

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW



[Recollection Wisconsin](#) is a collaborative statewide effort to bring together digital cultural heritage resources from Wisconsin libraries, archives, museums and historical societies and share them with the world.

Funding for Recollection Wisconsin in 2018 was provided by grants from the Nicholas Family Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) 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



Recollection Wisconsin has operated as the state's Service Hub for the [Digital Public Library of America](#) (DPLA) since 2016. As a Service Hub, we provide DPLA with metadata records describing over half a million digital cultural heritage resources from Wisconsin libraries, archives and museums. Our partnership with DPLA means digital collections from across Wisconsin can be discovered alongside 30 million resources from over 3,000 contributors nationwide, including the Smithsonian, the National Archives, the Library of Congress and the New York Public Library.

NEW PARTNERS AND COLLECTIONS

In 2018, we added more than 33,000 records to DPLA from both new and continuing Content Partners, including:

- **Edgewood College:** [Women of Edgewood College](#), a collection of video interviews and portrait photographs of past and present Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters at the College, and [Edgewood Literary Journals](#).
- **Madison Public Library's** [Living History Project](#): Oral history interviews and photos from the Greenbush and South Madison neighborhoods and the 2018 Madison Reunion event recalling protests and demonstrations on the UW-Madison campus in the late 1960s.
- **McFarland Historical Society:** The [McFarland Gold Star Mothers Collection](#) includes a diary, scrapbooks, letters, photographs and ephemera from two local women who lost sons in service during World War I.
- **Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center:** Images of [Walter Butler Shipbuilders](#) of Superior, Wisconsin during World War II. Metadata for these photos was created in collaboration with graduate students at the UW-Madison iSchool.
- **UW-Eau Claire:** Photos, yearbooks, newspapers, memorabilia and other [campus history materials](#).
- **UW-Milwaukee:** [Papers of Eldon Murray](#), a prominent activist in Milwaukee's LGBT community, and [Oral History Interviews of the Wisconsin HIV/AIDS History Project](#).

- UW-Oshkosh: [Campus yearbooks](#) 1897-1974.
 - Waldemar Ager Association: [Reform](#), a Norwegian-language newspaper published in Eau Claire from 1896 to 1941.
 - Photographs, clippings, oral histories and other local history materials from eleven public libraries within **South Central Library System**, representing the communities of [Albany](#), [Black Earth](#), [Cambria](#), [Marshall](#), [Pardeeville](#), [Prairie du Sac](#), [Reedsburg](#), [Sauk City](#), [Stoughton](#) and [Wisconsin Dells](#), as well as the [Dane County Library Service](#) bookmobile program.
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NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

In May 2018, we launched a fully redesigned [recollectionwisconsin.org](#) website. New and improved features of the site include the ability to browse collections by subject and format; a [Digital Projects Toolkit](#) that brings together best practices for digitization, metadata, copyright and other guidelines and training materials; and a move to a secure https web domain.

WLA CITATION OF MERIT FOR NICHOLAS FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Wisconsin Library Association honored the Nicholas Family Foundation and Foundation President Lynn S. Nicholas with a 2018 Citation of Merit. WLA's [Citation of Merit](#) is an award "conferred upon Wisconsin citizens who are neither librarians nor library trustees, who have made outstanding contributions to quality library services." We are deeply grateful for the generous support the Foundation has provided to Recollection Wisconsin for nearly a decade. Longtime Recollection Wisconsin Board and Steering Committee member Cathy Markwiese of the Milwaukee Public Library presented the award at the WLA annual conference in October.

LISTENING TO WAR: DIGITIZING WISCONSIN'S WARTIME ORAL HISTORIES

In April 2018, Recollection Wisconsin was awarded an implementation grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to digitize the wartime oral history recordings we identified during our 2016-2017 NEH-funded [planning project](#). The grant caught the attention of local media and the project was featured in the [Wisconsin State Journal](#) and on Milwaukee radio station WTMJ.



[Listening to War: Digitizing Wisconsin's Wartime Oral Histories](#) supports the digitization and preservation of oral history interviews from 25 Wisconsin libraries, archives, museums and veterans' organizations. These irreplaceable recordings capture 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. We are partnering with the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum to provide access to and preservation of these important stories.

In July, we welcomed Shawn Vesely to our team to lead this two-year project. Throughout the fall, Shawn coordinated the transfer of audiocassettes, VHS tapes and other analog media to Madison from [repositories around the state](#). He cataloged and barcoded each item in preparation for shipment to our digitization vendor, George Blood, L.P. of Fort Washington, Pennsylvania. In December 2018, we shipped out a total of 977 physical pieces of media for reformatting. The digitized recordings and related resources will be available online in 2020.

