

Using WordPress to Contextualize and Publish Digital Repository Content

Sarah Sweeney
Digital Repository Manager



Northeastern University Libraries, Digital Scholarship Group
Boston, Massachusetts

Who We Are

Northeastern University Libraries, Digital Scholarship Group

- Text analysis and encoding
- GIS
- Data visualization
- Data management
- Repository services
- Copyright guidance
- Semantic web services



Problem Space

How can we represent the *longevity* and *sustainability* of digital humanities (DH) research projects as a shared responsibility?

• • •

How can we create a culture of partnership, in which the challenges are understood as *shared* research challenges?

The Community Enhanced Repository for Engaged Scholarship (CERES)

Northeastern University University Libraries

PICTURING THE WORLD Northeastern University

Browse Collections in the Classroom Exhibits

"A pencil is one of the most important tools for a naturalist." HENRY DAVID THOREAU'S JOURNAL

During the Age of Exploration, European science and geography advanced at a great rate. Burgeoning curiosity led to vast improvements in European knowledge of the world. Works as evidence of this include extremely accurate maps as well as detailed depictions of flora and fauna. Dive into the historical connections between scientists, explorers, and artists here.

FEATURED EXHIBIT

What are those leaves?

EXPLORE THE STORIES

Part of Northeastern University's commitment to collecting, preserving, and providing access to the rich history of Roxbury, and the voices of its present, and future.

Cared for by Northeastern University and Special Collections.

THE PHOENIX Home History - The Collection

HOME EXPLORE SEARCH

THE PHOENIX Home History - The Collection

Boston's Latino/a

Northeastern University University Libraries

Boston's Latino/a Community History Collection

University Archives and Special Collections also include many other heritage, including Nelson M. Ned, Carmela Valenzuela, and Yohel Camayd-Freixas. Visit Archives and Special Collections is open to University, inquilinos Borcius en Acción a

About:

Please note that this collection, although titled Borcius en Acción and La Alianza Hispana, University Archives and Special Collections also include many other heritage, including Nelson M. Ned, Carmela Valenzuela, and Yohel Camayd-Freixas. Visit Archives and Special Collections is open to University, inquilinos Borcius en Acción a

Search ...

Browse Collection

Northeastern University University Libraries

Senator Kennedy & Boston's Activist History

Portrait of Lewis Hayden

1849 HARRIET AND LEWIS HAYDEN

Lewis Hayden was born a slave in 1816 in Lexington, Kentucky. After escaping slavery via the Underground Railroad to Detroit, he relocated to Boston with his wife Harriet in 1849. Together the couple became icons of the abolitionist movement in Boston, and their home at 66 Brattle Street was a safe haven for runaway slaves. In 1850 the Hayden's protected escaping slaves John and Ellen Craft from slave catchers. Two kegs of gunpowder under his front porch proved to be deterrent enough to dissuade the slave catchers from entering the house to retrieve the Crafts. In 1851, Lewis led the armed group that attacked the Boston Courthouse and successfully rescued and free fugitive slave Shadrach Minkins.

Fugitive Slave Act & The Underground Railroad

The Fifty Years

Chinese Exclusion Act

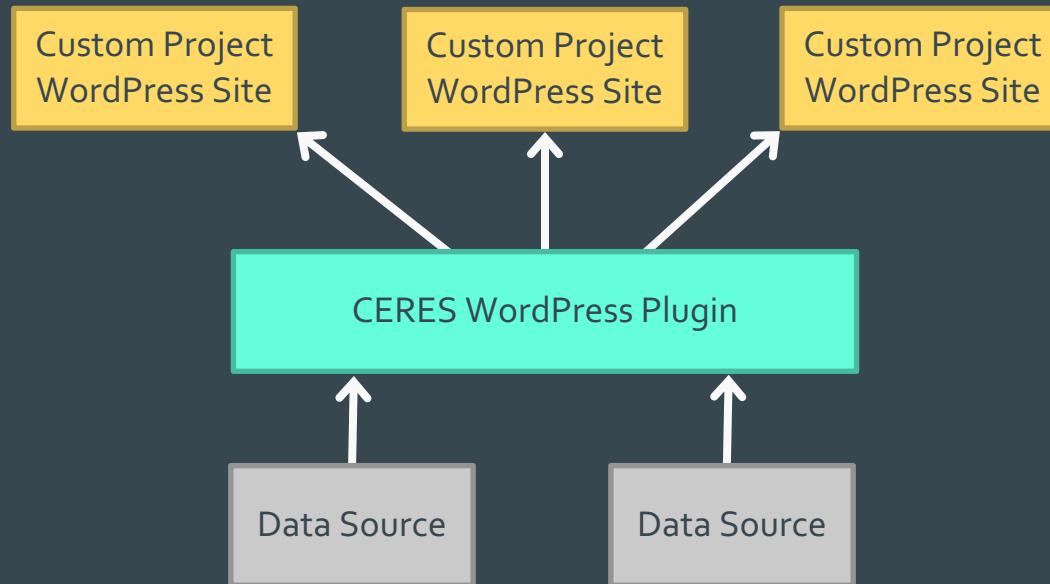
Boston Riots

Timeline: 1770 - 1850

CERES Collaborative Development Principles

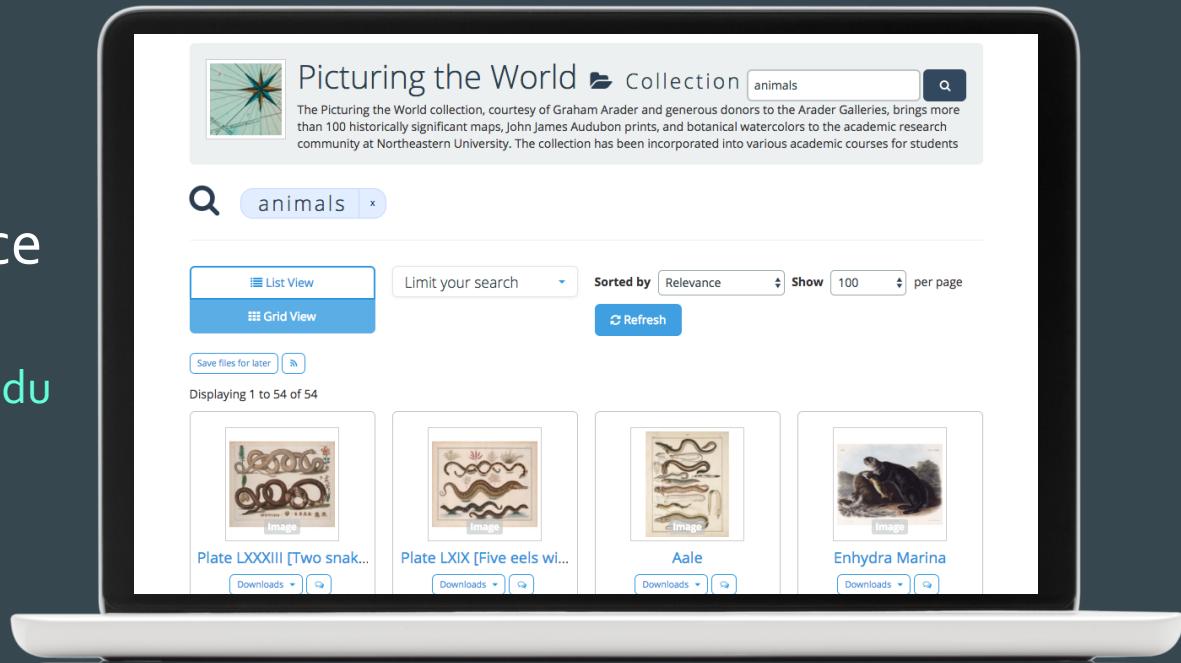
1. Support systems, not individual projects.
2. Materials should be curatable and usable.
3. Development is a shared research undertaking.

