

DIGITIZATION, CATALOGING & METADATA MAILING

April/May

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Announcements

DCME Welcomes Elizabeth Baus

Zach Miller, Communications

We are pleased to announce that Elizabeth Baus will join the Minitex staff as a Coordinator on June 8.



In her new position, Elizabeth will conduct in-person and online instruction for library staff on the topics of cataloging (RDA, for example) and metadata. Before coming to Minitex, Elizabeth was a Cataloging and Metadata Librarian at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. She holds a bachelor's degree in English and Linguistics from Lawrence University and earned simultaneous master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2012, the first in Library and Information Science and the second in Language, Literature, and Translation.

Elizabeth speaks fluent Spanish and is an avid bicyclist and swing dancer. We welcome her to Minitex! ■

General

ARLD Day Summary

Jolie Graybill and Molly Huber, DCME

The Academic and Research Library Division of the Minnesota Library Association hosts an event each year called ARLD Day. Staff from the DCME unit attended the April 24th event and have shared summaries of what they learned below. Many of the presentation handouts from the day can be found on the MLA website:

z.umn.edu/wjz

Harness the Power of Qualitative Methods to Improve your Assessment and Research Efforts

This session focused on harnessing the power of Qualitative Methods in assessment and research. This session intrigued me since we are in the middle of assessment work for the Minnesota Digital Library and Minnesota Reflections after 10+ years. Basically, the session discussed how we can understand our world by interviewing and observing, attempting to glean information that

quantitative methods miss. The speaker highlighted the different ways of gathering information for the qualitative process, one of which was focus groups. Currently, we are in the midst of analyzing the data captured from our Minnesota Digital Library assessment endeavor where we used a survey, followed by a series of focus group sessions. A few interviewing tips shared during the presentation included:

- Build rapport
- Be clear, open, and flexible
- Steer the conversation
- Remember what was said
- Avoid yes/no questions
- Don't talk too much or too little
- Stop when saturation is reached

I found that many of the best practices mentioned were employed during the Minnesota Digital Library focus group sessions which were facilitated in four locations throughout Minnesota (Mankato, St. Cloud, Duluth, and Twin Cities). The information we discovered during our research process will be shared at the Minnesota Digital Library Annual Meeting on June 15th, 2015. Please join us to hear where our research is taking MDL and Minnesota Reflections. Find out more information about the MDL Annual Meeting here:

www.mndigital.org/training/meetings/meeting2015

- Jolie Graybill

Breakout Session Summaries

I also attended ARLD Day at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, my first one. Following the keynote speaker, there were a number of interesting breakout sessions. First I took part in a session in which librarians were encouraged to consider and share their thoughts on the future of libraries (Minnesota Libraries into the Future), what we do currently that is working well, what isn't, and what we need to do to achieve our goals. The second one I attended was about building learning communities around specific areas of interest, in this case, around researching family history (Family History Learning Community). The presenter demonstrated a number of interactive techniques and shared resources she had found particularly useful with the group. The third session of the day centered around free and shareware, where it is available, and the many things it can be used for in a library context and beyond (Freeware and Open Source Software). The end of the day was dedicated to a series of lightning rounds on using Twitter for current awareness, continuous improvement, smart travel tips, and outreach through readers' advisory. It was a fun and thought-provoking day.

- Molly Huber ■

Digitization & Preservation

Texas Conference on Digital Libraries

Sara Ring, DCME

I had the opportunity to attend the Texas Conference on Digital Libraries in Austin, April 27-28. Sometimes it's good to get outside the region and see what other collaboratives are up to when it comes to creating digital libraries. There were several excellent sessions, but I chose to limit my summary to keynote speaker highlights. The keynote this year was Bess Sadler from Stanford University Libraries. Her talk was entitled "Libraries and the Long Now." She asked the question, "How do we build a digital library that will last?" and argued during her talk that the answers (there are multiple) are really more cultural than technical in nature.

