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News of the Day



Nicholas Family Foundation Grant!

Wisconsin Heritage Online has received a grant from the Nicholas Family Foundation to assist small cultural heritage institutions in Wisconsin with digital projects. The focus of the grant will be to provide digitization training, and will include materials selection, project planning, reformatting and workflow techniques. We expect applicants to meet a short set of criteria the most important of which will be commitment to a sustainable digital program.

With the grant money, almost \$226,000 over two years, we will hire an Outreach Specialist who will travel the state talking with cultural heritage institutions about digitization. Selected institutions will receive no cost assistance in choosing material, and no cost staff training in using standard digitization equipment (we do not provide equipment or digitizing service) and [Digital Imaging](#) and [Metadata guidelines](#), available on the Wisconsin Heritage Online Resources [wiki](#). While the grant will help institutions start a digital project, Nicholas Family Foundation grant funds will not cover ongoing costs for digital projects. Selected organizations must be able to commit some funds annually to build a sustainable digital collection. To receive second year grant funding we will need to meet our first year goals.

Within the next month, we will be posting information about the criteria applicants must meet.

You can read the most recent version of the grant proposal on the resources wiki at wiheritage.pbworks.com/Training+Grant+page

Wisconsin Heritage Online Changes

Wisconsin Heritage Online Suspends Harvest Function

Wisconsin Heritage Online had a three-year contract with the University of Wisconsin for them to harvest, or collect the cataloging information, from Wisconsin related digital collections all over the state. The harvested metadata added to the Wisconsin Heritage

Online portal at wisconsinheritage.org provides a one-stop search experience for digital collection users.

We hoped of course that we could renew the contract, but as of July 2009, harvesting of digital collection metadata for the portal site will be suspended due to economic conditions at the state and university levels.

The portal site, with the collections harvested since 2006 through June 2009 will remain available and searchable, as the university will maintain the portal indefinitely. For an undetermined period, no new collection metadata will be added. We will put a notice on the home page letting the searching public know.



MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hosting New Digital Collections

The **Milwaukee Public Library**, a CONTENTdm content management system user, has offered enthusiastically to host digital collections for small cultural heritage institutions in Wisconsin. Contact Debbie Cardinal, WHO Program Manager, 608 265-2138 or cardinal@wils.wisc.edu for more information about digital collection hosting.

Due to economic conditions, the **Wisconsin Historical Society** has discontinued hosting digital collections for small cultural heritage institutions in Wisconsin. They will continue to maintain existing collections and owners of those collections may continue to add new content and new sub-collections.

An economical way for small institutions to make their digital materials available on the world wide web is to choose to have a hosted collection. When a collection is hosted by another organization the collection provider does not have to maintain a server or purchase collection management software.

Featured Collections

Wetherby Cranberry Library Digital Collection

For the featured collections below, I have often included searches for you to try. One search will take you directly into the featured collection; the second search will search for something in a featured collection but the retrieval set will illustrate the 'portal power' of harvested metadata by bringing hits from other collections of which you may not be aware.



Lori Erickson and Stosh Jonjak have been working on this collection since July 2008. It is a beautiful collection with a lot of interesting information about Wisconsin's cranberry industry.

The Wetherby Cranberry Library Digital Collection includes historically significant items

about cranberry production in Wisconsin. Wisconsin is the number one producer of cranberries in the world and the cranberry is Wisconsin's state fruit. Candidates for digitization include historic photographs of cranberry farming, institutional annual reports and minutes (Ocean Spray, Northland, Wisconsin Cranberry Growers Association), inter-institutional letters and memos concerned with how to effectively deal with cranberry industry crises, grower resources and cranberry culture information.

At Wisconsin Heritage Online, wisconsinheritage.org search *Wetherby* by entering it into the search box. You will retrieve ALL eight hundred plus items in the Wetherby Cranberry Library's digital collection.

