



North Carolina

DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

Quarterly Report

APRIL – JUNE 2025

This quarter staff worked with campus partners to highlight the importance of federal funding and the Center's impact, published new primary source sets, and presented at the Best Practices Exchange conference in Columbia, S.C.

New Partners

AVERY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Avery County Historical Museum reached out to us in November after Hurricane Helene flooded the town of Newland, N.C., causing water damage to a building that stored old newspapers. Thankfully the newspapers weren't so badly damaged that we couldn't scan them; we were able to add 250 issues of the *Avery Herald* from the World War II era to DigitalNC collections.

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

DAVIDSON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

We were very excited when the Davidson County Historical Museum in Lexington, N.C. reached out about a very special photograph collection they wanted digitized; they hold the full archive of the photographs and negatives of photographer, filmmaker, and Lexington native Herbert Lee Waters—better known as H. Lee Waters (1902-1997)—and wanted our help getting the archive digitized. Our first batch included 137 prints and 83 negatives depicting life, labor, and community in Davidson County.

H. Lee Waters rose to acclaim for his film series *Movies of Local People* (1936-1942), which includes hundreds of short films featuring the communities and towns of North Carolina and neighboring states. Shot largely during the Great Depression, his short films are known for their raw insight into local life. His work most notably depicts employment and labor, African American communities, children and education, local architecture and infrastructure, community groups, and everyday scenes. His lasting place in American culture was further honored in 2004 with the inclusion of his film of Kannapolis, N.C. in the Library of Congress National Film Registry. Seventeen of these films, including the Kannapolis film, can be seen on DigitalNC.org at <https://www.digitalnc.org/exhibits/hleewaters>.

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

RED SPRINGS HISTORICAL MUSEUM (RED SPRINGS, N.C.)

Red Springs Historical Museum is located in Robeson County in the town of Red Springs. Our first batch of materials with the Museum is a set of microfilmed newspaper reels of the *Red Springs Citizen*; we digitized over 800 issues covering 1950 to 1964. Putting these issues on DigitalNC allow visitors to learn about Red Springs, a town that served as an agricultural hub for the Southeastern part of North Carolina for many years.

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

Project Highlight

NORTH CAROLINA POTTERY

This quarter we were excited to work with the **North Carolina Pottery Center** to add photographs, slides, postcards, scrapbooks, and other materials that highlight the artisans, sights, and people of Cherokee, N.C. along with the state's rich pottery tradition.

The first annual Seagrove Pottery Festival program (1982) lists the Piedmont region of North Carolina's pottery tradition as being particularly unique in this country because of its continual tradition of pottery making, which dates back to before the American Revolution. Around 3,000 years ago—long before the influx of Europeans settled in the area—Native Americans used the diverse natural clay deposits to create both functional and ceremonial objects. In the early 20th century, the pottery industry was seeing

TOP RIGHT: *Maude Welch making Cherokee Indian Pottery, c. 1950.*
BELOW: *Image from 'A Pictorial Visit to Cherokee Indian Reservation'*



a decline thanks in part to Prohibition eliminating the demand for jugs. In 1917, pottery lovers Juliana and Jacques Busbee brought about a new era: seeking to bring Seagrove pottery to a wider audience, Jacques began shipping wares to a tearoom operated by Juliana in New York City's Greenwich Village. They were so successful in their efforts that the demand led Jacques to establish Jugtown Pottery and hire their first potter, James Owen (grandson of one of Seagrove's earliest potters, Joseph Owen) in 1922. Over time, both Jugtown and Seagrove pottery became known as "fine examples of traditional handcrafted American pottery" that wasn't just utilitarian, but collectable too.

Today, the Seagrove area remains a hot spot for pottery, boasting over 100 potters and 50+ family-operated shops, including well-known potter families such as the Aumans, Coles, Kings, Owensens, and more. Browse all materials from this batch using the link below.

<https://bit.ly/nc-pottery>

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:

- Tourism materials from **Friends of Hyde County's Historic 1854 Courthouse**
- Audio files of North Carolina Poet Laureate James Larkin Pearson reading his poems and Eleanor Pearson singing from **Wilkes Community College**
- A cipher book and yearbooks from **Chatham County Historical Association**
- Newspapers from **Bessemer City History and Arts Society, Edgecombe County Memorial Library, History Committee of the Town of Pine Knoll Shores, New Hanover County Public Library, Transylvania County Library, State Archives of North Carolina, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, W. B. Wicker Alumni, Watauga County Public Library, and Western Regional Archives (Asheville, N.C.)**
- A dairy newsletter, church records, and student newspapers from **Davidson County Public Library System**
- Yearbooks and issues of the *Chowan Herald* from **Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library**

INSTITUTION TYPES WORKING WITH NCDHC, APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2025

Public Libraries	10
Historical Societies	6
Alumni Associations	3
Museums	3
Private Colleges and Universities	3
Community Colleges	2
Public Archives	2
Public Colleges and Universities	2
Community Groups	1

