

October 2010 #17

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News of the Day

Harvesting Resumes!

We are excited to announce that by the end of 2010 approximately twenty Wisconsin digital collections will have their metadata harvested into the [WHO portal](#). There are another eight to twelve collections that will be harvested into WHO as time allows, for a total of thirty-two new digital collections added by early 2011! The initial six weeks of harvesting work by the University of Wisconsin — Madison Libraries Shared Development Group will include nine new Wisconsin Heritage Online projects hosted by the Milwaukee Public Library. We'll send out an email announcement with details of the collections when the harvest is completed.



Milwaukee Public Library

WHO Collections Added to CONTENTdm Collection of Collections

The [CONTENTdm Collection of Collections](#) is a searchable database of collection level records for digital collections all over the world representing historical societies, libraries, archives and museums. Some records represent individual collections; some connect you to entire digital libraries.

It's a wonderful resource for learning what other institutions have digitized, how unique materials in your collection may be, and how others decided to organize their project. We have begun cataloging WHO-hosted projects into the Collection of Collections. When you go to the [Browse page](#), and type "Wisconsin" in the search box at the top right, you'll retrieve a list of 36 collections. This list contains digital collections cataloged by a variety of CONTENTdm license holders in Wisconsin. For Wisconsin Heritage Online collections hosted by the Milwaukee Public Library (WHO-hosted), there are records for Digital Museum of the Portage, South Wood County Historical Corporation, Richland County Digital History Room and Preservation Racine, Inc., and Blanchardville Local History Publications. We are adding all the WHO-hosted collections over the next few months.



Digital Museum at the Portage

IMLS Awards Over \$2 Million to Native American Tribes for Enhancements to Library Service

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has announced that out of 46 applicants nation-wide, 17 Native American tribal communities were chosen to receive \$2,030,562 in Native American Library Services Enhancement grants. Ten of these grantees are first time awardees. To see a full list of Enhancement grant recipients, click [here](#).

This year's grantees include the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, who received \$74,520 for their proposal to digitize archival records from the tribe's struggle for sovereignty in the mid-20th century.

The Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin will work with the College of Menominee Nation Library Special Collections Department and Wisconsin Heritage Online to house, preserve, catalog, and digitize a large collection of rare and historically significant archival materials, many relating directly to the personal, legal, and national story of the Menominee Tribe's struggle for sovereignty during the Termination and Restoration period from 1954 to 1973. Project activities will increase online access to these rare documents for the Menominee community, College of Menominee Nation faculty, staff, and students, as well as for public and scholarly research, adding to a greater understanding of the impact tribes felt from the federal termination policy.

Featured Collections

The InfoSoup Memory Project



The Outagamie Waupaca Library System (OWLS) is using CONTENTdm to provide access to the wealth of local history resources available in OWLSnet member libraries through the [InfoSoup Memory Project](#).

So far, the Appleton Public Library, Clintonville Public Library, and Kaukauna Public Library have added collections to the InfoSoup Memory Project, and staff and volunteers from more than ten libraries have attended training sessions to learn how.

Recent additions to the collection include three issues of the Clintonville Town Talk newspaper from 1905, an issue of the Clintonville Times from 1892, an industrial review of Clintonville from 1898, an industrial review of Kaukauna from 1939, and a history of the streets of Kaukauna from 1931.

According to the Clintonville Times of February 19, 1892, "Mr. and Mrs. C.F. Schroeder were agreeably surprised by a party of friends, Tuesday evening," and "Miss Meda Stein from Oshkosh and her sister from Greenville are at home." It seems that Facebook did not invent the status update!

The project is still in its early stages. We hope to add continually photographs and documents from our libraries' collections. Check back often!

Contributed by Bradley Shipps, Outagamie Waupaca Library System

Creating Communities: Digitizing Denver's Historic Neighborhoods



Thanks to a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Denver Public Library, in partnership with the City of Denver, History Colorado, University of Colorado at Denver Auraria Library, and the University of Denver Penrose Library, is bringing together historic resources and digitized archival materials on "Creating Communities Online".

