Ohio Digitization Interest Group
February 5, 2016 meeting
Ohio History Connection

30 attendees.

Presentations

Equipment: Book Scanners. Lily Birkhimer, Ohio History Connection (slides); Aaron O'Donovan, Columbus Metropolitan Library (slides); Megan Mitchell, Oberlin College Library. Presenters described the process of choosing, purchasing, setting up, and running new book scanners. Recommendations included: before making a purchase, write a list of requirements for hardware and software; visit other sites to see a live demo of equipment; realistically assess space requirements for each piece of equipment, including any optional add-ons; ask the vendor about IT requirements and communicate with your own IT staff about potential issues. During the purchasing process, negotiate the price (price on scanners is always negotiable!). After the purchase, allow plenty of time for setup, and expect a long learning curve. See the OhioDIG meeting page for Birkhimer's and O'Donovan's slides. Mitchell didn't show slides but instead showed the capture system at https://archive.org/details/tabletopscribesystem and the end results at https://archive.org/details/oberlincollegelibrary.

Major Updates

Digital Public Library of America. Stephen Hedges, OPLIN, reported on the DPLA Symposium, which took place December 3, 2015, at the State Library of Ohio. Approximately 100 people attended. It was decided that the SLO will take the lead on the project, with a "middle layer" of representation being provided by groups representing academic, public, museum and other institutions. The groups will be based on a functional model, rather than the geographic model DPLA is accustomed to. The effort will start with a three-year prototype to see what works best and track the true costs of doing this project; after three years revisions will be made as needed.

OhioDIG Planning Committee. Amy McCrory explained the work of the planning committee: generating topics for meetings, arranging meeting locations, bringing food and drinks. The organization is informal, but the committee felt it might be a good time for some members to rotate off, opening up opportunities for others to join. Jillian Carney (Ohio History Connection)and Amy McCrory (OSU) will step down, with Jennie Salamon (Ohio History Connection) and Rachel Senese (Cleveland Public Library) taking their places. Marcus Ladd maintains the group's calendar—which includes upcoming events of interest and grant opportunities—and he is happy to continue, but would also be fine with someone else taking on this responsibility. Also Nathan Tallman and Jane Wildermuth have expressed that they would step down if others were interested. If anyone is interested in joining the committee, contact Janet Carleton (carleton@ohio.edu).

OhioDIG Communications. Janet Carleton is writing an article about OhioDIG for The Ohio Archivist; she may be contacting members for information. Listserv membership stands at 189; Janet would like to move to a Google group at some point, so we can archive our posts.

Member Updates

National Museum of the US Air Force (Lonna McKinley): Looking for a new digital asset management system, one that will fit DOD's very specific requirements. Will begin putting digital object in the .mil cloud in 2018. Putting WWI items online, including a large map scanned at Columbus Metropolitan Library.

German Village Society (Alan Renga): Writing policies for collection management and digitization. Using tech-savvy interns from Columbus Downtown High School to do scanning.

Ohio History Connection (Phil Sager, Jillian Carney, Lily Birkhimer; Jenni Salamon): Exploring crowdsourced transcription; trying out Scripto Omeka and Transcription Desk with Wikimedia extension. Developing homegrown system with CONTENTdm. Five-year digitization plan being worked on; trying to align it with OHC's strategic plan. Updating home page. Received LSTA funding to digitize 1941 Czech language newspaper from Cleveland, will share it online. NEH grant supporting digitization of WWI collections. Updating Ohio Village from 1860s to 1890s. Have digitized copies of early Socialist newspapers researchers thought were unavailable; only copies are at OHC.

Preserve Digital Ohio (Jillian Carney): As part of the Preserve Digital Ohio ILEAD project, the team (Jillian, Shannon, Nathan, Elizabeth) are contracting with Kent State developer to improve the Preserve Digital Ohio inventory tool.

Miami University (Marcus Ladd): Doing a survey of digital collections. Compared their usage statistics from last year to other institutions' to establish benchmarks. Last year's report is available to anyone interested. Marcus will do another survey this year and this time he wants more than 10 respondents; step up! Email reminder coming soon.

