

Digitization Advisory Committee Meeting

July 13, 2022 at 11 am via Zoom

Present: Julia Corrice, Chair (Cornell University), Claire Lovell (SCRLC), John Hosford (Alfred University), Erin Rushton (Binghamton), Maggie Young (Steele Memorial Library)

Excused: Richard Urban (Corning Museum of Glass), Erika Jenns (Southern Tier Library System)

- Call to order at 11 am
- Approve last minutes
 - ([https://scrlc.org/data/Digitization Advisory Committee Meeting 3-9-20221.pdf](https://scrlc.org/data/Digitization_Advisory_Committee_Meeting_3-9-20221.pdf))
 - Julia noted by email that “Julia Parker” should be “Elizabeth Parker” of Kheel Center at Cornell University.
 - Motion made by Julia. Seconded by Erin.
- Committee membership
 - Richard Urban is changing jobs, although he’ll stay in the region. It is unlikely he’ll stay on the committee but it has not yet been explicitly discussed.
- Digitization grant awards: <https://scrlc.org/Grant-Information>
 - \$55,208 was awarded in total out of a requested \$68,000+.
 - Three projects will use SCRLC as a digitization vendor: Cayuga Onondaga BOCES SLS, Houghton College, and Elmira College.
- Digital services update
 - SCRLC is doing more digitization vendor work to help projects get completed. The three funded by digitization grants total about 200 hours of scanning work, which will be done by a temporary worker. The processing and editing work can be done by Claire and may also total around 200 hours. Some of this may be outsourced to other SCRLC employees.
 - Jessica Philippe, Education Services Coordinator at SCRLC, is taking a one year leave of absence. Existing staff will cover the gap of her absence. SCRLC has just posted an opening for a new Outreach Services Coordinator, which is partly Molly’s former position. Of note, it has no digitization responsibilities and instead has DEIJA responsibilities. SCRLC staff will hire temporary workers (as they are now with Sam, former intern) to do project-based scanning work as needed, instead of building that into a professional librarian’s job.
- ARPA projects update
 - ARPA museum and library partnership projects were granted to: Seymour Library to work with Cayuga County organizations, Southworth Library Association to work with the Dryden Town Historical Society, SUNY Cortland’s Archives to work with Cortland County Historical Society, and Chenango County Historical Society to work with the Sherburne Public Library. These were all successful and are wrapping up, leading to thousands of new items on NYHeritage.org.

- A fifth project was directly to SCRLC and funded Sam Preston as an intern. He and Claire worked on gathering material about the 1972 flood that affected a huge portion of the SCRLC region. [The exhibit is finished and online.](#)
- ConsiderTheSource project
 - Several of the organizations that had ARPA grants were expected to get their membership dues covered by ARPA money, but that is not allowed. Instead, the Consider the Source project with the NYS Archives Partnership Trust will cover the membership dues for Steuben County Historical Society, Dryden Town Historical Society, Chenango County Historical Society, and a few others.
 - This project is especially focused on finding collections about historically marginalized voices, for which it will fund SCRLC membership and digitization.
 - Claire asked for ideas for other organizations.
 - Julia suggests trying the Seneca Falls State Park collection. The materials may have moved to Fort Dix, and required chasing down.
 - Julia recommends reaching out to private organizations or social groups (like LGBTQ+ groups).
 - Maggie suggests reaching out to John Jones Museum. Perhaps a 3D walk through could be funded? The museum doesn't have the primary sources; Chemung County Historical Society has the archival material.
 - Roberson Museum in Binghamton could be a good resource.
 - Houghton College might have something about one room schoolhouses around Allegany College.
- Inclusive metadata working group or resource
 - Claire admits falling behind in this goal from last year.
 - Cornell is on the verge of having an output from their inclusive metadata task force. It will hopefully be done this fall, at which point Julia can share it with us.
 - UNC and Duke have good resources.
- 2022-2023 Work Plan activities
 - The yearly work plan is developed from the goals listed in the five year plan of service, which was just renewed last year. We reviewed the 2021-2022 Work Plan activities at the March 2022 meeting.
 - Based on the goals, we need to discuss and review progress with current work plan activities for the digital service program.
 - Goal: Encourage members to adopt inclusive cataloging and metadata practices, and antiracist initiatives that eliminate biases and discrimination.
 - Claire would like to offer a workshop about inclusive metadata. She asks for recommendations for speakers.
 - Julia has leaned on Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia: <https://archivesincontext.archivists.org/2021/07/13/season-5-episode-5-archives-for-black-lives-in-philadelphias-anti-racist-description-working-group/> Maybe they'd have speakers? Jerrit Drake? https://archivesforblacklives.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/ardr_final.pdf

