



---

# North Carolina

## DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

---

### Quarterly Report

JANUARY – MARCH 2024

This quarter we worked with the most partners ever in a quarter. We officially released a new section of the website: Primary Source Sets. These sets, comprised of materials from DigitalNC, support educators instructing students on a particular topic in North Carolina history.

---

#### New Partners

##### **BESSEMER CITY ART AND HISTORY SOCIETY**

Located in Bessemer City, a small town just west of Charlotte, the Bessemer City Art and History Society selected four volumes of the town's paper, the *Bessemer City Record*, for their first batch with us. The volumes cover 1964 through 1967 and document the close-knit town's many activities, including its transformation from a textile town to the home of one of the largest lithium mines in the country in 1954. The Society itself is located in the Bessemer City Museum, which is in the home of the Bessemer City Jr. Women's Club (built in 1929).

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

##### **HYDE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

We also welcomed a new partner from the other end of the state: Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society located in Engelhard, N.C. Hyde County is the home to North Carolina's largest natural freshwater lake, Lake Mattamuskeet, which is featured in a very large map that was brought to us for scanning. The map, titled the "Mattamuskeet Lake Migratory Bird Refuge Grant Map," was created by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1934 and shows parcel boundaries with ownership, acreage, and acquisition date information. Names present on the map, such as Collins, Barber, Chance, Clayton, and

Bryant, represent American Indian heritage back to the Mattamuskeet. The same year the map was published, the lake was acquired by the United States Government and the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge was established. One of the largest items we have been asked to scan, it took 30 images stitched together to get it captured properly!

<https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/hyde-county-historical-and-genealogical-society/>

##### **TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Tri-County Community College, located in Murphy, N.C., sent us a large batch of course catalogs and yearbooks as their first batch with us. This institution is North Carolina's westernmost community college, and we're excited to add more content from this corner of the state.

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

---

#### Ongoing Projects

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

- Materials documenting Black churches, Black law enforcement officers, and the NC Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Inc. from **North Carolina Central University**
- Scrapbooks, city directories, newspapers and yearbooks from **Lee County Libraries**
- Materials documenting a local book club from **Braswell Memorial Library (Rocky Mount, N.C.)**
- High School yearbooks from **Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, Mauney Memorial Library, and New Hanover County Public Library**

**INSTITUTION TYPES WORKING WITH NCDHC,  
JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2024**

Public Libraries	17
Museums	5
Community Colleges	4
Historical Societies	3
Public Colleges and Universities	3
Community Groups	1
Private Colleges and Universities	1
Private Libraries and Archives	1
Public Archives	1
Other	1

- Audio and video documenting **Rowan-Cabarrus Community College** from 1969-2011
- Photographs from **Greensboro Firefighters History Book Committee**
- Brochures about golf clubs and other leisure spots, student newspapers, and yearbooks from **Heritage Research Center at High Point Public Library** and **High Point Museum**
- A book about Wake Forest history from **Olivia Raney Local History Library**
- Sanborn maps from **Graham Historical Museum**
- Audio recordings about Wilkes County from **Wilkes Community College**
- Student newspapers and yearbooks from **Davidson County Public Library System**
- Minutes and a deed from the First Presbyterian Church of Mount Holly, added to our **North Carolina Community Contributors** collection
- Campus publications from **Southwestern Community College**
- Recipes, clippings from an old restaurant, waitress uniforms, and Magazine Club materials from **Edgecombe County Memorial Library**
- Newspapers from **Appalachian Regional Library, Ashe County Public Library, Buncombe County Public Libraries, Chatham County Historical Association, Duke University, The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina, Harnett County Public Library, History Committee of the Town of Pine Knoll Shores, Johnston County Heritage Center, Museum of**

the Albemarle, Northampton County Museum, Perquimans County Library, Pettigrew Regional Library, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Watauga County Public Library, and Western Regional Archives (Asheville, N.C.)

The Center worked with a total of **37 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

In addition to working with more partners this quarter than in any previous quarters, NCDHC staff made more site visits than in any prior three-month period. Kristen alone visited 10 partners: **Blowing Rock Historical Society, Central Piedmont Community College, Chowan University, Elizabeth City State University** to see satellite staff, **Lee County Public Libraries, Northampton County Museum, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, Saint Augustine's University, Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library**, and the **University of North Carolina at Charlotte**. Ashlie Brewer, Abby Martin, Alona Norwood, and Lisa Gregory visited the **Winston Salem African American Archive** to review their collection and pick up materials for digitization. We also hosted on-site partner visits from the **Blowing Rock Historical Society, Johnson C. Smith University**, and **University of North Carolina at Charlotte**.

## Wilson Library Improvement Project

In Fall 2023, we found out that Wilson Library would be undergoing a multi-year closure as intensive repairs were made to the building's infrastructure. During last quarter and early winter, we engaged in planning for the closure. We learned in March that the timeline for this project has been extended, and the building will no longer be closing in 2024.

As Wilson Library prepared for closure, North Carolina Collection (NCC) staff performed a review of uncataloged print newspapers. As a result of this review, a large number of non-microfilmed North Carolina newspapers were cataloged. NCC staff then approached us about adding these to DigitalNC, and we were excited to do so. Representing over 170 titles dating from 1844-1925, issues are being added now and into the next quarter.

