Historical Local Digital Collections Committee | Wisconsin Public Library Consortium
Spring Committee Meeting
March 12, 2024
9:00am - 10:00am

Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89042313308?pwd=eWxYcGxUZ2hrdGJsR1VDdElKOVlZQT09

Attendees: Alison Hoffman, Tamara Ramski, Bob Jaeger, David Kranz, Laura Damon-Moore (WPLC project manager)

Agenda:

1. Welcome

2. Update on newspaper digitization project (Jen)
    a. Last upload to WNA is complete (Fall 2023); WHS and Waupaca are finishing up
    b. From Daniel Hartwig (WHS): The Wisconsin Historical Society Digital Asset Management System (DAMS) implementation continues with the aim of having preliminary collection migration begin later this summer. Newspapers will likely be one of the last content types migrated, given the volume and complexity. Their goal is to have a portal within the DAMS public interface - so likely not part of the new website - to provide dedicated access to newspapers. They anticipate adding the bulk of their digitized historical newspaper content into the DAMS dependent on image quality, however this won't be fully known until they are closer to migrating newspaper content.

Discussion:
- Does this imply that WHS will be taking on 100% of digitizing and getting materials into the DAMS instead of that work being split between WNA and WHS?
  We presume the WNA would not be involved going forward with WHS's project. We understand that it is WHS's intention to migrate all good-quality content to the DAMS.
- Wondering about the user-friendly nature of WHS's system; the metadata produced through WPLC during LSTA project is fully available; wondering about the capability of remote/offsite public availability of digitized newspapers via the DAMS; WHS's anticipated timeline (if known).
- Will this update necessitate any changes or updates to the text on the wplc webpages related to historic newspapers/other local history content: https://wplc.info/node/350
    ○ Action item: Share with Daniel the All Things Newspapers resource page – is the information contained here still relevant, up to date, and applicable?
    Laura updated the document with current WHS info on 3/13.

3. Project Update: Consultation Support (Laura & all)

a. [Question & Agenda Document](#) - January project group meeting � provides background for:
b. [Concept Doc: Local History Digital Projects Community of Practice](#)
    i. 5 min to review concept doc and questions
    ii. Discussion

Discussion:
- General comments, questions? Overall, how do people feel about pursuing this particular version of (or pathway to) consultation support?
    - AH: Idea of having an official connection place is appealing. Question about sustainability – who can step in/up and take on a coach/mentor role? Discussion board is more helpful for finding past discussions than an email list.
    - TR: Want to emphasize within-system connection first since some systems may approach things differently. Sustainability/facilitation time commitment is going to be key. Organization thought: peer to peer connections and support for system staff to share resources with member libraries. (+1) Knowing platform-specific contacts at other systems would be very helpful to point people to.
        - RW has a solid list of system contacts that could be a very good starting point for a system-focused initial CoP if that's the direction to go.
        - Question to consider from LDM: start only with system staff?
    - DK: Considering the CoP from a member library perspective, and how to interact with the community of practice. Useful in the sense that the CoP could help point them to where to go for next steps and more information. Will this be useful for member libraries? Will the CoP be on their radar – how?
        - A pilot year gives a chance to understand if/how useful it is and to make adjustments after a feedback period.
        - For member libraries at systems without dedicated staff who support digitization projects, the CoP could be a lifeline.
        - Connections between system staff would be a crucial aspect – help with capacity and make access to resources more accessible/equitable across the state.

- "Staffing" model. 2-3 system staff or other experienced library staff to serve a year as a coach or mentor?
    - BJ: Time commitment is a big unknown but will need to be articulated to help with recruitment. Tricky because the question load is unknown.

- How to identify potential coaches/mentors to invite (work with RW on this)
    - TR: Finding a variety of coaching expertise in preservation and archiving, different platforms (ContentDM, Omeka, etc), in addition to general digitization

        expertise/experience.

- Asynchronous vs. synchronous opportunities?
    - Embrace the pilot year to focus on the asynchronous resource. If people want or ask for a synchronous component, that could be considered for adding after the initial year. (+1)
    - Themes, kinds of questions can inform potential future synchronous offerings (webinars, open q&a meetings, etc).
    - Pointing people to RW office hours, two-way communication with RW about themes/common questions.

- Think through logical progression of how to promote this opportunity - coaches first, then interested parties, then more widely open? Rolling invitation and promotion.

- WPLC governance structure: does the Board need to be looped in/approve the CoP?
    - Natural avenue for updates through notes/minutes

4. Action Items from Meeting:

- Project managers will work on answers to committee questions about WHS update.
  Done – see responses in italics above.
- Committee members will look at webpage content on WPLC site and alert Laura if they think changes or edits need to be made.
- Project managers will check with WHS to ensure the All Things Newspapers resource doc is still accurate given the current landscape.
  Done – document updated with info from WHS.
- Laura will create Rallly poll for committee members interested in discussing the CoP project in the next 1-2 months to keep up the momentum.
- Interested committee members will meet to refine CoP idea and establish a timeline to get the pilot off the ground.
- Laura will follow up with Melody about additional Board updates/communications beyond meeting notes/minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 am.