Sadler borrowed the concept of the "Long Now" from an organization called The Long Now Foundation. This organization was established in 1996 to "creatively foster long-term thinking and responsibility in the framework of the next 10,000 years." In the digital library world, typically the most we can promise is decades of access. How do we start thinking about digital libraries that will last for centuries?

Sadler shared this quote:

I cannot imagine the future, but I care about it. I know I am a part of a story that starts long before I can remember and continues long beyond when anyone will remember me. I sense that I am alive at a time of important change, and I feel a responsibility to make sure that the change comes out well. I plant my acorns knowing that I will never live to harvest the oaks.

- Danny Hills, *Clock of the Long Now*

She asked the audience to set aside our day-to-day work building and maintaining digital libraries, and think of the big picture—what we're really trying to build with digital libraries and why.

Sadler gave examples of some of the things that are possible because of digitization efforts. She shared a 14th century manuscript from Stanford University Library. Digitization of this historical document not only allows increased access, but as other institutions digitize their manuscripts, different versions of the documents can be compared side by side, though the physical objects themselves may reside thousands of miles away from each other. Because they are digital, transcription, translation, and new annotations can be produced,

providing all kinds of new scholarship opportunities.

Digitization shows us that we can have new needs for old knowledge. A recent article described a 1,000-year-old recipe found in a manuscript that is effective against an antibiotic-resistant superbug today (z.umn.edu/wjt). Discoveries like this are only possible because the physical manuscripts were kept all these years. Hundreds of years from now, what will scholars be able to do with the information that is being produced today?

Sadler believes that the next big thing we'll need to tackle as a community is managing geospatial data. Most of us use Google Maps or some other map application to help us get around in a new city. Geospatial data is becoming more prevalent in fields such as urban planning, environmental sciences, and others. If collected over time and managed well, we can ask interdisciplinary questions like "what if we cross-reference research about pollution from environmental science with low-birth-weight data from a public health department?" Or, if we preserve the data over time, scholars can ask questions that address long-term issues like climate change.

Sadler lamented, however, that our ability to manage GIS data is inadequate. GIS data is ephemeral, as highlighted by the example of a political science faculty member who sought her help on a research project that looked at how voting districts had changed over time. Paper maps could be found on how voting districts have changed, but there was a huge gap in more recent years. They found that the local election board only put most current maps online and discarded the old data each year. This happens all the time, but a bill currently before Congress would require government-produced geospatial data to be preserved.

In another example, the National Atlas of the United States lost funding and went offline recently, taking with it large chunks of data being used by research projects. A group of GIS librarians actually got together to download the data, and Columbia University Library took on the role of managing the data for the long term. Libraries have to keep doing this, but at a much larger scale. She emphasized that libraries have to respond to this issue, and this is where the digital library community can help.

Sadler then shared an example of libraries taking the initiative to manage and provide access to GIS data with a demonstration of Earthworks, (earthworks.stanford.edu) launched at Stanford on Earth Day. Earthworks hosts GIS data with other like-minded institutions (including the University of Minnesota Libraries), describes it, manages it, and makes it accessible over time. Here are a few features of the Earthworks platform:

- An "Access" facet (the repository includes both restricted and public data)

- Data that has been created by Stanford researchers
- Multiple download formats: shapefile, KMZ, or GeoJSON (for use in Javascript applications)
- A transparency slider (building on the work of another project, OpenGeoportal.org) that enables the comparison of old maps with new maps in a given area

OpenGeoMetadata (github.com/OpenGeoMetadata) is another project that came out of the Earthworks project. Most GIS metadata today is created by individual institutions (not like copy cataloging where one institution creates a record and other institutions can use that record instead of creating the same record from scratch) and is not shared. Creating metadata this way is time intensive and not scalable. So, the participants in Earthworks also created a way to share their geospatial metadata with others, via GitHub.

