North Carolina
DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

Quarterly Report
JANUARY – MARCH 2025

This quarter the Digital Heritage Center welcomed our 350th partner, the **W. B. Wicker Alumni** association, and went to Sylva and Bryson City to scan materials at **Southwestern Community College**.

New Partners

BADIN HISTORIC MUSEUM

Badin Historic Museum documents the history of Badin, N.C., located in Stanly County and on Badin Lake. The lake was created in 1912 when ALCOA built a dam for their aluminum factory on the Yadkin River; Badin was founded as a factory town, where the majority of ALCOA workers lived, worked, and played until the plant closed in 2007. Our first batch for the Museum included issues of the *Badin Tribune* from 1920-1921.

https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/badin-historic-museum/

JONESBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jonesboro Historical Society joins DigitalNC as one of two organizations sent to us by an existing partner, Lee County Libraries. Located in Lee County, Jonesboro, N.C.—now a neighborhood of Sanford—was once an independent township and retains a rich history of its own. Our first batch from Jonesboro includes programs, photographs, cookbooks and bulletins ranging from 1912 through 1996.

https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/jonesboro-historical-society/

LITTLE THEATRE OF WINSTON-SALEM

We are excited to be adding another historic theatre to our partners. The Little Theatre of Winston-Salem is one of the oldest theatrical associations in Forsyth County, and has continuously produced nearly a century of community theater. This year, they celebrate their 90th year of operation. Our first batch from the Theatre included items dating back to 1937 and largely consisted of playbills and posters advertising past productions.

https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/little-theatre-of-winston-salem/

W.B. WICKER ALUMNI

The W.B. Wicker Alumni organization also came to us thanks to Lee County Libraries; they also have the distinction of being our 350th partner! Originally named the Lee County Training School, the W. B. Wicker School was founded in 1927, and is one of the oldest educational institutions in Lee County. The school was constructed in part with funds from The Rosenwald Fund. For years, the school was one of the only ways for Lee County's African-American students to receive a public education in the years dominated by Jim Crow legislation and segregation. In the 1960s the school was renamed W. B. Wicker School as a way to honor W. B. Wicker, the school's longtime principal and primary supporter. The school was decommissioned as a high school in 1969 as part of Lee County schools' integration efforts. Today the building serves as an elementary school. The alumni association keeps the memory of the Rosenwald school alive through their collections; our first batch from them included yearbooks and publications put together by the school while it was in operation.

https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/w-b-wicker-alumni/

Ongoing Projects

Ashlie Brewer, Carly Jensen, Abby Martin, Kristen Merryman, and Summer Stevens digitized and published online materials from many of the Center's current partners, including:

- Sports programs and issues of the student newspaper from **Hendersonville High School Alumni Association**
- Materials documenting the history of Carolina College from **Methodist University**
- Photographs and slides from **Lee County Libraries** and **Queens University of Charlotte**, the latter of which were scanned during an on-site visit
- High school yearbooks from the **Henderson County Education History Initiative** and **Moore County Historical Association**
- Community newspapers from **Appalachian Regional Library**, **The Alliance for Historic Hillsborough**, **Ashe County Public Library**, **Buncombe County Public Libraries**, **Harnett County Public Library**, **Madison County Public Library**, **Moore County Genealogical Society**, **New Hanover County Public Library**, and **Transylvania County Library**
- Membership rolls, correspondence, and meeting minutes from **The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina**
- Photographs, annual reports, and yearbooks from **Railroad House Historical Association and Museum**
- Student newspapers from **University of North Carolina at Charlotte**
- Military and medical history materials from Winston-Salem from the **Winston-Salem African American Archive**
- Yearbooks and local newspapers from **Randolph County Public Library**
- Student and campus publications from **Forsyth Tech Community College** and **Richmond Community College**
- Newspapers, scrapbooks, newsletters, church histories from **High Point Museum** and the **Heritage Research Center at High Point Public Library**

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.

