

September 9, 2015

Dear Recollection Wisconsin Content Partner,

Recollection Wisconsin has recently signed on as a Service Hub for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), a national initiative to bring together the riches of America's libraries, archives and museums. A major part of DPLA's mission is to make information about cultural heritage resources freely available, broadly discoverable and widely usable. For this purpose, it harvests millions of metadata records from a growing network of partners throughout the United States and aggregates those metadata records into a single discovery point. In addition, these metadata records become available for use in other systems, enabling an even broader degree of discovery and analysis of digital collections.

This fall, DPLA will begin the process of ingesting the more than 225,000 metadata records currently harvested for the Recollection Wisconsin portal. We expect these records to be publicly accessible through the DPLA platform, <http://dp.la>, by February 2016.

Based on the assumption that the vast majority of metadata is not subject to copyright protection because it either expresses only objective facts, or is limited in its "originality," DPLA assigns a Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication (CC0) to the metadata it harvests from partners. The CC0 Dedication, <http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>, places the metadata into the public domain, waiving all rights and restrictions. Users are thus free to harvest, collect, modify and/or otherwise use the metadata records.

In order to adhere to this policy, all metadata ingested from Recollection Wisconsin by DPLA will be made available under the CC0 Dedication. This policy does *not* apply to any digital content (photographs, documents, artifacts, etc.), only to the metadata used to describe it. The copyright and ownership status of your digital content will *not* change as a result of this policy.

Recollection Wisconsin strongly believes that this policy will help produce an online resource valuable beyond the bounds of any one particular collection, community, state, or region. The metadata records describing the rich cultural heritage materials shared online by organizations across Wisconsin will play a prominent role in building this resource.

DPLA's full policy statement on metadata can be found at <http://dp.la/info/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/DPLAMetadataPolicy.pdf>.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Regards,

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