Digital library of historical materials from Massachusetts institutions
- Over 900,000 items from libraries, archives, museums, historical societies
- Photographs, manuscripts, maps, artwork, video, artifacts, newspapers
- Hosted and harvested materials, links to other repositories
- Launched in 2006, funded by IMLS
- DPLA Service Hub
SYSTEMS UPDATE

Covering April 2020 - March 2021

- Collections added
- Project updates
- New features
- Work in progress
- Usage trends
- Top 20 items

<https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/5x21v4022>
COLLECTIONS

<https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/cv43p814c>
GROWTH: INSTITUTIONS

- 2014: 84
- 2016: 126
- 2018: 268
- 2020: 383
GROWTH: COLLECTIONS

- 2014: 211
- 2016: 669
- 2018: 1125
- 2020: 1616

From 2014 to 2020, the collections have shown a significant growth, increasing from 211 in 2014 to 1616 in 2020.
GROWTH: TOTAL ITEMS

- 2017: 474,821
- 2018: 565,512
- 2019: 703,149
- 2020: 817,016
- 2021: 909,261
GROWTH: HARVESTED v. HOSTED

- Harvested: 61.0% (555,619)
- Hosted: 39.0% (353,642)
GROWTH: HARVESTED v. HOSTED
Last 5 Years

![Bar chart showing growth comparison between Hosted and Harvested over the last 5 years. The chart indicates a steady increase in Harvested growth, with Hosted growth remaining relatively constant.](chart.png)
GROWTH: HARVESTS

NEW HARVESTS
- National Archives at Boston (Morgan v. Hennigan Case File)

RE-HARVESTS
- Boston City Archives
- Historic New England
- Northeastern University
- Scottish Rite Masonic Museum
- Southeast Asian Digital Archive
- Springfield College
- UMass Boston
GROWTH: FILES
PRIMARY FILES ONLY

Year 2017: 384,509
Year 2018: 448,455
Year 2019: 554,242
Year 2020: 635,817
Year 2021: 690,879
UPDATES

<https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/q524n573n>
antislaverymanuscripts.org

- Crowd-sourced transcription of letters from BPL Anti-Slavery Collection
- Transcribed 12K letters in 2.5 years
- Over 13K volunteers
- Will support full-text search w/highlighting
UPDATES: Wikimedia Commons

BPL; Mass. Archives, Dept. of Conservation & Recreation; Phillips Academy Andover; National Archives Boston
In baseball, a pitch is the act of throwing a baseball toward home plate to start a play. The term comes from the Middle English word "pitchen," which means "to throw, cast, cast off." The pitcher throws the ball to the batter, who tries to hit it with a baseball bat. The pitcher throws the ball with a variety of movements, such as a fastball, curveball, or slider. The pitcher's goal is to get the batter out by making the ball difficult to hit, or by convincing the umpire that the ball is a strike. The defensive team's goal is to get three outs in an inning to end the side's turn at bat.
UPDATES: DC 3.0

- Database-backed
- Cloud storage for files
- API-driven
- Microservices framework
- Containerized
- Open source

<https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/dv142676q>
FEATURES

<https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/rb68z071z>
FEATURES:
Statement on Harmful Content

Statement on Potentially Offensive and Harmful Content
Where content on this site comes from
This site provides access to images, documents, and other materials that have been digitized by a statewide consortium of libraries, museums, archives, and historical societies from across Massachusetts. The purpose of creating and sharing these collections is to make them available to researchers, students, and the general public for the purposes of scholarship, education, and entertainment. These institutions hold a shared belief in the value of making these materials freely accessible, so that they may increase understanding of our society's cultural heritage and contribute to the public good.

Why historical materials may be harmful
Objects in historical collections reflect the attitudes, ideas, and norms of the era and culture in which they were created or collected. As such, some materials available on this site may contain potentially offensive imagery, language, or opinions, including disparaging portrayals or descriptions of persons based on characteristics such as race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or religion. Some materials may depict ceremonies, artifacts, or clothing from historically marginalized cultures in a disrespectful or exploitative fashion. Additionally, this site also contains some items with explicit imagery featuring sexual content or violence that may not be appropriate for all audiences.

Why potentially offensive content is available on this site
These materials are presented for the purpose of preserving the historical record. Their presence on this site does not constitute any endorsement of the viewpoints or sentiments expressed within them by Digital Commonwealth or its contributing institutions, which strive to provide an inclusive, welcoming, and respectful environment serving the information needs of all members of society.

How materials are described
FEATURES:
Content Warning

NOTICE: The item below may include offensive, harmful, or inappropriate imagery or language. This material has been collected as part of Boston Public Library’s mission to preserve the historic record; Digital Commonwealth and Boston Public Library do not necessarily endorse the viewpoints expressed within. For more information, please view the Press Photography from the Brearley Collection collection description, and our Statement on Potentially Offensive and Harmful Content.

