

# 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW



## RECOLLECTION WISCONSIN

[Recollection Wisconsin](#) is a collaborative initiative to bring together the riches of Wisconsin's libraries, archives, museums and historical societies and share them with the world.

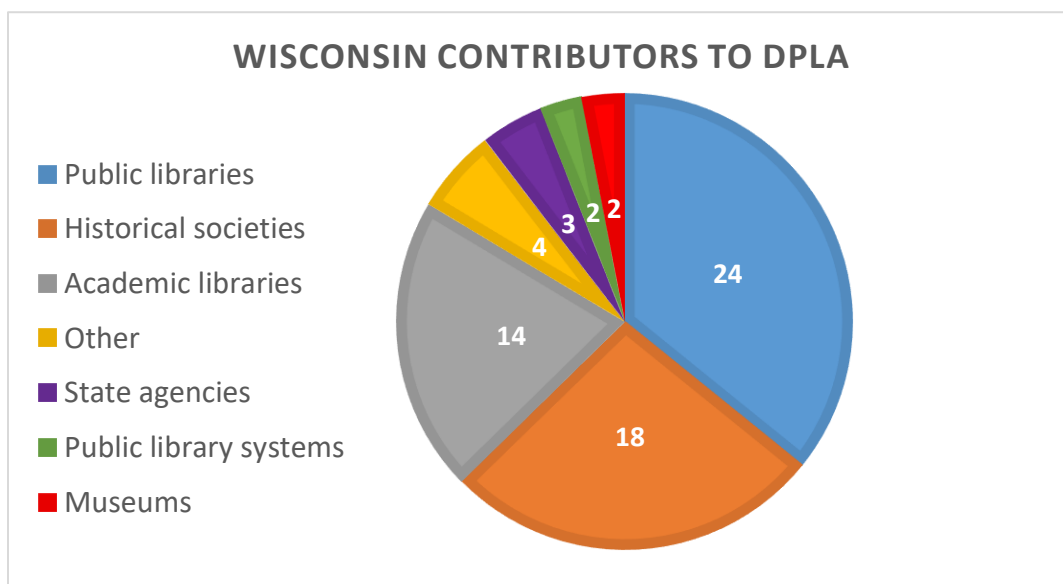
Funding for Recollection Wisconsin in 2017 was provided by grants from the Nicholas Family Foundation, Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, which administers Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds distributed by IMLS. Recollection Wisconsin is also supported by service fees as well as generous contributions of time and expertise from our seven Governing Partners: Marquette University, Milwaukee Public Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, WiLS, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Historical Society.

## DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OF AMERICA SERVICE HUB



In August 2017, Recollection Wisconsin celebrated its first anniversary as a partner in the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). As the state's DPLA Service Hub, Recollection Wisconsin shares more than 475,000 digital cultural heritage resources from Wisconsin libraries, archives, and museums through the DPLA portal, <https://dp.la>. Photographs, books, maps, artifacts and other materials from [230 collections across Wisconsin](#) can be discovered alongside 20 million resources from hundreds of contributors nationwide, including the Smithsonian, the National Archives, the Library of Congress and the New York Public Library.

In 2017, DPLA launched a paid [membership program](#) designed to build sustainability and give Hubs a formal voice in the network. As a member of the Hubs Network, Recollection Wisconsin and its partners are represented in DPLA governance and have the opportunity to participate in DPLA-led workgroups and other initiatives.



## NEW PARTNERS AND COLLECTIONS

In 2017, we added more than 40,000 new records to DPLA from both new and existing Content Partners. New additions included:

- The [Wisconsin Digital Archives](#), a major collection of state government documents maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
- Reports and publications from the [Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau](#)
- Oral history recordings from [UW-La Crosse](#), [UW-Milwaukee](#) and the [Wisconsin Historical Society](#)
- [Menus](#), [concert posters](#) and [maps](#) from the Milwaukee Public Library
- Newspapers from Aram Public Library, Marquette University and the Wisconsin School for the Deaf
- Photographs and other local history resources from [Brown Deer Public Library](#), [La Crosse Public Library Archives](#), [Langlade County Historical Society](#), Richland County History Room, Muehl Public Library (Seymour) and [Shorewood Historical Society](#)
- Local history and campus history resources from [UW-La Crosse](#)
- Field recordings from the [Dictionary of American Regional English \(DARE\)](#) and [folk and traditional music recordings](#) from the Upper Midwest, both from University of Wisconsin Digital Collections
- The papers of pioneering Wisconsin scientist [Increase A. Lapham](#), from the Wisconsin Historical Society

We also welcomed several new Content Partners who will have materials available online in 2018: Albertson Memorial Library (Albany), Dane County Library Service, Greendale Historical Society, Madison Public Library, Reedsburg Public Library and UW-Oshkosh.

