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SCDL Update Message: Some Thoughts on Metadata, the Backbone of Digital Collections from SCDL’s Metadata Coordinator

HEATHER GILBERT
Metadata Director, Associate Director, Coastal Region
gilberthj@cofc.edu

Metadata accuracy is the backbone of digital collections. One might even argue that informed and accurate metadata is as important, if not more, than the digitized items themselves. The digitization of any object is irrelevant if no one can find and access the item. Metadata is what makes all of our digitization efforts accessible, meaningful, and (at least in part) sustainable.

We all know that metadata is what we create to describe our digitized objects. It is created using the rules established and maintained by the South Carolina Digital Library Metadata Schema, and entered into an Excel spreadsheet or other repository template for upload into a SCDL Regional Repository, or entered directly within the interface of your institution’s own digital asset management system.

We follow these rules and guidelines to ensure that our descriptive information from over 50 institutions works together, facets correctly, sorts accurately and all-in-all, plays nicely with each other. We also follow these guidelines to ensure that our data is harvestable into other projects, such as the Digital Public Library of America or Umbra Search. These projects have thousands of participating institutions, so metadata accuracy is critical in ensuring access to your materials. We make your metadata harvestable using OAI-PMH or the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting. As you can see from this chart, we at SCDL manage multiple sets of incoming data maps and aggregate them into a single outgoing OAI (metadata) feed for all of SCDL. This outgoing data feed can then be used by other projects, such as DPLA and Umbra Search, lending enhanced discoverability and accessibility to our collections.

The South Carolina Digital Library is always here to provide you with the training, documentation, and resources you need in creating the best possible metadata for your digital collections. We want to provide you with the support and tools you need to ensure the success of your project. Within the South Carolina Digital Library Metadata Schema and Guidelines document, users will find every metadata element available to use within SCDL, whether that element is required, repeatable, how to use the element, even sample entries. We also provide “DC” (Dublin Core) or “QDC” (Qualified Dublin Core) mappings for our elements. In addition to detailed information about our metadata element set, we also provide information about controlled vocabularies, copyright, public domain, and recommendations for further reading.

In addition to the above documentation, if you don’t participate in a SCDL Regional Repository, but host your own digital asset management sys-
tem, we’ve created the document SCDL Self Hosted Partner Repository Information, which provides information on how we use OAI-PMH to harvest your records and some points to consider when setting up your institution’s OAI feed.

If you are partnered with a SCDL regional repository, your SCDL regional coordinator is always happy to provide training opportunities and guidance on how to create the best metadata for your project. If you are managing your own digital asset management system, your SCDL regional coordinator can still be of assistance in answering your metadata questions and your SCDL technical coordinator or metadata coordinator can help you configure your OAI feed for harvesting.

Whatever your needs, your SCDL coordinators are here to help. We can’t wait to see what collections you will digitize and describe in 2018! Happy New Year!

Heather Gilbert
SCDL Associate Director for the Coastal Region
SCDL Metadata Coordinator

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2018 SCDL Annual Meeting

WHEN: FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2018
WHERE: HOLLINGS LIBRARY PROGRAM ROOM USC-COLUMBIA
HOW TO PARTICIPATE: LIGHTNING ROUND PRESENTATIONS

Do you have an exciting digital project that you’d like to share with other SCDL partners? SCDL invites project partners to submit lightning round presentation proposals to boydki@mailbox.sc.edu. The presentations should be 5-8 minutes in length, discussing a recent digital project or digitization effort at your institution. Proposals should include the presentation title and a brief summary of the topic. Presentations spots are limited, so submit your proposals soon.
Dear SCDL Partners,

The South Carolina Digital Library was a founding member of the Digital Public Library (DPLA) in 2013. It was and still is exciting to be a part of this national effort. Since that time, we have updated our metadata and metadata standards to become DPLA-compliant, followed DPLA’s guidelines for participation, added over 177,000 records to the DPLA, added items to DPLA exhibits and primary resources, attended DPLA conferences, and continued to adapt to any requests DPLA made. However, as some of you may know, this past July DPLA instituted a mandatory membership fee of $10,000 a year.

As you are also aware, SCDL does not have a fee or payment structure in place for participation. SCDL members contribute all content for free and we would like to keep it this way. The SCDL regional repositories, directors, and the technical manager, Tyler Mobley, volunteer their time and effort to train staff, ingest records, maintain the SCDL website and servers, and update and manage all of the data in SCDL (which is sent to DPLA). So far, our small state digital library has managed well, with membership extending over sixty cultural heritage institutions, regardless of size and abilities, and growing in size every month.