Standard University Libraries is keeping and preserving GIS data over time via Earthworks, and users can build web applications that use that data. Sadler wrapped up her talk by discussing the issues in preserving scientific data in general. When there is no preservation plan for data, it disappears. The scientific community has realized this and is starting to respond. For example, the U.S. National Science Foundation requires a data management plan from all grant applicants. The Obama administration just issued an Open Data Policy to make data even more accessible to the public. These changes are all part of the solution, but we still have to ask how we build libraries that can hold and preserve all this data for the long term.

Beyond Technology: Investing in Community

At this point in her talk, Sadler came back to The Long Now Foundation and how they talk about layers of time. Different parts of the world change at different speeds. For example, fashion changes quite fast, but something like infrastructure changes more slowly (e.g. in digital library world, whatever technology we use for our preservation repository is the infrastructure). Sadler believes we have to go deeper than the technology level in the layers of time. We have to build the community and the culture needed to sustain digital libraries. Technology is important, but the ability to work together is the real investment libraries need to make.

Sadler is one of the founders of the Hydra community, and she discussed their efforts to work and invest together for a long-term solution. Hydra is a free, open-source repository solution, but fundamentally it's a community that wants to build sustainable digital libraries. When the project started, they used to say, "If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together." This was a true for Hydra when they were first learning how to work together, but now they say "If you want to go far, go together, (and you'll get there faster, too)." They have found that new adopters get up to speed and are able to adopt Hydra much more

quickly than anyone in the past.

The Hydra community is trying to continue this trend of going faster together, and IMLS just awarded the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), Stanford, and the DuraSpace Foundation 2 million to build “hydra in a box,” an all-in-one solution to enable even more institutions to provide access to their digital resources and join the national digital platform through the DPLA.

Sadler then showed some examples of Blacklight, which is used as a front-end discovery interface for many digital archives and is part of the Hydra suite of applications. It was interesting to note that Blacklight can also be used as a digital exhibit builder, (similar to Omeka) via the plugin they developed called Spotlight. Here are some examples of institutions using Blacklight as their front-end discovery tool:

Out of the box demo

demo.projectblacklight.org

Yale Collection of Musical Instruments

collection-media.yale.edu

Stanford University Library Searchworks (library catalog)

searchworks.stanford.edu

Sadler wrapped up the discussion of the Hydra project by quoting some numbers, which really illustrated how collaborative the Hydra community is. The Hydra project is about 70,000 lines of code, from about 80 developers, representing about 17 years of work. For each one of their projects, they make sure new contributions are not breaking existing functionality, test new releases, and decide as a community what new features to develop. She has started asking software vendors that they use at her institution whether they follow the same software engineering best practices, and she encouraged all of us to do the same.

She switched back to the concept of the long now once again towards the end of her presentation. All of the software and systems she showed us are products of a community of people that will outlast any technological solution, and that’s what she sees as the really important piece. She then gave example of how she thinks we maintain and improve that kind of community over time.

Sadler is a big fan of the Creative Commons organization, and how their license structure is divided into 3 layers: machine readable, human readable, and lawyer readable. The Hydra community follows this same model for their rights management of the code for Hydra. The best open-source projects follow the same pattern.

Machine readable means that projects follow software engineering best practices. Lawyer readable means people

contribute open-source code to the project without worrying that anyone is violating employment contracts at their institution. They want their software to last far into the future, so by licensing their code, requiring all contributors to sign license agreements, and tracking provenance of the code, they are making it easier for future generations who participate in the project. Finally, the Hydra community is human readable. They have a shared set of values that they all uphold together.

The Future is Free and Open Source

The future for digital libraries that Bess Sadler wants is free and open source. Libraries don’t have a lot of money, and if we rely on systems that require licensing fees for use, innovation is limited to only solving problems that make money for vendors. Innovation is also limited to only the libraries who have the money to pay for systems.