CURATING COMMUNITY DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

In 2018, Recollection Wisconsin completed year one of our two-year IMLS grant-funded project, [Curating Community Digital Collections](#) (CCDC). Six graduate students – four from UW-Madison's iSchool and two from UW-Milwaukee's School of Information Studies – were matched with small cultural heritage institutions throughout Wisconsin to complete digital preservation projects. Students and host sites received training and assistance from Recollection Wisconsin staff and mentoring from Wisconsin-based information professionals. Each student received a stipend and academic credit for their participation.

In May 2018, participants in the Year One CCDC cohort attended a three-day boot camp in Madison to prepare for their summer projects. The workshop introduced key digital stewardship activities including creating an inventory of digital assets, using free tools to rename and organize digital files and conduct file integrity checking, researching and making recommendations for storage and backup processes and creating digital preservation policies and documentation to inform future work. AVP Senior Consultant Amy Rudersdorf helped develop and present the workshop and provided expertise throughout the summer.

CCDC Project Managers Emily Pfothenauer and Vicki Tobias presented on the project at several meetings and conferences including symposia in Chicago and Boston. Participating students and host site supervisors shared their experiences on the [project blog](#) and listserv. CCDC continues in 2019 with a new cohort of ten students and host sites.

PLACES

Hosts

Rock County Historical Society
La Crosse Public Library Archives
College of Menominee Nation/Menominee Public Library
Outagamie Waupaca Library System
Manitowoc County Historical Society
Barron County Historical Society

Mentors

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries
Marquette University Archives/Special Collections
Beloit College Archives
University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center
Circus World Museum
University of Wisconsin-Stout Archives
UW-Madison iSchool
UW-Milwaukee SOIS



2,500+ miles traveled
throughout Wisconsin

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

In 2018, Recollection Wisconsin's outreach efforts on social media resulted in an 18% increase in Facebook page likes and a 4% growth in Twitter followers. On Facebook, we shared images from our Content Partners, ranging from ice harvesting to diving and incorporating hashtags like #NationalHotDogDay. We found success promoting unique local history gems such as a [National Basketball League](#) program from Mead Public Library in Sheboygan that reached 4,655 people, and by building image galleries depicting shared experiences from across our state. Wisconsin's summer flooding was the impetus for one of our most-viewed galleries, which highlighted photos of past flooding events from the [Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources](#) and [Wisconsin Emergency Management](#) via the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center.



DPLA amplified our Twitter presence significantly when they shared images from our Content Partners' collections on their own Twitter account. Our top post on Twitter, which earned 10,900 impressions, was a charming photograph of [poet Lorine Niedecker with a ukulele](#) from the Hoard Historical Museum in Fort Atkinson via UWDC.

Both Facebook and Twitter were effective ways to promote our grant awards and share project milestones. These posts were most frequently liked and shared by other library and archives professionals, making them a successful path to build awareness with others in the cultural heritage field across Wisconsin and beyond.

PRESENTATIONS

In 2018, Recollection Wisconsin staff presented sessions at conferences around the state, including the Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians (WAAL) in Oshkosh, Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) in Pewaukee, Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) in La Crosse and Wisconsin Local History and Historic Preservation conference in Elkhart Lake. We also shared our work with national audiences in presentations at the DPLA members meeting in Atlanta, a digital preservation symposium hosted by the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) in Boston and a regional digital preservation "unconference" in Chicago. Slides from past presentations can be found [on our website](#).

LOOKING AHEAD

Recollection Wisconsin's new and continuing projects in 2019 include:

- Working with the Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) on an IMLS-funded initiative to extend the reach of the [Community Archiving Workshop](#) program. In partnership with AMIA, we will offer workshops around the state to train library and museum staff and volunteers in how to assess their audiovisual collections and plan for future digitization and preservation.

- Offering a second cohort of the Curating Community Digital Collections program, which will provide 10 cultural heritage institutions and 10 graduate students with hands-on training and support in digital preservation skills and strengthen our growing statewide community of practice around digital stewardship.
 - Convening a storage work group to explore options for an affordable shared storage solution for digital objects.
 - Implementing a new search interface for search and discovery of our Content Partners' digital resources, using DPLA's new DPLA Local framework to replace our existing search portal.
 - Engaging with the national DPLA Hubs Network through participation in the DPLA Network Council, Advisory Council and work groups.
 - Continuing 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.
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Subscribe to Recollection Wisconsin's monthly [newsletter](#).
 - Check out our [blog](#).
 - Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
 - Join the conversation around digital stewardship on our digistew [Google Group](#).
 - Use our [contact form](#) to get in touch.
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STAFF



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