Built on OCLC's CONTENTdm Digital Collection Management Software, Creating Communities offers information on Denver neighborhoods from official records of the City and County of Denver and partner institutions all through an easy-to-navigate [online resource](#).

Neighborhood Histories

As part of Creating Communities, the Denver Public Library digitized photographs, maps and documents from seven of Denver's historic neighborhoods. For each of the seven featured neighborhoods in the Neighborhood Histories section of the site, they have gathered resources highlighting the people, places and diverse community that shaped each neighborhood's unique history.

They also mapped a number of Building History resources, such as assessor



records and national and state historic buildings, on a Google map, and if you just feel like browsing around they have a vast collection of digitized archival materials in their collections.

myDenver

Another unique feature of Creating Communities is myDENVER. Here users are encouraged to upload photographs, share stories, add comments and connect with the Denver community.

Iowa County Historical Society

Earlier this month WHO Outreach Specialist Emily Pfothenauer headed to Dodgeville to meet with Boyd Geer and Eileen Arndt of the Iowa County Historical Society. Earlier this year, ICHS was awarded a mini-grant from the Wisconsin Historical Society to purchase digitization equipment, including a shiny new scanner and a one-terabyte external hard drive. They're now ready to start sharing their photos and other archives on the web through Wisconsin Heritage Online.

The first collection ICHS will digitize is a group of postcards collected by local resident Herb Harris. The postcards show a variety of street scenes and buildings, providing a look at the development and growth of Dodgeville from the 1910s-1950s.

With Emily on the trip to Dodgeville was Erin Kauppinen, an undergraduate student in the Art History department at UW-Madison. Erin studies architectural history and material culture and will help ICHS to research and catalog the postcards. One of the main things Erin will focus on is assigning dates to the postcards. Some of the dates should be easy to determine, like a street scene with the movie marquee featuring Bette Davis in "The Great Lie". Others will take more digging to narrow down a possible date range.

Look for the Iowa County Historical Society's postcards online by the end of this year!

Preservation Racine, Inc.



Four decades of newsletters distributed by Preservation Racine, Inc. are now fully searchable online. Since 1976, Preservation Racine, Inc. has published a newsletter documenting historic preservation efforts in Racine County as well as the organization's annual Tour of Historic Buildings and Century Homes events. Archivist Anna Stadick of the UW-Parkside Archives and Area Research Center facilitated the scanning of the newsletters by UW-Parkside students and Sharon Baldukas, Preservation Racine's historian, assigned metadata for each issue. The [digital collection](#) was developed with support from Wisconsin Heritage Online under the Nicholas Family Foundation Outreach and Training Grant and is hosted by the Milwaukee Public Library.

Making Your Digital Collection User Friendly

Cataloging and metadata are the topic here! You probably think this won't be user friendly. But, I do hope it will be. I'm highlighting two Wisconsin Heritage Online collections in this article. The Richland County History Room has done a magnificent job of creating and using controlled vocabulary lists and a general established subject heading tool to make their image collection both orderly and searchable. The Wisconsin Decorative Arts Database uses a different subject heading thesaurus and a thorough description of the item to make the collection material highly retrievable.

The [Richland County History Room](#), part of the Brewer Public Library, Richland Center, has been featured in a past newsletter. They are building a growing collection of photographs and postcards recording the history of Richland County. History Room staffer Crystal Foley spent several weeks preparing lists of reusable words and phrases to use in cataloging the images. She entered information about each image into Excel, using dropdown lists of her prepared controlled vocabulary. If you're wondering what this means, I'll explain. Since all of her material is from or relates to Richland County, she prepared a list of township names as well as a list of villages and towns. She also prepared a list of family names since much of the material in the Richland County History Room has been donated by local families. She cross-checked family name spellings, as well as given names for identifying people in the photographs. Since she had been working on cataloging the photographs for a couple of years, she also prepared a list of local subject terms. All of these lists, simply typed and saved as



*WWI soldier in uniform,
Tracy Martin*

unformatted text files, took some time to compose as well as to verify spelling, but once completed, oh, the time they save! Since she added the lists to her Excel spreadsheet as a dropdown list, when she catalogs she needs only to type the first two or three characters and the list pops up. She doesn't need to worry about spelling, or about typing mistakes. Other people too can enter data since the information that is most used is readily available. In fact, students from a history class at UW-Richland regularly work on cataloging the images.

