What is Digital Commonwealth?

• A web portal allowing researchers a single entry into the rich world of Massachusetts’ digital collections.
Calvin Coolidge chopping wood

description— Calvin Coolidge chopping wood with an axe while visiting his father's farm in Plymouth, Vermont.
s
subject— Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933— Farm life -- Vermont -- Plymouth -- Plymouth (Vt.) -- social life and customs -- Presidents--United States

collection— Northampton Collection
date— 1916-1920?
publisher— C/WMARS

http://www.cwmars.org/

relation— Image is in the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library and Museum at Forbes Library, Northampton, Massachusetts.

http://www.forbeslibrary.org/coolidge/coolidge.shtml

format— image/jpg

coverage— 43320N07243 00W

group— English

Archive: C/WMARS Digital Treasures Repository

Document | Add bookmark

Calvin Coolidge haying

description— Calvin Coolidge and his sons John and Calvin, Jr. standing in a hay wagon. They are visiting the Plymouth, Vermont farm of his father, Col. John C. Coolidge (standing below the wagon).
s
subject— Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933— Children of
What does DigiCom do?

- Promotes creation of digital library resources by Massachusetts institutions.
- Makes existing digital content more accessible by allowing researchers to search across collections.
- Provides support, guidance, and information resources for members for the creation of digital collections.
How it works

• DigiComm gathers records from member website’s that are OAI compliant with Dublin Core metadata
• Individual institutions and shared repositories are harvested
• Small institutions may use DigiComm’s DSpace repository provided through Lyrasis
Features

• User-friendly portal
• Search all repositories simultaneously
• View by category: archive, subject, format, creator, source, publisher
• Bookmarking for registered users
Benefits for Your Patrons

• Search across collections from many Massachusetts cultural organizations with a single query (*One-stop shopping*)

• Focus on the search rather than location of material to find objects from members’ collections

• Discover institutions and/or collections previously unknown or overlooked
Benefits for Your Institution

• Reach a wider audience than might be possible through an individual web presence
• Opportunity to obtain consistent, reliable, and standardized information on best practices and standards for digitizing
• Increased cooperation and collaboration among institutions by increasing their awareness of each other’s collections
• Possibility for “value-added” features – online exhibits, lesson plans, etc., using collection items from a variety of institutions without the need for handling original items
Wilson Grants

• May, 2008 the Digital Commonwealth received a $10,000 grant from the H.W. Wilson Foundation

• The purpose is to re-grant it to small organizations to assist them with getting starting in contributing digital materials to the Digital Commonwealth
Wilson Grants

• Organizations may apply for $250-$1000 to fund digitizing and/or repository services to add materials to the Digital Commonwealth
• Digitizing is to be contracted through a vendor, collaborative project or Regional Library System or library network project
• For existing scans not OAI harvestable, grants may be used to get started with the Digital Commonwealth’s repository through Lyrasis
• Grants have a 3:1 cash match with only 1 part from the library
Wilson Grant Eligibility

• Public Libraries
• Must be certified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners
• Town population of under 10,000
Wilson Grant Eligibility

• **School Libraries**
• Town population of under 10,000
• May apply as an individual school or as a district
• School population of under 500 or district population of under 1000
Wilson Grant Eligibility

• **Historical Societies**
• If no paid staff
  – established board of directors
  – designated volunteer(s) to serve as project manager(s)
• Open to the public regularly scheduled hours (year-round or seasonal)
• Town population of under 10,000
Wilson Grant Eligibility

- **Academic Libraries**
- Public or private college or university
- Serve a student population of under 5,000
Wilson Grant Eligibility

• **Special Libraries**

• Non-profit status including municipal or state agencies, hospitals, museums, law libraries, historical or educational organizations.

• Open to the public regularly scheduled hours
FY2011 Grants

• Applications are due May 31
• Decisions will be made at the June Digital Commonwealth Executive Committee meeting with institutions being notified by June 30, 2010
• Projects may begin on July 1, 2010 and must be completed by June 30, 2011
Application

• State the nature and mission of the institution.

• Describe the collection that is to be digitized. Include collection size, scope, format, current condition and historical significance. Also include how the collection is currently organized, arranged and described.
Application

• Who are the current users of this collection? Who is the target audience of the digitized project?

• What are the plan of work and timetable for the project? Include how, where and when the digitizing will take place.
2009 recipients

• Buckland Public Library & Buckland Historical Society ($250)
• Erving Public Library ($500)
• Governor’s Academy ($1000)
• Topsfield Historical Society ($1000)
Digital Commonwealth Executive Committee

- Julie Bartlett, Forbes Library, Northampton
- Marilyn Billings, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, ex-officio
- Kristi Chadwick, C/W Mars, Secretary
- Michael Colford, Boston Regional Library System
- Robin Dale, LYRASIS, ex-officio
- Linda Friel, MSLA liaison, ex-officio
- Vivien Goldman, Brookline Public Library Trustee, Past President (2007-2008)
- Nancy Heywood, Massachusetts History Society, President
- Jim Keenan, Billerica Public Library
- Greg Pronevitz, NMRLS, ex-officio
- Alix Quan, Massachusetts State Library
- Kristin Slater, SAILS, Inc.
- Bill Talentino, Sudbury Public Library
- Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, ex-officio
Visit us! Join us!

www.digitalcommonwealth.org

Questions?
For general questions:
Julie Bartlett, jbartlett@forbeslibrary.org or 413-587-1014

For C/W Mars’ Digital Treasures:
Kristi Chadwick, kchadwick@cwmars.org or 508-755-3323 x22

For Digital Commonwealth’s repository through Lyrasis:
Robin Dale, robin.dale@lyrasis.org or 404-892-0943 ext. 4816