CERES WordPress Plugin: <https://github.com/NEU-Libraries/drs-toolkit-wp-plugin>
CERES WordPress Theme: <https://github.com/NEU-Libraries/drs-toolkit-wp-theme>



Data Sources

Digital Repository Service
(DRS)
repository.library.northeastern.edu



Data Sources

Digital Repository Service
(DRS)
repository.library.northeastern.edu

Search

You've selected: Animals

Displaying 1 to 10 of 54 Show 10 per page Sort By: Relevance

<< 1 2 3 ... 6 >>

Creator	Count
Krüger, Andreas Ludwig	14
Morgues, Jacques	10
Martinet, François Nicolas	10
Schmidt, Ludewig	9
Audubon,	4

Plate LXXXIII [Two snakes with flowers]
Seba, Albertus

Image

VIEW MORE

Plate LXIX [Five eels with plants]
Seba, Albertus

VIEW MORE

Related Content

An Age...

Between the European countries heightened their empire of the globe establishing political ramifications the so-called immense and increasingly voyage [...] Read More

Data Sources

Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)
dp.la

The screenshot shows the DPLA search interface. At the top, the DPLA logo and navigation links (Home, Exhibitions, Map, Timeline, Apps) are visible. A search bar contains the query "animals". Below the search bar are three filter buttons: List, Map, and Timeline. The main content area displays "Search Results" with a message stating "Your search for animals returned 86,874 results from over 120 contributing institutions". It includes pagination (1, 2, 3, ..., 4343, 4344), sorting options (Items per page: 20, Sort by: Z-A), and a "Refine search" sidebar.

Refine search

Subject	Count
Animals	35920
Horses	12239
Agriculture	12223
Domestic Animals	11553
Social Life and Customs	6549
More »	

Location	Count
United States	6119
United States - Texas - Tarrant County - Fort Worth	5462

Search Results

Zwergkatze (*Felis Bengalensis*)
Wendl, C; Mützel, Gustav (1839-1893)
1863-1863
Get full image from Art and Picture Collection, The New York Public Library

Zweizehenfaulthier
1863-
Get full image from Art and Picture Collection, The New York Public Library

Framework

Northeastern University

Call us Now! 1-999-999-9999 | Email us at info@example.com

Site Title

JUST ANOTHER WORDPRESS SITE

Search ...

Search

Browse

Collections

Exhibits ▾

About

Credit



Alumnae unveil portrait of Marjorie Bouvé

Curabitur erat velit, consequat volutpat faucibus ac, lacinia at orci. Fusce commodo urna in nulla rutrum, lacinia ultrices.

Curabitur erat velit, consequat volutpat faucibus ac, lacinia at orci. Fusce commodo urna in nulla rutrum, lacinia ultrices.

Curabitur erat velit, consequat volutpat faucibus ac, lacinia at orci. Fusce commodo urna in nulla rutrum, lacinia ultrices.

File Browse

PICTURING THE WORLD

Browse Collections In the Classroom Exhibits ▾ About ▾

Search ...

Browse

Displaying 1 to 10 of 160 Show 10 per page Sort By: Title A-Z

<< 1 2 3 ... 16 >>

Creator	Count
Redouté, Pierre Joseph	25
Blaeu, Joan	22
Krüger, Andreas Ludwig	14
Roxburgh, William	12
Morgues, Jacques	11

[More Creators](#)

Creation Year	Count
1662	22
1785	14
1812	12
1770	10

The grid contains the following items:

- 1- Clinus Polyactocephalus; 2... (Image)
- 17th Century Dutch Atlas Maps (Collection)
- 210 [The Ribband Fish] (Image)
- Aale (Image)
- Albuca Cornuta (Image)
- Afbeeldinge van de vermaerde...
- Image
- Image

Collection Browse

PICTURING THE WORLD

Browse Collections In the Classroom Exhibits ▾ About ▾

Search ...

Collections

Displaying 1 to 10 of 12 Show 10 per page Sort By: Title A-Z

<< 1 2 >>

Collection

17th Century Dutch Atlas Maps

Collection

Assorted Works

Collection

Audubon Prints

Collection

Avian Life Prints

Collection

Botanical Prints

Collection

Botanical Watercolors

Collection

Early American and European ...

Collection

European City Views

^

Search

PICTURING THE WORLD

Browse Collections In the Classroom Exhibits ▾ About ▾

Search ...

Search

You've selected: [Globe](#) [×](#)

Displaying 1 to 10 of 22 Show [10](#) per page Sort By: [Relevance](#) [View](#) << [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) >>

Creator	Creation Year	Type
Blaeu, Joan	1662	Image

Walachia Servia, Bulgaria, Romania
Blaeu, Joan

[Image](#) [VIEW MORE](#)

Tabula Bergarum ad Zomam Stenbergæ
Blaeu, Joan

[Image](#) [VIEW MORE](#)

Pars Flandriæ Teutonicæ Occidentalior

Related Content

Mapmaking Across the Centuries

A 16th century surge in trade and travel kindled early European cartography, particularly within the county of Flanders. Prominent mathematicians and scientists such as Gerardus Mercator challenged classical ideas about the physical world, presenting alternatives based on leading theories of topography and cosmology. Mercator's vast travels endowed him with experience to create increasingly precise maps. [...] [Read More](#)

The Dutch Golden Age

Framework

The image shows a smartphone displaying a WordPress website with a dark theme. The website has a header with "Site Title" and "JUST ANOTHER WORDPRESS SITE". The top navigation bar includes links for Search, Browse, Collections, Exhibits ▾, About, and Credit. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area contains several sections: "Credit", "People", "Project Staff" (with placeholder text "Fill this in with staff members."), "Project Alumni" (with placeholder text "Fill this in with project alumni."), "Credit and Copyright", "Citing this project" (with placeholder text "Put information here about how you would like others to cite your group."), "Copyright and licensing" (with placeholder text "Fill in this section after talking to Northeastern's copyright officer. They will help you determine what to put in this section, depending on what rights you own to your content and on what people can do with your content."), and "CERES: Exhibit Toolkit". At the bottom of the page, there is a footer note: "This project was created on a customized WordPress instance using the [CERES: Exhibit Toolkit](#). These tools, as well as archival, hosting, and support systems, are provided by Northeastern University's Office of Library Services." The phone is shown from a slightly elevated angle, resting on a white surface.