After learning about the DPLA membership structure and fees, SCDL leadership would like to take this year to assess whether this is really a viable and cost-effective option for the South Carolina Digital Library. At this time, we do not see much beneficial value to paid membership. As far as we can tell, the main advantage to paying for membership would be our harvesting schedule. As unpaid members, SCDL would be harvested into DPLA twice per year. As paid members, we would be harvested up to six times per year. At this time we aren’t sure that 4 additional harvests are worth $10,000/year.

Regardless of our decision, please know that SCDL will continue to be listed on DPLA’s site as a contributing member, and DPLA will continue to harvest SCDL metadata. We also have every intention of maintaining the DPLA metadata guidelines so that we can continue to be harvested.

SCDL leadership believes that DPLA’s request asking hubs to pay $10,000/year, regardless of size, is unfair and untenable for two main reasons. First, SCDL doesn’t have any system in place to pay DPLA or request fees from our partners. As we mentioned above, SCDL is an entirely voluntary effort. We have never wanted to charge anyone for SCDL work, and we would like to remain a free resource for South Carolina cultural heritage institutions of all shapes and sizes to be a part of, with very low barriers of entry. We feel it is unreasonable for DPLA to ask that we create this type of infrastructure. Secondly, we don’t really see how DPLA hub membership will benefit SCDL partners in a manner that justifies the expense. Please view the complete hubs membership benefits list here. Again, keep in mind, our data will remain a part of DPLA and will continue to be ingested. SCDL will also remain listed as a contributor on the DPLA website.
Part of the mission for SCDL is to enhance the overall education and scholarship of South Carolina’s citizens by coordinating free and unlicensed access to these digital collections through a central web presence. Ideally, with your support, we would like to continue our mission and wait to see how DPLA evolves.

We propose that this issue be a point of discussion at the SCDL bi-annual meeting in Columbia this June. That would allow SCDL to participate with DPLA as unpaid contributors for at least a 6-month period. Then, we can discuss this further as a group to determine whether paid membership is something into which it is worth investigating and investing our time, efforts, and institutional budgets.

We value each and every one of our partners efforts and collections and will continue to work to ensure the collections of South Carolina are broadly and freely accessible to the world.

Sincerely,

Kate Boyd, Heather Gilbert, and Chris Vinson
South Carolina Digital Library Coordinators

While SCDL remains a contributor to DPLA, check out how you can stay involved and informed!

Look out for the new design of DPLA’s website soon

Join DPLA’s mailing list

Apply to become a member of DPLA’s next class of Community Reps to spread the word about digital collections and libraries

Look to attend the next DPLAfest in 2019
A few things were on Tyler’s mind when we talked in December: metadata, web interface or PUI (public user interface), and harvesting. First, keep in mind what he said last time about metadata and the need for you to tell him or your SCDL contact about your collection needing re-indexing if you change your data or add items to it. Also, note that he harvests our collections to SCDL about once a month and DPLA harvests SCDL twice a year for now.

Tyler is looking at the summer for refreshing the WordPress PUI or frontend of SCDL. So, take a look at the current site, and let us know your thoughts on how it can be updated or refreshed. For ideas on design changes we could implement, take a look at other digital library websites. Almost every state in the country has a state-wide digital library, and some sites I have consulted for inspiration are the Massachusetts’ Digital Commonwealth, the Mountain West Digital Library (note that they are testing a new site), North Carolina’s DigitalNC, and California’s Calisphere. What other sites do you like? If you want to see a list of state wide digital libraries check out DPLA’s list of current service hubs or this rather old list from the Library of Congress on State Digital Resources.

This summer, at the annual meeting on June 15th, we can discuss the PUI further, and anticipate some updates next year.

