

Collection Update for November 2018

3,178 new items were added in November including:

Hosted

- ✓ AgitArte - Collaborations (1 item)
- ✓ Boston Public Library - Edmund Blampied (1886-1966). Prints and Drawings (394 items)
- ✓ Boston Public Library - Press Photography from the Brearley Collection (1,222 items)*
- ✓ The Medford Historical Society & Museum - The Medford Historical Society Civil War Photograph Collection (851 items)*

* items added to existing collection

Harvested

- ✓ Chicopee Public Library (2 new collections, 710 new items)

112,463 Item views

667,605 Total item-level records

275,888 Total hosted items

New in 2019...

Member Only Events

We will be offering VIP tours for small groups of DC members to tour the BPL Digitization Lab. Tours will last approximately one hour from 11am-12pm and will be accompanied by a DC Board Member. You'll be invited to chat and ask questions about DC over complimentary coffee before the tour from 10am-10:45am and receive one of our new DC coffee mugs. Tours will be free and limited to active DC members only.



Tour dates have been set for:

- Tuesday March 12, 2019
- Thursday June 6, 2019
- Wednesday September 25, 2019
- Friday December 6, 2019

Registration for all tours will open in mid-January. Members will be notified via email when registration opens.



Charles Dickens and the Month of December...

Many of us think about Charles Dickens around this time of year and reread or watch old movies of his famous "A Christmas Carol". Did you know that Dickens began his second and final reading tour of the US on December 2, 1867 at the Tremont Temple in Boston? He practiced portraying all the characters in his books at length and his performance were enthusiastically received.

The Griffin Museum of Photography also has a wonderful collection of photos from 1942 of historical reenactments of Dickens' visit to the Longfellow House. [Click here](#) to view the collection.



Dickens' Carte de Visite
Boston Public Library

For further reading, check out "[Dickens and Massachusetts – The Lasting Legacy of the Commonwealth Visits](#)", edited by Diana C. Archibald and Joel J. Brattin.



Conference Update

BPL Digital Repository Services Manager and Technical Lead for the Digital Commonwealth Repository, **Eben English**, will once again be joining us as the Luncheon Keynote Speaker at the 2019 Conference for his annual overview of features and collections added to the Digital Commonwealth repository systems over the past year, including a roadmap for additional features and future updates. A survey of the year's most popular content, as well as usage statistics, traffic sources, and user behavior patterns for the Digital Commonwealth collections site will also be presented. Eben will also be discussing how to develop the vision for the next five years of the repository system, and how to increase the site's relevance within the cultural heritage landscape and in the lives of its users.

Save the Date: Tuesday April 9, 2019

News from the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)...

New Membership Year off to a Strong Start

Serving and collaborating with our network of partners has been a top priority at DPLA this fall. We kicked off our [new membership year](#) in September by welcoming returning members as well as new members Digital Commonwealth and Missouri Hub. We have been working closely with network leaders on our Advisory and Network Councils, including Digital Commonwealth's Alan Karass, to help shape our work and priorities. We are very proud of what we have achieved together so far and it's only December!

In August, we launched new custom-built [analytics dashboards](#) for members, which provide every contributing institution with a more complete view of content discovery and use than ever before. We have also developed a webinar series designed to cover topics of interest to our members and spotlight their great work—view session recordings on our [workshops page](#) to hear from the Foundation Center's Kate Tkacik on [grant seeking for digital libraries](#) and learn about [Michigan Service Hub's Combine](#), a newly-developed application for metadata aggregation, for example. In addition to the webinar series, five member-driven [working groups](#) got up and running this summer, and have defined goals, projects, and initiatives in each of their respective areas: assessment, rights statements, metadata, technical capacity, and outreach.

DPLAfest 2019: Future Shapers, Culture Makers

Registration is now open for DPLAfest 2019! Taking place at Chicago Public Library's Harold Washington Library Center on April 17-18, 2019, DPLAfest will explore how libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural organizations across the country leverage technology to serve, inform, and empower communities. Learn more at [dplafest2019.dp.la](#) and [register](#). In line with the DPLAfest theme, *Future Shapers, Culture Makers*, DPLAfest programming areas include: Digital Storytelling Platforms and eBooks; Sharing Cultural Heritage and Cultural Memory Collections; and Libraries and Technology Innovation.

View the [Call for Proposals](#) to submit a session proposal by January 11. In addition to DPLAfest, we look forward to convening our next Members Meeting on April 16.

Message from Digital Commonwealth President, Sadie Roosa...

This November, the news that the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) let go six staff members shocked many of us in the library and cultural heritage world, especially those of us connected to the DPLA through hubs, like Digital Commonwealth. We were sad to say goodbye to people we'd enjoyed working with, frustrated with the way the situation was handled by DPLA management, and nervous about the impact to cultural heritage online content.

The DC Board met with DPLA Executive Director, John Bracken, and Director of Business Development, Michelle Kimpton, in late November. DC Vice-President, Alan Karass, also attended the recent DPLA Network Council meeting, during which DPLA staff and board members answered questions submitted by Network Council representatives regarding the issues listed above and the future financial sustainability of DPLA. Overall, DPLA's immediate priorities have been outlined as 1) maintaining the existing hubs network and regularly scheduled ingests of new content, and 2) moving forward with their eBooks program.

While DPLA's future is somewhat uncertain right now, I want to assure you, our Digital Commonwealth members, that we are confident in [our](#) organization's stability and ability to continue growing to meet our members' needs. We sincerely hope that DPLA continues to be a platform to bring together cultural heritage across the country and we will continue to monitor their status in the months ahead. However, [our](#) top priority is to ensure that Digital Commonwealth continues its mission to provide worldwide access to Massachusetts' cultural heritage.

We have a representative on the DPLA Network Council for a reason: to ensure we have a voice at the DPLA table, and to help shape the organization and its services. We welcome your questions, concerns and feedback via email to president@digitalcommonwealth.org, so that we can better represent your needs to DPLA!

Membership News

Welcome new members!

- Boston Architectural College

Welcome back all our returning members!

- North of Boston Library Exchange (NOBLE)
- Boston Children's Hospital Archives
- Pilgrim Hall Museum
- American Congregational Association Archive
- Bishop Fenwick High School
- Harvard University, Ernst Mayr Library, Museum of Comparative Zoology
- Northfield Mount Hermon
- Northern Essex Community College
- Belmont Public Library

