

## Collection Update for August 2021

0 new items were added in August

### Hosted:

- No new ingests

### Harvested:

- No new harvests

153,134 Item views 925,417 Total item-level records 356,640 Total hosted items



## Users and Uses: Centering Communities in Digital Collections

16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

#DCConference22

June 14, 2022, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Digital Commonwealth's 16th Annual Conference will be held virtually.  
Stay tuned for more details!!

## DPLA Events

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 3 pm ET

### DPLA Genealogy Webinar

Join DPLA for a one-hour informational genealogy webinar using DPLA resources, presented by the Outreach and Accessibility working group and Allison Ryall, Genealogy Specialist for the Orange County Library System. The webinar will cover some DPLA basics, such as search techniques and a metadata overview, as well as genealogy tips and tricks. Allison will provide several case studies using DPLA resources and highlighting how to navigate DPLA's collection and use available primary source sets. Attendees will become familiar with the various DPLA resources that are relevant to genealogy research and will gain insight in genealogical search strategies.

Allison Ryall is the Genealogy Specialist for the Orange County Library System (OCLS) and an instructor in Boston University's Genealogical Research Program. In addition, Allison works with a variety of law enforcement agencies assisting them in solving cold case violent crimes using genetic genealogy. Previously, Allison worked with the National Genealogical Society as their Advertising and Marketing Manager and Graphic Designer and served as a grader for the National Genealogical Society's Home Study Course. Allison also served as the conference tri-chair, program chair, and Ancestors Road Show Chair for the New England Regional Genealogical Conference and as the conference chair for the Association for Professional Genealogist's annual conference. Prior to pursuing her passion of genealogy, Allison was a media executive and has extensive experience in the areas of research, media relations, program management, and marketing. She holds degrees in U.S. History and Russian Studies and a master's degree in American and New England Studies from the University of Southern Maine.

[Register here for DPLA Genealogy Webinar](#)

Please note, the above event is not affiliated with Digital Commonwealth and any questions regarding it should be addressed to the Digital Public Library of America.

## "Expanding Your Digital Horizons"

Online Event Series

Coming up this week.....

### Teaching Black and LGBTQ+ Inclusive Histories with Primary Sources

Speaker(s): Kevin Dua and Dr. Jon M. Wargo  
 Date: Thursday, September 23rd, 2021  
 Time: 1pm-2pm EDT  
 Where: via Zoom

Recognizing the growing need for access to online historical primary source documentation during the pandemic, Digital Commonwealth's Outreach and Education Committee has been working on developing primary source sets for use by K-12 educators. After a brief introduction to Digital Commonwealth's [primary source sets](#), this session will consist of a panel discussion on using primary sources to teach Black and LGBTQ+ inclusive histories in K-12 education. The panel will include the following presentations:

#### **Reclaiming John Brown: America's First White Ally for Blacks and Traitor to White Supremacy (Kevin Dua)**

High school social studies/history classes nationwide have commonly used the argumentative essay prompt for students on John Brown: madman or hero, on his violent actions against White enslavers. However, the prompt wrongfully frames a debatable notion inferring that slavery had options to challenge; that Brown was an outlier in the US.

Yet, Brown's legacy - which is briefly instructed in schools; isn't as mainstream as other White persons and isn't commemorated via architectures - highlighting a whitewashing of a human rights activist who was hailed by Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass as the only, loyal White person they would work with. His legacy also provides the template for a current generation of White boomers, millennials, and Gen Z aspiring to avoid portraying Dr King's accurate fear of the moderate white liberals aiming to support Black Lives. This research reimagines an opinion into a fact: what can we learn from Brown's sacrifice for Black liberation today?

#### **From Picturebooks to Primary Sources: Cultivating Historical Inquiry through Children's Literature and the Digital Commonwealth (Dr. Jon M. Wargo)**

In this presentation, Dr. Jon M. Wargo (Boston College) will highlight how open-access sources from the Digital Commonwealth can be used in connection with diverse children's literature to help shape, guide, and extend historical inquiry in elementary social studies. Sharing lesson examples from U.S. history and insights from educators already teaching lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) inclusive history, Wargo offers strategies for cultivating critical thinking and sourcing with some of our youngest learners.

There is no charge for this event, but pre-registration is required.

[Register for "Teaching Black and LGBTQ+ Inclusive Histories with Primary Sources"](#)

**Kevin Dua** has been teaching history for a decade throughout the Boston area, and that's rare: Black men make up only 1.7% of U.S. public school teachers. Throughout his career, Kevin has inspired students to utilize their agency to affect positive change via critically exploring history and mobilizing civic projects, and served as an antiracist consultant to nonprofits and schools nationwide. He is the recipient of several awards, including MA History Teacher of the Year (the first African American to be awarded), and the NBCUniversal Comcast Leadership National Award. In 2019, he co-establish the university partnership between the Donovan Urban Teaching Scholars Program at the Lynch School of Education & Human Development at Boston College and City Year, which offers M.ed scholarships for City Year alumni aspiring to become urban school teachers. At BC, Kevin is a practicum supervisor for K-12 teaching candidates.

A queer first-gen multi-ethnic teacher educator, **Jon M. Wargo, Ph.D.** is an assistant professor in the Lynch School of Education & Human Development at Boston College. An educational researcher who attends closely to qualitative methods, Wargo engages community-based, ethnographic, and multimodal methodologies to examine how digital media and technology mediates children's and youths' social and civic education. Wargo's current research - graciously supported by a 2020 NAEEd/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship - examines the material and ideological affordances and constraints elementary teachers identify as obstacles and supports for teaching LGBTQ-inclusive social studies. At BC, Wargo teaches courses in literacy, social studies education, qualitative research methods, and teacher education.

