



North Carolina

DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

Quarterly Report

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2023

During this quarter, Center staff traveled east and west for partner visits and began planning for the upcoming Wilson Library Improvement Project.

New Partners

MCDOWELL ARTS COUNCIL ASSOCIATION

Founded by community members in 1972, the McDowell Arts Council Association provides accessible art experiences to all residents while also promoting and preserving cultural life in McDowell County. The Association is a member of the North Carolina Arts Council (an agency of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources), which supplies people of the state a network of resources, grants, and county partners. Today, MACA offers events and programs such as classes for various forms of art; plays and musical performances; community band concerts; local artist markets, and more. Their first batch with us included booklets of poetry by Howard R. McCurry and Alice Koonts Ostrom; a script for *Voices in the Wind* by Billy Edd Wheeler; and McDowell Arts Council Association scrapbooks spanning 1972 through 1987.

[https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/
mcdowell-arts-council-association/](https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/mcdowell-arts-council-association/)

FRUIT OF LABOR WORLD CULTURAL CENTER

Fruit of Labor World Cultural Center is a community center that holds space for people doing community activism work in Raleigh and beyond. They hold a large collection of labor activism materials from the organizing efforts of national, local and sub-local chapters of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America labor union. These materials are meant to be used for educational and training purposes and are what make up the majority of their first batch with us.

[https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/
fruit-of-labor-world-cultural-center/](https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/fruit-of-labor-world-cultural-center/)

Ongoing Projects

Ashlie Brewer, Elizabeth Findley, Hannah Helmey, Abby Martin, Kristen Merryman, Alona Norwood, Abraham Reid, Akyla Simms, and Vicky Tillett digitized and published online materials from many of the Center's current partners, including:

- Photographs, meeting minutes, programs, and a scrapbook from the **Durham Section of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.**
- A newsletter as well as birth, death, marriage records, and cemetery records from the **Ocracoke Preservation Society**
- High school and college yearbooks from **Henderson County Education History Initiative** and **UNC-Pembroke**
- Annual reports, county development surveys, and chamber of commerce publications from **Southwestern Community College**
- Scrapbooks from **Campbell University, Central Piedmont Community College, Mitchell Community College**, and the **Museum of Haywood County History**
- Trustees' minutes from **Sandhills Community College**
- Photographs and ephemera from the **Greensboro Firefighters History Book Committee**
- Bulletins and church minutes from **North Carolina Community Contributors** partner First Presbyterian Church of Mount Holly
- Sanborn maps and a store ledger from the **Graham Historical Museum**
- Furniture catalogs from the **High Point Museum**
- Ledgers from **The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina**
- 20th century diaries from the **Greensboro History Museum**

INSTITUTION TYPES WORKING WITH NCDHC, OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2023

Community Groups	5
Museums	5
Public Libraries	5
Community Colleges	4
Historical Societies	4
Public Colleges and Universities	3
Public Archives	2

- City directories from **Alamance County Public Libraries**
- Finance and fire protection reports from the **Raleigh Fire Museum**
- Student newspapers, account books, photographs, and yearbooks from the **Granville County Public Library**

- Print and microfilmed newspapers from the **Buncombe County Public Libraries**, **Chapel Hill Historical Society**, **Margaret and James Harper Jr. Library**, **Perquimans County Library**, **Southport Historical Society**, **State Archives of North Carolina**, **UNC-Chapel Hill**, and **Wake Forest Historical Society**

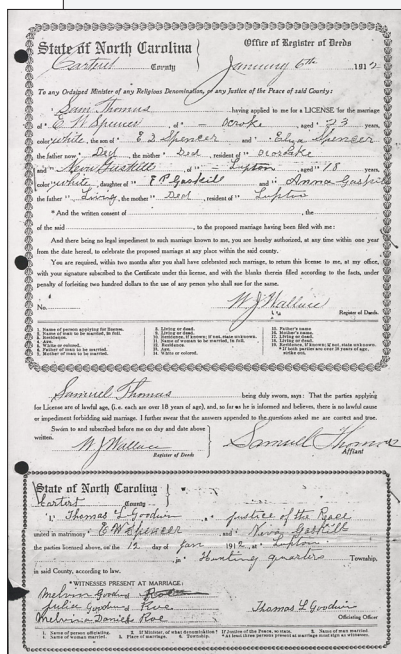
The Center worked with a total of **28 different partners** during this quarter. To learn more about each of these projects, or to keep up with new items added to DigitalNC, check out the DigitalNC blog.

On the Road

Center staff focused on returning materials to contributors during the last quarter of 2023, and had a great time meeting eleven partners on the road. **Buncombe County Public Libraries** staff kindly let Lisa use their main library on a day they were closed to facilitate picking up and returning materials from them as well as **Museum of Haywood County History** and **Southwestern Community College**.