Controlled vocabulary means that for Crystal's project the words and phrases were chosen specifically and then applied without variation. Use of controlled vocabulary applied lists prevents misspellings and variations in terms.

In the second project, the [Wisconsin Decorative Arts Database](#), Emily Pfothenauer also made use of a standard controlled vocabulary. In addition, she thoroughly described, in a free text field, the images she added to the database. The use of standardized language, controlled vocabulary, allows items in the same or different collections to be brought together when a researcher enters a search. In many content management systems those controlled terms are highlighted in the data record, so a researcher can click on terms and retrieve more or fewer items easily. On the other hand, complete description in an uncontrolled field area allows people to use natural language and retrieve something in a search. Standards terms used in the record, but unfamiliar to the researcher can be used to expand the retrieved items.



*Mount Horeb Area
Historical Society*


I've been teasing Emily that no matter what search I enter into the Wisconsin Heritage Online search box, whether I search beer, or cows, or lions, or cheese, I always retrieve one or more item from the decorative arts database. Emily says this is because material culture is woven into every aspect of life. I say it's because she took the time to enter into the descriptive record about each item all she knew about it, making it possible for people to search anything they know about their topic and get something back.

WHO Resources

Social Networking Tools

Our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/WisconsinHeritage, now has over one hundred friends and we'd like to have more! Share our posts with your friends; link your Facebook account to ours to help spread the word. We use our Facebook page to share stories, such as trips to prospective digital content providers, interesting material from our content providers, and to share images from all kinds of collections that relate to a historical moment or a current event. It's a lot fun!

Wisconsin Heritage Online also has a Twitter account. We post very short bits of news, usually with a URL to a fuller account of the news item. We have close to 500 followers on Twitter, twitter.com/wiheritage.

Check out the sharing tools we've installed on each of the WHO collections hosted by the Milwaukee Public Library. Cathy Markwiese and Kevin Cingatura at Milwaukee Public Library have added  to each image page. This is how it works: when you find an image you'd like others to see, hover over the Share button. A list of sharing tools will pop up. You can click on one (my favorites are Facebook and Email) and post that specific image immediately. It's very easy!

Don't forget about our WHO Resources Wiki. We try to keep the information on the wiki up-to-date and relevant. When we make a significant change to either the page content or to a document, we try to date the page so you'll know it's new. I don't believe anyone needs to check the wiki even every week but it's certainly worth a visit once a month. Here's the URL: wilsnet-wiheritage.pbworks.com. Check the sidebar on the right to see if items have a recent date. Recently, I added four lists of railroad terminology to the Encoding Schemas page under Metadata. If you're working on or planning a digital project of railroad related material, you should check out these lists.

It might be that you've forgotten your password; if so, click on the Forgot Your Password link and your password will be reset.

Events to Note

Fall Genealogy Classes

With the increased interest in genealogy via shows like "Who Do You think You Are" and the use of Ancestry Library Edition at most public libraries, the Wisconsin Historical Society and Wisconsin State Genealogical Society are offering

classes that are geared to the beginner but valuable to intermediate researchers as well. There are a lot of options for learning more about genealogical research this Fall. Online and library/archives materials will be discussed to give a more complete picture of the various resources available to the family historian.

See *class listings* at www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes

Contributed by Lori B. Bessler

Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator

Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives

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Principal writer and editor, [Debbie Cardinal](#). Contributions from [Emily Pfothenhauer](#).

[Wisconsin Heritage Online](#) | [Wisconsin Heritage wiki](#)

