

Collection Update for September 2021

0 new items were added in September

Hosted:

- No new ingests

Harvested:

- No new harvests

148,603 Item views 925,417 Total item-level records 356,640 Total hosted items

"Expanding Your Digital Horizons"

Online Event Series

Coming up next week.....

Don't miss the opportunity to hear this topical conversation
between Digital Commonwealth VP, Sonia Pacheco and Professor Troy Smith

Building Bridges of Inclusion: Creating Dynamic Learning Relationships

Troy Smith, Professor of Sociology, North Shore Community College, Danvers, MA

When: Wednesday October 20th, 1-2PM EDT

Where: Zoom

This presentation seeks to build meaningful dialogue between members of the digital archival community and adult learners. Some questions to be considered include: to what extent do individuals of color or other underrepresented groups identify with digitized historical collections? What can enable community members to be stakeholders in the archival process? What impact does this material have on the learning process of students? How have the dynamics of discussing and teaching about race changed over the years? How are students affected by the digital divide? Given the recent controversies such as critical race theory, the 1619 Project, and the confederate monuments, what are the conversations in the classroom? How might an archival-based curriculum serve as a part of the educational process?

"We can move forward as a society, when history can become a more inclusive bridge for common ground and understanding. As a result, we become more informed and empowered citizens."

Troy Desmond Smith is a tenured Professor of Sociology in the Department of Behavioral Sciences at North Shore Community College. His courses at the college include *The Sociology of Diversity*, *Introduction to Sociology*, *Criminology*, and *Martin & Malcolm: Advocates for Human Rights*. He is very excited to announce the Honors Seminar for the spring 2022 semester that he and Yusef Hayes developed and will be co-teaching entitled *I Am Hip-Hop: A Cultural, Artistic, and Social Movement from Kool Herc to Cardi B, from Marcus Garvey to Chuck D*. In previous years, he served as Coordinator and Instructor for the Youth Worker Program in the Division of Human Services. Troy serves as Senior Instructor and as an Adjunct Instructor for both Cambridge College and at the Springfield College Boston Campus. Troy is the owner of Positive Vision Speaking & Consulting where he delivers presentations to profit and non-profit organizations. The mission of Positive Vision is to build community and facilitate personal empowerment. Troy holds a bachelor's degree in Rhetoric from Bates College, an Ed.M. from Harvard University, and an M.A. degree in Sociology from the University of Michigan.



There is NO CHARGE for this event but pre-registration is required.

[Register for "Building Bridges of Inclusion"](#)

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

Francesca Giannetti, Digital Humanities Librarian, Rutgers University

When: Friday October 29, 2021, 10-11am EDT; Where: 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.



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.

There is no charge for this event, but pre-registration is required. [Register for "In an alien land"](#)

Intercultural Competency Workshop

Dr. Tiffany Magnolia, Professor of English, North Shore Community College

When: Wednesday 17 November 2021, 1:00-2:30PM; Where: Zoom

The majority of today's working, teaching, and social environments call for interaction with people from a wide range of cultures. Many of us are either unaware or unskilled in managing these interactions in a competent manner. Intercultural Competency is a skill set that allows individuals to connect to experiences outside their own, in order to understand and effectively communicate with people from other cultures. These skills can then be directly translated into our working, teaching and social environments. This workshop will delve into what intercultural competency is, explain the process by which one engages with it, and give suggestions on how to incorporate it into our daily interactions. Intercultural competency is a means to equity in our professional and everyday lives - a tool in progress!



Dr. Tiffany Magnolia is a Professor of English and the Coordinator of the Honors Program at North Shore CC. She teaches Native American and Latin American literatures and Composition and provides training to her colleagues at NSCC and members of the wider community in Anti-Racism practices. Dr. Magnolia has been involved with community organizing, labor organizing, and LGBT advocacy for over 30 years. Her professional life has been a combination of traditional higher educational pursuits in her chosen field: Literature of the African Diaspora, and organizing/leading union activities in an educational context. She has been engaged in union activism since 2000 with the United Auto Workers, and continues that tradition today with the Massachusetts Teacher's Association. While at UMass Boston, she designed and taught a literature, cultural, and writing seminar for an exchange program with Chukyo University in Nagoya, Japan. The four week program taught Japanese English majors about the expectations of American culture and of students in the American university system. She has published academic articles, taught a variety of college level English courses, and trained colleagues in organizing and Intercultural Competency, an area of research interest. She lives in Lynn, MA. Dr. Magnolia holds a B.A. in English and Secondary Education from St. Michael's College, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in English Literature from Tufts University.