Staff Spotlight

Share News and Highlights About Your Stellar Colleagues and Staff

If you have staff news or would like to spotlight a staff member at your institution, please, submit it to Kate Boyd or Tabitha Samuel to be included in the next issue.
Chris Vinson from Clemson and I attended the Digital Library Federation Forum (DLF) in Pittsburgh, PA, October 22-24, 2017. If you haven’t, please check out the DLF web site. It has a lot of information, including digitization cost calculator and many groups on assessment or metadata management that are free to browse online. Many of the presentations from the conference are available from the Open Science Framework as well. The wealth of information shared at this conference has taken me a few weeks to digest. The organizers do an amazing job of welcoming all, including all, and broadening our minds in many different directions. The opening speaker for the second year in a row made me grapple with issues I had never considered and it would take up this whole newsletter to address. The forum also does a great job of making sure we are busy every minute of the day with working breakfasts (I attended one on metadata support and learned about a few Slack channels to join) and working lunches--the metadata assessment group met and discussed different issues with digital collections assessment. A very important topic that needs to be addressed as we go along). It is almost impossible to synthesize and paraphrase everything that I learned at the conference, but let me try.

Even though there were mostly academic libraries in attendance with a few public libraries represented, there really was something for all types of digital collections staff. Overall, I heard about basic digital projects, collaborations, libraries under construction and reorganizing, software, data management, new theories in archives, and a lot about digital scholarship labs.

A few stand-out projects and ideas have not left me:

- Omeka S is a redo of Omeka and maybe we should check it out.
- An Indigenous Digital Archive from New Mexico was launched.
- A fledging company named born-digital.com will set up Hydra or Islandora instances for a price.
• I have been showing everyone University of Rochester’s May Bragdon Diaries, which using Islandora, has hyper-links within the transcriptions, further describing the people mentioned in the diaries. This is something I have wanted to do for a while.

• ArcLight, a finding aids management system, from Stanford was previewed and CLIR grant recipients discussed their projects.

• NC State discussed “sun-setting” digital projects, which means taking them offline and deleting them basically.

Some interesting discussions I heard were whether humanists think of their research as data. Apparently, this is a fierce discussion, and many do not. One panel discussed the possibilities of processing archival collections differently in the digital age and DPLA hosted a panel discussing the need to crosswalk metadata more between museums, archives, and libraries.

This year there was less talk of digital humanities and more discussion on digital scholarship, an attempt to broaden the scope beyond the humanities to data management and visualization in other subject matters. Many institutions are grappling with multiplying departments and service points and trying to consolidate. Columbia University, which had about ten different departments concerning digital projects, such as Electronic Text Center, Digital Humanities Center, Digital Science Center, and Electronic Data Center, is now organizing into one department for digital scholarship. The University of Michigan gave a good presentation on the pains they are going through to reorganize and better communicate within all of their IT departments, which includes HathiTrust.

Texas Digital Library uses many types of software for digital preservation, and are attempting to slim down and focus on maintaining just a few. Carnegie Mellon, Ohio State, Case Western and Georgia State discussed their attempts at setting up digital scholarship labs. These labs, physical spaces in the library with computers and large screens for sharing work, usually consist of support for faculty and students on GIS mapping, data management, digital humanities, and data visualization.

Pittsburgh, although overcast and cold, was great. I had no idea about the three rivers and all the bridges! The food was good, and I also found a moment at the end to attend the Andy Warhol Museum. 🌳
Last year, I was welcomed as a member of DPLA’s 5th class of Community Representatives. As a Community Rep, I get to spread the word about DPLA, digital libraries and archives, and help to promote South Carolina’s rich collections of primary sources, in particular, throughout the state. For my first outreach activity as a Community Rep, I represented DPLA at October Day, which was South Carolina History Day’s fall workshop. October Day was held at Coastal Carolina University (CCU), and consisted of workshops throughout the day for middle and high school students looking for guidance and tips while developing their projects, ranging from dramatic performances to online exhibits, for submission to the regional and state National History Day competitions.

On this cool and breezy Saturday, representatives from institutions across the state, including the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture, the South Caroliniana Library, and the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum, met with students in an informal exhibit-hall style setting in CCU’s beautiful and serene courtyard. I was able to chat with students one-on-one about their topics relating to this year’s National History Day (NHD) theme, Conflict and Compromise, while using DPLA’s Primary Source Sets, which provide background and context to popular historical topics and incorporate items from digital libraries across the country, including our state, and scmemory.org. I was able to provide reference assistance and direct the students, many of whom showed up enthusiastic and prepared with topics, such as the Orangeburg Massacre and the Confederate Flag removal from the State House, to resources accessible through SCDL and housed at partner institutions that would help create innovative and dynamic projects.