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## LISTENING TO WAR: UNCOVERING WISCONSIN'S WARTIME HISTORIES



In May 2017, we wrapped up a yearlong planning project to identify, inventory and plan for the digitization and preservation of hidden, at-risk audiovisual collections across Wisconsin. This project, called [Listening to War: Uncovering Wisconsin's Wartime Oral Histories](#), was supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The planning project located more than 1,100 oral history recordings capturing personal accounts of Wisconsin veterans and civilians during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Persian Gulf War, held by 25 libraries, archives, museums and veterans centers around the state.

A directory of these A/V collections, [Wisconsin's Wartime Oral Histories](#), is now available online. As part of the planning grant, Digital Archives Assistant Dana Gerber-Margie worked with oral historians Troy Reeves (UW-Madison) and Ellen Brooks (Wisconsin Veterans Museum) to create a set of tip sheets. These handouts are freely available for anyone to download, use and share as they plan oral history initiatives:

- [Part 1: Questions to Consider](#)
- [Part 2: Best practices for collecting veterans' oral histories](#)
- [Part 3: Curated Resource List](#)

We submitted an implementation grant proposal to NEH in July 2017. If this grant is awarded, the work to digitize, preserve and provide access to the oral histories identified during the planning grant would begin in May 2018.

## CURATING COMMUNITY DIGITAL COLLECTIONS



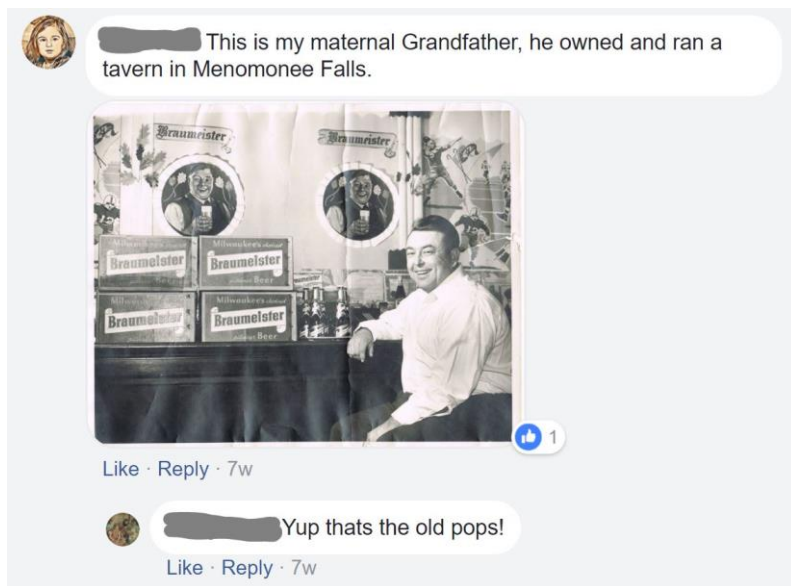
In 2017, we were awarded a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian Program to support a statewide digital preservation outreach and education initiative. [Curating Community Digital Collections \(CCDC\)](#) officially launched on December 1, 2017. We're thrilled to welcome archivist and educator Vicki Tobias as the part-time Program Coordinator for this exciting new project.

The CCDC project aims to increase small and mid-sized cultural heritage institutions' capacity to organize, store and manage their existing digital content while providing future information professionals with practical experience in digital curation. Over two years, 16 graduate students from the library schools at UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee, along with 10-16 host institutions from around the state, will receive training and mentoring in digital stewardship and will work together to manage, preserve and provide access to digital content.

## ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT

In 2017, we rededicated ourselves to using social media to share the history of Wisconsin with audiences in the state and beyond. By spotlighting unique images from our Content Partners on Facebook and Twitter, we achieved 13% organic (non-paid) growth in Facebook page likes and 5% organic growth in Twitter followers.

Our 10 most-popular Facebook posts in 2017 reached, on average, more than 3,000 viewers each. Some followers were even inspired to share their own family photos!



## LOOKING FORWARD

Recollection Wisconsin's priorities in 2018 include:

- Release a redesigned [recollectionwisconsin.org](http://recollectionwisconsin.org) website with a more contemporary look and improved functionality (anticipated February-March 2018).
- Build a new search interface for state and local history resources, using DPLA's aggregated metadata to replace our existing search portal.
- Engage with the DPLA Hubs Network nationwide through participation in the new DPLA Network Council and Advisory Council.
- Continue to expand access to unique local resources from Wisconsin's libraries, archives, historical societies and museums through coordinated training, shared standards, centralized content hosting and creative outreach and promotion.