

Collection Update for November 2020

1,149 new items were added in November

Hosted

- Boston Public Library - Charles J. Connick Records: Gouaches (1 item)*
- Boston Public Library - The Liberator (Boston, Mass. : 1831-1865) (837 items)*
- Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate - A Seat at the Table (24 items)
- Malden Public Library - Malden Houses (286 items)
- Uxbridge Historical Society - Child Support Bond (1 item)

Harvested

- No harvests in November

* items added to existing collection

176,710 Item views **853,590** Total item-level records **350,710** Total hosted items

Digital Commonwealth Digitization Status

from Jake Sadow

Statewide Digitization Project Archivist at Boston Public Library

As of December 1st, the BPL was granted permission by the City of Boston to resume accepting collections for imaging. We are still not able to perform off-site pick-ups or drop-offs so all institutions must be willing to bring their materials to the central library in Copley Square. In-person site visits remain temporarily halted, but virtual site visits may be possible for some institutions and collections (to be assessed on a case-by-case basis). Staff are still working partially from home and all new collections are subject to a quarantine process. As a result, digitization will proceed more slowly than usual and our capacity will be limited compared to the past.

We hope to remain open and improve service throughout 2021, but the unpredictability of the current crisis means that the BPL cannot guarantee any timelines or availability of services. As always, our goal is to move as quickly as possible without sacrificing quality or safety. Please bear with us as we wait for the world to turn right-side up again.

To apply for digitization services, please complete the Boston Public Library/Digital Commonwealth [Digitization Request Form and Service Agreement](#).

New blogs from the Outreach and Education Committee

For more information about new collections added in November, click [here](#).

Jean Maguire, member of Digital Commonwealth's Outreach & Education Committee, recently interviewed Sharon Hawkes, Director of the Nahant Public Library about the Florence Johnson Herbarium Collection. Read her blogpost [here](#).



Wishing everyone a safe and healthy holiday season and hope for new beginnings in 2021!

"Expanding Your Digital Horizons"

Online Event Series

"Can I listen to that online? Expanding access to Oral History of American Music at Yale University Library"

Thursday January 21, 2021, 11am-12pm

In 2018, Yale University Library (YUL) established a small task force charged with examining the current manner in which various stakeholders within the library provide patrons with access to their audiovisual (AV) collection material, to identify functional requirements for a single ideal online access system for these materials. The results of this work subsequently led to a partnership between the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale and the software developer and consultant AVP, to develop *Aviary*, a hosted subscription-based, multi-tenant access platform that incorporates a number of enhanced search and navigation features for audiovisual content, notably for oral histories.

This presentation will outline the work done by Yale's AV Access Task Force, notably a set of core principles it created that any AV access platform Yale employed must align with, that were used to inform development of *Aviary*. It will then explore the development of *Aviary*, including how Yale has integrated the platform into a network of core systems, including Preservica for digital preservation and ArchivesSpace for descriptive metadata, that together have significantly expanded access to YUL's AV collections, notably Oral History of American Music, an active collection of over 3000 interviews with noted American composers and performers.

Jonathan Manton is Music Librarian for Digital and Access Services at the Gilmore Music Library at Yale University. In this role he oversees a wide range of Digital Services, including digitization, digital preservation and digital access initiatives. He also manages archival arrangement and description projects and practices for the library. Before joining Yale, Jonathan was Sound Archives Librarian at Stanford University's Archive of Recorded Sound and, before that, Technical Support Officer for the Britten Thematic Catalogue Project at the Britten-Pears Foundation in the United Kingdom. Jonathan received his MSc in Information and Library Management from the School of Computing, Engineering, and Information Sciences at the University of Northumbria, UK and MMus in Electroacoustic Music and Sonic Arts from the University of East Anglia, UK. Jonathan gained certification as a Digital Archives Specialist by the Society of American Archivists in 2017. He is the former Chair of the Emerging Technologies and Services Committee for the Music Library Association and is the current Chair of the AV Subject Section for the International Association of Music Libraries.

Pre-registration is required. There is no charge for this event.

[Register for "Can I listen to that online?"](#)

News from the Digital Public Library of America....

Explore the Black Women's Suffrage collection [here](#).

To find out more about standardized rights statements and how to apply them to your digital collection, [watch the recording of DPLA's Standardized Rights Statements 101 webinar](#), presented by the DPLA Rights Statements Working Group.

Big Sky Country Digital Network and DPLA are collaborating on a pilot project with the goal of running experiments aimed at improvements to search and discovery of items/objects accessed via the [dp.la](#) website. BSCDN will provide 4,000 full-frame images for indexing and experimentation. The expectation is that presenting full-frame images in the portal will result in much higher levels of harvesting and indexing by Google, and eventually higher discoverability and greater impact.

The DPLA Open Bookshelf now contains more than 8,500 open access books! Visit [freebooks.dp.la](#) to instantly download any of these titles, no login or registration required!

DPLA Network Brown Bag: Continuing the Conversation on Discoverability

Hosts: Christine Kim, Brian Tingle, Adrian Turner from California Digital Library

Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 1-1:45 pm ET

Continuing the conversation from previous Network Brown Bags, this session will highlight work that the California Digital Library's Calisphere team has been conducting to assess usage and discoverability of content available in Calisphere--and strategies that the team is formulating and implementing to facilitate broader access. [Register here](#).

The Politics of Collections



Digital Commonwealth 2021 Conference

Online on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 9am-4pm

- Live from LA, Keynote Speaker, **Virginia Steel**, University Librarian, UCLA
- **John Bracken**, Executive Director, DPLA
- **Eben English**, Digital Repository Services Manager at the Boston Public Library will present his annual update on the Digital Commonwealth collection
- The **Digital Commonwealth Board** will speak about the results of their recent Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion survey and how they will be proceeding with further member engagement in this area.

New Confirmed Speakers:

- **Amber Clooney**, Web developer and Digital Projects Librarian, Yiddish Book Center, Amherst, MA
- **Roberta Dougherty**, Middle East Librarian, Yale University, Advisory Board Member, Arabic Collections Online
- **Christine George**, Assistant Director for Faculty and Scholarly Services, Editorial Coordinator, Benjamin J. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, NY
- **Natalie Milbrodt**, Coordinator, Metadata Services, Queen's Public Library, NY, Director of Queen's Memory Project

Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks!

Bookmark the conference webpage: <https://digitalcommonwealth.wildapricot.org/page-1856239>

Registration will be \$10 for individuals from Digital Commonwealth member organizations; \$20 for non-members.

Member News

Welcome New Members!

Georgetown Historical Society
McLean Hospital
Westport Junior/Senior High School

Welcome Back Returning Members!

Annisquam Historical Society
Brockton Public Library
Cambridge Public Library
Congregational Library & Archives
Dana Hall School

Harvard University, Ernst Mayr Library, Museum of Comparative
Zoology

New England Historic Genealogical Society

Thank you to our donor!

Matt Amory

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Digital Commonwealth BLM Statement