Introducing …

Digital Commonwealth
Massachusetts Collections Online

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Mission Statement

The Digital Commonwealth serves as the open-access online discovery platform to the digital objects representing the breadth and depth of the rich cultural heritage of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Its member institutions are located all over the state and are comprised of libraries, archives, historical societies, museums, and cultural institutions.
Digital Commonwealth Is…

• Collaboration of cultural organizations in Massachusetts that want to make digitized versions of their collections widely accessible
• 501c 3 organization (*Pending*)
• Website administered by the Boston Public Library providing access to digital content through a repository and portal.
Digital Commonwealth organizational structure

- 5.01(c)(3) non-profit *Pending*
- Board of Directors
- Standing committees
  - Conference
  - Portal, Repository, Technology and Standards
  - Outreach
  - Nominating
  - Development
- BPL is partner and technology provider

Buckland Center School students and teachers, 1893 from Buckland Historical Society
Members of Digital Commonwealth
FY2014 ~170 members

- Public Libraries
- Museums
- Historical Societies
- Universities and colleges
- Archives
- Special libraries
Core Services

- *Portal* access to Digital Library Collections in Mass contains *only* the metadata that enables the discovery of the digital objects; it does *not* contain the actual digital objects.

Children working with hay, Charlemont, Mass. From Jones Library Special Collections
Core Services

• *Repository* for storage of Digital Collections created by member organizations

stores and maintains 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.
Core Services

- Guidance, instruction and assistance on applying appropriate technologies used in the production of digital library resources.
- Hosting an annual conference in Massachusetts.
What Can You Find? Collections

https://search.digitalcommonwealth.org/collections
Who we are - Participants

https://search.digitalcommonwealth.org
Who we are – Members

http://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/directory
Digital Commonwealth–Searching

https://search.digitalcommonwealth.org  Search term “hurricane”
Simple Ingest Form

Image Files *

[Add files... Start upload Cancel upload Delete]

Collection *

Choose the collection the item belongs to:
Lee Library Association Test

Title *

Enter the item title
[cataloger-created title?]

https://admin-hydratest.bpl.org  Need username/password
Digital Commonwealth

- **Contribute to a statewide initiative.** The Digital Commonwealth is a membership-supported statewide collaboration. Members have the opportunity to shape statewide policy making around the digitization, preservation and presentation of historic materials.

- **Participate in the Boston Public Library's free digitization program.** The BPL will help you select, digitize and create metadata for your historic materials and other documents.

- **Post your materials to the Digital Commonwealth's Repository.** The Digital Commonwealth, in partnership with the Boston Public Library, is creating a next-generation file repository for members to store their materials in. The BPL also has a relationship with the Internet Archive; many digitization program participants get their monographs posted on the IA.
Digital Commonwealth

- **Share your metadata in the Digital Commonwealth's Portal.** The Digital Commonwealth, in partnership with the Boston Public Library, is creating a next-generation Portal. Members contribute metadata about their digital assets in this aggregated search portal through:
  - Having their collections harvested into our Portal from their existing OAI-harvestable feeds.
  - Working with the BPL to have their collections harvested from the DC's Repository.

- **Participate in the Digital Public Library of America.** Digital Commonwealth members will have their content harvested into this national effort to collect “the riches of America’s libraries, archives, and museums.”
Promote Discoverability - DPLA

http://dp.la
Promote Discoverability—Internet Archive

https://archive.org/details/texts
Lesson Plans

The following lesson plans feature digital content of Digital Commonwealth members.

Picturing Nativism in Antebellum Boston

Tia Esposito of Boston College High School created a lesson plan entitled Picturing Nativism in Antebellum Boston. This lesson plan investigates anti-Catholic and anti-immigration sentiments in antebellum Boston. In one of the units, using visual culture and primary sources from the Digital Commonwealth website, students explore the reasons nativism emerged in Boston in the late 19th century and extrapolates to apply the lessons of the past to better understand the attitudes towards immigrants today.

Picturing Nativism in Antebellum Boston, a lesson plan by Tia Esposito and the Eighth Grade Teachers, Boston College High School Arrupe Division, Boston, Mass. (PDF document)

The Historical and Mathematical Features of Peabody’s Municipal Buildings

Sudi Smoller, grade 6-8 library media specialist at Higgins Middle School in Peabody, collaborated on a social studies/math unit that incorporates Digital Commonwealth primary sources. The unit is entitled The Historical and Mathematical Features of Peabody’s Municipal Buildings, and the instructional objective is that “students will understand that primary resources are eyewitness accounts of history and that by looking at how ordinary people experienced events they can better understand some of the key points in American history.” Students will investigate the historical and mathematical features of the Peabody Fire Station, Peabody City Hall, and the George Peabody House.

Please download the unit that provided a great learning opportunity for the students:

Peabody Math Trail 3: Government Connections by Diane Devine and Sudi Smoller, Higgins Middle School, Peabody, Mass. (PDF document)

A Web Quest of Watertown, Massachusetts

In 2013, Marianne E. Brown, a PBTL (Post Baccalaureate Teacher Licensure) student at Framingham State University, created a lesson plan focusing on presentations within Digital Commonwealth from the Watertown Free Public Library. The lesson plan developed for 10th grade students focuses on the creation of a community walk of historical markers in Watertown, Mass.

http://digitalcommonwealth.org/for_educators
Opportunities for members

• BPL digitizing grant
• Workshops
• Training
• Get involved!
  • Outreach committee
    • Help organize upcoming training and/or roundtable discussions
• Conference committee
• Join the board of directors
Join the Digital Commonwealth

Click [HERE](http://members.digitalcommonwealth.org) to Join the Digital Commonwealth

Existing Members - Renew Today

Login and select 'View Profile' then click on "Renew until 01 Jul 2014" to renew your membership for FY '14.

Looking for our W-9? Download it [HERE](http://members.digitalcommonwealth.org).

Please contact membership@digitalcommonwealth.org with any questions.

About Digital Commonwealth

Digital Commonwealth is a Web portal and fee-based repository service for online cultural heritage materials held by Massachusetts libraries, museums, historical societies, and archives. The portal facilitates the searching and browsing of member institutions' digital assets, allowing the discovery of all kinds of digital resources including manuscripts, images, historical documents, and sound recordings. The repository provides a storage service for institutions that are members of Digital Commonwealth but choose not to host their own digital assets. The metadata stored in the repository is indexed within the portal.

Fifty organizations are members of Digital Commonwealth. As more of our members contribute their holdings, the variety and quantity of searchable objects will increase, and the richer and more valuable this portal will become.

Currently Digital Commonwealth relies on support from its member institutions. Digital Commonwealth was initially funded by a federal Library Services and Technology Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Our portal was designed by SourceLab.

http://members.digitalcommonwealth.org
Questions?

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