Exhibit Tools

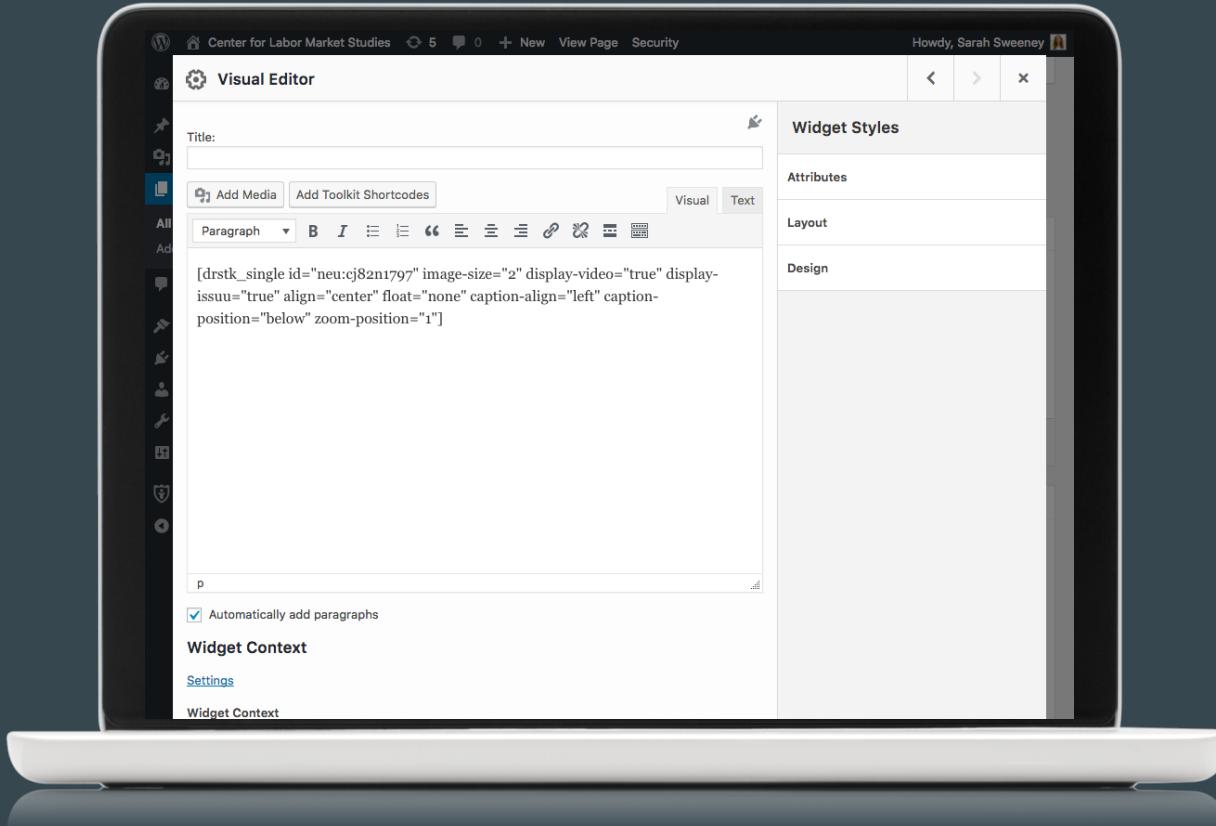


Exhibit Tools

Center for Labor Market Studies 5 0 New View Page Security Howdy, Sarah Sweeney

Add Toolkit Shortcodes

Single Item

DRS Items DPLA Items Local Items Selected Items Settings

Search for an item: animals

Subject : Animals

Show Filtering Options

Animals 
 Animals 
 Animals 
 Animals 

 Animals 
 Animals 
 Animals 
 Animals 

Exhibits

Northeastern University
University Libraries

African American Activism & Experience at Northeastern University
1963-1978

Rev. Ralph Abernathy

On May 9, 1968, during **Black Culture Week**, Rev. Ralph David Abernathy addressed over 200 people at a dinner held at Northeastern's Speare Hall.

Rev. Abernathy, comrade and successor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), delivered a speech that touched upon economic issues such as poverty, unemployment, and urban renewal. At the \$100-a-plate dinner, Rev. Abernathy emphasized the need for adequate income levels and decent housing.

The function raised \$15,000 for King's family, SCLC, and the Poor People's Campaign which had been created by SCLC in hopes of introducing a new element into the civil rights struggle. Poor People's Campaign leaders wanted to address the economic inequalities and poverty that affect people of all races.



THE PHOENIX

The Phoenix



Northeastern University
University Libraries

THE PHOENIX

Home History - The Collection - Use the Collection - About -



Northeastern University
University Libraries

Freedom House Photographs

About Freedom House Project Details Publish



Freedom House members meet with John F. Kennedy.
Del Brook Brinn, Fay Foto Service, Inc.



Flash Paper

Explore RECORDINGS CREATED IN OUR STUDIOS.

Search ...

Video

Build IT! is a Boston based punk band who love being sad, big beautiful penguins and sometimes writing banger tunes. It has been heavily rumored that this band does indeed play music, but there is still research to be done. There are currently four members of the band, but they are willing and open to add a third member.



Kaleidoscope



The artist we've chosen to work with is a rapper named Tirelle Barron who releases music under the moniker The Noise Above. Tirelle's style is an intellectual blend of lyricism and low-key funk and jazz-inspired beats which are complex yet accessible. His work is uniquely personal as he creates and produces all of his own beats and writes deeply introspective lyrics regarding personal experience, perspective, and growth through various struggles.

Northeastern University
University Libraries

DMC Studios Showcase

Home Audio Video 3D Printing Credit

Explore RECORDINGS CREATED IN OUR STUDIOS.

Search ...