- Erin suggests Queer Metadata Collective: [Landing Page: Queer Metadata Collective | Queer Metadata Collective](#). Katelin Berwald, now at Binghamton, worked on this.
 - Dorothy Berry came up as a recommendation, too.
 - Julia also recommends the Sunshine State Digital Network.
- Goal: Identify new collections that reflect historically oppressed and marginalized peoples and perspectives and unique regional subjects, and investigate new material formats for inclusion, such as data sets and original research.
 - This is underway because of the Consider the Source project.
 - We had already uploaded a new format: some data sets through HistoryForge. CONTENTdm is not ideal for hosting datasets because the contents of spreadsheets and/or text files is not searchable.
 - Julia suggests adding the text to the transcript field. The full content is too long, but Claire will try to add just the names from the census records.
- Goal: Adopt inclusive descriptive metadata practices for digital collections.
 - This was discussed earlier in the meeting. Claire will put together a LibGuide and point to resources already identified.
- Goal: Investigate regional digital preservation needs and provide regional access to and information about digital preservation solutions, including the Digital Dark Archives project.
 - Claire is struggling to meet the objective of having half of SCRLC's NYH contributors in the Digital Dark Archives by May 2022, because she does not have all of the original files from pre-existing collections.
 - Julia and John suggest we adopt the strategy of "going forward..." when it comes to this objective.
- Goal: Support regional digitization and innovative projects and services through SCRLC-sponsored initiatives and grant opportunities that impact members and adhere to SCRLC's values.
 - We continue to offer grants and Claire promotes them in the monthly newsletter to anyone who might have digitization in their job responsibilities.
- Goal: Develop the capacity of members representing diverse communities to add their collections to NYHeritage. Seek new members, including those representing historically oppressed and marginalized peoples, whose collections increase the diversity of resources available to all people.
 - This dovetails with the Consider the Source work.
- Goal: Facilitate collaboration and encourage participation within the region to provide a comprehensive digital history of South Central New York State.
 - Claire did identify some regional gaps, such as Tioga County, for which we have nothing on NYHeritage except some pictures of trains.
 - We're using the Consider the Source money as an opportunity to find and attract organizations from these underrepresented counties. Claire is reaching out to Allegany, Tioga, and Schuyler county historical societies.

- We've already recently added the Cayuga Museum of History and Art and the Steuben County Historical Society.
- Goal: Provide information and training in the process of digitization, standards, metadata, access, and digital preservation, especially with a critical eye for inclusive description practices.
 - We are offering training and consultation on an as needed basis, rather than offering wide-ranging webinars. Peers like LILRC are already offering frequent and excellent broad topic webinars.
 - Claire is also sending out information in the SCHOAM newsletter.
 - Goal: Act as regional liaison and advocate for SCRLC members to NYHeritage and other statewide digital initiatives.
 - Claire continues to do this.
 - Goal: Promote the rich digital content generated by SCRLC members through NYHeritage or other content gateways, especially as it relates to school curricula.
 - Claire has added a section to the existing HistoryUnbound LibGuide for "Regional Reference." Originally this was just a way of combining links to all the different newspaper collections, organized by county, but this might also be a good place to put digital collections from non-NYH sources, like any of Cornell's local history digital collections.
 - Julia suggests we reach out to those private institutions and ask to duplicate the collections. Julia will pursue this within Cornell.
 - Around the table
 - Elaine Westbrook has started as the University Librarian at Cornell. She comes from UNC, where she led excellent projects. She had been the head of the metadata services department at Cornell for years before going to UNC.
 - At BU, the Dean of Libraries has stepped down and they are looking for an interim before starting the search process. Binghamton has recently hired Caitlin Holton as the new Digital Initiatives Assistant, so she's working on the institutional repository, digital preservation, and digitization support. She had worked at Cornell.
 - John at Alfred is about to review the applications for digital projects coordinator, so that the new hire is in place by the beginning of the semester.
 - At Steele Memorial Library, they're getting a new microfilm scanner to start digitizing the rest of the newspapers. A lot of their public programming is still online although Maggie can start using the computer lab for instruction soon. Upcoming zoom programs include:
 - Sept. 6 - Introduction to Ukrainian genealogy
 - Oct. 18 - Advanced DNA
 - Nov. 1 and Dec. 13 - African-American genealogy programs
 - Nov. 29 - Irish genealogy
 - Meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm.