

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



# Digital Insider

Digital Information News from the State Library of NC

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## New to NCPedia

[Cat-Throwing Incident](#) by William Powell, from *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*.

[Nina Simone](#) by Matthew Franke.

[Slow Poke the Possum](#) by Mike Childs.

[WWI: Medicine on the Battlefield](#) by John Campbell, from *Tar Heel Junior Historian*.

## Inside this issue:

Duracloud	2
Responsive design	2
NCPedia	3
Ensuring Democracy	3
Vertical Files	4

## Awards

It's been an exciting few months for the DIMP and our partners in the State Archives. In June, on the very same day, we received news that we had been recognized for our digital preservation work by two separate national organizations. The first was an innovation award from the National Digital Stewardship Alliance for digital preservation outreach and education. Our [@digpres411](#) twitter account and [blogging](#) activities, [digitalpreservation.ncdcr.gov](#) website, and [video tutorials](#)

were highlighted as a few of the ways that the NC Department of Cultural Resources is a leader in this area. [Lisa Gregory accepted this award on behalf of the DCR in July.](#)

The DCR was also recognized, along with five other agencies



AMY RUDES DORF  
in southern US states, by the Southern Office of the Council of State Governments. This nomination came in [recognition of our long-standing work archiving North Carolina state government social media accounts](#). North Carolina was the first at the state level to implement social media harvesting, beginning in the fall of 2008 with Governor Perdue's Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and YouTube accounts. This later expanded to include all known accounts in NC state government.

## Make digital preservation easier with CINCH

LISA GREGORY

Earlier this year, we formally released a new digital preservation tool, called [CINCH](#) (Capture, INgest, and CHecksum). Funded through an [IMLS Sparks! Ignition grant](#), CINCH gathers, authenticates, and readies files for repository ingest using common digital preservation workflows. It's designed to make gathering digital content less hunt-and-peck and more 90 wpm.

How could CINCH be used? It downloads and processes files — such as newsletters, meeting minutes, budgets, and images — on institutional websites that a curator may be interested in saving. In addition to preservation-

friendly tasks, CINCH keeps an audit trail of its actions to help track a file's authenticity. CINCH helps curators take a step toward implementing digital preservation best practices when they're gathering digital content for their repositories.

We made CINCH lightweight to help smaller and mid-sized institutions that may not have a lot of technical infrastructure. In fact, for North Carolina institutions, a free, hosted version of CINCH can be used through NC LIVE. Institutions outside of North Carolina may test the tool using the hosted version; a downloadable, open-source version is available for local

installation.

We're already working on CINCH 2.0, implementing requested changes like increasing the number of file formats CINCH can accept, offering other checksum options, and adding a crawler to eliminate the need for a file upload list.

CINCH is hosted through a partnership with [NC LIVE](#) and the [North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources](#), and is administered by [Government and Heritage Library](#) staff. Learn more about CINCH at [cinch.nclive.org/](#) or watch the short how-to video at [youtu.be/zTqLPRwNuYg](#).

# Moving Out: Preservation Storage Migration

LISA GREGORY

As the group responsible for ensuring ongoing preservation of and access to digital state government publications, we constantly strive to employ digital preservation best practices on a practical level. One of these practices, that of storing copies in geographically dispersed locations, recently reached a milestone as we migrated offsite preservation storage.

In addition to copies of files managed locally, we are now using [DuraCloud](#) for our offsite storage. DuraCloud “is

a managed service of DuraSpace, a not-for-profit organization that provides technologies and services to help ensure that digital content remains accessible over the long term.” You may be familiar with DuraSpace as the organization behind DSpace and Fedora.

Our migration of over 97,000 files put our digital preservation workflows to the test. It involved making sure local and remote storage included the same files, and that our content management system had the correct preservation metadata about all of those files. Getting the files into DuraCloud was simple, with multiple upload and synchronization tools as

well as audit logs to show what the tools accomplished. A quality review of metadata was a little more in-depth, but brought to light areas where our preservation metadata needed a few tweaks to help facilitate future migrations.

Moving storage is something most institutions and people face. Doing it in a preservation-friendly manner adds a level of complexity, but also a lot of reassurance. Our DuraCloud storage is now up and humming, another milestone passed in our efforts to improve our digital preservation workflow.



## Responsive design

JOSH WILSON

Next time you have a question about [Andrew Jackson](#) or [Crazy Water Crystals](#), you won't need to wait until you're back at your computer to look it up in [NCpedia](#). We're now mobile-friendly!

We've recently completed an upgrade of NCpedia that includes a design refresh, including improved support for mobile devices. You may notice that the look of the site has changed a bit, and it will continue to evolve as we add [more content](#). But the big change for site visitors is the use of [responsive web design](#) to provide a much better mobile browsing experience

on smartphones, iPads, and tablets.

NCpedia scales itself to the size of your device automatically. On a big monitor you'll see the large version of the site, complete with browsing menus and a sidebar.

But on your smartphone you'll see a reorganized version that's easier to navigate on the smaller screen, without zooming or horizontal scrolling, without redirecting to a mobile-only site, and without having to download any apps. This is done with a customized

version of the [Zen theme](#) developed for Drupal 7.

Bookmark [NCpedia.org](#) on your smartphone or tablet and stay connected to information about North Carolina!



## By the numbers, NCpedia is on the up and up!

The traditional school year is in full swing, and traffic to NCpedia.org is up 51% over this time last year! NCpedia is our popular, free, online resource for students, educators, and other researchers looking for information that relates to North Carolina. It is hosted by NC LIVE and may be found on the web at [NCpedia.org](http://ncpedia.org).

