



North Carolina

DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

Quarterly Report

JANUARY – MARCH 2022

This quarter the Digital Heritage Center traveled to 11 partner locations, added hundreds of thousands of newspaper pages to DigitalNC.org, and held copyright “open office hours.”

New Partners

EASTERN CABARRUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Eastern Cabarrus Historical Society became NCDHC’s 300th partner through our grant from the State Historic Records Advisory Board. The Society works to document and preserve the history of the Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute and its female counterpart, Mont Amoena Seminary. The Society also documents the history of the South Piedmont region of North Carolina. Our first batch for them included yearbooks from the Collegiate Institute.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/eastern-cabarrus-historical-society/>

LINCOLN COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Our first batch for the Lincoln County Historical Association was a group of Lincoln County high school yearbooks. The Lincoln County Historical Association, located in Lincolnton, N.C., strives to collect, preserve, and promote Lincoln County’s people and history for generations to come.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/lincoln-county-historical-association/>

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL SERVICE COMMITTEE ARCHIVES

The North Carolina General Service Committee Archives also became a partner through this year’s State Historic Records Advisory Board grant. Our first batch for the Archives were 46 issues of *The Story*, published quarterly by inmates of the State Department of Correction in Raleigh,

N.C. A majority of the articles in these issues focus on the activities of Alcoholics Anonymous in prison and the struggles of sobriety, as well as personal achievements and stories. Each issue features small drawings and beautiful covers.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/north-carolina-general-service-committee-archives/>

PERSON COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The Person County Museum of History is located in Roxboro, N.C. in the home of former North Carolina governor W. W. Kitchin. The museum has several interesting exhibits related to Person County history, discussing topics such as Sappony heritage and baseball legend Enos Slaughter. The site also features seven historic buildings that can be toured. Our first batch for the museum included several issues of the *Roxboro Courier* from 1919.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/person-county-museum-of-history/>

STANLY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Stanly Community College is located in Albemarle, N.C. and has three campus locations. Our first batch for the College includes several notebooks of newspaper clippings about the school from the 1974-1975 academic year through 2021. The school opened in 1971 and today serves approximately 10,000 students.

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

WAKE FOREST HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Wake Forest Historical Museum, located in the Calvin Jones House in Wake Forest, N.C., features a variety of exhibits on life in Wake Forest and surrounding areas, as well as the history of Wake Forest University. Our first batch from the museum included an array of materials related to the DuBois School: yearbooks, student newspaper issues, posters, and a binder of DuBois School memories compiled by Myrlyn

Skinner. The DuBois School was one of several African American schools built in North Carolina and was funded by Julius Rosenwald. The school, renamed Wake Forest-Rolesville Middle School in the 1960s, is one of only five Rosenwald schools still operating as a school today.

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/wake-forest-historical-museum/>

Ongoing Projects

Ashlie Brewer, Zaina Goggins, Sophie Hollis, Kristen Merryman, JoCora Moore, Vicky Tillett, and Barry Ward digitized and published online materials from many of the Center's current partners, including:

- High school yearbooks from the **Anson County Historical Society**, **Granville County Public Library**, **Olivia Raney Local History Library**, **Orange County Public Library**, and **Rowan Public Library**
- Scrapbooks of newspaper clippings related to McDowell County from **McDowell County Public Library**
- Board of Trustees minutes from **South Piedmont Community College**
- High school yearbooks, a daybook, and a credit guide from **Alamance County Public Libraries**
- Correspondence of the Massey family from the **Matthews Heritage Museum**
- Reunion programs from the **Clear Run High School Alumni Association**
- School census cards from the early 1900s from the **Henderson Institute Historical Museum**
- Governor Stone Ball Programs and photographs from **Historic Hope Plantation**
- Catalogs, handbooks, and college profiles from **Durham Technical Community College**
- Maps and plans of Durham from **Durham County Library**
- Recordings and oral histories documenting the history of the Appalachia region and old-time music from **Mars Hill University**
- Oral histories collected in the early 2000s by the **African American Historical and Genealogical Association of Surry County**, and architectural plans of several area houses and businesses from the **Mount Airy Museum of Regional History**
- The *Chapel Hill Conscience* and the *Ocracoke School News*

from **UNC-Chapel Hill**

- *The Pilot* newspaper from **Southern Pines Public Library**
- The *Front Page* newspaper (1979-1986) from **UNC-Charlotte** and **Duke University**

The Center worked with a total of **26 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 Road

NCDHC staff started the new year strong, meeting up with partners around the state. Ashlie Brewer and Kristen Merryman visited **Roanoke-Chowan Community College** for a consultation about digitization workflows, and spent time with staff at **Elizabeth City State University**, our satellite location, learning about the new oversized scanner. They also exchanged materials with staff from the **Henderson Institute Historical Museum**. Kristen visited **Olivia Raney Local History Library** and Enloe High School as well as the **Wake Forest Historical Museum**. Lisa took a trip to **Central Carolina Community College** and **Sandhills Community College**. As part of our grant partnership with the **State Archives of North Carolina**, Lisa spent half a day consulting with staff and volunteers at the **Museum & Archives of Rockingham County**. While in that area she also visited with partners at **Rockingham County Public Library** and the **Mount Airy Museum of Regional History**.

