

The Digital Insider

Digital Information News from the State Library of North Carolina

The Digital Information Management Program (DIMP) works to preserve democracy by providing freedom of access to North Carolina state government information



Digital Repository Gets a Facelift

A redesign of the State Library's Digital Repository is in the works, as is a move to the newest version of the CONTENTdm database software, scheduled for spring 2009. In the meantime, take advantage of our newest features, comments and tagging. Options to add comments and tags are located at the bottom of the Repository records under the document description. Tell us what you think of a digital object, or add a tag to describe the object in your own words. On your next visit, click your tag to see if others have tagged records the same way.

Tech Tip

Digital preservation is a real issue for anyone who uses email, hosts a website, scans papers, creates documents, spreadsheets, and databases on their computer, or stores old files on floppy disks, CDs, and DVDS. To learn how to better manage your digital information go to <http://tinyurl.com/digpres>.

An Era of Progress and Promise Makes Headlines

In 1910, W. N. Hartshorn published the book, *An Era of Progress and Promise* in which he discussed the educational and religious opportunities for African-Americans after Emancipation. The book contains profiles of African-American schools and biographies of prominent leaders, ministers and educators.

Nearly 100 years later, Hartshorn's book made headlines when the State Library of North Carolina digitized it in its entirety and made the text fully searchable through our digital repository.

View the book here: <http://tinyurl.com/erapp>

An Era of Progress and Promise is prized for its rich content and its rarity (only 79 libraries in the United States own the volume). As a result, the project became an instant success and was featured in newspapers such as the *News & Observer* and the *Charlotte Observer*, as well as on news broadcasts such as WRAL (Raleigh) and WNCT (Greenville). It was also mentioned in *American Libraries Direct* and discussed on blogs across the country.



Above: An early 20th century kindergarten teacher and her students

View what has been said about *An Era of Progress and Promise* at: <http://tinyurl.com/dimper>

What is a Digital Preservation Plan? (Part One)

A digital preservation plan (DPP) is an outline of the type of information to be accepted and preserved within an organizational unit, as well as providing guidelines as to how this will be accomplished. It outlines the risks of maintaining the status quo and identifies ways to mitigate these risks through digital preservation activities. It also identifies the key participants in preservation activities and the factors necessary for success. The value of creating a DPP is that it

can be used to obtain buy-in and create a foundation for collaboration between all parties involved in the preservation process, including information creators and publishers, IT, administration, and others. Without it, goals and directions are unclear, and some staff will choose to do nothing at all. However, with a DPP that spells out the details of an organization's preservation plan and which has been approved by organizational leadership, participants

understand institutional expectations, their roles, and that they have management's support. In addition, timelines, goals, objectives, and priorities are clearly communicated. In short, a DPP increases the chance that preservation activities will be successfully implemented and accomplished.

Want to know how to create a DPP? Look for that in the second installment of this two-part article in the next issue of *The Digital Insider*.

Did You Know?

Arts organizations, law enforcement groups, libraries, environmental groups, education institutions, and political parties and candidates spread the word about their causes, services, and activities through the online community utility Facebook. According to Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook owner, "150 million people around the world are now actively using Facebook and almost half of them are using Facebook every day. This includes people in every continent—even Antarctica. If Facebook were a country, it would be the eighth most populated in the world, just ahead of Japan, Russia and Nigeria." Perhaps state government should consider making services available through this tool, as well? If you are already a Facebook member, you can join the State Library's group to get service announcements and updates at <http://tinyurl.com/facebookghl>.

Join our mailing list to automatically receive this quarterly newsletter. To subscribe, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Sr2kry>.

State Agency Staff Attend Digital Information Management Workshop

The State Library's Digital Information Management Program, in partnership with staff from NC ECHO and the State Archives, recently hosted a Digital Information Management workshop for agency staff. This hands-on educational opportunity was offered to state agency personnel interested or involved in digitization of government publications and records.

Ten participants from four agencies (Cultural Resources,

Health and Human Services, Justice, and Public Safety) attended the two-day pilot workshop on November 20 and 21. There, they learned about scanning, metadata, optical character recognition, vendor relations, long-term management, and other important topics related to digital information management.

Feedback was very positive, and comments included "Excellent presentations, and [the] notebook will be an in-

valuable resource"; "I have met several awesome contacts to . . . help my digitization project in the future. I look forward to starting my project!"; and "great course all around!!"

It is our hope that this is just the first in an ongoing educational series for state agency personnel. Look for announcements about future outreach activities on the digital information management listserv. (<http://lists.ncmail.net/mailman/listinfo/ncdigitalinfo>)



What's Going On in the "Digital World"

HathiTrust Launched

Twenty-five of the nation's largest research libraries are collaborating to create a repository of their immense digital collections. These holdings will be archived and preserved in a single repository available for anyone to access called the HathiTrust. Materials in the public domain will

be made fully available online. Materials protected by copyright will not be fully available online, but will receive digital archiving services, thereby offering member libraries a reliable means to preserve their collections. For more information visit <http://www.hathitrust.org/about>.

New Mass Digitization Project

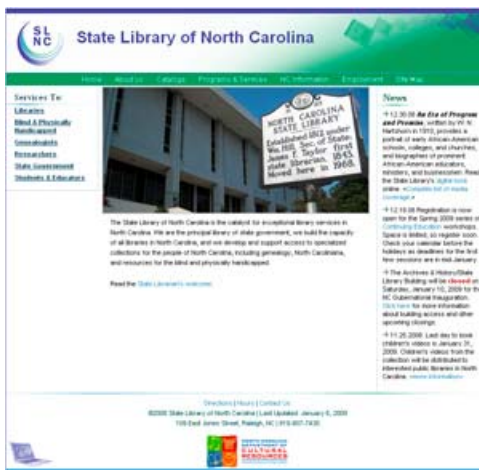
PALINET has announced the launch of the PALINET Mass Digitization Collaborative, a project offering PALINET members the capability to contribute important historical and archival materials for digitization as part of a regional digital collection. PALINET is partnering with the Internet Archive to make the new digital resources available on the Web. Participants select items from



their collections for digitization at regional scanning centers and PALINET staff facilitate the process. With the pending merger of PALINET with SOLINET, perhaps the project will be expanded to cover the south-east region, as well.



New State Library Website Launched



In October of 2008, the State Library of North Carolina rolled out a newly redesigned website with fresh graphics, intuitive organization, user-friendly navigation, and a regularly-updated news section. The site is also more accessible, especially to those using assistive reading devices. Links to branches and programs are now available from every webpage currently integrated into the new design.

The site redesign was carried out by a committee of staff from the Government

& Heritage Library, Library Development, and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Statistics show that since its redesign, the homepage has become one of the most frequently-visited pages on the entire site. Web Committee staff hope to have the majority of the State Library's web pages moved over to the new design by the Spring of 2009.

To view the newly redesigned website, visit: <http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/>