Digital collaboration: Updates from MissouriHub and DDPLA

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What I’ll cover today

• A tale of two startups: DPLA and MissouriHub
• Recent DPLA initiatives:
  • Wikimedia Commons
  • Searching for Black Women in the Archives
  • Harmful Language Statement
Bringing together the riches of America’s libraries, archives, and museums to make them freely available to the world
A tale of two startups

DPLA and MissouriHub
Beginnings – DPLA and MoHub

DPLA

• 2010 – Planning begins

• 2013 – DPLA launches
  • Daniel Cohen, first executive director
  • First DPLAfest

MissouriHub

• 2012 – TECHO: Informal meetings of StL-area digitization / linked data folks

• 2013 – Chris Freeland asks: Could Missouri join DPLA?
  • Mo State Lib can't lead at this time
  • Reach out to multi-type libraries statewide
  • David Henry of Mo Historical Society offered to be metadata wrangler; Emily Jaycox provides admin support

• 2014: MoHub launches with content from 11 partners
Next steps: How do we operate?

- 2016-17: DPLA announces new ingest model, but has repeated setbacks
- 2016: DPLA develops paid membership model for Hubs
- 2017: Director change at DPLA

- 2015: MoHub writes bylaws, holds its first annual members meeting, elects Steering Committee
- 169,360 online records from 11 partners
- Mo State Library joins, adding hosted collections to MoHub
2018-19: Stormy waters

• Aggregation is difficult; ingests are intermittent

• Traffic from DPLA seems low

December 2018:

• 40% of DPLA staff is laid off... including most staff who worked in cultural heritage aggregation

• MoHub Steering Committee chair launches conversations about a community of practice

• Mo State Library funds a MoHub planning retreat in Columbia MO

• MoHub Technical Lead David Henry announces relocation to WI

• No new ingest for more than 2 years
Realignment

D

• DPLA strategic plan has 3 focus areas:
  • Cultural heritage aggregation
  • EBooks
  • Tech convener

• Funding secured

• Governance structure for cultural heritage aggregation used as a model

• IDEAS task force convened

• MOBIUS offers to act as MoHub's sponsor (pays the $10,000 annual DPLA membership fee)

• 2019 ingest (using 2017 data): 227,799 online records from 14 partners

• MOBIUS hosts missourihub.org website

• MoHub past chair Drew Kupsky serves on DPLA IDEAS task force

• Matt Krc of StL Fed Library begins conversations with DPLA tech staff
2020-2021

DPLA

• 2.3 million media from DPLA are now in Wikimedia Commons
  https://dp.la/about/harmful-language-statement
  https://blackwomenssuffrage.dp.la

MissouriHub

• Matt Krc of StL Fed Library now serving as MoHub technical lead. Multiple ingests!
  GitHub site
• 9 MoHub staff served as mentors to 11 MOBIUS libraries adopting a new DPLA-compatible digitization platform
MissouriHub 2022

- 573,500 records on DPLA
- Getting structure in place for onboarding new partners
  - Tech
    - OAI feed testing
  - Admin
    - Updated Bylaws October 2021
    - Working on Path to Membership
    - Conversations with Iowa
Recent DPLA initiatives

• Wikimedia Commons
• Black Womens Suffrage project
• Harmful Language Statement
DPLA and Wikimedia Commons
2020: What the Wikimedia collaboration started out to do

Developmental Partners: National Archives, Smithsonian, Colorado

- Prerequisites:
  - Opt-in at collection level
  - Rights statement must permit re-use
- Populating Commons would be automatic
- Linkage to Wikipedia articles still a manual process
  - Training on how to edit Wikipedia and add images
DPLA is the largest contributor to Wikimedia Commons

DPLA's pipeline to Wikimedia

- 2+ million uploads
- 650,000 items
- 200 contributing institutions
- 1000 Wikipedia articles
• 16,000,000 views from just 1000 Wikipedia articles
• One hub had 40,000 views from 12 articles
How it's evolving

• Sync updates to metadata records in the Commons
  • Continued reharvesting will reflect richer descriptions
• Migrating as much metadata as possible to Structured Data Statements
  • New way of describing files on Wikimedia Commons
  • Field types and values can be represented by Wikidata URIs
  • More controlled, queryable, and visible to automated processes
  • Improved findability and reuse.
Portal development and launch

Metadata:
Searching for Black Women in the Archives
Goal: Identify as much relevant material as possible while effectively filtering out irrelevant material.

• Challenges:
  • Under-representation of materials about Black women
  • Over-representation of materials that reflect a White worldview
  • Significant variety in labeling and description of relevant materials

*On the left, a photograph of Black activist Mary McLeod Bethune. Its metadata record has the subject term “African American women civil rights workers,” which contains both a racial and gender signifier. On the right, a photograph of White activist Juliette Hampton Morgan. Its metadata record has the subject term “Women civil right workers,” which has a gender signifier but no racial signifier. Courtesy of California Digital Library and Los Angeles Public Library, and Digital Library of Georgia and Encyclopedia of Alabama.*
• Each DPLA item is reduced to a set of keyword *tokens*

• Example: *Scenes from the Life of Harriet Tubman* --> *scene, life, harriet, tubman*

• Each week, the algorithm is run against DPLA, adding new materials, and applying any new keyword-based rules the curators have submitted.
DPLA’s Statement on Potentially Harmful Content

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) is a portal to millions of freely available items from thousands of libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural heritage organizations across the United States.

DPLA contains some content that may be harmful or difficult to view. Our cultural heritage partners collect materials from history, as well as artifacts from many cultures and time periods, to preserve and make available the historical record. As a result, some of the materials presented here may reflect outdated, biased, offensive, and possibly violent views and opinions due to pervasive systemic intolerance. In addition, some cultural heritage institutions collect and preserve materials relating to violent or graphic events which are preserved for their historical significance.
DPLA Resources

View DPLA webinars and get on mailing list to receive invitations:

https://pro.dp.la/events/workshops

• DPLA + Wikimedia: One year and 10,000,000 views:
  • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLoJ0gvvSNU

• Black Women's Suffrage portal: https://blackwomenssuffrage.dp.la/

• Race, Power and Curation: Launching the Black Women's Suffrage Digital Collection:
  • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klKZ7ghx0To

• Searching for Black women in the Archives: 4-part blog series
  • https://dp.la/news/searching-for-black-women-in-the-archives

• DPLA's Harmful Language Statement
  • https://dp.la/about/harmful-language-statement
Questions?
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