Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA)

http://ctdigitalarchive.org/ (blog and info)

Contact information:

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Summary statement about project:

Funded in collaboration between the University of Connecticut Libraries and the Connecticut State, the CTDA provides services to preserve and make available digital assets created by Connecticut-based libraries, archives, museums, state agencies, and organizations with a focus on Connecticut. Current project participants in addition to UConn and the State Library include the Barnum Museum, Connecticut History Online (CHO), Connecticut Historical Society, Connecticut Secretary of State, Connecticut State Data Center, Fairfield Museum and History Center, Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library, and Mystic Seaport.

Brief information about scope of content:

The CTDA addresses primary needs of humanities researchers, enthusiasts, and students who continue to struggle with the problem of accessing and manipulating digital humanities resources in sufficient volume and scope to do meaningful work in both digital and traditional Humanities. Many digital resources have already been lost and continued availability of others remains uncertain because many institutions lack the ability to sustain digital content over the long term. The CTDA is a means by which we can collectively and collaboratively ensure the continued existence of and access to these resources.

The CTDA service provides:
- Digital preservation and curation for permanently valuable digital assets for cultural heritage institutions in Connecticut
- A general point of access for resources about Connecticut that is open and available to all
- Instructions for building services using its resources
- Tools to manage digital assets

Eligibility requirements and/or how special collections can participate:

The Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA) is collaborative archive and any Connecticut based cultural heritage library, museum, archive, state agency or non-profit organization that is interested in digitally preserving and providing public access to content may inquire about becoming a CTDA partner. The CTDA offers partners the ability to preserve, provide access, a discovery portal, and content can be made discoverable via the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA).

Status as of spring 2014:

The CTDA launched with the Nuremberg Trial Papers from the University of Connecticut Libraries Archives and Special Collections (http://archives.lib.uconn.edu/) and is actively bringing additional collections online.

Maine Memory Network
a project of the Maine Historical Society

www.mainememory.net

Contact information:
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Summary statement about project:

Launched in 2001, Maine Memory is a collaborative statewide digital museum that empowers communities to share their history. Maine Memory began as an online digital archive whose primary goal was to expand access to historical collections across the state. It has continued to evolve, and has since become an exceptionally robust online museum and platform for a wide range of historical interests and activity. Maine Memory's most remarkable characteristic is the degree of autonomy it gives historical societies, libraries, museums, and other contributors in sharing their collections. MHS provides training, support, encouragement, and the technological infrastructure. "Contributing Partners" (CPs) choose what material to share and then do all work locally. It now offers access to more than 45,000 historical items contributed by 270 organizations across Maine, hundreds of online exhibits, websites built by community teams, educational resources, and much more.

Brief information about scope of content:

Maine Memory Network's content includes historical items, ideally primary source materials, that have to do with Maine's history. These include photographs, letters, journals, artifacts, broadsides, paintings, samplers, drawings, maps, textiles, manuscripts, memorabilia, audio recordings, film, and more. All handwritten and printed documents must be transcribed by the CP. Items belong to contributing organizations and they upload digital images of the items. Contributing partners are collecting institutions in Maine and elsewhere, including the National Archives and Boston Public Library.

Eligibility requirements and/or how special collections can participate:

Any collecting organizations or institution or archive can add items to Maine Memory Network as long as the items are original primary sources relating to Maine's history in some way. Each potential contributor needs to apply to become a member and discuss their collections and intentions with MMN staff.

Status as of spring 2014:

MMN currently has over 45,000 items online from approximately 270 organizations. MMN recently received an IMLS grant to develop tools to work more closely with individuals.

Digital Commonwealth
of Massachusetts

http://digitalcommonwealth.org

test version of new repository:
http://search.digitalcommonwealth.org

Contact information:
digitalcommonwealth@gmail.com   or   membership@digitalcommonwealth.org

Digital Commonwealth, Inc.
321 Walnut Street
Newton, MA 02460

Summary statement about project:

Digital Commonwealth has historically been a fee-based membership-supported and volunteer-run organization that has provided harvesting and hosting repository services for cultural heritage materials held by Massachusetts libraries, museums, historical societies, and archives. A year ago it established a partnership with the Boston Public Library and is now in the transitional process of moving its harvesting and hosting services from Omeka and DSpace to a new Fedora/Hydra repository installation developed and managed by the BPL. It currently has over 180 members and over 230 digital collections consisting primarily of harvested metadata but also managed digital objects.