Video

Flash Paper

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Exhibits

Northeastern University
University Libraries

African American Activism & Experience
at Northeastern University

1963-1978

Home The Beginning Protests ▾

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Exhibits

Northeastern University
University Libraries

THE PHOENIX

Home History - The Collection - Use the Collection - About -

Search the Digital Collection

The Phoenix

The Phoenix is a weekly newspaper at Northeastern University. The website displays a grid of 20 magazine covers from different years, illustrating the variety of content produced over time. The covers feature a mix of political figures (e.g., Mitt Romney, Barack Obama), celebrities (e.g., Morrissey, Anna Kendrick), and cultural events (e.g., 'Giftpocalypse', '2013 Arts Preview'). The design of the website is clean, with a red header bar and a white background for the main content area.

Exhibits

Northeastern University
University Libraries

Freedom House Photographs

Home Search Browse Exhibit ▾

About Freedom House Project Details Publish



In 2007, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners awarded Northeastern University Libraries, Archives and Special Collections Department \$20,336 for a project to digitize and make available on the Web 2,441 photographs and negatives, dating from 1950-1975, from the Freedom House collection.

The images in this collection document Freedom House's early activities to create an integrated Roxbury, foster citizen participation in the urban renewal of Roxbury, and implement early oversight of Boston Public Schools desegregation. The photographs include images of well-known figures, local community activists, Freedom House events, and the Roxbury neighborhood. This project continues Northeastern University Libraries' dedication to preserving and making accessible the history of Boston's African American community.

Search ...

Browse Collection

Browse Places

Browse People

Exhibits

Northeastern University
University Libraries

Home Audio **Video** 3D Printing Credit

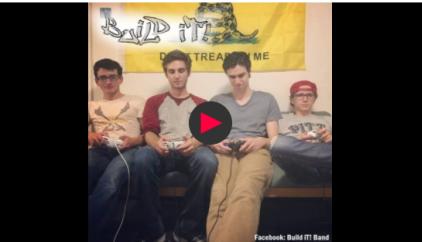
DMC Studios Showcase

EXPLORE RECORDINGS CREATED IN OUR STUDIOS.

Search ...

Video

Flash Paper



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Facebook: Build iT! Band

Kaleidoscope



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Exhibits

Northeastern University

"A pencil is one of the best eyes"

HENRY DAVID THOREAU'S JOURNAL DRAWINGS

Browse Collections Exhibits People & Credits About

Search ...

Map

This attempt at mapping Thoreau's drawings marks the first step in a bold and speculative venture that seeks MA generally. By closely reading his journal for clues as to names of places and other geographically identifiable where Thoreau was on a certain day and begin charting his walks in this area. At present, the locations indicate coordinates that we've used to see how our mapping system works on this website. However, over time and th to begin mapping Thoreau's explorations.

Northeastern University
University Libraries

Boston's Activist History

Search Browse Collections Credit

Portrait of Lewis Hayden.

ROBERTS V. CITY OF BOSTON

Timeline 1770 1780 1790 1800 1810 1820 1830 1840

The Appeal ... Why you ... Able S ...

Northeastern University

The Dragon Prayer Book Project

DISCOVERING NORTHEASTERN'S ONLY MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPT

Home Explore Manuscript About the Prayer Book Conservation Transcription

Letterforms Project Information Teaching Tools Browse Search

Search ...

Dragon Prayer Book

regio nūcta dei filio. Abdu. illi R entare ago mihi līcas i hīsātē ut lōpus p. nōl hōdā & ut anima dūgnē hūa a nob. Ab hac hūla nū gūna mē emma pelle līna fīc rōndia res i una hīg i pūra vīte gau dīa p. qīn dulna mī pōlūa mī lautes nī għa hūla p. mā. Igo maria da gaħbiha nōl. Dia p. nōl fīn ġenū. Ut hīg ġewwa minn i-familj nū ġagħid. Aġġi t-

19 Page 0020 Page 0021 Page 0022 Page 0023 Page 0024 Page 0025 Page 0026 Page 0027 Page 0028 Page 0029 Page 0030 Page 0031 Page 0032 Page 0033 Page 0034

Exhibits

Northeastern University

“A pencil is one of the best eyes”

HENRY DAVID THOREAU’S JOURNAL DRAWINGS

Browse Collections Exhibits People & Credits About

Search ...

Map

This attempt at mapping Thoreau's drawings marks the first step in a bold and speculative venture that seeks to identify Thoreau's trail around Walden pond and Concord, MA generally. By closely reading his Journal for clues as to names of places and other geographically identifiable markers, we can potentially begin to start identifying where Thoreau was on a certain day and begin charting his walks in this area. At present, the locations indicated on this map consists of fictional latitude and longitude coordinates that we've used to see how our mapping system works on this website. However, over time and through fruitful collaborations, we hope to gather accurate data to begin mapping Thoreau's explorations.

Exhibits

Northeastern University
University Libraries

Boston's Activist History

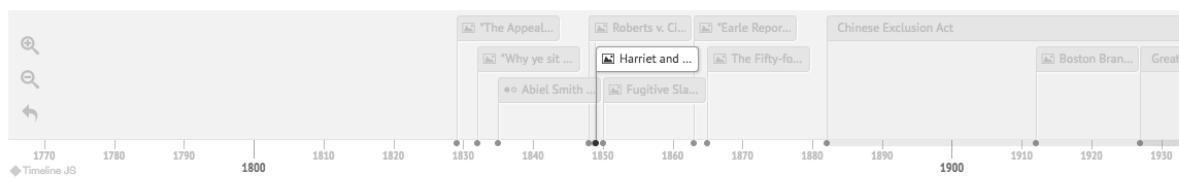
Search Browse Collections Credit



ROBERTS V. CITY OF
BOSTON



Portrait of Lewis Hayden.



1849

HARRIET AND LEWIS HAYDEN

Lewis Hayden was born a slave in 1816 in Lexington, Kentucky. After escaping slavery via the Underground Railroad to Detroit, he relocated to Boston with his wife Harriet in 1849. Together the couple became icons of the abolitionist movement in Boston, and their home at 66 Phillips Street was a safe haven for runaway slaves. In 1851, Lewis led the armed group that attacked the Boston Courthouse and successfully rescued and free fugitive slave Shadrach Minkins.



FUGITIVE SLAVE
LAW ENACTED

Exhibits

Northeastern University

The Dragon Prayer Book Project

DISCOVERING NORTHEASTERN'S ONLY MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPT

Home Explore Manuscript About the Prayer Book Conservation Transcription
Letterforms Project Information ▾ Teaching Tools ▾ Browse ▾ Search

Search ...