I’m excited to be a judge for SC NHD competitions in the spring and cannot wait to see what creative projects the students produce, using materials from SCDL’s collections.
Leah Worthington started as the Digital Projects Librarian for the College of Charleston in August of 2017. Working in the Library’s office of Digital Services with Tyler Mobley, she manages both the Lowcountry Digital Library (LCDL) and the Lowcountry Digital History Initiative (LDHI), spending about fifty percent of her time on each. Leah received her Master’s in History from the College of Charleston and worked for LDHI while completing her degree. She continued at LDHI after graduating, assisting with metadata and scanning and then took a year to work at the McLeod Plantation Historic Site, outside downtown Charleston, on James Island, before returning to the College of Charleston.

Currently, the LCDL includes about nineteen partners, such as the Avery Research Center, Diocese of the Charleston Archives, Patriots Point Naval Museum, and Gibbes Museum. For the LCDL, Leah works with partners whose collections are at various stages. She answers their questions and helps them with metadata and scanning. She also helps write grants for larger digital projects and trains new partners on the SCDL guidelines for scanning and metadata. For instance, she is currently assisting a new partner with building an oral history digital collection.

The goal of the LDHI, which was launched in 2014, is to make under-represented Lowcountry history more accessible. Exhibits such as the most recent, Las Voces del Lowcountry and Remembering Individuals, Remembering Communities: Septima P. Clark and Public History in Charleston, are made available online using the Omeka software. Leah either requests scholars to write on certain topics or, more and more, scholars come to her with proposal ideas. She manages three graduate students who set up the Omeka exhibits, add the text, images and captions. An outside editor reviews the exhibit before it is published on the site. About two to three exhibits are added a year.

Leah came down from the DC area five years ago and loves Charleston. She really enjoys working with the different people and projects and learning about the history of the Lowcountry. She also truly appreciates connecting history and primary resources to researchers across the world. When she is not in the office, she especially enjoys gardening, walking around the historic Charleston streets, and checking out restaurants, including her favorite spot for happy hour snacks, Edmund’s Oast Brewing. She says she is getting used to and appreciates the slower pace of life in the Lowcountry.
Furman University, who hosts the online collections for the SCDL Upstate, recently updated to the newest version of the CONTENTdm software. Visually, the new website is quite different than its predecessors. It offers a cleaner, less cluttered design that really showcases the content of the collections with big, bold graphics. The new site also operates over HTTPS; and therefore, provides more privacy for users. The website was also designed to be more accessible to users with disabilities compared to previous versions. Finally, the website is built to work effectively on all Internet capable devices. Users no longer have to pinch and zoom or scroll horizontally when trying to access the collections on tablets or phones.

The migration itself was handled by OCLC tech support; however, Furman was required to do a little work prior to the migration. The custom headers and landing page content for all the collections had to be re-configured or recreated prior to the launch.

You can check out the new SCDL Upstate CONTENTdm [here](#).
University of South Carolina Libraries has launched a new digital archive, Historic Newspapers of South Carolina, that provides free and easy access to more than 143 local, regional and specialized newspapers and publications dating back to the early 1800s.

USC library staff and students have scanned more than 350,000 pages from 143 individual historic publications held by the South Caroliniana Library to build the online archive — and they’re not done yet. Digital Initiatives Librarian Kate Boyd anticipates that by the end of 2018, there will be approximately 450,000 pages scanned and uploaded.

Historic Newspapers of South Carolina consists of publications that served the news needs and special interests of towns and communities, businesses and organizations throughout the state. It provides access to an amazing selection of rare and specialty newspapers, and includes ten African-American titles published between 1865 and 1922 as well as two civil rights era papers.

“We’ve built a rich digital resource that provides detailed insight into all aspects of life in the state for the past 200 years,” Boyd said. “It’s an excellent research resource for K-12 and college students, academic researchers, and history and genealogy buffs.”

Some unique publications within the collection include:

- Clinton Mills Clothmaker, published by and for the employees of Clinton and Lydia Cotton Mills in Clinton, South Carolina in the 1980s
- Farmer’s Gazette and Cheraw Advertiser (1839-1843), dedicated to the advancement of practices in agriculture and politics
- Keowee Courier, news from Oconee County, 1949-1922
- Columbia Phoenix, documented the slow recovery of the area in the post-Civil War era from 1865 to 1878

The two civil rights era African-American newspapers within the archive have recently been digitized and are now accessible online for the first time. The Lighthouse and Informer, one of the most important African-American newspapers in the history of Southern journalism, was founded by
journalist and politician John H. McCray, who exposed the racial climate and injustice in the state through the 16-year run of the publication from 1938-1954. *The Palmetto Leader* was launched in Columbia in 1925 by attorney Nathaniel Frederick to demand anti-lynching legislation, black voting rights, and an end to mob violence against African Americans. After Frederick's death in 1938, the *Leader* moved toward publishing society and religious news through the 1960s.