Brief information about scope of content:

Digital Commonwealth formally set out on a partnership with the Boston Public Library three years ago when the BPL approached DC with the offer to collaborate on a LSTA/MBLC grant to fund digitization services to DC members. A $200,000 grant was awarded that resulted in over 76,000 items from 138 organizations digitized by the BPL's imaging lab and over a million pages digitized by the Internet Archive. These items run the gamut of formats from photographs to prints, maps, drawings, postcards, and published books representing a broad range of Massachusetts history and culture. Currently 48,204 items are available in the BPL repository and 33,208 in the Omeka repository, with some overlap between the two. This does not include 10,345 items in the Internet Archive. Within the next couple of months all of the online collections will be consolidated at the BPL either as hosted collections or harvested metadata.

Eligibility requirements and/or how special collections can participate:

Membership in the Digital Commonwealth is limited to cultural institutions residing within Massachusetts. An annual membership fee costs $50 for organizations with fewer than 2 staff members and $100 for all others. Consortium group membership costs $500. Historically these fees allowed members to have their item metadata harvested, while additional fees were charged for hosting collections. With the BPL partnership and LSTA grant, membership has included the opportunity to have 5,000 items or 50 bound volumes digitized annually by the BPL or Internet Archive and have that material hosted in the new repository at the BPL if desired. Since the ending of grant funding last year, free digitization services have continued to be funded by state legislative appropriation. In addition, since Digital Commonwealth joined the Digital Public Library of America as a Service Hub, members also receive the privilege of having their metadata records harvested by the DPLA for inclusion in their repository as well.

Status as of spring 2014:

Consolidation of collections and services is expected to be completed by the date of Digital Commonwealth's 8th Annual Digital Library conference on April 8.

New Hampshire History Network

To be hosted by the New Hampshire Historical Society
www.nhhistory.org

Contact information:

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Summary Statement about Project:

Currently in development, the New Hampshire History Network (NHHN) will be a digital gateway that provides centralized access to New Hampshire's rich history and historical collections through partnerships with local historical societies and other collecting institutions. Initial offerings will include a historical collections database, a narrative timeline, digital exhibitions on selected topics, and resources for teachers and schools to facilitate primary source use in the classroom.

Brief Information about Scope of Content:

The New Hampshire History Network is a statewide database that provides access to New Hampshire's history and collections. The goal of the New Hampshire History Network is to provide access to New Hampshire's historical and cultural collections through seamless searching capabilities across multiple institutions. Users will be able to conduct keyword and advanced searchers, as well as browse the collections by date, format (library, archival, and museum materials), and contributing institutions. Within the search results page, users will be able to view thumbnail images and brief descriptions of the items. To view the full catalog record, users will click on the title or thumbnail of an item. The expanded catalog record will provide an enlarged image of the item, a detailed description, links to associated people and records, and copyright status. High resolution images will have zoom capabilities. Users will also be able to share their discoveries via email and social media.

Eligibility Requirements and/or How Special Collections Can Participate:

The New Hampshire History Network will allow collecting institutions with digitized collections to electronically migrate data into the network using crosswalks. These crosswalks will provide the pathway for data transfer from PastPerfect, Microsoft Excel, and Filemaker Pro. Institutions without digital collections will be able to manually enter data into the network through an online program. Through the participation of local historical societies, the New Hampshire History Network will increase access to the state's history through a truly statewide database.

For the initial launch in September 2014, the New Hampshire History Network will include the New Hampshire Historical Society's catalog and the records of ten "beta" institutions from around the state that meet the established metadata and digitization requirements. After the initial launch, participation will be available to all other New Hampshire historical societies and collecting institutions

Status as of Spring 2014:

The New Hampshire History Network is currently being developed, by the New Hampshire Historical Society. The database will launch in September 2014.

Rhode Island History Online Directory Initiative (RHODI)

www.rhodi.org

Contact information:

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Summary statement about project:

Through the Rhode Island History Online Directory Initiative (RHODI), the Rhode Island Historical Society (RIHS) is determined to fulfill its mission as a platform for connectivity and participation by using digital technology to increase the history and heritage sector's visibility, access to peer networks, grassroots support, fundraising capacity, transparency, and the dissemination of messages ranging from education to advocacy. The first phase of the project resulted in the online directory itself and a white paper detailing the current state of Rhode Island's robust history and heritage sector.