Theater-owner Ben Sack and members of the Honeywell Employees Association last night at the opening of the Boston performance of "Gone with the Wind"
FEATURES: HOW TO REQUEST

digitalcommonwealth.org/feedback

- Select “site feature suggestion”
USAGE:
SESSIONS PER DAY

2017: 1,382
2018: 1,586
2019: 2,084
2020: 2,083
2021: 2,916
USAGE: ITEM VIEWS

- 2017: 1.11 million views
- 2018: 1.13 million views
- 2019: 1.55 million views
- 2020: 1.69 million views
- 2021: 2.23 million views
USAGE: DEVICES
Last 4 Years

![Bar chart showing device usage over the last 4 years: Desktop, Mobile, and Tablet.](image-url)
USAGE:
TRAFFIC SOURCES
Last 4 Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Search</th>
<th>Direct</th>
<th>Referral</th>
<th>Social</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>60.00%</td>
<td>20.00%</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>55.00%</td>
<td>25.00%</td>
<td>15.00%</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
<td>30.00%</td>
<td>20.00%</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>45.00%</td>
<td>35.00%</td>
<td>25.00%</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**USAGE:**

**TOP REFERRING SITES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bpl.org</td>
<td>39,171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dp.la</td>
<td>22,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>omnia.ie</td>
<td>4,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pijamasurf.com</td>
<td>4,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kottke.org</td>
<td>4,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sec.state.ma.us</td>
<td>3,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>revolution250.org</td>
<td>2,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oldhousedreams.com</td>
<td>2,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>en.wikipedia.org</td>
<td>2,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bostonbasinhills.org</td>
<td>1,706</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Usage: Site search
Sessions with searches
Last 5 years
TOP 20 ITEMS

○ April 2020 - March 2021
○ Unique page views
○ Includes change from previous year
  □ Baseline: +32%
Eastern Star Home, Dedication, Orange, MA

UMass Lowell, Center for Lowell History; George Russell Photograph Collection

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/1j92gn72x
TOP 20 ITEMS
#19: 789 views (+25%)

The Brass Rail, 7th Avenue at 49th Street, New York City, N. Y.

Boston Public Library; Tichnor Brothers Postcard Collection
https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/kp78gm27b
The rats leaving a falling house

Boston Public Library; Social and Political Cartoons

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/9880w969z
Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo greets her husband

University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries; Kathy Borchers Photojournalism Collection

https://credo.library.umass.edu/view/full/muph083-b03-f22-dvd-i076
Keeping Chair City Alive

Mount Wachusett Community College; W. Joseph Carr Collection

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/bk1291778
TOP 20 ITEMS

#15: 1,003 views (-44%)

Ascending and descending

Boston Public Library; M. C. Escher (1898-1972). Prints and Drawings

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/3r076s51v
Nude colony picture from German magazine

Boston Public Library; Leslie Jones Collection

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/sj139r66m
Rocky Marciano and Barbara Cousins on their wedding day

Boston Public Library; Press Photography from the Brearley Collection

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/1831dk866
TOP 20 ITEMS

#12: 1,173 views (+62%)

Nudist convention, Assonet
Boston Public Library; Spencer Grant Collection
https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/qr46r486p
TOP 20 ITEMS

#11: 1,236 views (+199%)

The Bostonians in distress, plate II.

Boston Public Library; Social and Political Cartoons

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/9880w842b
Southern chivalry - argument versus club's

Boston Public Library; Social and Political Cartoons

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/9880wb139
Our national bird as it appeared when handed to James Buchanan

Boston Public Library; Social and Political Cartoons

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/9880w8854
World's largest trailer park, Bradenton, Florida

Boston Public Library; Tichnor Brothers Postcard Collection
https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/mp48sw766
Row of naked boys stand on diving board at indoor pool

Boston Public Library; Leslie Jones Collection

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/sj139t62x
TOP 20 ITEMS

#6: 2,519 views (+187%)

Peters World map

Boston Public Library; Norman B. Leventhal Map Center Collection

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/x633f923g
Row of naked boys stand on diving board at indoor pool

Boston Public Library; Leslie Jones Collection
https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/sj139t64g
The bloody massacre perpetrated in King-Street Boston

Boston Public Library; Colonial and Revolutionary Boston (Collection of Distinction)

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/vh53x3780
TOP 20 ITEMS

#3: 4,580 views (+474%)

K. K. K. application form

University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries; W. E. B. Du Bois Papers

http://credo.library.umass.edu/view/full/mums312-b157-i167
TOP 20 ITEMS

#2: 8,657 views (+9310%)

Nudist beauty contest winner, Assonet

Boston Public Library; Spencer Grant Collection

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/qb98mv10z
TOP 20 ITEMS

#1: 19,787 views (+7%)

Gleason's new standard map of the world
Boston Public Library; Norman B. Leventhal Map Center Collection
https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/7h149v85z
THANKS!

QUESTIONS?

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@ebenenglish