Project Highlight

OCRACOKE PRESERVATION SOCIETY MATERIALS



Genealogists constitute one of the DigitalNC's largest user groups; this is easy to see when a batch of materials of special interest to genealogists goes online. This quarter we scanned several cemetery directories, sets of marriage and birth records, obituaries, and funeral programs for the **Ocracoke Preservation Society**, as well as the Society's wonderfully-named newsletter, *The Mullet Wrapper*.

We wrote blog and social media announcements about this collection, as usual, but these posts generated an enormous level of interest. Over 400 people engaged with them, liking and sharing across platforms at a rate more than 20 times over what we usually see! One shared comment from the account of the Micajah Pettaway-Halifax Resolves Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (Rocky Mount, N.C.) summarizes folks' excitement around these materials:

My goodness! I do believe they have a treasure chest of goods for you to enjoy right from home. Included are listings of those interred in 80 cemeteries on Ocracoke and weddings dating back to the 1730's. No time to be bored this winter 😊

We always are thrilled to get windows into what our users are thinking, and it's so much fun to see a collection announcement go "viral!"

<https://bit.ly/okracoke-preservation>

LEFT Page from Ocracoke Marriage Records, 1912.

Kristen stopped at **The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina, New Hanover County Public Library**, and **Wake Forest Historical Museum**. Lisa visited **Central Children's Home of North Carolina, Chatham County Historical Association, Granville County Public Library**, and **Wayne County Public Library**. At **Alamance Community College**, Lisa received a tour of the Scott Collection and strategized with staff about exhibition materials being added to DigitalNC.

Kristen attended the Digital Library Federation's annual conference for the first time and got to connect with staff from TIND, the vendor behind one of our content management systems. She also presented about working with the Center to the North Carolina Community College Archives Association. Lisa presented about North Carolina Newspapers on DigitalNC at the North Carolina Library Association's biennial conference.

Wilson Library Improvement Project

NCDHC staff are in the planning stage for the Wilson Library Improvement Project, which will provide life-safety upgrades for the building. To complete this construction, the Library will be completely closed for several years and all staff, collections, and equipment will be moved out. A phased closure is expected to begin in summer 2024, with the building closed entirely by the end of that year. At some point during 2024, Center staff offices and scanning equipment will be relocated elsewhere on campus or nearby. NCDHC staff are involved in Wilson Library committees to provide input during this preparation stage.

At this point we plan to continue to operate at our usual capacity, with a break while staff and equipment are moved. We will need to locate an alternative dropoff and pickup location for our partners. If we do need to diminish scanning to some degree, we have brainstormed a list of other services and pilot projects we're excited to explore during this time. Future updates will be coming via our partner email list and in quarterly reports.

Technology Update

In addition to regular maintenance activities, Stephanie worked with UNC-Chapel Libraries' server administrators to completely update NCDHC's instance of the Open-ONI newspaper repository software this quarter, with additional

major security updates to its search and indexing components. She also processed transcription data from the Zooniverse platform for ingest into TIND, processed 55 in-house newspaper batches and corrections for ingest into ONI, made improvements to DigitalNC's exhibit page browse options, updated harvesting configuration and metadata mapping for Digital Public Library of America partners, updated in-house batch management tools for better error handling, and streamlined procedures for generating end-of-year statistics.

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 interviews with graduate students, providing scanning advice to a community organization, and consulting on the use of images from the Internet Archive.

TOTAL CONSULTATIONS: 10

Statistics

ITEMS PUBLISHED ONLINE TO DATE

Collection	Number of Objects	Number of Files
Images of North Carolina	27,251	51,069
North Carolina Memory <i>Includes Urban Renewal Collection</i>	12,239	472,188
North Carolina Yearbooks		
College and University Yearbooks	4,610	853,386
Other Campus Publications	6,413	862,590
High School Yearbooks	5,278	614,495
North Carolina City Directories	1,096	585,268
North Carolina Sights & Sounds	1,249	2,225
Total	58,123	3,441,221

Collection	Titles	Issues	Number of Pages (Scans)
North Carolina Newspapers	1,868	600,390	4,469,198

VISITORS TO DIGITALNC.ORG, OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2023*

Unique visitors	106,828
Average sessions per day	1,746
Total number of sessions	160,632
Sessions from North Carolina	76,902
Total number of page views	1,254,598

**These counts were compiled by a new analytics reporting system and may appear lower than usual. In addition to honoring users' privacy settings, the new system assesses 'sessions' more strictly.*

VIEWS OF DIGITIZED MATERIAL AVAILABLE THROUGH ARCHIVE.ORG, OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2023

201,578

ZOONIVERSE TRANSCRIPTION STATISTICS, OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2023

This quarter, **254** unique users on the Zooniverse platform transcribed **1,406** handwritten phrases in **953** page scans that were part of **12** digital objects.

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digitalnc@unc.edu

(919) 962-4836