Return to the search portal by clicking on the Exit button at the top of the screen. Now search *pesticide*. As you scan the Submitter field of 45 retrievals, you will notice that while the Wetherby Cranberry Library has the most material, the UWDC collections also have information about pesticides. Alternatively, search *cranberries* and you will find that in addition to the Wetherby Cranberry Library, both the Wisconsin Historical Society and the UWDC have digital items about cranberries.

L. E. Phillips Memorial Public Library Local History

Find resources on local history, including Eau Claire City Directories, local histories from the Library's Special Collections area, Wisconsin history and other local databases.

L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library uses the services of Northern Micrographics (digitization of text material), NMT Corporation (provides metadata) and ResCarta, (mounts the files on their software server). All three companies are located in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

At Wisconsin Heritage Online, wisconsinheritage.org search LEPhillips. Your retrieved set of items will be all thirty-three items in the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library's digital local history collection. If you are not sure what L.E. Phillips has digitized or you are not sure exactly where to look for what you want but you know it has to do with Eau Claire's history, this is a good general search that will let you scan the titles to see if one meets your needs.

You can also search on the Wisconsin Heritage Online site for specific titles in the local history collection if you know the titles. You cannot search the full text of the L. E. Phillips Memorial Public Library Local History collection from Wisconsin Heritage Online. To search the full text of all materials you must be on the ResCarta server site at 192.159.83.56/ResCarta-EAU/jsp/RcWebBrowse.jsp.

Waterford Public Library, Waterford Area Local History



Western Racine County pioneer families began staking their claims in the Waterford area in the fall of 1836. The early years of settlement are documented here by a collection of historical artifacts digitized from a variety of formats including books, manuscripts, photographs, maps and newspapers.

These additions include The Emerald, Waterford's high school yearbook, for the 1940s through the 1980s. The Waterford Area Local History Collection was funded, in part, through grants from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) in 2006 and 2008.

At Wisconsin Heritage Online, wisconsinheritage.org the phrase *Waterford Area Local History*. This search will bring the 783 items in this collection. The Submitter field shows UWDC Collections because LSTA projects are digitized by the UW and are put into The State of Wisconsin collection, a nice hosting arrangement for small institutions.

Click on the Exit button at the top of the screen to return to the search portal. Next, search *drug store*. The small retrieval set will show several items from the Waterford Area Local History collection as well as some from the Oshkosh Public Library, the Manitowoc Local History collection, Lawrence University and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

History of Wisconsin Agriculture and Rural Life



The History of Wisconsin Agriculture and Rural Life collection is based on a bibliography compiled as part of the National Preservation Project for Agricultural Literature. Items in the bibliography, primary and secondary materials published through 1945, were initially ranked by a review panel for preservation microfilming. The latest additions include the Transactions of the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society.

At Wisconsin Heritage Online, wisconsinheritage.org, search the collection title *History of Wisconsin Agriculture and Rural Life*. Your retrieval set will include all 254 items in this collection and a few other items from other collections because of the nature of keyword searching.

Click on the Exit button at the top of the screen to return to the search portal. When you search the phrase *cheese factories*, the retrieval set will be much smaller and include books from the History of Wisconsin Agriculture and Rural Life sub-collection, the Oshkosh Public Library, Wisconsin Historical Society, and the Belgian-American Research Collection, a sub-collection of the State of Wisconsin Collection, like the History of Wisconsin Agriculture and Rural Life collection.

The Memorial Union Terrace: A Landscape History

The formal dedication of the Memorial Union took place on October 5th, 1928, but this history of one of the UW's most iconic locations examines what stood at this site prior to the Union as well as the expansion, renewal, and other changes that occurred after the Union's founding.

With pictures, map and other historic documents, this volume shows the dynamism of the Memorial Union Terrace.

At Wisconsin Heritage Online, wisconsinheritage.org search the phrase *memorial union terrace* from the search box. There is a small number of returns about the Memorial Union Terrace), including this single volume book.