Midpointe Library System (Adam Wanter): Received two grants funding digitization, transcription, and exhibition of the letters of a local veteran who served in the WAC. Have hired a new metadata librarian. New funding for projects including WWI audio interviews.

Cleveland Public Library (Rachel Senese): Received funding for a project documenting historic Cleveland neighborhoods: oral history, shared items from the communities. Photo identification and transcription will be crowdsourced. They are expanding training for in-house scanning to additional departments.

Toledo Lucas Public Library (Samantha Ashby): Sending digitized War of 1812 materials to Ohio Memory; scanning public school yearbooks.

Bowling Green State University (Nick Pavlik): Filling multiple staff vacancies. In the planning stages of revamping digitization standards, starting a digital preservation plan, and getting a collection management system in place. He'll be asking OhioDIG members for advice.

State Library of Ohio (Missy Lodge, Shannon Kupfer, Katy Klettlinger): LSTA "open" grants for up to $4,990, no matching funds required, are available. Bicentennial-related scanning is on the uptick. Two new scanners: Zeutschel ,and Mekel microfilm scanner used for scanning federal documents for the GPO. Working on digital preservation policies. They have added sample plans to Ohio Memory, and others are welcome to do the same, esp. with digital preservation plans. Doing a survey of institutions who are just starting to scan, but would like to join DPLA later; SLO will host a workshop for them on April 28.

Columbus Metropolitan Library (Angel O'Neal, Aaron O'Donovan; Hydy Cates (intern)): Digitizing microfilm of the *Columbus Challenger*, a historic black newspaper. Moving to new building, and opening five new branch buildings in the coming year. Working with the branches to collect and digitize their history. African-American collection evening event February 18, 5:30pm, at Driving Park branch. New Drupal front end for digital collections will go online in April. Scanning Franklin County engineer's maps and county maps, putting them online. Columbus Landmarks Foundation house history workshops at Whitehall branch; spots available April 16.

Wright State University (Jane Wildermuth): Digitizing founding documents, oral histories to celebrate 50th anniversary of Wright State. Received grant from Friends of the Library group to buy 360° turntables for photography of collection of flies.

Ohio Geological Survey (Lisa Long): Received USGS grant for slide preservation. Developed metadata processes and are currently inputting metadata.

Ohio State University (Emily Shaw and Amy McCrory): Digital collection infrastructure being overhauled; planning is done, implementation of Fedora/Hydra repository is being implemented. Wrote digital imaging guidelines to be used with newly developed metadata guidelines across the organization. 23,000 digitized masters these will be available through OhioLINK ETD center. Planning to buy two Scribe TT scanners to scan Google rejects, which will be uploaded to Internet Archive and Hathi Trust. Will be hiring a temporary A/V collection assessment specialist sometime in the next year. New library director started this month. Currently digitizing historic OSU football programs, alumni magazines; preparing rare Ottoman Turkish books for outsourced digitization.

Oberlin College (Megan Mitchell): The Five Colleges of Ohio have received a charge from their directors to examine and standardize their digitization practices. Considering consortial options, joint projects. They are scanning alumni magazines and have been asked to embargo "Class Notes" section from 1950 forward, due to privacy concerns. Brief discussion followed of balancing public access and personal privacy followed. Janet Carleton reported that Ohio University scanned up to 2009, with no complaints [the day after Carleton received a request to put up to 2015 online]; Katrina Marshall said Cincinnati Public Library cut off area high school yearbook digitization at 1999.

Cincinnati Public Library (Katrina Marshall): Working on Cincinnati Memory Project. They recovered images from the previous effort hosted by SWON and did metadata cleanup.

LYRASIS (Laurie Gemmill Arp): NEH funding for digital preservation for small organizations. New classes will be offered soon. LYRASIS is the organizational home for ArchivesSpace and CollectionSpace (for museums), and arranges hosting space for project. LYRASIS has declared its intent to merge with DuraSpace.

Ohio University (Janet Carleton): Two new two-year positions will be approved, in archives and digital preservation. New metadata hire is coming up soon too. Working on possible bid from the AVPreserve to assess OU's collections. Doing digitization for OCLC 45th anniversary celebration; OU put the very first record in! Scanning slides of early library equipment.

Notes by Amy McCrory