

# Getting Started With the Digital Commonwealth



Kristi Chadwick  
President, Digital Commonwealth  
Director, Emily Williston Memorial Library  
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What *IS*  
Digital Commonwealth?

# Digital Commonwealth Is...

- An organization designed to bring together digital collections held in cultural heritage organizations throughout Massachusetts through a single point of entry: **we are building a cultural commons.**
- A volunteer group of librarians, archivists, and other people wanting to share their knowledge and enthusiasm about digital collections – and assist other organizations in providing the same.



# Digital Commonwealth Is...

- A membership-driven organization. Without our members, Digital Commonwealth would not have access to the rich cultural and academic heritage it currently hosts or the knowledge base it can access.
- Current membership rates:
  - Small cultural organization - \$50
  - Large cultural organization - \$100
  - Group Sponsoring Organization - \$500

# Member Rights and Responsibilities

## Small/Large Cultural Organization

### Rights

- Participation in the governance of the Digital Commonwealth. You are invited to attend Digital Commonwealth meetings, vote as an organization, run for office and serve on committees.
- The Digital Commonwealth will harvest your metadata & provide link to your site.
- Attend Digital Commonwealth events (non-governance) at member rates.
- Eligibility to subscribe to the Digital Commonwealth repository service.
- Receive telephone and electronic support from Digital Commonwealth contractors and volunteers.

### Responsibilities

- Pay annual membership fee
- Maintain compatibility with Digital Commonwealth standards

# Member Rights and Responsibilities

## Group Sponsoring Organization

### Rights

- Participation in the governance of the Digital Commonwealth.
- The Digital Commonwealth will harvest your metadata & provide link to web.
- Attend Digital Commonwealth events (non-governance) at member rates.
- Receive telephone and electronic support from DC contractors and volunteers.

### Responsibilities

- Pay annual membership fee
- Maintain compatibility with Digital Commonwealth standards

# Member Rights and Responsibilities

## Cultural Institutions that belong to Group Sponsoring Organization

### Rights

- The Digital Commonwealth will harvest your metadata from your group sponsoring organization's repository and allow it to be searched from our site. This requires compatibility with our harvester.
- Attend Digital Commonwealth events (non-governance) at member rates.

### Responsibilities

- Maintain membership with Group Sponsoring Organization including relevant fees for services and/or membership.
- Follow the standards and guidelines established by your Group Sponsoring Organization.



# Digital Commonwealth Committees

## Executive Committee

- Consists of ten appointed voting members
- Handles general governance of Digital Commonwealth
- We are looking for members!

# Digital Commonwealth Committees

## Portal and Repository Technology & Standards

- Charged with making recommendations for current portal and repository

## Conference

- Charged with planning annual conference

## Outreach and Promotion

- Charged with overseeing publicity and training

We are always looking for participants for the committees!



# Digital Commonwealth is also...

- A Portal
  - contains *only* the metadata that enables the discovery of the digital objects; it does *not* contain the actual digital objects.
- A Repository
  - stores and maintains all the components of a digital collection (including both metadata and digital objects) according to a framework of policies and standards. By means of its technological infrastructure, the repository provides access to the digital content.

# Current Participants

## Portal contributors

- Billerica Library
- Boston College
- Central/Western MA Automated Resource Sharing (C/W MARS)
- Congregational Library, Boston
- Massachusetts Historical Society
- North of Boston Library Exchange (NOBLE)
- Northeastern University
- State Library of Massachusetts
- Sturgis Library
- UMass Amherst
- UMass Lowell
- WGBH Educational Foundation

## Portal & Repository contributors

- Brookline Public Library
- Framingham State University
- The Governor's Academy, Pescosolido Library
- Jewish Women's Archive
- Lincoln Public Library
- Newton Free Public Library
- Northeast Massachusetts Regional Library System
- Watertown Free Public Library

as of April 2012



# Participation: Harvested or Linked Site

- Digital Commonwealth will harvest your metadata for inclusion in the portal.\*
  - Metadata must be in an OAI-PMH compliant system; OR
  - An OAI static repository document must be created and hosted on a web server to enable harvesting
- Digital Commonwealth will add a link on our portal to your online digital collection.
  - Included in your annual membership fee

# Participation: Digital Repository

- Digital Commonwealth will put your collections into our repository\*
- Scanning and metadata is done by the contributing institution
- Additional costs are associated for hosting beyond the membership

\* Current harvesting and repository services are on hiatus until the new Omeka system is in place.

