

## Digitization Advisory Committee

December 13, 2023

Present: Erika Jenns, John Hosford, Julia Corrice, Claire Lovell

- Digital Services Updates
  - Claire went over her goals for the year (July 2023 through June 2024):
    - Meaningful check-ins with every NYH contributor (i.e. do landing pages look okay? do they have digital collections they want to work on?)
      - This is barely started (3 out of 55)
    - An audit of existing SCRLC region metadata (for best practices)
    - Successful completion of the 6 Digitization Lab projects.
      - Waterloo
      - Historic Ithaca
      - Seneca Falls (16/31 hours remaining)
      - Cayuga Onondaga BOCES (40/95 hours remaining)
      - Broome Tioga BOCES (83/83 hours remaining)
      - Cayuga Museum diaries (76/76 hours remaining)
    - A marketing plan for the SCRLC region's collections & projects.
      - Julia notes it usually has to be tied to bigger things, like HistoryUnbound and exhibits. She also suggests showing up to history lectures to tell people about their chosen topic.
    - Begin exploring USA @ 250 celebration ideas.
      - "Exploring" is a vague term; Claire has added a few ideas to SCHOAM newsletters for members to consider.
    - Work with the membership engagement librarian and DAC, determine how to move forward with the inclusive metadata goals of the Plan of Service; plan activities as relevant and feasible.
      - Happily, the Southeastern Council found a speaker and is offering an ESLN-branded webinar in January about inclusive metadata.
    - Underground railroad exhibit
      - Erika notes that Angelica Free Library would be great to work with. They could potentially have something about the Underground Railroad. Erika suggests creating a survey or reaching out as an email. Julia notes this is what she did for Women's Suffrage. They also earmarked Women's Suffrage collections for grants.
  - Consider the Source work is finally done.
  - Digitization grants (formerly RBDB grants) are open already, but still due in mid-April. Some members needed more time to get approval from superiors.
  - Claire attended a webinar about the NYSL's conservation and preservation grants, which require a lot of paperwork for the application and look like they can fund about \$40,000 per year. Only a handful of organizations have received it in

the past few years. The grants can be used to microfilm paper newspapers, which would then expedite any digitization in the future with SCRLC grants. Claire worked with Erika to reach out to public libraries in the STLS region, but the results have been mixed; newspaper collections have not been very organized or quick to identify as good candidates.

- STLS has had two challenges: Almond and Cuba. In the last two weeks Brian Hildreth has been prepping the boards around the region. The majority of turnout was opposed to banning. Discussions have been civil. John had read about it and notes that Brian did an eloquent job.
- Alfred's Digitization Coordinator retired from the University for pay reasons. The library is now trying to hire a faculty member position for digital projects. They would work directly with the archives team. They will hopefully get approval in the next month for a spring hire. Megan Allen did a great job in the year she was there. John plans to apply for some grants, maybe able the local fire departments and maybe to have Preservation Media transfer more material.
- Cornell is losing a librarian in the metadata department for a different job in Ireland. The position won't be filled any time soon. That was the librarian who worked on digitization projects. Cornell is looking at JStor Forum, their DAMS, which Julia doesn't like. They're considering a change. That'll be a very big process. Julia is still working on a migration project for Kheel archives and Weil library, migrating into ArchivesSpace. She's also working on Freedom on the Move, a database created by Cornell history professors, showing newspaper articles from the 19th century of enslaved people escaping to freedom.
  - John asked about JStor and Julia's opinion. Julia noted that JStor doesn't save filenames as metadata. It only works with .xls (not .xlsx). It doesn't have IIIF functionality. It doesn't hold on to linked data details like identifiers for LC subject headings. It's just difficult to use when managing metadata on the macro level.
  - John notes it's not as robust but for that reason, works well for student projects at Alfred.
- Julia's also been working on a vertebrae collection: images of biological specimens. She came up with a solution to the issue she was facing a few months ago, that the metadata the library uses is meant for images, whereas the collection uses biological metadata like DarwinCore. Julia linked VertNet to the collection metadata.