Project Highlight

BRASWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY PHOTOGRAPHS

This quarter we were excited to complete a rather large photograph project from our long-time partner, **Braswell Memorial Library**. Consisting of over 550 photographs, this project took the help of all digitization staff to complete! Dating mainly from the 1930s to 1970s, the photographs show a variety of scenery and people in Rocky Mount and the surrounding areas. Politicians, in particular, can be found scattered throughout the batch. Terry Sanford, Harold Cooley, and Luther Hodges are just a few of the North Carolina politicians that can be spotted. Other subjects in the batch include farming, business people, women's groups, students, and everyday citizens both working and playing. Browse all 564 photographs using the link below.

https://bit.ly/4j83QTY

FROM TOP: *African American adults standing in front of a car; Bobby L. Lancaster riding a tractor in a tobacco field, 1952.*

On the Road

This February, Ashlie, Kristen, Lisa and Stephanie headed out to Bryson City and Sylva to scan materials for **Southwestern Community College**. While there we worked on materials documenting a previous college president as well agriculture and home demonstration photos from the local extension office. During this trip, Ashlie, Kristen and Stephanie stopped at **McDowell Arts Council Association** as well. At the other end of the state, Lisa visited **New Hanover County Public Library** to pick up newspapers for digitization. Finally, Kristen went to Raleigh to meet with stakeholders regarding preservation of the archives at **Saint Augustine's University**. As members of the local and cultural heritage communities try to find a way to make sure the archives are preserved, Digital Heritage Center staff will continue to contribute expertise and effort.

AI Ethics and Libraries

All Center staff came together this quarter to work through an exercise discussing the ethics of different types of uses of AI (artificial intelligence) within libraries and archives. Created thanks to an Institute of Museum and Library Services-funded project, the exercise ("Viewfinder: A Toolkit for Values-Driven AI in Libraries and Archives," available at https://osf.io/yue9s) provides examples and discussion questions that help staff identify values they can support when implementing AI tools. Using our own digital library work as a case study, Center staff talked through

INSTITUTION TYPES WORKING WITH NCDHC, JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2025	
Public Libraries	10
Historical Societies	4
Alumni Associations	3
Museums	3
Community Colleges	2
Private Colleges and Universities	2
Community Groups	1
Private Libraries and Archives	1
Public Colleges and Universities	1
Public Archives	1

conflicting and complementary stakeholder values related to using AI in the description of digital photographs. While not something the Center has implemented yet, this activity gave staff some dedicated time to talk through pros and cons of using AI in that way based on different viewpoints.

In March, Stephanie attended a full-day training set up by the University Libraries for staff interested in implementing vendor-provided AI tools. Participants were able to ask questions of a representative of Microsoft's AI platform to better understand how vendor-supplied training data was obtained, and what the ethical implications might be for using vendor tools in a library environment.

Technology Update

In addition to regular maintenance activities, Stephanie processed 93 newspaper batches and corrections for ingest into the North Carolina Newspapers collection, and streamlined analytics collection across DigitalNC sites.

This quarter, all sites on University of North Carolina servers, including DigitalNC, were required to implement a "cookie consent" banner (a notification that requires users to acknowledge that a site collects data) by the University's Digital Accessibility Office. This is a big step toward compliance with globally-implemented standards for informed user experience, such as the E.U.'s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The Center's transcription project on the Zooniverse platform continued to be popular with volunteers this quarter, allowing more complex materials to become candidates for transcription. Stephanie developed additional workflows to allow processing new types of materials through the 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 radio program preservation at HBCUs and sharing collection preservation and digitzation options within North Carolina.

TOTAL CONSULTATIONS: 6

Statistics

ITEMS PUBLISHED ONLINE TO DATE

Collection	Number of Objects	Number of Files
Images of North Carolina	30,117	57,958
North Carolina Memory *Includes Urban Renewal Collection*	14,386	557,003
North Carolina Yearbooks		
College and University Yearbooks	4,624	856,179
Other Campus Publications	6,707	873,315
High School Yearbooks	5,438	657,553
North Carolina City Directories	1,165	589,120
North Carolina Sights & Sounds	1,263	2,238
Total	**63,700**	**3,593,366**

Collection	Titles	Issues	Number of Pages (Scans)
North Carolina Newspapers	2,076	606,979	4,658,422

VISITORS TO DIGITALNC.ORG, JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2025

New Users	185,378
Average sessions per day	2,505
Total number of sessions	225,486
Sessions from North Carolina	60,348
Total number of page views	1,650,858

VIEWS OF DIGITIZED MATERIAL AVAILABLE THROUGH ARCHIVE.ORG, JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2025*

144,879

*Due to a service interruption at the Internet Archive, counts for the month of March are unavailable.

ZOONIVERSE TRANSCRIPTION STATISTICS, JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2025

This quarter, **472** unique users on the Zooniverse platform transcribed **4,311** handwritten phrases in **2,425** page scans that were part of **13** digital objects.

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