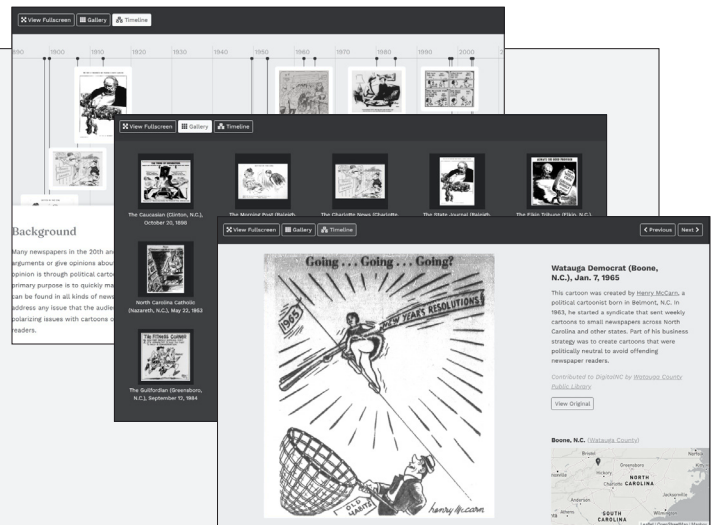
## Project Highlight

### PRIMARY SOURCE SETS

One of DigitalNC's strengths is that it contains unique materials that are focused on local communities from all areas of North Carolina. Because of the size of the collection, it can be a challenge to find materials related to a specific subject. This, coupled with the fact that we want to support educators and librarians working with K-12 students in the most efficient way possible, led to the development of a new feature: Primary Source Sets. We officially released these sets this quarter. These sets are discrete groupings of hand-selected items from DigitalNC that can be used for instruction on a particular topic. Each set is aimed at specific grades and includes contextual information, a timeline, discussion questions, and links to additional supporting resources.

Primary Source Teaching Fellows, student positions sponsored by UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries, created these sets over the last year based on educator feedback and their own experiences in classrooms. Stephanie Williams built out an entirely new portion of DigitalNC to support the sets. Teachers can select some or all of the items for teaching, and there are options for printing the lessons and worksheets that help students interpret photographs, newspapers, and maps.

The topics currently available are: *Analyzing Maps,*



*Analyzing Political Cartoons, Racial Integration in K-12 Schools, Textile Workers & Labor Movements, Tobacco Part 1: Farmers & Workers, Tobacco Part 2: Culture & Influence, and University Student Activism.*

Thank you to fellows Sarah Dwyer, Arai Greenwell-McAnsh, and Sophie Hollis for their work this past year. This coming year, we are looking forward to hosting another cohort of Teaching Fellows. We are eager to share additional sets and have a long list of topics that are particularly suited to the materials our partners have shared on DigitalNC.

ABOVE *Primary Source Sets on DigitalNC.*

<https://www.digitalnc.org/primary-source-sets/>

## Technology Update

In addition to regular maintenance activities this quarter, Stephanie expanded DigitalNC's infrastructure to better support partners' local subject metadata, began development toward a comprehensive database of known North Carolina newspaper holdings, updated DigitalNC mail subscription services in response to heightened anti-spam measures, and processed 67 in-house newspaper batches and corrections for ingest into ONI. She also helped Kristen manage January's Digital Public Library of America harvest, and worked with Lisa to establish a method to automatically update newspaper rights statement metadata as copyright years move forward.

As a large repository of publicly-available text, DigitalNC's newspaper collections became of particular interest to AI bots this quarter. We began working closely with colleagues at UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries to reduce the impact of this activity on site performance, and develop policies around the use of digital collections data for AI.

## 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 meeting with prospective TIND customers, talking with a partner planning a community scanning event, and helping Wilson Library staff configure and use OCR software.

**TOTAL CONSULTATIONS: 5**

## Statistics

### ITEMS PUBLISHED ONLINE TO DATE

Collection	Number of Objects	Number of Files
Images of North Carolina	27,730	53,688
North Carolina Memory <i>Includes Urban Renewal Collection</i>	12,838	485,445
North Carolina Yearbooks		
College and University Yearbooks	4,614	854,722
Other Campus Publications	6,413	862,590
High School Yearbooks	5,302	617,247
North Carolina City Directories	1,096	585,268
North Carolina Sights & Sounds	1,250	2,226
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,243</b>	<b>3,461,186</b>

Collection	Titles	Issues	Number of Pages (Scans)
North Carolina Newspapers	1,880	597,742*	4,480,477

\* Due to a cataloging error, several thousand issues were previously counted twice in our Quarterly Report statistics.

### VISITORS TO DIGITALNC.ORG, JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2024\*\*

Unique visitors	127,128
Average sessions per day	1,397
Total number of sessions	193,199
Sessions from North Carolina	93,886
Total number of page views	1,530,160

\*\*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, JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2024

# 150,003

### ZOONIVERSE TRANSCRIPTION STATISTICS, JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2024

This quarter, 217 unique users on the Zooniverse platform transcribed 2,002 handwritten phrases in 1,187 page scans that were part of 9 digital objects.

### NORTH CAROLINA DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

<https://www.digitalnc.org>

[mail@digitalnc.org](mailto:mail@digitalnc.org)

(919) 962-4836