- Literary magazines from **William Peace University**
- School spiritwear and yearbooks from the **Hendersonville High School Alumni Association**
- Scrapbooks from **McDowell Arts Council Association**, **North Carolina Society Daughters of 1812**, and **Wake Forest University**
- Local history materials and campus photographs from **Southwestern Community College**
- Newspapers and 19th century store ledgers from **Granville County Public Library**
- Photographs of Rocky Mount from **Braswell Memorial Library (Rocky Mount, N.C.)**
- Maps and funeral programs from **Durham County Library**
- Scrapbooks, literary journals and student newspapers from **Queens University of Charlotte**
- Yearbooks from **Blowing Rock Historical Society**, **Chatham County Public Libraries**, and **P. S. Jones Alumni, Inc.**

The Center worked with a total of **32 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.

Promotion and Professional Development

Digital Heritage Center staff focused on promotion and professional development this quarter. Ashlie, Kristen, and Stephanie attended the Best Practices Exchange in Columbia, S.C. and presented on the Center's annual

“pause for maintenance.” NCDHC staff pause most day-to-day digitization and metadata activities for a month each year in order to focus on back-burner projects that are important parts of stewarding a large digital collection: metadata cleanup, technology maintenance, and improving documentation. Ashlie and Kristen also attended the Society of North Carolina Archivists' Annual Meeting held in Greenville, N.C.

In May, Stephanie spent the day at the **Alliance for Historic Hillsborough's** Hands-On History Fair, where she talked with community members about the research resources available on DigitalNC, the work of the Digital Heritage Center, and our partners across the state. The Center has worked with SIX contributors in Hillsborough, including the Alliance.

In May, staff worked with UNC-Chapel Hill campus and Library communications to create a promotional article (see link below) that shares NCDHC's impact to campus and around the state. This was part of a broader effort to highlight the importance of federal funding to research conducted at UNC-Chapel Hill in a wide variety of disciplines.

<https://bit.ly/digitalnc-impact>

Primary Source Sets

This June, cal lane and Isabella Walker finished up their two-semester Primary Source Set fellowship. During their time with us they created over 13 resources! Aimed at both educators and students, our primary source sets pull together 15-25 items around a particular topic from DigitalNC collections. Historical and contextual information is provided for each subject, along with discussion questions and additional resources. Isabella and cal created sets specifically for undergraduate instruction. Some of the newest titles include:

- *Art and Crafting History: Quilting*
- *Folk Arts and Crafts*
- *North Carolina Foodways*
- *North Carolina's Blue Ridge Parkway*
- *Technology in the 20th Century*

These and other source sets targeting a K-12 audience can be found on DigitalNC.org under “Resources:”

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

Technology Update

In addition to regular maintenance activities, Stephanie processed 77 newspaper batches and corrections for ingest into the North Carolina Newspapers collection, made improvements to the Center's internal newspaper workflow tools, and worked with TIND to improve viewer configurations for specialty materials in our repository.

Several updates to DigitalNC statistics tools were made this quarter to allow the Center to better report on its activities at county and precinct levels, part of our effort to demonstrate the impact of federal funding to stakeholders and elected representatives.

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 with multiple organizations about newspaper metadata, meeting with an out-of-state library about TIND, and helping a partner understand usage analytics.

TOTAL CONSULTATIONS: 5

Statistics

ITEMS PUBLISHED ONLINE TO DATE

Collection	Number of Objects	Number of Files
Images of North Carolina	31,091	61,072
North Carolina Memory <i>Includes Urban Renewal Collection</i>	14,789	573,687
North Carolina Yearbooks		
College and University Yearbooks	4,624	856,179
Other Campus Publications	6,850	880,169
High School Yearbooks	5,523	648,543
North Carolina City Directories	1,165	589,120
North Carolina Sights & Sounds	1,276	2,265
Total	65,318	3,611,035

Collection	Titles	Issues	Number of Pages (Scans)
North Carolina Newspapers	2,138	621,019	4,888,648

VISITORS TO DIGITALNC.ORG, APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2025

New Users	193,053
Average sessions per day	2,518
Total number of sessions	229,140
Sessions from North Carolina*	99,979
Total number of page views	1,623,523

*Sessions where user's location is known to be North Carolina

VIEWS OF DIGITIZED MATERIAL AVAILABLE THROUGH ARCHIVE.ORG, APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2025*

N/A

*These statistics were unavailable this quarter due to a service interruption at the Internet Archive.

ZOONIVERSE TRANSCRIPTION STATISTICS, APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2025

This quarter, **562** unique users on the Zooniverse platform transcribed **7,874** handwritten phrases in **3,615** page scans that were part of **6** digital objects.

NORTH CAROLINA DIGITAL HERITAGE CENTER

<https://www.digitalnc.org>

digitalnc@unc.edu

(919) 962-4836