Publications included in Historic Newspapers of South Carolina cover notable moments in each community, from births, weddings and deaths, to larger national and international subjects including politics, war, the economy, scientific discoveries, natural disasters, social issues, entertainment, scandals and more.

Each of the 350,000 scanned newspaper pages within the archive are fully keyword searchable, and can be browsed by title, county in which they were published, or by a specific date. Users can zoom in on images and text, pan around pages, save a page or portion of a page, print pages, and create permalinks to individual pages to provide reference in formal research and projects. The site also features a “100 years ago today” link function that links to the front page of the hun-
dreds of available titles from 100 years ago — on any given day of the year.

Since the pages within the archive are scans of the actual newspaper pages and images of the pages on microfilm, all the visual elements of the papers, including images, illustrations, ads, design, fonts, and more can be explored and studied. Historic Newspapers of South Carolina is accessible at http://historicnewspapers.sc.edu. All of its contents are either in the public domain or can freely be used for educational purposes as expressed by the copyright holders.

The Historic Newspapers of South Carolina project is a continuation of work the USC Libraries Digital Collections staff did under Boyd’s direction from 2009 to 2015, digitizing papers from the South Caroliniana Library, with the National Digital Newspaper Program’s Chronicling America project, which was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. More recently, funding support has come from the Horry County Archive Center at Coastal Carolina University to digitize Horry County papers, Presbyterian College to digitize the Clinton Chronicle, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services’ LSTA grant support to include The Camden Chronicle.

Boyd and her team are grateful for all support, and want to continue to grow the archive well into the future. They are looking for additional specialty newspapers and publications to add to the archive.

“We want this archive to be comprehensive and completely representative of the state of South Carolina and its history,” Boyd said, “and we’re always looking for new partnerships and publications to make that happen.”

SCDL Welcomes New Partners
2016-2017

South Carolina Confederate Relic Room And Military Museum

Horry Georgetown Technical College

Marlboro County Public Library*

*DIGITAL COLLECTIONS ARE NOT OFFICIALLY LIVE IN SCDL
Since January, 2016, the Camden Archives & Museum has been working with Kate Boyd, USC Digital Initiatives Librarian, on several digital projects. One of the most exciting of these projects involved digitizing all of the 1890-1940 issues of our local newspaper, the Camden Chronicle-Independent.

For many years, USC Digital Collections worked with the Library of Congress to digitize selected 18th and 19th century newspapers. Because of copyright law, the Library of Congress set a cut-off date of 1924. Library staff scanned the newspapers, made them searchable, and uploaded them to Chronicling America. The newspapers are freely available to anyone with an internet connection.

Although USC Digital Collections is not currently uploading files to the Chronicling America database, they are still at the forefront of digitizing South Carolina's historic newspapers and making them available to the public. In 2016, USC Digital Collections received a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Subgrant to scan and make accessible a number of South Carolina newspapers located at the South Caroliniana Library and at the Camden Archives. With the approval of the owner of the Camden Chronicle-Independent, we made available all of the Archives microfilmed rolls of the newspaper up to 1940. After many months of work and a great deal of anticipation, South Carolina Historic Newspapers has gone LIVE.

The Historic Newspapers of South Carolina database includes over 100 newspapers published in South Carolina from 1815 until the 1980s. Their database will have both the files already shared with the Library of Congress and all of the other newspapers that have been digitized over the last few years. More than a dozen locally published newspapers are included in the database – from the Camden Commercial Courier (1837-1838) to the Wateree Messenger (1888-1935). The Archives is thrilled to be able to share our collection with people from around the state and around the world. Best of all, this is an ongoing effort that will continue to add new data every year.

After the website is formally launched, the Archives will hold a series of workshops introducing the project to the public and explaining how to access and use the database. With the advance search options, a user will be able to search the entire database or individual newspapers by keyword or within a date range. Imagine--no more browsing roll after roll of microfilm to locate information!

Richland Library recently acquired the photographic archive of The State Media Company. This collection contains negatives and photographs taken by The State and Columbia Record staff photographers. The State newspaper has been in publication since 1891 and is the leading daily paper for the Columbia area. The Columbia Record was in publication from 1913 to 1988 and was the city’s evening newspaper.

