



## 2015 Annual Report

Recollection Wisconsin's primary focus in 2015 was the development of our partnership with the [Digital Public Library of America](#). DPLA is an initiative to bring together the riches of America's libraries, archives, and museums and make them freely available to the world. Since launching in April 2013, DPLA has aggregated over 13 million items from more than 1,900 institutions across the United States. DPLA's nationwide network of partners includes numerous state and regional digital collaboratives as well as leading cultural and academic institutions such as the Smithsonian, the National Archives, Harvard, and the New York Public Library. As the DPLA Service Hub for Wisconsin, Recollection Wisconsin will serve as the "on-ramp" for our state's libraries and cultural heritage organizations to participate in DPLA, ensuring that local digital collections can be discovered as part of this groundbreaking program.

### **DPLA Service Hub planning activities**

Getting the Recollection Wisconsin Service Hub off the ground in 2015 involved convening numerous meetings of stakeholders, formalizing the consortium's governance structure and policies, building out the technology necessary to provide digital collections to DPLA, and sharing information about the initiative with current and potential Content Partners.

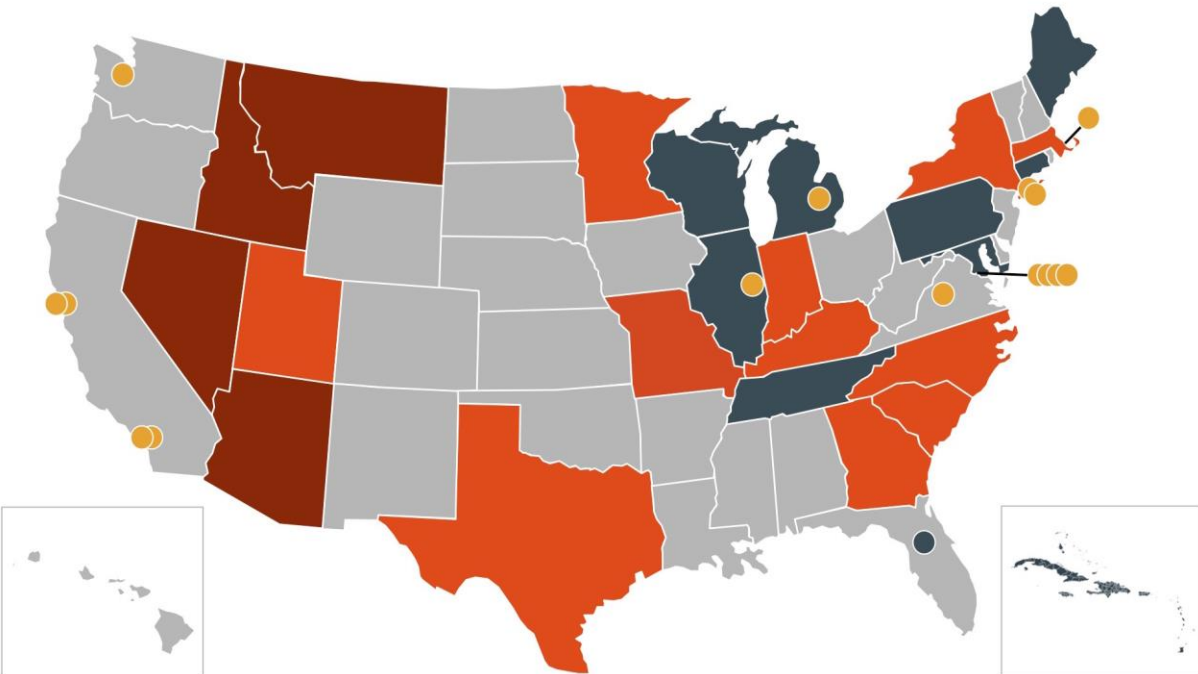
Recollection Wisconsin 2015 DPLA Service Hub activities:

- Coordinated and confirmed in-kind commitments of technology, content hosting, project management and other support by Governing Partners: Marquette University, Milwaukee Public Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, WiLS, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Historical Society
- Established Governing Board, Steering Committee and Metadata Work Group
- Applied for and received Service Hub status from DPLA
- Presented informational sessions about DPLA and the Service Hub planning process to staff of libraries and cultural heritage organizations at conferences around the state
- Established tools and procedures for ingesting, aggregating and sharing metadata from Content Partners' digital collections
- Began development of policy documents including a Collection Policy and a Participation Agreement for new Content Partners



## DPLA Hubs locations

- Service Hubs
- Service Hub partner states
- Content Hubs
- Hubs in active development



### New content

In 2015, we worked with UW-Madison IT staff to harvest metadata representing approximately 15,000 new digital records. The new content brings the total number of resources discoverable through the [recollection.wisconsin.org](http://recollection.wisconsin.org) portal to 231,270.