Dragon Prayer Book

regio nūcta dei filio. 6.
Abdu. illi. R eritare
Sgo mī di cōrē i. spū
de ut loquris p nōl hōa
t ut auras idignōs suā
a nōl. Ali hac fālia tu
mīna mē crūnia pelle
mina fer cōmedīa reis i
via tās i pīta vite gau
dia p qīr dulna tu pīo
ma laudes nī glā lūla
pe pīa. Sgo maria da
gāndia nōl. Ora p
nōl sīa tī grēt. Ut tīg

6
Esto nōl dīe. nūris
fōrāndis. A fāce sūni
gr Dīe exaudi o. Ora.
Rōrē dīe fāmīls
nōs lōlīdīs pīcī
t hīc nī hāre sī vīgīs pīcī
nīus sītēs. A nīmī
hōlītē ceddī scētēs. P
Etcē nī dīe Ora.
Apēs placat' admitt
re; ut testēums adūlīta
nīs; t cōrōub ymūlīs;
scētē cētēng hītētē; t
fāmīlī nīt pāpā mēm

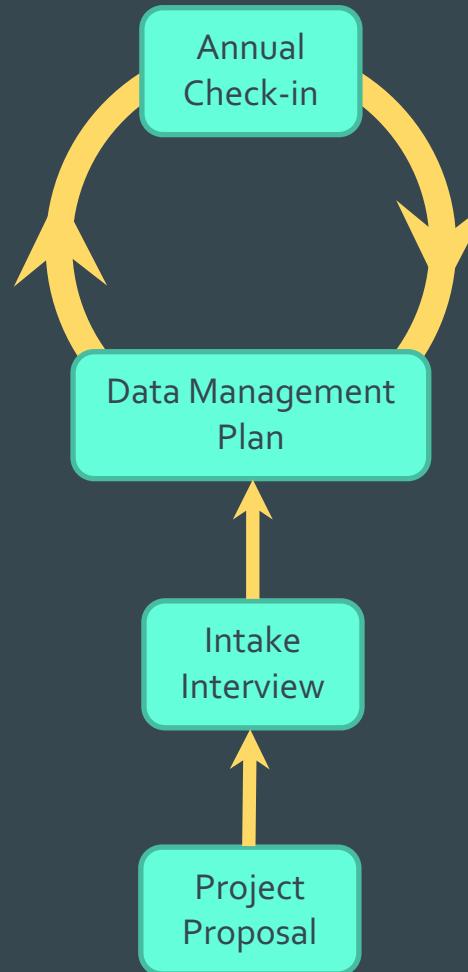
19 Page 0020 Page 0021 Page 0022 Page 0023 Page 0024 Page 0025 Page 0026 Page 0027 Page 0028 Page 0029 Page 0030 Page 0031 Page 0032 Page 0033

Change Layout Full Screen

Workflow

All DSG Projects Must:

- Submit a project proposal
- Participate in an intake interview
- Write a data management plan
- Participate in an annual check-in meeting



CERES Projects

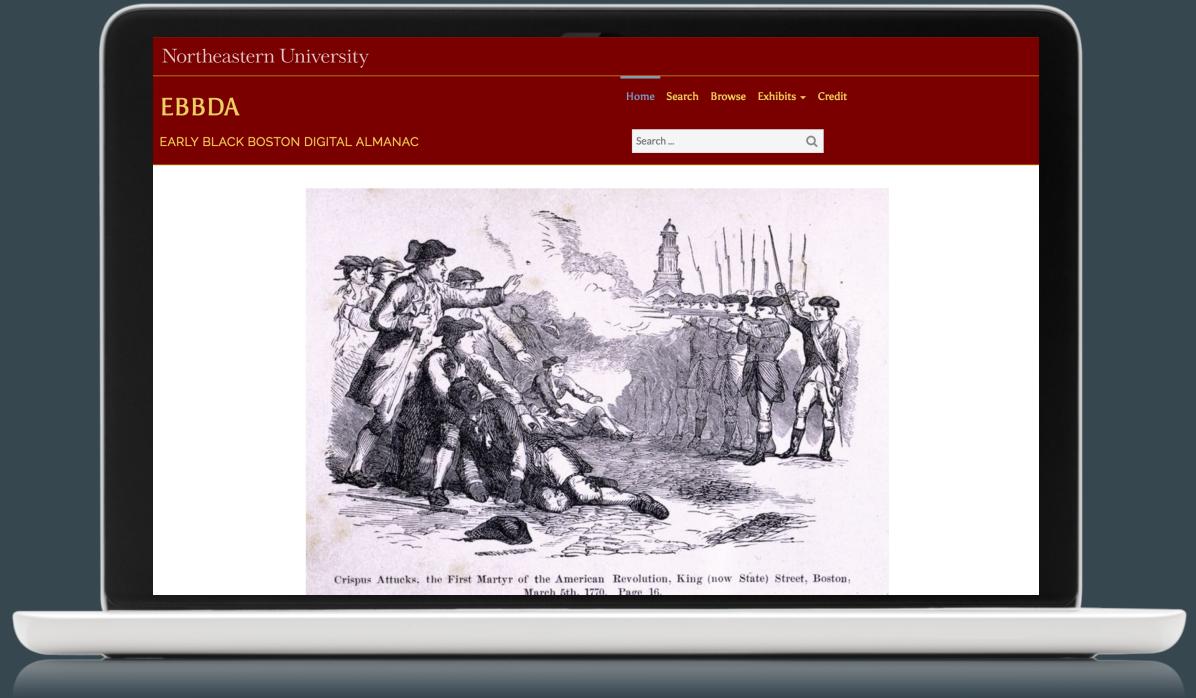
goo.gl/D502a3

The image displays a collage of Northeastern University Library websites, showcasing various historical collections and exhibits:

- PICTURING THE WORLD**: A collection of historical maps from the Age of Exploration.
- Northeastern University**: A general library page featuring a pencil and a morel mushroom.
- HENRY DAVID THOREAU'S JOURNAL**: An exhibit about Thoreau's journal.
- "A pencil is one..."**: A quote from Henry David Thoreau.
- THE PHOENIX**: The official website of the Northeastern Phoenix, a student newspaper.
- Boston's Latino/a**: A collection of historical records related to Boston's Latino/a community.
- About:** Information about the Boston's Latino/a Community History Collection.
- Senator Kennedy & Boston's Activist History**: A collection about Senator Edward M. Kennedy and his role in activism.
- Portrait of Lewis Hayden**: A historical portrait of Lewis Hayden.
- Timeline of Events**: A timeline from 1849 to 1900 highlighting events like the Fugitive Slave Act, Chinese Exclusion Act, and Boston Riots.
- Harriet and Lewis Hayden**: A section dedicated to the history of Harriet and Lewis Hayden.