Click on the Exit button at the top of the screen to return to the search portal. From the portal search box, type the word *terrace*. Now you'll have a retrieval set that includes this book but also material of all kinds from Milwaukee Public Library, the Wisconsin Decorative Arts Database, Marquette University, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and several different sub-collections of the University of Wisconsin Collection and the State of Wisconsin Collection.

Project News

[Neville Public Museum](#)

Neville Public Museum, Preble High School, and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay will digitize and make accessible a long-forgotten and heretofore underutilized archival collection of 1,721 records relating to local soldiers from World War I. This project will create an accessible digital archive, lesson plans for educators, and a museum exhibit featuring the collection. This project will rescue and make available publicly an incredibly important and rare archival collection and help students, teachers, and the greater Green Bay community reconnect with the lives and stories of these World War I veterans.

The First World War had a transformative effect upon Green Bay as well as Wisconsin generally. Despite the state's reputation as the "traitor state," thousands of Wisconsinites served in the war. In the Green Bay area alone, more than 1700 soldiers went to Europe. After the war ended, the Brown County War History Committee interviewed local soldiers and their families about their wartime service and collected a wealth of personal, family, and military information, including hundreds of photographs and original letters. The goal of the Committee's project was to publish a book, but it was never completed.

By historical quirk, this Brown County War History Committee collection survived, is owned by the Neville Public Museum of Brown County, and is housed at the University of Wisconsin Green-Bay Area Research Center. The problem with the collection is that there is no index. The Committee organized the records of the soldiers by number, not name. Our project will rescue those soldiers from the long-forgotten files of the Brown County War History Committee and make them accessible to the public.

This "Save Our History" grant will und a joint venture between the Neville Public Museum, Preble High School, and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Utilizing students from Preble High School and UW-Green Bay, we will scan the entire archival collection. At the same time, two Preble High School teachers, Jason Baudhuin and Michael Wittig, will develop educational lesson plans, deploy them, and assess them in a ninth grade social studies class and a twelfth grade AP US History class. These records will also be featured prominently in the Preble High School curriculum, which is currently being redesigned and refashioned to meet state and national history standards. Finally, the grant will help fund a World War I exhibit at the Neville Public Museum.

[Wisconsin Decorative Arts Database](#)



A digital archive of Wisconsin objects 800 catalog entries from 30 Wisconsin historic sites and museums are now online in the [Wisconsin Decorative Arts Database!](#) Alternatively, search for *Wisconsin Decorative Arts Database* through the [Wisconsin Heritage Online](#) portal.

Visit the database to browse and search examples of furniture, pottery, textiles, metalwork, beadwork, basketry, and other artifacts made by early Wisconsin craftspeople. Explore the treasures held by museums and historical societies throughout the state. Discover the stories of the diverse range of people who made and used these objects. Find sources for books, articles and other websites to learn more about each item.

The Wisconsin Decorative Arts Database is an ongoing collaborative project of the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Chipstone Foundation, and the Material Culture Program of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Since fall 2006, we have photographed and researched decorative arts objects in the collections of 30 content contributors across the state (see full list below).

The search continues, and you can participate! Are there examples of early Wisconsin furniture, ceramics, metalwork, or other crafts in the collections of your local historical society or museum? If so, the Wisconsin Decorative Arts Database would love to hear from you. To learn more, contact Project Coordinator Emily Pfothenhauer at Emily.Pfothenhauer@wisconsinhistory.org or 608-264-6526.



WHO Resources Wiki

Membership required

Until January 2009 the [Wisconsin Heritage Online Resources wiki](#) was available free to any institution. Since January 2009 the wiki is only available to institutions with paid WHO memberships. The fee for Wisconsin Heritage Online is a contribution to WHO infrastructure and is necessary to assist Wisconsin Heritage Online to become self-supporting. Fees for WHO are \$50 for a small organization; \$100 for a large institution. One institution fee will allow access for multiple people from that institution.