Sadler emphasized that we (libraries) must maintain the freedom to index and search on our own terms, according to relevance that matters to research and pursuit of knowledge contexts. Google, for example, uses closed source search algorithms that determine relevance to the searcher, and we know that the search results are skewed according to commercial interests, and that our searching is being watched.

Sadler stated that the future she wants to see is one in which women make up more than 2% of open source software developers. Studies have shown that what accounts for the low percentage of women in the open source community is that it’s a hostile climate for women. In the open source software field, there isn’t a human resources department that can intervene, and employee handbooks in most cases don’t cover online interactions and external conferences.

She stated that we’ll create better software if we have mixed teams of men and women, and cited an MIT study that showed the tendency to cooperate effectively is linked to the number of women in a group (z.umn.edu/wjw). As far as what we can do about encouraging more women to enter the open-source technology field, she suggests adopting code-of-conduct statements. When a community makes a collective statement about what behavior is/is not acceptable, harassment goes down. The Texas Conference on Digital Libraries adopted a code of conduct this year at their conference.

Lastly, the future she wants is one where libraries invest in creating career transition opportunities for people already working in libraries. She sees so many new hires in the technology field from people outside the library world. To that end they have started offering Hydra camps, four-day training opportunities for institutions who are adopting Hydra.

Her final summary was that we need to build software, staff, educational opportunities, and community if we're going to create long term, sustainable digital libraries. ■

Digitization & Preservation

MDL Annual Meeting Registration Open

Sara Ring, DCME

Registration is now open for the Minnesota Digital Library annual meeting, which will take place on June 15, 2015 at the Continuing Education & Conference Center on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. The registration fee to attend is \$25. Register by June 8th here: www.minitex.umn.edu/MDL/2015

Keynote Address

Democratizing the Archives: Engaging the expertise of communities we serve to enrich our collections

Natalie Milbrodt will share lessons learned over five years working with communities in New York City to bring their diverse histories into the Archives. This includes both practical considerations concerning the equipment and logistics needed for doing this work, as well as high-level planning, such as licensing agreements and metadata standards. Rather than a prescriptive set of guidelines, Milbrodt will share a few of the program's successes along with some of its more informative failures. She will also explore a variety of models for collaboration with the internal and external partners essential to this kind of effort.

Sessions

Minnesota Digital Library (MDL) Update

Learn about what's new in Minnesota Reflections, including an update on the DPLA/MDL Public Library Partnership Project. The second half of the session will include a report on the results of the MDL assessment and evaluation work done by digitization consultants Liz Bishoff and Tom Claerson.

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

- The Digital Public Library of America: Minnesota's Contribution
- Bits and Pieces: Preserving Born Digital Records
- Community Engagement Projects in Minnesota (featuring speakers from various organizations)
- See Agnes?...It's Just Metadata
- Party Hearty, Minnesota: Working Wikipedia Parties

- into Cultural Heritage Institutions
- Opening up the Archives: Entering the Realm of Social Media

Other Highlights

Visit the Storymobile

Saint Paul Almanac's Storymobile, driven by artists on a tandem bicycle, is a hand-built art space on wheels that's solar-powered and decked out with iPads, microphones, and amps, as well as traditional writing implements and paper. The Storymobile visits street festivals, block parties, and community centers as a roving story collector, poetry reading, and instant open mic, helping people document their stories.



Saint Paul Almanac Executive Director Kimberly Nightingale and Storymobile manager Melvin Giles will talk about the Storymobile project at the "Community Engagement Projects in Minnesota" break-out session, but you can check out the Storymobile yourself anytime during the afternoon! (12:30 - 3:30)



Ice Cream Social

The annual meeting program officially ends at 3:15, but stick around for ice cream with your colleagues from 3:15 - 4:00 p.m. ■

Digitization & Digital Preservation

New Contributions to Minnesota Reflections

Greta Bahnmann, DCME

We're excited to announce several new additions to Minnesota Reflections. Visit any of these collections by using the links provided below.