Early Black Boston Digital Almanac

(not yet public)



A Proud Past: Boston-Bouvé College, 1913-1981

<http://aproudpast.library.northeastern.edu/>

A Proud Past

Boston-Bouvé College, 1913-1981

History Leaders Curriculum Student Life Credit

Search ...



Why did seven young women found a school of physical education?
How did Bouvé-Boston grow into a global institution?

What qualities have guided Bouvé's leaders? How did these leaders foster relationships with students?

HISTORY

CURRICULUM

LEADERS

STUDENT LIFE

What educational theories have informed Bouvé curriculum? Who enrolled in the physical education and physical therapy programs?

How do school activities shape a collective identity? What do former students remember about their time at Bouvé?

^

The Catskills Institute

<http://catskillssinstitute.northeastern.edu/>

The image shows a laptop screen displaying the website for The Catskills Institute. The website has a yellow header bar with the text "Northeastern University" on the left and "The Catskills Institute" on the right. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for "Search", "Browse", "Exhibits ▾", "History ▾", and "About ▾". A search bar with a magnifying glass icon is located below the navigation bar. The main content area features a large historical photograph of a lodge on a lake with people in the foreground. Below the photo is a caption: "Beerkill Lodge on Beerkill Lake, Greenfield Park, N.Y. Max Schwartz Co.". At the bottom of the page are three columns: "About", "Featured Exhibit", and "The Collection".

Northeastern University

The Catskills Institute

Search Browse Exhibits ▾ History ▾ About ▾

Search ...

Beerkill Lodge on Beerkill Lake, Greenfield Park, N.Y.
Max Schwartz Co.

About

A century ago, the celebrated Jewish resorts started in the Sullivan and Ulster County Catskills. New

Featured Exhibit

Alfred S. Landis was a great postcard artist, who was well known for his work depicting the hotels,

The Collection

Since 1995, the Catskills Institute has collected a variety of materials derived from and about the

Collaborative Development Principles

1. Support systems, not individual projects. ✓
2. Materials should be curatable and usable. ✓
3. Development is a shared research undertaking. ✓

goo.gl/D502a3

The image displays a collage of various digital exhibits and collections from Northeastern University's University Libraries. The exhibits include:

- PICTURING THE WORLD**: A green-themed exhibit featuring a pencil and a small plant, with a callout about Henry David Thoreau's journal.
- Northeastern University**: A general library landing page.
- THE PHOENIX**: A red-themed exhibit for the student newspaper, showing a masthead and a search bar.
- Boston's Latino/a**: A blue-themed exhibit featuring Senator Kennedy and Boston's Activist History.
- Senator Kennedy**: A specific section of the Latino/a exhibit focusing on Senator Edward M. Kennedy.
- Boston's Activist History**: A specific section of the Latino/a exhibit focusing on activism.
- HARRIET AND LEWIS HAYDEN**: A black-themed exhibit featuring portraits of Harriet and Lewis Hayden, with a timeline of their life and times.

Each exhibit includes text, images, and interactive elements like search bars and browse buttons.

Questions?

Resources

About CERES

<http://dsg.neu.edu/ceres/>

CERES Sites

goo.gl/D502a3

GitHub

<https://github.com/NEU-Libraries>

Digital Repository Service

<https://repository.library.northeastern.edu/>

Contact

Sarah Sweeney

Digital Scholarship Group

Northeastern University Libraries

sj.sweeney@northeastern.edu

Introduction

Sarah Sweeney, Digital Repository Manager at Northeastern University Libraries in Boston

I'm going to talk to you today about how we are using WordPress to publish our digital repository materials.

Who We Are

A bit of background before I start.

I am part of Northeastern University Libraries' Digital Scholarship Group, also known as DSG. We are an applied research group committed to helping faculty, staff, and student researchers through all stages of building a digital project.

The DSG was founded in 2014 as a response to movement at Northeastern to support the university's growing digital scholarship communities in the humanities and beyond.

The DSG supports and educates researchers at all levels on new digital scholarship techniques, including text analysis and encoding, GIS, data visualization, data management, repository services, copyright guidance, and semantic web services.

Problem Space

We believe digital curation is an essential part of our work and in the work of the digital humanities projects we support.

However, building digital curation and sustainability into DH project development is challenging, and engaging with DH scholars and researchers as full partners in curation practices is also difficult.

We wanted to figure out how we can position curation and sustainability as a shared responsibility between our library staff and project partners, so that it's not just a library or repository-only technical problem.

Solution

In response to these questions, we designed a series of tools and workflows meant to enable the library and its partners to work together to build sustainable digital projects, which we call the:

Community Enhanced Repository for Engaged Scholarship, also known as "series"

It's an interlocking set of systems and tools designed to:

- ease the burden of sustainable development
- foster stronger partnerships between library technical staff and research partners
- support community engagement with digital materials.

CERES is the larger project to support engagement.

What I'm going to talk about today is the Wordpress publishing tool, which is used to create and publish digital project materials, organized through a WordPress theme and associated plugins

Design Principles

The design of this system is based on a set of basic principles that fuel our project development process.

- First is that the library has the resources to build and support systems, not individual projects.
 - Our focus is on developing tools that can grow and support a wide variety of digital projects at Northeastern, and are built in such a way that the DSG can support them in the long term.
- Second is that DH research materials stored in the repository should be both curatable and usable, and the curation of these materials should be planned from the beginning.
 - Therefore researchers that want to use CERES must first build or plan a strong collection of data that meets our standards of long-term sustainability and open access principles.
- Third is that the expansion of the tool set, including
 - identifying
 - prioritizing
 - and testing new features
- Should be a shared research undertaking.

We expect the scholars we work with to understand that these tools and data standards are tied to scholarly outcomes and should be considered part of their research endeavor.

Design - Goals

We outlined four goals in support of this solution:

- Create a sustainable and shareable digital project environment for scholars.
- Build tools that could support many types of digital research materials.
- Start a program that would scale by encouraging project teams to become stewards of their own content and empowering them to customize and develop on their own.
- Increase preservation of Northeastern research by securing digital materials in our repository and web-based projects on library servers.

One of our goals here is to integrate two sets of needs that seem like they are in conflict:

- providing project teams with long-term curation of digital project materials in a repository
- and also enabling them to develop space to publish their projects on the web

Many of our researchers use popular web publishing tools such as WordPress or Omeka to store and display their materials because these tools are simple to use and easy to customize, but they are not ideal for long term file storage.

Others use the Digital Repository Service to store materials, which is ideal for long term storage, but can't be customized in support of individual project needs.

So we built an alternative tool that would satisfy the preservation and presentation needs of a project by joining repository storage with customizable web publishing tools.