30-day site evaluation subscriptions are available upon request. Click on the **Request Access** button on the Wisconsin Heritage wiki page, w heritage.pbworks.com. Or, if your institution has already paid the membership fee, add more people to the wiki using the Request Access button. Put a note in the comments box explaining either that you want an evaluation subscription or that your institution already has a paid membership.

The wiki has many valuable resources for digitization projects.

Training Grant Proposal posted

You can read the training grant proposal, referred to above, [here](#). Take particular note of the goals and objectives we plan to achieve in the first year to qualify for receipt of

second year funds.

Events to Note

Wisconsin Heritage Online Board meeting

The Wisconsin Heritage Online board will meet May 29th in Milwaukee. This is the first board meeting in almost a year, so there's a full agenda posted on the wiki. Contact one of the board members if you have a concern you would like discussed.

Ewa Barczyk, UW- Milwaukee (ewa at uwm.edu)

Matt Blessing, Marquette University (matt.blessing at marquette.edu)

Peter Gilbert, Lawrence University (peter.j.gilbert at lawrence.edu)

Linda Gruber, Milwaukee Public Museum (gruber at mpm.edu)

Cathy Markwiese, Milwaukee Public Library (Cmarkw at milwaukee.gov)

Joshua Ranger, UW-Oshkosh (ranger at uwosh.edu)

Louise Pfothenauer, Neville Public Museum (pfottenauer_lc at co.brown.wi.us)

Cristin Waterbury, Wisconsin Maritime Museum (cwaterbury at WisconsinMaritime.Org)

Rita Magno, Viterbo University (rmmagno at viterbo.edu)

Mary Rieder, Wisconsin State Genealogical Society, (mrieder at wi.rr.com)

Debbie Cardinal, WiLS (cardinal at wils.wisc.edu)

Sally Drew, Reference and Loan Library (sally.drew at dpi.state.wi.us)

Paul Hedges, Wisconsin Historical Society (paul.hedges at wisconsinhistory.org)

Kathy Schneider, WiLS (schneid at wils.wisc.edu)

Ed Van Gemert, UW-Madison (evgemert at library.wisc.edu)

Register now for Spring Digitization Training!

Minitex has scheduled three in-person full day workshops for digital project staff. We are also offering a series of four webinars on digitization topics. See below for dates, locations, and links to registration information.

If you are located on Wisconsin's western side or in northern Wisconsin, these workshops may be close to you.

From Pixels to Projects: An Introduction to Digitization Concepts (in-person workshop)

May 27, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND

Registration: www.minitex.umn.edu/events/training/oclc.asp#207

Digital Imaging (Hands-on scanning workshop)

May 18, 2009, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (Central Time)

College of Visual Arts, St. Paul,

Registration: www.minitex.umn.edu/events/training/oclc.asp#224

Developing, Funding and Managing Digital Projects: Digitization Series #1

(Webinar)

Thursday, May 14, 2009, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Central Time)

Registration: www.minitex.umn.edu/events/training/webinars.asp#215

Copyright for Digital Materials: Digitization Series #2 (Webinar)

Thursday, May 21, 2009, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Central Time)

Registration: www.minitex.umn.edu/events/training/webinars.asp#2166

Imaging, Quality Control and Digital Infrastructure: Digitization Series #3

(Webinar)

Tuesday, May 26, 2009, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Central Time)

Registration: www.minitex.umn.edu/events/training/webinars.asp#217

Metadata for Digital Projects: Digitization Series #4 (Webinar)

Tuesday, June 9, 2009, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Central Time)

Registration: www.minitex.umn.edu/events/training/webinars.asp#218

To browse an alphabetical listing of all our scheduled offerings, please visit:

www.minitex.umn.edu/events/training/oclc.asp

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Principal writer and editor, [Debbie Cardinal](#).

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