Presentations and Events

In January and February, all NCDHC staff members participated in a multi-day mini retreat. Three different sessions focused on overall strategic planning, looking at our method of prioritizing digitization materials, and brainstorming different features we may want to incorporate into an upcoming redesign of DigitalNC.

We worked with Anne Gilliland, UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries' Scholarly Communications Officer, to hold two "open office hours" this quarter. During these sessions attendees were invited to bring any questions they might have related to cultural heritage and copyright. These were well attended and there were questions related to publishing, donors, digitization, and more.

Lisa co-presented with staff from the **State Library of North Carolina** about tips and tricks for using newspapers on DigitalNC. Ashlie, Geoff, JoCora, Kristen, Sophie, and Vicky attended the virtual Smithsonian Digitization Conference. Stephanie attended the virtual Open Source 101 Conference. A poster describing how NCDHC engages with Carolina communities was chosen to be part of this year's Carolina Engagement Week sessions.

Technology Update

Maintenance of NCDHC's tools and systems this quarter included several updates to optimize browsing, searching, and data retrieval for our expanding newspaper collections; updating command-line image processing documentation; and expanding a partner information tool with distance data to help determine which NCDHC drop-off location is most convenient for partners. Work was completed to include a new digital collections terms of service policy across site templates, and DigitalNC's DNS configuration was overhauled to allow for better load balancing.

Stephanie also processed 26 batches of newspapers scanned in-house into NDNP-compliant METS-ALTO packages and performed four batches of newspaper metadata corrections. She provided technical support for January's DPLA harvest, keeping partner preview data and submission reports updated and tuning NCDHC's harvesting software on AWS as necessary. With feedback from NCDHC staff she continued to develop redesigned templates for DigitalNC, and made additional progress toward a new newspaper digitization tracking tool. At TIND's request, she provided an in-depth assessment using tools approved for use by UNC-Chapel Hill toward increasing the accessibility of search and record pages hosted by TIND.

Finally, Stephanie completed additional research toward an Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility goal of removing bias from DigitalNC's search indexes, where possible, and developed a plan for assessing "problem areas" related to how site visitors use DigitalNC's keyword search.

Newspapers.com Project Update

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.

Since coming onboard in the fall of 2021, our Digital Processing Technician, Geoff Schilling, has been taking on the enormous project of adding all of these newspaper pages to the North Carolina Newspaper Collections. This quarter, almost 400,000 pages have been added to DigitalNC and the number of newspaper titles on our site has doubled, with plenty more to come! Along with processing this massive collection of newspapers, Geoff has been crafting weekly blog posts to highlight these additions, much to the delight of our followers. This project was made possible thanks to funding from the North Caroliniana Society.

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:

- ongoing correspondence with partners about DPLA
- consulting with a well known artist about resources they could use for an Arts Fellowship
- talking with external organizations about TIND
- helping colleagues set up OCR processing workflows
- helping a partner assess born-digital newspaper files produced by a vendor
- providing a partner with access to newspaper information data feeds
- talking to external organizations about Open-ONI, and troubleshooting software issues experienced by an organization with a similar setup

TOTAL CONSULTATIONS: 12

Statistics

ITEMS PUBLISHED ONLINE TO DATE

Collection	Number of Objects	Number of Files
Images of North Carolina	25,066	43,900
North Carolina Memory <i>Includes Urban Renewal Collection</i>	10,276	377,465
North Carolina Yearbooks		
College and University Yearbooks	4,459	845,939
Other Campus Publications	5,954	812,893
High School Yearbooks	4,706	539,021
North Carolina City Directories	1,049	563,266
North Carolina Sights & Sounds	1,041	1,321
Total	52,641	3,183,805

Collection	Titles	Issues	Number of Pages (Scans)
North Carolina Newspapers	1255	417,702	3,034,492

VISITORS TO DIGITALNC.ORG, JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2022

Unique visitors	127,180
Average sessions per day	2,594
Total number of sessions	220,045
Sessions from North Carolina	136,461
Total number of page views	1,682,727

VIEWS OF DIGITIZED MATERIAL AVAILABLE THROUGH ARCHIVE.ORG, JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2022

299,887

NORTH CAROLINA DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

<https://www.digitalnc.org>

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