The number of entries included in NCpedia is 2,444, an increase of 315% from last September, when it had 775 entries. You will also find 3,155 images in NCpedia, an increase of almost 229% over last year, when it had 1,378 images. You can see

the latest updates and additions to NCpedia by going to <http://ncpedia.org/newest>. Check back each weekday to see what has been added!

The majority of this new content comes from the *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* and the *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* from the University of North Carolina Press. This new partnership, announced in February of 2012, will make these seven volumes of reference works available online through NCpedia for free over the next few years. This expansion is made possible through a Library Services and Technology Act grant from the

MICHELLE UNDERHILL

Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Other content partners include the North Carolina Museum of History's Tar Heel Junior Historian magazine, the Research Branch at the North Carolina Office of Archives and History, the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.



## Ensuring democracy through digital access

KATHLEEN KENNEY

It is with mixed emotion that the State Library finally closes the door on the project *Ensuring Democracy through Digital Access*. Started in 2009, *Ensuring Democracy through Digital Access* created the most comprehensive online collection of core North Carolina state government documents. The seed for the project was planted by librarians and archivists from across the state who, for several years, had communicated the great need for these resources to be online and full-text searchable.

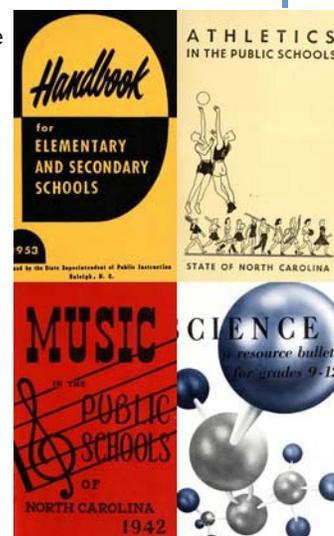
The project was collaborative, and internal and external partners came together to not only reach, but exceed project targets. Library staff at East Carolina University and the Univer-

sity of North Carolina at Chapel Hill played invaluable roles as project leads and scanning centers. Government and Heritage Library staff ensured that the project remained within scope on schedule and that content was appropriately described and cataloged.

The 3-year collaboration resulted in the digitization and preservation of over 481,000 pages, equaling nearly 1,300 separate publications. The collection, available at [digital.ncdcr.gov](http://digital.ncdcr.gov), includes a broad sampling of state publications with a significant portion from the 19th and early 20th centuries. These publications, which range from reports from the Conservation Department to

reports of public charities, to the Public Documents of the State of North Carolina, offer researchers a historical view of the development of the state's government and infrastructure.

Grant funds for the project were provided by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina.



# Crowdsourcing Transcriptions to Make Genealogy Research More Accessible

LISA GREGORY

Over the years, kind donors have contributed their genealogy research to our collection. These donations are kept in filing cabinets in the [Government & Heritage Library's genealogy research room](#). They're called our "vertical files" and they're filed alphabetically by last name, open for those who visit our library to browse. They include family trees, family group sheets, photocopies of primary sources, newsletters, and even unpublished manuscripts that represent years of research.

Last year, we started formulating a workflow to make these files searchable and more accessible by scanning them and providing full-text search. Because many of the documents are handwritten or hard to read, we were interested in transcription. We launched a small pilot project to test whether flickr,



Vertical file cabinets at the GHL.

the online photo sharing site, is a viable place for volunteers to transcribe documents. That pilot met with such success that we've now been operating a full-fledged transcription project for 9 months. To date, we've scanned over 9,700 pages and volunteers have transcribed over 1,200 of them! Here's some additional information on this successful project.

## How are documents transcribed?

Volunteers go to a collection or "[set](#)" [we have on flickr](#). We keep that set chock full of items needing transcription. They select an item and type what they see in the "Comments and faves" text box below it. Formatting isn't important and volunteers can transcribe as many or as few images as they want.

## Why are you doing this?

Many of these documents are handwritten, photocopied, old (or all three) and aren't easily machine readable, which means their content may not come up accurately in searches. Through our volunteers' hard work, accurate, typed transcriptions are added to each image to make sure that researchers can find every last relevant document.

## What have you scanned so far?

We've scanned all of the documents filed under surnames that start with "A" and "B" and we're working on those under "S." It'll take a bit, but we'll keep scanning documents until we make it through the alphabet.

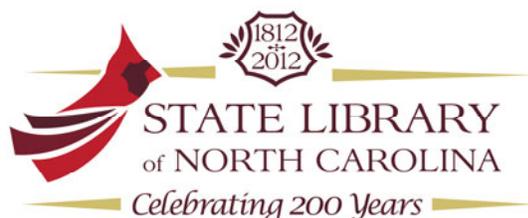
## What happens to these images?

Images we believe are *out of copyright* get added to flickr and, eventually, the [North Carolina Family Records Online](#). The majority of the scans are copyrighted, but they can be searched at the Government & Heritage Library. While this may not be as good as getting them from a computer anywhere, we hope it's more comprehensive than flipping through the millions of pages on site.

*To date, we've scanned over 9,700 pages and volunteers have transcribed over 1,200 of them.*

## How can I help?

Visit <http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/digital/ncfamilyrecords/verticalfiles.html> to keep up with the project and find out more information. We're always happy to have volunteers and questions.



State Library of North Carolina  
109 East Jones Street, Raleigh, NC  
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Established in 1812, the State Library of North Carolina is currently made up of three parts:

[Government and Heritage Library](#) - Print and digital information about North Carolina; research expertise

[Library Development](#) - Supporting libraries throughout the state

[Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped](#) - Serving blind and physically handicapped readers

The State Library is part of the [North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources](#).