Breaking Down Barriers: Creating a Mobile Digitization Service

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CULTURE IN TRANSIT

Digitizing & Democratizing Metropolitan New York’s Cultural Heritage
- Funded by the Knight Foundation News Challenge on Libraries
- 18 month project starting in Feb 2015
- Mobile digitization equipment for kits
- Final deliverable - Toolkit
“How might we leverage libraries as a platform to build more knowledgeable communities?”
CIT Project Partners
Pond to Lake to Ocean
Mobile Digitization Equipment
Digitization Equipment Sets

Flatbed Scanner

Copy-Stand

Outreach
Portable book & document scanners: The dilemma

There are a lot of scanning solutions on the market, which scan documents in a myriad of ways. There are the conventional flatbed scanners, portable overhead scanners, portable document feed scanners, portable scanning wands, and even small attachments that attach to your laptop with an extendable arm to capture content. This technology is undoubtedly beneficial in so many ways and these primary options in the office, home and digitization labs around the globe.

Flatbed scanners are just one piece of equipment already in use today for digitization at cultural heritage institutions worldwide to digitize their collections for research and access purposes. However, what about other scanning solutions? Would these work for creating preservation quality digital surrogates?

The Great Equipment Weigh In

We talk a lot (maybe too much?) about portability and ease of transportation of our mobile digitization kits. It’s important because if we want to create a replicable model for others, we need to be fully transparent, not only about the quality of the kit we’ve purchased and why we’d recommend it, but also how much it weighs.

Which do they weigh?

We provide everyone the itemized breakdown and cost of our kits with the publication of our end lists. But what we haven’t done is shared with everyone just how much...
Project Strand 1: Community Scanning
Community Scanning in Queens
Community Scanning in Brooklyn

- Greenpoint
- Bed-Stuy
- East New York
- Canarsie
- Sheepshead Bay
- Dyker Heights
- Flatbush
- Park Slope
- Clinton Hill
- Williamsburg
Working on Paper: Consent & Metadata

- Donors work one on one with staff to complete consent & metadata forms
- Prepare folder of materials for scanning
While the donor waits...

- Staff digitize items, saved as TIFF files according to institutional standards and naming conventions
- Create a thumb drive for the donor with TIFF & JPEG files
- Load external HD with all donations
My Baryo, My Borough
Project Strand 2: Cultural Heritage Institution Scanning
“How might we leverage libraries as a platform to build more knowledgeable communities?”
Goals: METRO

- DPLA and ESDN
- Support needs of our smaller/underfunded members
- Pilot small-scale digitization service for members
- Collections to seed METRO’s digital platform
- Learn about our member needs - digitization and related
Onsite work

Offsite work
So Far.....

- 9 METRO member institutions visited
- Over 1,400 unique items digitized
- 7 collections in METRO’s Digital Culture
- 4 collections in DPLA
Search Results

Your search for white plains returned 246 results.
Refined by: White Plains Public Library

Refine search

By Format
- Image: 246

Contributing Institution
- White Plains Public Library: 246

Partner
- Empire State Digital Network: 246

By Date
- From: 1918

Winchester Street in White Plains

YMCA of the USA

Winchester Street in White Plains showing houses in the background and trash and debris in the foreground. Image was included in a publication entitled Italians in an American Community by Charles R. Townsend, Secretary of the Industrial Department, International Committee, YMCA published circa 1913.

Description of White Plains Village

1918

Description of the village of White Plains including information on population (1,087 at time of writing), location of the village, number and denomination of churches and number of dwellings. The description includes an illustration of the central part of the village.
LGBT Center: Unique & Historically Important
Yeshiva University: Oversize & Inaccessible
Use Cases of Digitized Content

A Sense of Place: Research Workshop

January's edition of the White Plains History Roundtable will be A Sense of Place: Research Workshop on Wednesday, January 20, from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM.

Ever wondered what the layers of history and human experience are that combine to create White Plains? Join librarian Ben Himmelfarb and student of White Plains history Cliff Blau to learn how to research the history of any address, building, business, White Plains. Maps, directories, photographs, and online resources from the Collection will be available for everyone to use.

Come prepared with a favorite place to research and we will walk you through the process of discovering more of time for storytelling and sharing the history we are bound to uncover. We hope you’ll leave with a stronger sense of new perspective on the places we live, work, and spend time in.