Rockford Area Historical Society

z.umn.edu/wjh

The Rockford Area Historical Society operates the historic Ames-Florida-Stork House in Rockford, MN. The organization maintains a large collection of artifacts and written documents pertaining to the Ames, Florida, and Stork families who owned the house beginning in 1856 -

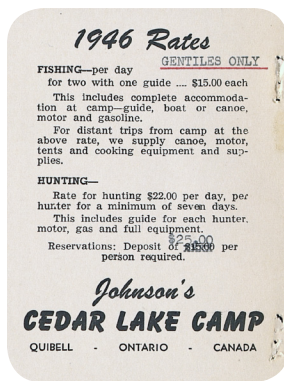
and many of these documents are in Minnesota Reflections. The RAH has been an active and enthusiastic contributor for many years - and we are now excited to showcase several recent additions to their collections - including more family diaries as well as a number of oil paintings by Florence Stork. Florence attended the St. Paul Art Institute and was a classmate of Wanda Gag, who sat for this portrait.



University of Minnesota Libraries, Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives

z.umn.edu/wjf

Another long-time contributor has made an important addition to their existing collection. The Nathan and Theresa Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives contain important materials that chronicle Jewish history, communities, religion, and culture in the Upper Midwest region. Their newest addition documents Anti-Semitism at Minnesota's resorts during the late 1940s. Letters and brochures illustrate the "Gentile only" or "restricted clientele" found at many resorts in Minnesota,



Wisconsin and Canada.

Crow Wing County Historical Society

z.umn.edu/wjg

The Crow Wing County Historical Society has added more than 40 oral history interviews to their existing collection. The Crow Wing County Historical Society has been preserving Crow Wing County's history since 1927. The museum, located in Brainerd, Minnesota, is housed in the old Crow Wing County Jail and Sheriff's residence which date from 1917. These interviews document the lives and experiences of Crow Wing County residents and recount a full array of experiences: immigration from Europe including Norway and Sweden, the working life of teachers, loggers, machinists, ministers and more. Other topics include: church activities, education, town settlement, the Great Depression, marriage and children. ■



Digitization & Preservation

Conference and Event Highlights

Lake Superior Library Symposium

On June 5th, Minnesota Digital Library Outreach Coordinator Molly Huber is going to be making a joint presentation along with Emily Pfothner, Recollection Wisconsin Program Manager, at the Lake Superior Libraries Symposium in Duluth. Our topic is what it means to collaborate with DPLA from the perspective of a seasoned hub (MDL) and a brand new one (Recollection Wisconsin), and the opportunities the collaboration brings. We will also speak on how participating in DPLA can amplify your resources and grow your audience by leveraging this national platform. Please come see us, and if you do attend the session, be sure to say hello or introduce yourself. Visit the Lake Superior Libraries Symposium website for more information:

lakesuperiorlibrariesymposium.com

SEI 2015

One June 8, Minnesota Digital Library Metadata Coordinator Greta Bahnmann will travel to Urbana-Champaign, Illinois where she will serve as the co-chair of the Summer Educational Institute for Visual Resources and Image Management (SEI). SEI is a joint project of the Art Libraries Society of North America and the Visual Resources Association Foundation:

This intensive four day residential workshop features a curriculum that specifically addresses the requirements of today's visual resources and image management professionals. SEI provides information professionals with a substantive educational and professional development opportunity focused on digital imaging, metadata, digital preservation and project management. The focus of the curriculum is on skills and education needed to stay current in a rapidly changing field. As co-chair Greta will be assisting with all aspects of the program as well as serve one of the instructors for "Metadata in Practice." She will be back in Minnesota just in time for the MDL Annual Meeting! There is still time to register, so check out the curriculum on the SEI website here:

seiworkshop.org ■

Digitization & Preservation

Minnesota's Contribution to DPLA Increases Tenfold

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) has collaborated with the Minnesota Digital Library to complete a tenfold increase in the number of digital items from Minnesota available on its website, dp.la. This collaboration presents Minnesota culture and history to the world with access to photographs, original manuscripts, videos, artwork, maps, and more. The 426,000 new items come from the collections of seven prominent Minnesota institutions:

