PRESENT: Inese Christman, WVLS; Alison Hoffman, Monarch; Bradley Shipps, OWLS; Rose Ziech, SCLS

STAFF/NOTES: Emily Pfotenhauer, WiLS

Historical Newspapers

Updates

Next batch of content is being uploaded now (see list) and is expected to be available in BadgerLink by about April 18. Includes approximately 100,000 pages representing eleven titles, from six libraries.

National Digital Newspaper Project continues to move forward at WHS. Titles from Wisconsin Rapids and Watertown are now available in Chronicling America collection at Library of Congress. WHS now has a project landing page that includes a map of all Wisconsin newspapers freely available online, including the historical content in the WNA Archive via BadgerLink. **http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/WisconsinNewspapers**

For out-of-state researchers who can't access the content through BadgerLink, WNA can offer paid access through their News Tracker service, which includes everything available through the BadgerLink Archive as well as embargoed content such as the most recent 90 days of new publications. DPI has approved this option. WNA will determine cost model and will coordinate the service.

Question from committee: Is this something libraries could purchase access to, or is it for individuals only? It's designed for individual researchers, but if there was significant demand from libraries, we could explore that option.

When developing the pilot project, we agreed to an annual content hosting fee ($0.005/page) to be paid by WPLC to WNA. WNA has now offered to roll this cost into their contract, making it part of the cost of providing the service instead of a separate fee. This means that the per-library page limits we'd initially planned for may no longer be necessary. Questions from committee re: scalability and sustainability – is there a maximum amount of content per year they're willing to support? Is this sustainable long-term? Is it possible that WPLC or the libraries would have to pay for hosting at some point in the future? Will follow up to get more specific information.

Draft documents

A final version of the newspaper selection criteria is ready for review. A draft MoU for libraries participating in the project is in the works. Emily will share these on Google Drive for comments from the committee.

Usability testing and providing feedback on interface

WNA is currently working with their database vendor, Tecnavia, to address some issues and make improvements. They are moving from Flash to HTML5 in May, which should improve the search speed. They are also implementing a "stop search" function.

They've asked for additional input on user interface enhancements. Suggestions/known issues include simpler date range searching, a browse-by-title option, and increasing number of search results returned – to avoid error message "search was intentionally stopped/too many results returned."

Further recommendations for improvement are difficult to make without more specific input from end users. We'd still like to try for some usability testing, perhaps after these initial enhancements are completed.

Project promotion

Committee expressed interest in the idea to include a list or directory of newspaper titles and participating libraries on the WPLC website. List preferred over a map. Suggested including "coming soon"/in the works titles as well as available ones.

Also interest in providing a press release template that libraries could customize and use locally. WVLS may be able to provide some examples to adapt.

Goal for WPLC is to promote this project to the library community, secondarily to help libraries promote it to their patrons and communities.

Collaborative Digitization

Digital Projects Toolkit online course

Course concluded March 16 with a live discussion webinar. 25 people registered for the course, 10 completed the full course, 8 completed a portion of it. Not a huge turnout for the discussion webinar but those who attended were active participants. Overall, seems that the webinar was well received and people found the toolkit useful.

Any interest in re-running the course, possibly more specifically targeted at libraries rather than system staff? If it was to be offered again, providing CE credits would be important.

The Google Community that was created to complement the course will be opened up more widely. Not a lot of use of the community so far. We will keep it in place but won't invest a lot of time or effort in developing it in the near term.

Next meeting: July. Emily will send Doodle to set date and time.