# Portal

<http://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/>

Digital  
Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Collections Online

Advanced Search | Browse Subjects

## FIND BY LOCATION



## RECENT QUERIES

Dance  
New England  
Historic  
Ipswich  
Accidents  
Montpelier  
Wakfield, MA - Board of  
governor dummer

## NOW INDEXING

Records (27850)  
Archives (349)  
Subjects (6758)  
Collections (261)  
Types (170)  
Creators (8992)  
Sources (938)

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ARCHIVES



Working for victory



Will of William Dummer



Churches - Appleton Street

# Repository

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window with the address bar displaying <http://repository.digitalcommonwealth.org/>. The page content includes a login field, a breadcrumb trail for "Repository Home", a main welcome message, and several navigation and search sections.

**Repository Home - Mozilla Firefox**

File Edit View History Delicious Bookmarks Tools Help

http://repository.digitalcommonwealth.org/

Repository Home

Login

Digital Commonwealth

Repository Home

**Welcome to the Digital Commonwealth Central Repository**

This repository houses digital collections belonging to Digital Commonwealth members.

**Search Repository**

Enter some text in the box below to search the repository.

Go

**Institutions**

Select a member institution to browse its collections.

- [Brookline Public Library](#)
- [Digital Commonwealth Executive Committee Documents](#)
- [Jewish Women's Archive](#)
- [Northeast Massachusetts Regional Library System](#)
- [Watertown Free Public Library.](#)

**Search Repository**

Go

[Advanced Search](#)

**Browse**

- **Entire Repository**
  - [Institutions & Collections](#)
  - [Titles](#)
  - [Authors](#)
  - [Subjects](#)
  - [By Dates](#)

**My Account**

- [Login](#)
- [Register](#)

This is all great:

But *what else* can Digital  
Commonwealth do for my  
institution?

# What can Digital Commonwealth membership do for you?

- Provide a portal/repository to share digital collections by Commonwealth member organizations
- Host an annual conference on digital issues
- Promote digital initiatives to Digital Commonwealth members and non-members alike
- Offer responsive and effective training on digitization and related services

# Annual Conference

- Digital Commonwealth Conference  
Committee begins planning in the fall
- Partnered with Massachusetts Library Association in 2011 as pre-conference
- Reach out to members and non-members across New England



# Promotion

- When funding sources are available, Digital Commonwealth provides annual grant rounds to support digital collections
  - Wilson Grants recipients
  - K-12 Curriculum Lesson Plans – based on Digital Commonwealth portal and repository
  - Digital Commonwealth list available to announce projects within membership

# Training

- Sessions in-person and online previously offered:
  - Introduction to Digital Commonwealth
  - Metadata
  - LYRASIS Digitization track courses
  - “Digital Barn Raising” – collaboration with C/W MARS, former CMRLS and WMRLS

What is coming up for Digital  
Commonwealth?

# Coming up

- Training sessions this summer
  - New England Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) – announcement coming soon
- Incorporation and establishing 501©3 status for grant funding
- Transitional portal, based in Omeka
- Collaboration with Boston Public Library for joint digital repository and portal

# Ready To Get Started?

## Contact Us!

Website: [www.digitalcommonwealth.org](http://www.digitalcommonwealth.org)

Email: [digitalcommonwealth@gmail.com](mailto:digitalcommonwealth@gmail.com)

# Questions?

Kristi Chadwick

kchadwick@cwmars.org

Digital Commonwealth

digitalcommonwealth@gmail.com