## 'In an alien land': Finding Solace from Librarian-Led Digital Humanities Pedagogy in a Pandemic

Speaker: Francesca Giannetti  
Date: Friday October 29, 2021  
Time: 10-11am EDT  
Where: via Zoom

The turn to working from home in March 2020 required a shift in how librarians and student employees and interns worked together. At Rutgers University–New Brunswick, the professional training offered by librarians to graduate students in the Master of Information (MI) program included preparation for reference, instruction, and special projects. In practice, those special projects had usually involved processing print gift collections, which were inaccessible during the COVID-19 pandemic. Finding meaningful work for MI students preparing for careers in academic librarianship required flexibility and a bit of scrambling. In this presentation, I will discuss the adaptation of an assignment originally crafted for a semester-long course into an ongoing, librarian-led digital project. The Correspondence of the Rutgers College War Service Bureau is a minimal documentary edition of correspondence sent to and from Rutgers alumni serving in World War I. The library's stake in this project was clear from the onset: transcription and encoding using the Text Encoding Initiative markup make this collection of university records more accessible to the public. As the work unfolded, I learned that it satisfied other priorities as well, not least of which was an emerging sense of solidarity with these Rutgers men from over a century ago whose loneliness and urgency to communicate came through their letters despite implicit social codes that precluded frank assessments of their experiences. I will address how the project evolved over the course of the past year and a half, touching upon issues of workflow, software, aspirational as well as practical goals, and make recommendations for librarians and archivists considering similar projects.

There is no charge for this event, but pre-registration is required.

[Register for "'In an alien land': Finding Solace from Librarian-Led Digital Humanities Pedagogy in a Pandemic"](#)

**Francesca Giannetti** is the Digital Humanities Librarian at Rutgers University–New Brunswick, and subject liaison to the departments of Classics, French, and Italian, and the program in Comparative Literature. At Rutgers, she leads initiatives in digital humanities—including the application of spatial and computational approaches to historical and cultural texts, and public outreach in the form of workshops, lectures, symposia, and open data crowdsourcing events. She directs two digital editorial projects with students: the Peter Still Edition relates to the personal papers of a former slave, and the Correspondence of the Rutgers College War Service Bureau publishes selected letters of Rutgers alumni serving in the Great War. Giannetti earned an MS in Information Studies from UT Austin, a degree in vocal performance from the École Normale de Musique de Paris, and a BA in art history and French from Case Western Reserve University.

### Upcoming Events....

**October 20, 1-2PM**, "A Discussion on Race", with Troy Smith, Professor of Sociology at the North Shore Community College. \$5 Members; \$10 Non-Members.

**November 17, 1-2:30PM**, "Crosscultural Competency", online workshop, Jennifer Harris & Tiffany Magnolia, North Shore Community College. \$10 Members; \$20 Non-Members.

**December, date TBA**, "Digital Commonwealth, User Perspectives on Getting Your Collections Digitized".

Please note that throughout the pandemic Digital Commonwealth has offered many events at no charge. The Digital Commonwealth Board strongly supports reimbursing speakers for their time and expertise, and is therefore asking for a nominal registration fee for this and other future events to cover speaker expenses.



## Meet new Digital Commonwealth Board Member, Maureen Mann

As a school library media program manager and information literacy educator, I enjoyed many great training opportunities for using primary sources with students. I participated in an intense three-year Teaching American History Grant spearheaded by Ted Kennedy which sponsored travel to archives and cultural collections around the state with university professors as our personal tour guides. I went on to receive a second master's degree at Northeastern University focusing on public history and how digitization, data visualization, and distance learning might eliminate the problems that still existed for educators wishing to access primary sources for young learners.

At the last Digital Commonwealth (in-person) conference, I realized the organization's generous support for digitization services held the potential to eliminate many primary source access constraints. I was very impressed by the professional gathering, the welcoming spirit of Membership Manager Glynda Benham, and the understanding provided by Statewide Digitization Project Archivist Jake Sadow. As a librarian--used to roadblocks to resources--the whole idea seemed too good to be true.

This year, two events have increased urgency for digital primary resources. The federally funded [Educating for American Democracy Roadmap](#) launched live by PBS moderator Judy Woodruff on March 2, 2021, calls for new rigorous Civics learning paired with historical research for all public school students. Secondly, the pandemic forced unprecedented restrictions of physical access to libraries and museums.

I hope to strengthen Digital Commonwealth's partnership with public school curriculum administrators, encourage growth of student-friendly collections searchable by each Massachusetts town name, and enjoy the amazing cultural collections and curators around the state!

*Prior to joining the Board, Maureen has served on Digital Commonwealth's Outreach & Education Committee for several years.*

*Thank you, Maureen, for your continued service to Digital Commonwealth!!*

### Member News

#### Welcome Back Returning Friend!

Regina Mullen

#### Welcome Back Returning Members!

Bolton Public Library  
Boston City Archives  
Brockton Public Library  
Brooks Free Library  
Emerson College  
Handel and Haydn Society  
Lawrence Public Library  
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
Massachusetts Historical Society  
New England Historic Genealogical Society

Palmer Public Library  
Reading Public Library  
Sharon Ma Historical Society  
State Library of Massachusetts  
Suffolk University  
Supreme Judicial Court Archives  
Western New England University  
Weymouth Public Libraries  
WGBH Education Foundation

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