New collections added to Recollection Wisconsin in 2015:

1. [Beloit Public Library](#) – City directories and other local publications
2. [Brillion Public Library](#) – Scrapbooks, church records and other documents
3. Dane County Historical Society – [Madison Central High School Yearbooks 1900-1969](#)
4. East Troy Public Library – [East Troy Electric Railroad Collection](#)
5. [Kewaskum Public Library](#) – Photographs from the Kewaskum Historical Society
6. [Langlade County Historical Society](#) – Photographs and newsletters from a Civilian Conservation Corps camp near Elcho, Wisconsin.
7. [Medical College of Wisconsin](#) – Six digital collections featuring course catalogs, graduation programs, historical medical devices, and products developed by Marquette Electronics.
8. Milwaukee Public Library – [Historic Trade Cards Collection](#)
9. [Shawano County Memory Project](#) – Local history publications
10. Winding Rivers Library System – [Exploring Cultural History Online \(ECHO\)](#) – Photographs and postcards from 24 public libraries in western Wisconsin.

## Education and training

We offered six training opportunities related to creating and using digital collections, and shared information about our developing partnership with DPLA at five statewide and regional conferences. These events reached a total of approximately 380 staff and volunteers from schools, libraries, museums, and historical societies around the state.

### Workshops

- [Wisconsin Local History and Historic Preservation Conference](#)  
*With Sarah Grimm, Electronic Records Archivist, Wisconsin Historical Society*
- [WiLSWorld](#)  
*With experts from Beloit College, Mount Horeb Public Library, Outagamie Waupaca Library System, University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center and Wisconsin Historical Society*
- [Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies](#)
- [State Historic Preservation Office](#)

### Webinars

- Wisconsin Historical Society Field Services
- [Eastern Shores Library System](#)

### Conference presentations

- Wisconsin Library Association conference  
*Panel with DPLA Community Reps from Madison Public Library and UW-Madison SLIS*
- [WiLS Peer Council](#)  
*Panel with members of Recollection Wisconsin Governing Board and Steering Committee*
- [Lake Superior Libraries Symposium](#), Duluth, MN  
*With Molly Huber, Minnesota Digital Library*
- [Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries](#) (WAPL)  
*With Amy Rudersdorf, Assistant Director for Content, DPLA*
- [Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians](#) (WAAL)  
*With Amy Rudersdorf, Assistant Director for Content, DPLA*

Upcoming events scheduled in 2016 include digitization training workshops for South Central Library System, Council of University of Wisconsin Libraries, Wisconsin Local History and Historic Preservation Conference, and Wisconsin Public Library Consortium.

### Work with students

Recollection Wisconsin supervised and mentored three graduate students from the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) at UW-Madison, as well as one undergraduate History major. Student projects included creating enhanced descriptions for historical photographs, researching metadata standards used by other DPLA Service Hubs, and developing content for our social media channels and online exhibits.

We also partnered with a SLIS faculty member to provide a class of 30 graduate students with hands-on experience in building a digital collection. The Kewaskum Historical Society, in partnership with the Kewaskum Public Library, had previously scanned a group of photographs depicting businesses and

landmarks in Kewaskum. The students assigned titles, subject terms, dates and other descriptive metadata to each photo, applying the standards and procedures they learned in class to make the photos more searchable and useful for researchers as well as local residents.

### **New funding sources**

We secured several new sources of funding, enabling the program to continue current levels of service into 2017. These sources supplement our current in-kind contributions from Governing Partners, harvesting and hosting fees from Content Partners, and a three-year, \$75,000 grant from the Nicholas Family Foundation.

- Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), administered by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, will help support Wisconsin's participation in DPLA.
- The Wisconsin Public Library Consortium, in order to encourage collaboration among regional public library systems and facilitate digital projects in public libraries, contributed funds to support content hosting and the development of a web-based training curriculum.
- The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation awarded a grant for general operating costs.

### **Accolades**

Recollection Wisconsin was named to *Family Tree Magazine's* list of [Best State Websites for Genealogy in 2015](#). This list honors the best websites that specialize in genealogy research for one of the 50 US states.



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