Carolina</td>
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<td>Total number of page views</td>
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VIEWS OF DIGITIZED MATERIAL AVAILABLE THROUGH ARCHIVE.ORG, OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2021

261,349

NORTH CAROLINA DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

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