

GREG KENYON

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS SPECIALIST

MAIN OBJECTIVE

I value the opportunity to take physical care of America's diverse material culture—designing & developing digital tools to tell more dynamic stories, reveal deeper historical trends through data, and help elucidate the connections between the past and the present to create a better future.

CONTACT DETAILS

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SITE

2702 Harmon Road, Silver Sping, MD

KEY STRENGTHS

- Project Management
- Data Tools and Analysis (Python, R, SQL, SPARQL)
- Web Frameworks, APIs
- Research
- Writing
- Problem Solving

INTERESTS

Travel, Washington Nationals, sports, gaming,
DIY projects, science fiction and homebrewing.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Project Assistant

National Museum of American History | July 2019 – Present

- Served as co-lead of team working on the strategic plan for the museum becoming "digital first." This role included drafting policies and workflows for object acquisition and cataloguing to ensure the creation of high-quality digital records.
- Designed, developed, and published a new exhibition website for the exhibition "A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the Constitution" via Drupal CMS.
- Wrote Python scripts to archive the old site, and to scrape, clean, and enhance data for use on new site.

Digital Collections Specialist

National Museum of American History | August 2016 – July 2019

- Worked with curatorial staff to compose web labels for objects and worked with the museum's digital programs office to link images to object records, export the object records to our Enterprise Digital Asset Network (EDAN), and export the images to our Digital Asset Management System (DAMS) and Image Delivery System (IDS) with the goal of working to collect, manage, preserve, and provide access to digital content.
- Cleared a five-year accession backlog of 28 acquisitions and 341 objects, requested accession numbers, catalogued objects, photographed objects, created new object housing, and moved objects to appropriate storage spaces. Documented and verified information in MIMSY XG for a variety of other objects, and performed collections management functions to aid in the deaccession of both objects and non-collection materials.
- Planned and executed a collections storage inventory and accountability project by rehousing objects, removed non-object materials, and organized disposal donations to other cultural institutions. Worked with Smithsonian Archives to donate appropriate material in collections storage and worked with the NMAH Archives Center to transfer appropriate collections to regain to increase physical and intellectual control of the collections.
- Planned an inventory reconciliation project with colleagues in the Division of Medicine and Science to gain intellectual control over some of the museum's most difficult cataloguing and legal title issues. Project received federal funding from the National Collections Program.

Collections on the Web Contractor

National Museum of American History | July 2010 – August 2016

- As a contractor on the Collections on the Web team, I managed collections in MIMSY XG to publish over 30,000 objects to the web and created over 30 new Object Groups with the Object Group Management Tool. In performing this work, I researched and documented objects in every division in the museum
- using both published and unpublished sources on American material culture. I used my research to augment MIMSY XG object cataloging as well as answer queries from the public and other curators working on exhibitions or digital projects.
- Doing this work I developed, excellent skills in identifying graphics from both published and unpublished sources, as well as in using Photoshop skills to create new graphics. I also trained interns, employees, and volunteers in data and image standards, metadata requirements, web group development, and record and data maintenance.
- Using my knowledge of museum objects and the collections, I responded to loan requests from other institutions including the National Air and Space Museum, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Patent Office, and the Cooper-Hewitt Design Museum. Wrote labels for
- objects loaned to Cooper-Hewitt that were published in the exhibition catalogue for the Cooper Hewitt's "Tools" exhibition.
- My extensive knowledge of the collections was also used to answer questions from researchers and Smithsonian partners, as I supplied graphics to SI partners in product development for Pearson educational videos, Smithsonian Channel, and other media requests.
- I photographed objects to create almost 30,000 digital surrogates that have been linked to MIMSY XG and processed to the DAMS and IDS.
- I published the records for several exhibitions, including "FOOD: Transforming the American Table", "American Enterprise," "American Stories," "Inventing in America," and the "Object Project." I also performed collections management work that included the safe handling and transport of objects to and
- from Preservation Services, storage, and exhibition staging. I also worked with the Exhibits Department supplying graphics information and object dimensions for brackets; noting any long-term care issues, including light sensitivity; and suggesting objects for rotations.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

University of Maryland, College Park

Fall 2019 | Master of Arts | History
Thesis explored the role of technology in the political economy of capitalism through the case studies of the telegraph and radio, GPA 3.75. Earned Certificate in Museum Scholarship.

May 2008 | Bachelor of Arts | History & English
University Honors Program, 3.68 GPA, membership in Phi Beta Kappa. Studied abroad at University College London and University of Tübingen, Germany.