Brief information about scope of content:

RHODI is a searchable directory through which users can learn about the history and heritage organizations within Rhode Island. Each organization has a profile, which they may log into and edit, consisting of contact information, links to organizational websites and social media, and brief descriptions of mission, focus, and collection holdings. Our initial data is based on a year-long survey of 122 organizations within the state, which focused on collections, programs, and institutional structure, challenges, and goals. The complete survey findings are available in our white paper, which describes the current state of Rhode Island's history and heritage sector, and makes the case for increased statewide collaboration. Rhode Island is small, but has a robust history sector; the RHODI Project is a first step in connecting collections throughout the many repositories in the state.

Eligibility requirements and/or how special collections can participate:

To be included in RHODI, organizations must have either collections or programs related to history, and must be open and accessible to the public. These broad parameters allowed us to include organizations as diverse as universities, public libraries, historical societies, living history reenactment units, and museums. They also allowed us to capture a more holistic picture of the different content management systems, cataloging practices and backlogs, digitization efforts, and other projects in place in a wide range of organizations, from those with larger budgets and technical support to those which are entirely volunteer run. If organizations do not want to maintain their own profile within the directory, we still keep basic contact information up so as to provide access to users. In some cases, RHODI can provide an online access point for organizations that do not have the time or technical skills to maintain a web presence.

Status as of spring 2014:

The RHODI site has been live since October, the accompanying white paper completed, and we are in the planning stages of the project's next phase.

University of Vermont Libraries
Center for Digital Initiatives

cdi.uvm.edu/

Contact information:
Chris Burns, chris.burns@uvm.edu, (802) 656-2631

Summary statement about project:
The University of Vermont (UVM) Libraries' Center for Digital Initiatives (CDI) makes unique research collections available online. This digital library offers powerful search and browse capabilities and accepts a variety of formats - from film to historic photographs to born-digital files. It is the UVM Libraries' goal that students, faculty, staff, scholars, and community members participate as users and creators of digital resources in an open, collaborative environment. The CDI works with users to integrate digital collections in their research, teaching, and learning strategies.

The CDI is currently home to twenty-three digital collections comprising almost 17,000 digital objects. Content is included from eleven institutions, seven from Vermont, and includes photographs, letters, films, oral histories, maps, and illuminated manuscripts. Our collections are used in the classroom, for research, and for a variety of personal and professional reasons.

Brief information about scope of content:
A digital collection consists of digital objects that are selected and organized to facilitate their discovery, access, and use. Objects, metadata, and the user interface together create the user experience of a collection.
Adapted from A Framework of Guidance for Building Good Digital Collections: A NISO Recommended Practice. 3rd ed. National Information Standards Organization: Baltimore, December 2007.

The CDI only considers proposals for collections which are:
> *Cohesive :* Collections lacking a unifying context or intelligible relationships do not constitute cohesive digital collections. Excerpts, clips, samples, and other discrete, partial, or unrelated items are discouraged.
> *Broadly Valued :* Course or assignment-specific digital materials which have no broader research value would be better served elsewhere.
> *Unique or Novel :* A similar or identical digital collection should not already exist.
> *Enhanced by Inclusion in the CDI:* Collections should have some value added from inclusion in the CDI. In other words, the collection should demand more than online access; it should gain something by being part of the CDI.

If the CDI is not an appropriate venue, we are happy to help identify alternative resources.

Eligibility requirements and/or how special collections can participate:
The University of Vermont (UVM) Libraries' Center for Digital Initiatives (CDI) encourages collection proposals from a wide variety of university, community, state, and other partners. The CDI selects proposals which meet our collection development criteria, which can be found on our website, and prioritizes selected proposals. Project development is implemented by the CDI and project collaborators.

It is expensive to select, create, and maintain digital resources; additionally, institutional support and staffing resources for such activities are finite. The value of and demand for collections should therefore justify inclusion in the CDI. Based on value and user needs, the CDI Collection Development Committee examines the added value potential for each collection, considers rights issues and preservation concerns, and evaluates technical feasibility.

Status as of spring 2014:
The CDI is currently focusing on an existing collaborative project (Vermonters in the Civil War) and University of Vermont content. We are engaged in discussions with other institutions around the state about how to build a sustainable statewide digital initiative that could also serve as a service hub for the DPLA.