Registration is \$10 for Digital Commonwealth members, \$20 for non-members.

Not sure if your organization is a member? Check [here](#). [Register for "Intercultural Competency Workshop"](#)

Upcoming Events....

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 selected events to help cover speaker expenses.

Important Update from BPL on Digitization Services and Digital Repository System

Some of you may have noticed that our monthly usage statistics have shown no apparent additions to the repository for several months, and may be wondering why. The reason for this is that developers and engineers in the BPL Digital Services team have been building the next generation of the library's digital asset management system in order to better support the ever-growing collections of digitized content. During this time, imaging work has continued and BPL is still accepting applications for digitization or metadata harvesting.

The new system, built entirely on open-source software, will use cloud storage for file management, allowing the digital repository to grow exponentially, without the constraints of locally-managed servers and storage devices. The new system will also make better use of controlled vocabularies and thesauri offered by the Library of Congress and the Getty Research Institute, allowing for more data accuracy and collocation of items across subjects, locations, formats, and genres.

To ensure the integrity of the existing digital assets during the migration to the new system, new ingests of content were halted in May 2021. Several large-scale data analysis and remediation tasks were then undertaken to prepare item-level metadata records for transformation. The migration process was also extensively tested to ensure data accuracy and file integrity during transfer. Migration of the full 39 terabytes of repository content began in early September, and is expected to continue into late October.

Any institutions interested in applying for digitization services should complete the Digitization Request Form and Service Agreement (<https://bit.ly/3kZhvBh>). Institutions can also still use the Digital Commonwealth Admin site (<https://admin.digitalcommonwealth.org/>) to get usage statistics for their collections. (To apply for an admin account, please contact Eben English, Digital Repository Services Manager; eenglish@bpl.org.)

Once the collections are fully migrated and the new system is fully in production for new ingests (anticipated in November 2021), we will return to the regular workflow for ingesting collections, and should quickly move through the backlog that has been building since May. In addition, this new system will support the ingest of a number of significant collections that were previously too large for the BPL's local storage infrastructure, such as BPL's WHDH video collection, books scanned by Internet Archive, and digitized newspapers, which we will be ingesting throughout 2022.

We thank you for your patience as we complete this very significant upgrade for Digital Commonwealth!

DPLA News

DPLA Expands Board with Four New Directors

DPLA announced the addition of four library and civic leaders to its board of directors: Joshua Frazier-Sparks, Director of Culture, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion at Walmart; Joseph Lucia, Dean of Libraries at Temple University; Marcia Walker-McWilliams, Executive Director of the Black Metropolis Research Consortium; and Kelvin Watson, Executive Director of Las Vegas-Clark County Library District. [Read the full announcement here.](#)

Free Ebooks from the Open Bookshelf

Did you know that the Palace Bookshelf contains more than [10,000 free ebooks](#)? No registration or password required. This month, DPLA is featuring a collection of haunted favorites, perfect for Halloween reading. [To find out more about The Palace Project, click here.](#) Browse the Halloween collection including H. P. Lovecraft and more [here](#).

Book Talk with Adam Harris, Thursday, October 21, at 1 pm ET

Following their recent book talks with Kate Crawford (*Atlas of AI*) and Carter Malkasian (*The American War in Afghanistan*), is pleased to announce their October Book Talk with [Adam Harris](#). Harris is a staff writer at The Atlantic covering national politics and a National Fellow at New America. The talk will focus on his book *The State Must Provide: Why America's Colleges Have Always Been Unequal--and How to Set Them Right*, a narrative history of racial inequality in higher education, and will be moderated by Marcia Walker-McWilliams, DPLA board member and executive director of the Black Metropolis Research Consortium. [Find out more about the book here.](#)

[Register here for DPLA Book Talk with Adam Harris](#)

Member News

Welcome New Member!

Oak Bluffs Public Library

Welcome Back Returning Members!

Amherst College
Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University
Boston Children's Hospital Archives
Cary Memorial Library
Georgetown Historical Society
Hamilton Historical Society
Holyoke Community College
J. V. Fletcher Library
Jewish Heritage Center
Kingston Public Library
Lenox Library
MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, DCR Archives
Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners
McCann Technical School
Milford Town library
Newburyport Public Library
Noble & Cooley Center for Historic Preservation (NCCHP)
Salem Public Library
St. John's Preparatory School
Sturgis Library
Tewksbury Public Library
Thomas Crane Public Library
Waltham Public Library
Westfield State University
Weston Public Library

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210 Park Avenue, #311, Worcester, MA 01609-2246

Phone: 617-431-3933

email: membership@digitalcommonwealth.org

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