The White Plains History Roundtable is an educational, participatory, and social event where we hear a present topic, examine primary source documents from the White Plains Collection, and engage in discussion with each other.

January’s History Roundtable is one of many programs commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the City of White Plains, 2016. Check out the City’s Website and the White Plains Historical Society for information on other events.

January 17, 2016 | by Ben Himmelfarb
Categories: Events and History
Tags: adults, all ages, families, historical research, local-history, teens, white plains centennial, white plains collection, white plains history.

White Plains Trivia Night

Wednesday, March 30, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
White Plains Public Library
100 Martine Ave White Plains, NY 10601

Come together with a team of 4-6 people or come solo and you’ll be added to a team.

Join us for a night of history, food, prizes, & fun!

White Plains Trivia Night is the March edition of the White Plains History Roundtable.

The More You Talk, the More You Win! At the end of the night, talk to Ben Himmelfarb at the白色plains.lib.org or whiteplains.lib.org.

See Vintage Pictures of the Opening of the Bronx Zoo’s African Plains Exhibit

Rebecca O'Connell

FILED UNDER: Animals

African Plains
New York Zoological Park
Thursday, May 1, 1941
At noon

African Plains
You are cordially invited to attend the opening of the African Plains on May 1, 1941.

Please make a reservation on the enclosed card. Ticket-counter phone: 277-1234.

Admission: $2.00 for adults, $1.00 for children. Smoking, drinking, and carrying pets are prohibited.

White Plains Public Library

City of White Plains

The More You Talk, the More You Win! At the end of the night, talk to Ben Himmelfarb at the whiteplains.lib.org or whiteplains.lib.org.

Nearly 75 years ago, on May 1, 1941, the Bronx Zoo opened its iconic African Plains Exhibit. The display set new standards for zoo habitats and was a huge success, drawing about 85,000 visitors in a single day even in its early days. In honor of the exhibit’s anniversary, the
Why Digitize:

Access

vs.

Preservation

Or both?
Access

Wallace Letters Online

Explore this amazing collection of letters from one of the world’s most significant scientists, British naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace (1823 – 1913). Wallace’s fascinating letters and manuscripts are brought together in one place for the first time by the Wallace Correspondence Project, in this digital archive Wallace Letters Online.

Browse the correspondence of the “father of evolutionary biogeography” and co-discoverer of evolution by natural selection.

Alfred Russel Wallace’s letters contain:
- Iconic correspondence between Wallace and Charles Darwin about evolution by natural selection
- Important observations and discoveries made when in the Malay Archipelago (1854 – 1862)
- Fascinating discussions on a variety of subjects, scientific and social such as geology, anthropology, ethnology, astrology, socialism, land reform and spiritualism

Wallace’s correspondents read like a “Who’s Who” of 19th century science and society. Charles Darwin, Thomas Henry Huxley, Joseph Dalton Hooker and Gertrude Jekyll, to name just a few.

What is in Wallace Letters Online?

This digital archive contains scans and transcripts of letters written and received by Wallace as well as a selection of other Wallace manuscripts.

Discover more detail about what is in the archive and how to use the data by downloading.

More about Wallace Letters Online (PDF)

Terms and conditions for use of data (PDF)

If you have more questions please contact us.

Search

You can search Wallace Letters Online by keyword here.

Search archive

To use multiple search terms such as person, address and date continue to the search page.
Preservation
Digitization can be mutually beneficial:

Access & Preservation
The Digital Divide:

The Haves and The Have Nots
Niels Bohr Library & Archives of the American Institute of Physics (AIP)

- NEH funded project
- $120,000 from 2009-2011
- Digitized 67,000 pages
- Only 1 Scientist!
New York Philharmonic Digital Archives

- Began: 2007
- First material online: 2011
- Set for completion: 2018
- Funded by Leon Levy Foundation & NEH
- Will contain 3m+ pages once complete
NYPL & General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen: A Tale of Two Institutions

NYPL: 679,237 items digitized from their collections and available online

General Society: 0 items digitized from their collections and available online
Contact Us!

Twitter: @DigitizeNYC

Blog: www.mnylc.org/cit

Email: cultureintransit@metro.org