

WPLC Historical and Local Digital Collections Committee

NOTES

October 18, 2017, 3:30 – 4:30 pm

In-person at WLA annual meeting, Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells

Notes from April 2017 committee call are [here](#). Committee did not meet in July due to lack of updates/action items.

Attendees: Inese Christman (WVLS), Alison Hoffman (Monarch), Rebecca Leannah (Racine PL), Bradley Shipps (OWLS)

Historical Newspapers: Project Updates

Search improvements – Archive interface and functionality. Tecnavia (database vendor for WNA) is migrating from Flash to HTML5 and expects retrieval times to improve significantly when that move is complete. Other search improvements are on hold until that is ready.

Upcoming content additions – preliminary list is being compiled. Expect to have enough content ready for another batch upload in early 2018.

Next phase of National Digital Newspaper Program at WHS – WHS was awarded a second grant for 2017-2019 to digitize another 100,000 newspaper pages for Chronicling America. Titles will be selected by an advisory committee in December 2017.

More libraries are aware of the project. Information now available on the WPLC website has been helpful for systems to share with member libraries (<http://wplc.info/newspapers>).

Is it feasible to bridge PR efforts for this project and for Recollection Wisconsin? Librarians answering research questions (who are also genealogy/local history enthusiasts themselves) are a significant audience for both resources. There's also a significant overlap between librarians who are doing digitization projects and librarians who manage genealogy collections/support questions. Need to make these librarians more aware of both projects and they will recommend them to their patrons/networks.

Historical Newspapers: Discussion Topics

Out-of-state access

WNA has a test site up as a freely available access point to the historical content available through BadgerLink (only the historical content). This is in response to library concerns for supporting out-of-state researcher access.

WNA will customize this site for us (minimally). How should it be branded? Where should it live? Will need to point back to BadgerLink site for current content. Credit should be given to WPLC as a partner, but making it a WPLC project is less important – the key thing is that the content get used. In that case, Recollection WI may be the logical home – RW as a clearinghouse for state/local history research. Overdrive/WPLC website are not where ppl will look for this kind of content. Emily will bring this recommendation to RW Governing Board.

Grants and other funding sources

LSTA grants are no longer being offered for local history digitization projects. Three libraries had submitted applications for newspaper projects, which will not be funded. We know cost is a barrier to many libraries. How can we help? Have libraries share creative solutions to how they did it without LSTA funding (Friends, fundraising, etc.)

Draft FAQ

WHS has started an FAQ to answer questions about the project related to digitization process, costs, etc. Emily will post the draft to Google Drive for the committee to review and comment.

Initial thoughts on FAQ from committee: Reorganizing/grouping by theme or audience would be helpful.

Along with the FAQ, WHS has offered to present a webinar about microfilm, digitization and the Archive. The webinar could be sponsored by WPLC and hosted by a system in order to make it eligible for a 1 hour CE credit. OWLS offered to host and submit for CE. Would need to include a learning objective, a followup evaluation and be 60 minutes long. Emily will check with WHS about moving forward on this.

Next meeting: January, by phone (date TBD).