Digitization Advisory Committee Meeting

March 9, 2022 at 11 am via Zoom

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

Other members: Richard Urban (Corning Museum of Glass)

- Call to order at 11:20 am
- Approval of [December 8, 2021 meeting minutes](#)
  - Erika makes a motion to approve the minutes. Julia seconds.
- Digital Services Update
  - Molly Brown has resigned from the South Central Regional Library Council, effective this week. Her position was in part funded with RBDB money, and she was meant to work 8 hours per week on digitization tasks. The position, which was otherwise mostly for the Hospital Library Services Program and resource sharing, will be reviewed for reorganization, with a potential for a new hire in the fall of 2022.
  - Julia Corrice and Ryan Perry had reserved a table at the 2020 Museum Association of New York (MANY) conference on behalf of the Empire State Library Network (ESLN). Given pandemic cancellations, that registration was held over until the 2022 conference. MANY is meeting in person in Corning from April 10 through 12. Claire will represent ESLN along with Ashley Beavers of CLRC.
    - Julia noted that these conferences were very fruitful for making new relationships with historical repositories. She also noted that the exhibit panels draw positive attention. Claire will try to bring a panel from the Erie Canal exhibit, as the immigration exhibit and the women's suffrage exhibit are both booked through April.
  - Metadata Dictionary changes (specifically Type field)
    - The Metadata Dictionary Committee, made of NYH liaisons around the state like Claire, is nearing completion of the dictionary's revision. The current version was published in January of 2019, so it was due for an update.
    - A few major changes are planned, notably, an update of the Physical Format controlled vocabulary and the Collection Type list. The committee is also considering removing the Type field, because it seems to cause confusion within the user interface and does not appear to offer any benefit to NYHeritage. Claire asks if we should keep it or if it is used by contributors.
    - Julia notes that we should review DPLA mapping, because if it's mapped, it could break things for other migrations, system integrations and crosswalking. Erin thinks Binghamton University uses it but she doesn't know the specifics.
    - John uses Type in DSpace for Alfred University. He likes it as a dropdown, which limits for the next facet, format.
    - Claire will relay this to the Metadata Dictionary Committee.
- RBDB Grant Applications
  - The new round of Technology and Digitization grants are due April 15, 2022.
  - There is less money for projects than there was last year, down to $30,000 from $50,000.
  - We already know that there will be several grants that are continuation projects of applications from last year.

- ARPA Library / Museum Partnership Grant Updates
  - There are five projects being funded through ARPA money: SCRLC, Cortland, Cayuga, Chenango, Dryden. SCRLC has an intern, Sam Preston, who's working with Claire on an exhibit about the 1972 flooding caused by Hurricane Agnes, which affected most of our region.
  - At least three of these projects will add exhibits to nyheritage.org.
- Consider the Source Project
  - This statewide project is administered by the NYS Archives Partnership Trust and funded by IMLS. It aims to connect local history curators with classroom teachers. To that end, there are 9 regional [Diversity and Collaborative Knowledge Institute](s).
  - Ours will be May 10 in Johnson City.
  - Ours needs a keynote speaker to address some aspect of local history primary sources, historically marginalized communities, and social studies education.
    - Julia suggests Julia Parker from Kheel Center at Cornell
- Updates on 2021-2022 Work Plan Activities:
  - Add at least one new collection representing historically oppressed and marginalized peoples and perspectives
    - We will have several thanks to the ARPA projects.
  - Add at least one data set
    - This is completed. Data sets from HistoryForge (ie. census records as CSV files) have been uploaded, but Claire notes that the files are not searchable or even viewable within CONTENTdm.
    - Julia points out that the audience would be researchers who would know how to seek out the information in a dataset and who would not be bothered by its lack of searchability.
  - Form a Special Interest Group on inclusive descriptive metadata practices
    - This is still underway.
  - Add up to 5 GB of NYH materials per institution to the Digital Dark Archives as part of a digital preservation solution
    - This is partially completed.
  - Identify potential new members and reach out to them for collection digitization
    - This is ongoing.
  - Identify existing gaps in representation in New York Heritage Digital Collections and New York State Historic Newspapers
    - This is ongoing.
  - Update the History Unbound LibGuide
    - [Home - History Unbound - LibGuides at South Central Regional Library Council](#)
    - This is nearly completed. Claire has checked all pages for broken links, but the work of fleshing pages out to be relevant and up to date is much more time intensive.
- Inclusive / Reparative Metadata Working Group
  - No progress has been made on this since the last meeting.
  - Action items remain:
    - A libguide or Google Doc to compile existing resources about sensitive and inclusive metadata practices, particularly with an eye toward regional specifics.
    - Compiling a list of metadata-focused professionals in the state who might be interested
  - Julia will share some of the resources they've been leaning on in Cornell's working group.
- Around the table

- ○ BU hired a new digital initiatives assistant. She's going to help Erin complete more digital collections and projects, in addition to working on the institutional repository. They may be adding more collections to NYH, too.
- ○ Cornell hired its new University Librarian Elaine L. Westbrooks, who used to be a metadata librarian at Cornell long ago. The new authorities metadata has also started this month. She's moving to Ithaca next month; she's working remotely from Hawai'i now. She's working on Folio. Julia's been working on a migration to ArchivesSpace for the Kheel Center. She's learning the API.
- ○ Alfred is seeking approval to replace Natalie's position with a full time position. John expects the approval to pass in July.
- ○ Maggie's city directories for Elmira are on NYH. She's glad that the fragile books will not be so heavily used.
- ○ The Cuba Circulating Library received funding to digitize about half of their newspapers last year in an RBDB grant. STLS will apply (on Cuba's behalf) for another round of funding for the remaining reels. Claire asked if Erika had pursued the Palace Project for ebooks; STLS has not.

Next meeting is July 13, 2022 at 11 am