In the summer of 2017, over 300 boxes of prints and negatives that had formerly comprised the photo morgue for The State Media Company were delivered to Richland Library. Impressed with the size and scope of the collection, Richland Library staff from the Local History Department immediately went to work creating a preliminary inventory of the boxes and selecting materials for digitization. There is much work to be done in the physical processing and ordering of the materials, but this work is underway and is anticipated to be completed over the next several months.

The earliest materials in the collection date to 1955, when The State Newspaper Company expanded into a modern building near the University of South Carolina stadium and added an in-house photographic unit. Prior to that date, photographs had been acquired as needed from freelancers or local studio photographers. The end date of the
collection in 2002 is a result of the rise of digital photography. During the period the collection was created, The State-Record Company, as it was then known, staffed the morgue with a librarian who kept the collection in order and retrieved materials for reporters. After the switch to digital photography this staff was no longer retained, which created difficulties in accessing materials from the morgue for current reporters. As the morgue waned in importance to the paper, and as space and streamlining concerns grew, The State Media Company felt the best use of the materials would be with a public repository like ours. Similar situations have occurred with the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the Charlotte Observer, whose morgues have also been placed in public institutions.

For researchers, this acquisition should be a real windfall. One exciting element of this collection is the possibility for accurate identification of the subjects. For the most part, negatives are in their original envelopes and are identified by date, news event, and photographer. And as Richland Library also holds The State and Columbia Record newspapers on microfilm and in digital formats we can make further identifications from the published articles and captions. As images are digitized, great care is being taken to add accurate names, dates, locations, and descriptions to the metadata. Scanned negatives are producing clean images, many of which were never published, and are offering a revealing look into past people and events important to our local, state and even national history.

We are pleased to announce that The State Newspaper Photograph Archive is now online as part of
the Local History Digital Collections at Richland Library. Copyright protections remain for commercial or media use of the digital images, but the collection is freely available for educational and personal use. The State Newspaper Photograph Archive contains only a small sample of the hundreds of thousands of images in the complete collection, but we expect this to be a long-term project and staff are committed to adding to the digital collection weekly.

The State Newspaper Photograph Archive has quickly become one of the most popular in our digital library, and should prove to be a rich trove of information for researchers of the Civil Rights and Modern eras. We upload new images every Friday, so visit often!

Check out the Local History Digital Collections at http://localhistory.richlandlibrary.com or in the South Carolina Digital Library.

New SCDL Collections

Abstract Voter Registrations Reported to the Military Government, 1868
Beaufort and the Sea Islands
Brandon Mill Ledger
Carolana: Yearbook of the University of South Carolina Upstate
Central High School Yearbooks
Clemson Board of Trustees Annual Reports
Clemson President’s Reports to the Board of Trustees
Clemson University Cooperative Extension Annual Reports
Colin J. McRae Papers, Huse Audit Series
Eugene Avery Adams Papers, 1892-1968
Furman Concert Choir*
Greer
Horry Georgetown Technical College Yearbooks
Jeremiah Cleveland Store Ledger, 1823
John Wesley United Methodist Church
Loretta Dunbar Oral Correspondence Collection, 1974-1979*
Martha Cunningham Monteith Collection*
Menu Project
Periodic Reports to Clemson Board of Trustees
Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Association
Robert Louis Stevenson’s The Black Arrow in Young Folks Paper
Samuel Pope, Seaman’s Protection Certificate, 1820
Sandlapper: The Magazine of South Carolina
Slater News
South Carolina and the Spanish American War
South Carolina Postcards
Strom Thurmond Collection
The Joy Maker
The Patriot Student Newspaper
The State Newspaper Photograph Archive
Thomas and Muller Family Papers*
U.S. Engineer Maps of the Waccamaw River, 1903
Views of Columbia, South Carolina
William Gravely Oral History Collection
William Howell Company Ledger