Design - System

We met early in the design phase with representatives from a few DSG partners to discuss what they, as digital scholars, needed from a repository-integrated digital publishing service;

This early meeting was the first of many opportunities to engage with active scholars and researchers to learn about their needs.

We identified a few common needs from the group, including

- faceted searching
- visualizations
- file sharing
- downloading
- and image galleries,

which we used to inform our decisions about the initial CERES specification and project workflows.

Drupal, Omeka, and WordPress were considered as base platforms. However, none of the consulted partners or inaugural projects expressed a preference, so we selected WordPress.

WordPress is a well-known and broadly used open source blogging platform that natively supports many common web publishing features and can be customized using many different themes and plugins.

The CERES exhibit publisher, which is open source and available from these GitHub links, was developed by DSG staff by modifying the Quest WordPress theme to include commonly requested exhibit building tools and integrating it with a our custom WordPress plugin that connects it with the data source APIs.

Data Sources - DRS

CERES has two WordPress plugin data sources.

The primary data source is the library's Digital Repository Service (DRS), which is a homegrown Fedora / Hydra repository.

We encourage all DSG project teams to store their materials in the DRS, regardless of their participation in the CERES project.

We work with project teams to review their materials, and, if necessary, make recommendations to prepare the materials for long-term use and reuse by offering assistance in

- transferring files to curatable, open source formats
 - describing materials using widely-used metadata standards
 - and performing copyright and other rights evaluations
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The DRS API is the connective tissue between the DRS and the CERES WordPress sites.

The DRS API is a JSON feed that passes essential information about each of the approximately 68,000 publicly available files in the DRS, including all displayable descriptive metadata, thumbnails, and download options.

To reduce noise and increase site speed, API queries for CERES sites are scoped to a particular DRS collection or custom set of DRS materials, which limits search and browse activity for the site to just the content relevant to a project.

Data Sources - DPLA

In addition to the DRS, CERES also incorporates materials from the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), which gives site builders access to an additional 16 million digital resources from cultural heritage institutions across the United States.

Framework - General

The base implementation of a CERES wordpress site is designed to support many digital project site needs

Sites are issued to projects with a locally modified version of the WordPress Quest theme and a few prescribed plugins, including the DRS and DPLA data source API plugins and security plugins.

Sites are issued to projects with a default site framework, including a home page, about page, credits page, some with suggested elements.

It also includes standard header and footer design, as dictated by University Marketing and Communications guidelines.

Framework - File Browse

All CERES sites include Search and Browse pages, which use the DRS API to query the DRS for files.

The browse page is setup to retrieve all collections and files contained within the project's base DRS collection or set of materials, which display on the page in a grid, with facet options on the left to allow site visitors to limit the browsable items by creator, date, subject, or type.

Framework - Collections Browse

Projects with a lot of collections may also include a Collections page, which allows site visitors to browse and explore the collection hierarchy.

Framework - Search

The search page and search box are used to query the DRS API for project materials. When a user performs a keyword search in CERES, the search retrieves relevant project materials stored in the DRS, as well as WordPress pages that also contain the searched for keywords, like exhibit pages or blog posts.

The DRS results show up in the center of the page as the main results, and just like the browse feature, site visitors can limit the search results by creator, date, subject, or type.

The WordPress stored pages show up as results to the right of the main search results. Ideally these two result sets would be integrated, but we are limited to this functionality for now.

Framework - Credits

As I mentioned before some pages come with suggested elements. This is a sample of a Credits page template, which includes space for project teams to enter project staff names, declare copyright or other rights statements, and communicate how the staff would like their project to be cited.

Overall, this creates a "plug and play" experience for project teams. They don't need to set up server space, worry about data storage, or even go through complicated site design or wire frames. Project teams are encouraged to think about their site's design and customize heavily if they want to, but it's not required to move forward with data publishing, like it would be if they chose another platform.

Framework - Exhibit Tools

Project teams use the CERES plugin exhibit builder to create exhibits, pages, or blog posts that interweave DRS or DPLA materials with text to communicate the project team's work to site visitors.

- The exhibit builder uses a custom API query to request specific DRS or DPLA items based on keywords and search limits set by the exhibit designer.
 - Each exhibit is customized using WordPress shortcodes, which are abridged strings of code representing exhibit settings.
 - Exhibit designers know these shortcodes exist because they display on the page, but they do not build the shortcodes themselves.
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Rather, the CERES plugin presents the designer with a menu of options that build the shortcode based on object and setting selections.

The user searches or browses the DRS and DPLA from this menu for their desired resources. The results are returned and thumbnails representing the files are displayed in the object selection interface so the exhibit designer can select which files to include in the exhibit and customize how they are displayed by selecting size, adding a caption, etc.

The first major CERES release included four exhibit building tools:

The single item exhibit is a simple method for inserting a single file thumbnail into a page, similar to a traditional website page layout for text with images.

The tile gallery exhibit embeds a block of file thumbnails for multiple files onto a page.

The slider gallery exhibit displays file thumbnails in a rotating slideshow.

The media playlist exhibit displays a series of audio or video files for streaming in a sequence prescribed by the exhibit designer. DRS videos can also be embedded directly in a page for streaming.

In addition to small improvements and bug fixes, the development for CERES' second major release focused on three new features:

The map exhibit embeds a map onto a page, on which all or some project materials with geographic metadata can be plotted.

Similar to the map exhibit, the timeline exhibit embeds a chronological timeline into a page, on which all or some project materials with date metadata can be plotted.

The image viewer embeds a high-powered IIIF image viewing tool into a page.

Workflow

Accompanying this tool infrastructure is a set of practices, policies, and roles that we believe are equally essential in establishing a culture of partnership and shared responsibility.

All DSG projects, including those that utilize the CERES tools, are asked to:

- submit a project proposal
- participate in an intake interview
- write a data management plan
- and participate in annual check-in meetings

All four activities are formally tracked and documented to produce a project history and ensure continuity over time

Both the project proposal and the intake interview serve to teach us more about the project work, including the history of the project, the size of the project staff, and project goals.

The intake interview is an opportunity to discuss the scope of our involvement in the project and set expectations, particularly around labor and development timelines.

Project teams requesting a CERES site must also have a clear project lead and a plan for designing the site, either with their own or hired labor.

We also have new projects write a data management plan by asking the team to answer a series of questions about their data and digital materials.

This prompts project teams to think deeply about their project materials in ways they may not have otherwise considered and gives us an opportunity to learn about how they are managing their research materials so we can make informed recommendations to improve their data management practices.

The annual check-in meeting is an opportunity to update basic information about a project, like new deadlines or staff changes. These meetings allow us to discuss any new or revised project goals and help inform our own internal decisions about infrastructure or other development efforts.