- Minnesota Historical Society
- Minnesota Public Radio
- College of St. Benedict and St. John's University
- Minneapolis Institute of Arts
- Carleton College
- Northfield History Collaborative
- University of Minnesota Libraries

"We are incredibly excited to be part of this groundbreaking effort to bring together collections from

across the country into a single, searchable portal," said Jennifer Jones, the Minnesota Historical Society's Library and Collections Director. "This is a wonderful opportunity to make the cultural heritage of Minnesota available to a wider audience."

When a visitor searches DPLA's website for this content, the site delivers results using data aggregated by MDL and directs the visitor to the host institution's website to view the actual digital item. John Butler, the University of Minnesota Libraries' head of Data and Technology, added, "The Minnesota Digital Library's rich collaboration with the DPLA has now enabled the cultural treasures from the smallest and the largest of Minnesota organizations to have a digital presence on the national and international stage. It is a wonderful opportunity to connect Minnesota to the global community."

This work is made possible through the generous funding of the Digital Public Library of America Digital Hubs Pilot, which is supported by the Digital Public Library of America with funding provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Visit the MDL website for more information:

www.mndigital.org/projects/dpla ■

Minitex Digitization, Cataloging & Metadata Mailing Contact Information

Digitization, Cataloging & Metadata Education (DCME)
612-624-4002, 800-462-5348, mino@umn.edu
Greta Bahnemann, Jolie Graybill, Molly Huber, Sara Ring, Carla Dewey Urban
Services and resources pertaining to the Minnesota Digital Library, cataloging and metadata, digitization and digital preservation, and the OCLC Cooperative

Contract Cataloging Program (ConCats)
612-624-4002, 800-462-5348, dewey002@umn.edu
Carla Urban

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Minitex is a publicly supported network of academic, public, state government, and special libraries working cooperatively to provide and improve library service to patrons in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

For address and name changes, please send a message to mino@umn.edu.

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**Minitex
University of Minnesota
15 Andersen Library
222 21st Avenue South
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APRIL/MAY 2015

DCME Welcomes Elizabeth Baus

MDL Annual Meeting Registration Open

**DIGITIZATION, CATALOGING
& METADATA MAILING**

A Publication of the Minitex Digitization, Cataloging & Metadata Education Unit

MINITEX CALENDAR

This calendar primarily lists events scheduled by Minitex, although other events are included. This is an informational posting only, registration materials are sent

separately. If you would like your event included in the calendar, please call Kay Kirscht at 612-624-3532.

JUNE

10

NISO Webinar: "Bringing Your Website With You Wherever You Go: Responsive Web Design"

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., CST

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

www.minitex.umn.edu/Events/Niso/#responsive

15

Minnesota Digital Library 13th Annual Meeting

Conference

Continuing Education & Conference Center, University of Minnesota - St. Paul Campus, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul, MN

www.mndigital.org/training/meetings/meeting2015

17

NISO Virtual Conference: "The Eternal To-Do List: Making E-books Work in Libraries"

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., CST

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

www.minitex.umn.edu/Events/Niso/#eternal

17

CatExpress: Copy Cataloging with CatExpress

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., CST

DCME/OCLC Online training session

www.minitex.umn.edu/Training/Details.aspx?SessionID=244

25 - 30

2015 Annual ALA Conference & Exhibition "Transforming Our Libraries, Ourselves"

Conference

Moscone Center, San Francisco, CA

alaac15.ala.org

JULY

3-4

Independence Day Holiday

Minitex Offices closed both Friday, July 3, and Saturday, July 4.