*HAS NOT BEEN INDEXED, NOT ACCESSIBLE IN SCDL.
This project began in the Spring of 2016. With the magazine not yet being in the public domain, it was essential to obtain permission from the copyright holder before beginning such a lengthy (but rewarding) project. After the passing of Sandlapper Magazine’s founder, Robert P. Wilkins, Sr., copyright control passed to Mr. Wilkins’ son, Robby Wilkins, President of Southern Visions Real Estate. The permission was written with the firm provision that the copyright holder retained all rights to the work digitally distributed online. The family also assisted us by providing access to their collection of Sandlapper back issues, which helped us fill in a number of collection gaps.
In 2016, the Lexington County Public Library System began to explore the feasibility of creating an online oral history collection of Lexington County residents who served in the armed forces during World War II. After approaching Kate Boyd and John Quirk of the South Carolina Digital Library (SCDL) and asking for some assistance, I felt confident that we would be able to pursue our project. Our library has another collection that is hosted by SCDL: a collection of historical images taken from the 1950s through the 1970s by Lexington County photographer Richard Taylor. Like our initial efforts to determine the feasibility of creating the Richard Taylor collection, we were similarly concerned with questions of online storage accessibility. We knew that sound recordings took up a lot of space and that making those recordings discoverable was important if the collection was going to be accessible by the public.

In addition to considering SCDL a host for our recordings, we also looked at using the Library of Congress Veterans History Project as a potential host and platform. We thought that if they could upload and host the recordings, we could then link to the entry for each veteran via our website. However, we learned that not every recording that is sent to the Library of Congress is posted to their web page and that they couldn’t guarantee when, or if, the actual recording would be available online. Because we believed it was important that our users were able to access the actual audio recordings of our interviews, we decided against relying on the Library of Congress as our primary means of hosting our oral history recordings. Luckily, SCDL again provided us with space to host our recordings and a platform to make our collection discoverable. Without this service from SCDL and the assistance of Kate and John, this project would have been much more difficult to implement.
In March of 2017, we made contact with the first of our potential interviewees. While filling in at the circulation desk at our Pelion Branch Library, a gentleman asked us about finding historical books about World War II. He was wearing a “World War II Veteran” baseball cap and was very engaging; when I asked him if he served in World War II, he was proud to say that he had. His name was Mr. Gaylord Ault, and his daughter, Sandi Mattson, accompanied him.

After he shared some of his World War II experiences, I asked Mr. Ault and his daughter if they would be willing to be the first to contribute to an ongoing oral history project focusing on World War II Veterans. They agreed to participate, and we proceeded to arrange conducting the interview at the Pelion Branch Library. In preparing for the interview we used a combination of questions that we developed on our own as well as questions pulled from a sample form prepared by the Library of Congress for their Veteran History Project. These questions were delivered to Mr. Ault and his daughter before the interview and they were returned to us with written responses and “prompts” that we could use during the interview.

On the day of the interview, Lori Skinner, former Reference Coordinator for the Lexington Main Library, and I were technologically and informationally prepared for the interview. What none of us were prepared for, including Mr. Ault, was the depth of emotion that his recounting of his experiences would bring to the surface. This was especially true when he told us how he met his wife, who is now deceased, while he was serving in Europe.

If others are considering undertaking a project like this, it would be worthwhile to be prepared for the emotions that your interviewee and that you yourself may experience during the process. We took an unexpected break during the recording to “take a breather,” and I think that is something that should be expected during a project like this. We are finalizing the metadata that will be submitted to the SCDL for this interview. We have finished the written transcript of the interview, and we hope to have everything submitted for hosting by the beginning of December of 2017. This first interview has been a learning experience, and we hope to build on what we learned from it in subsequent interviews.
The 1868 Abstract of Voter Registrations was scanned by the University of South Carolina’s Digital Collections from a silver film copy obtained through the South Carolina Department of Archives & History.

This abstract was created by order of the commander of the Second Military District in accord with 14 U.S. Stats. 429, 15 U.S. Stats.2, and 15 U.S. Stats. 14, which gave him ultimate responsibility for the registration of voters and the conduct of elections. The series was abstracted prior to 12 September 1868 from the series Voter Registrations Reported to the Military Government and was deposited with the Secretary of State in October 1868. 

**Abstract of Voter Registrations Reported to the Military Government, 1868 now Accessible through SCDL**

**JESSICA DAME**
South Carolina State Library
About the South Carolina Digital Library

The South Carolina Digital Library provides free access to historic materials, such as photographs, manuscripts, journals, books, oral histories, objects, etc. illustrating the history and culture of South Carolina from over 40 cultural heritage institutions across the state.

For more information, please visit scmemory.org or call (803) 777-0735.

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THIS PAGE. “Boy holds November 22, 1963 issue of Columbia Record,” from The State Newspaper Photograph Archive, accessible through The Walker Local and Family History Center Digital Collections of Richland Library.