These four project activities facilitate a shared understanding of project details and needs, which helps to ensure smooth implementation of all the CERES workflow stages, from content review to site launch.

It does not guarantee that the project will run smoothly or linearly (workflow stages are often revisited or revised with new project information), but it does prevent some of the more common project pitfalls, like surprise deadlines.

CERES Projects

More than twenty CERES sites have been built since the project launched in 2015.

Faculty, staff, and students with faculty sponsors may request a new CERES site at any time throughout the year. Project teams requesting additional feature or tool development must submit a proposal during the two-month Call for Proposals period.

The Call for Proposals process is an opportunity for us to promote the service widely to the Northeastern community and to learn about what tools are needed to properly exhibit research at Northeastern.

Obviously I don't have time to look at all these projects, but you can visit the URL here to browse the publicly available sites yourself. I'm going to talk about three of the projects that we think exemplify the CERES project.

The Early Black Boston Digital Almanac

In 2016, a professor in the department of English designed the curriculum for an undergraduate experiential education course around creating an almanac detailing the lives of African Americans in the city of Boston from the 17th century to today.

In her proposal, the professor suggested a collaboration with the DSG to use CERES as a framework to create and publish an almanac of digital exhibits describing early African American life in Boston and New England.

This framework would allow students to demonstrate their research using a mix of traditional essays and web writing as they explored the experiences of African American lives throughout Boston's history.

DSG staff were involved in many elements of the course and we were given the opportunity to insert lessons on exhibit design into the syllabus, as well as specific training on CERES itself. DSG staff were present for many sessions to introduce students to best practices for website and exhibit design, and to provide guidance on building exhibits using CERES, selecting appropriate materials and resources, and writing for the web.

We also held hands-on sessions designed to give students the opportunity to ask questions about using CERES to build their exhibits.

We used this course collaboration to learn how CERES could be used as a framework for digital humanities projects in a pedagogical setting.

One of the long-lasting outcomes of this collaboration was a rough sketch of a reproducible plan for using CERES in the classroom.

We have built on this preliminary curriculum to develop a set of resources for using CERES as a pedagogical tool, including a suggested course schedule and activities, lecture topics, sample assignment prompts, and helpful resources for students and faculty.

A Proud Past: Boston-Bouvé College, 1913-1981

Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections has a decade-long history of designing and building online exhibits to showcase its digital collections.

As more and more archival collections were digitized and stored in the DRS, Archives staff expressed a need to unify exhibit building workflows, upgrade legacy exhibits, and simplify maintenance for all online exhibits.

During the CERES pilot phase, Archives submitted a proposal to test CERES as a tool for streamlining their exhibit building process, which lead to the development of A Proud Past: Boston-Bouvé College, 1913-1981.

The exhibit, which uses digitized archival photos and documents to illustrate the history of the school from its founding in 1913 to its merger with Northeastern University and its eventual rebranding to become the Boston-Bouvé College of Health Sciences, was successfully reconstructed using CERES and quickly inspired Archives staff to replace several of the legacy exhibits with new CERES sites.

Since the 2015 pilot, Archives has created 10 sites, which is a significant portion of the total number of CERES sites hosted by the DSG and that number continues to grow. We expect Archives to create more than twenty exhibit sites over the next few years.

The quick adoption of CERES by Archives firmly tested the scalability of CERES technology and workflow with satisfying results, as infrastructure, staffing, and maintenance was not adversely affected by the increase in use.

This proved the original conceit of CERES, that exhibit design control can be placed in the hands of the subject expert while the infrastructure can be firmly controlled by the technical experts, creating a mutually beneficial partnership of shared responsibility.

The Catskills Institute

The Catskills Institute is an organization that was founded to promote research and education on the significance of the Catskill Mountains for Jewish-American life run by Phil Brown, a Professor of Sociology and Health Sciences at Northeastern.

On behalf of the institute, Brown has collected thousands of images, postcards, programs, and other artifacts representing Jewish-American life in the Catskills Mountains.

The institute worked with Brown University's Center for Digital Scholarship to describe and digitize more than 1,300 of the items in the institute's collection, as well as create a website to widely share the institute's work.

When Brown and The Catskills Institute became affiliated with Northeastern in 2012, the DSG offered to house the digitized materials in the DRS and modernize the research website.

The commitment needed to support the institute's work using the CERES infrastructure was significant and, as with many projects, setting expectations and allocating labor were major challenges.

The DSG and the Catskills Institute formed a relationship before the CERES infrastructure was developed, therefore it was difficult to accurately estimate the time it would take to fully realize the modernized Catskills Institute website.

Another challenge was the shared labor responsibilities for this project, as neither Brown nor the DSG had additional staff to dedicate to designing and building the new Catskills Institute CERES site.

The DSG relied on interns from Simmons College and a Northeastern work-study student to revise the cataloging, design the site, and build site pages and exhibits.

This project helped us to refine our project workflows and reinforced the value of developing a partnership of shared responsibility, rather than simply providing CERES as a service.

Outcomes

The three principles I mentioned earlier have served as important motivating and scoping devices for the strategic design of CERES.

By placing the digital repository at the foundation of our support for digital scholarship, the library and DSG have expressed a commitment to long-term curation of that scholarship, which empowers scholars while also setting clear parameters for our support.

The key outcomes from the project so far have been both practical and cultural. In practical terms, after two full development cycles, we have begun to see concrete payoffs from the early investment in repository infrastructure.

The design of the CERES WordPress interface allows project teams to focus on their scholarly work rather than a detailed technical implementation, which broadens opportunities for substantive participation.

The use of a shared platform also means that all skills acquired on one CERES project are transferable to other CERES projects, making it possible to develop a common set of training materials and a strong pool of highly-trained student collaborators.

Next Steps

Looking forward, the next phase for CERES will focus on improvement and refinement.

We will engage with current and future CERES exhibit designers to gather feedback about the design and usability of the tools, which we will use to prioritize and develop enhancements.

We also will start planning our next major set of requested features, including exhibit tools for displaying annotations, transcriptions, and translations.

A non-trivial dependency for these features will be the ability to store and display the annotation, transcription, and translation data, and we are actively developing a repository system to support that activity.

We will also continue to research strategies for technical preservation of the sites themselves, including the text, dynamic resources, and site experience.

Ultimately, CERES increases the visibility and security of digital scholarship projects and lowers the barrier for digital object storage and website design.

Using CERES ensures that many goals are achieved

- project teams are able to achieve their goal of contextualizing, publishing, and distributing their work openly on the web to a broad audience
- the DSG achieves its goal of connecting researchers to digital tools and services that improve their workflow and advance their research
- and the library achieves its goal of securing Northeastern's intellectual output by storing materials in our digital repository and securing web resources produced by researchers.