

[State Library of Ohio Traveling Library](#), 1898, Columbus
Metropolitan Library

Recollection Wisconsin

Journeys Through
Community Engagement

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recollection



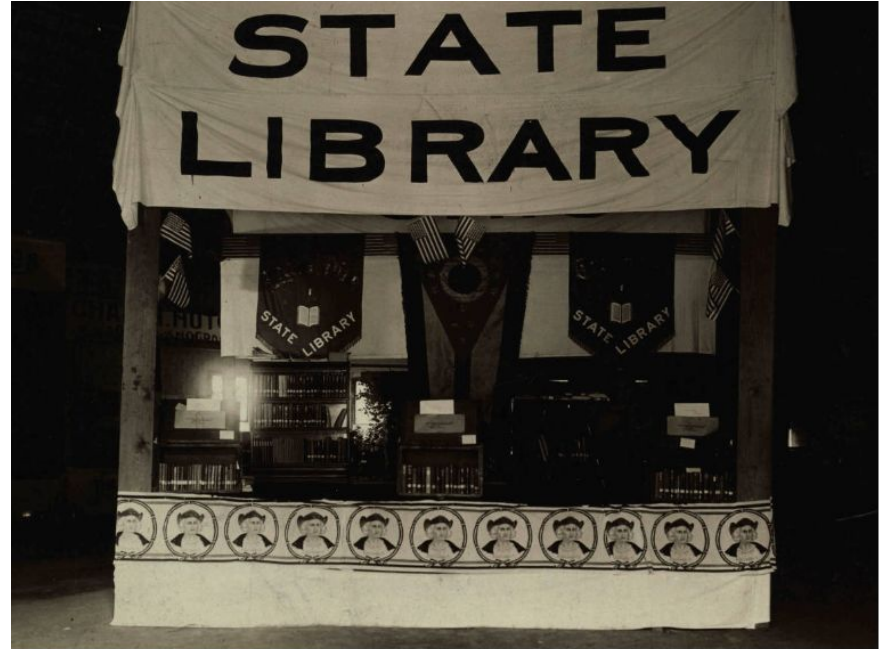
W I S C O N S I N

Recollection Wisconsin brings together digital cultural heritage resources from Wisconsin libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies and shares them with the world.

<https://recollectionwisconsin.org>

THE COLLECTION

- 638,217 metadata records in central search portal
- Photos, maps, books, artifacts, oral histories
- 390 collections from nearly 250 Wisconsin libraries, archives, historical societies, museums, government agencies, etc.
- State and local history resources as well as materials from across the country and around the world



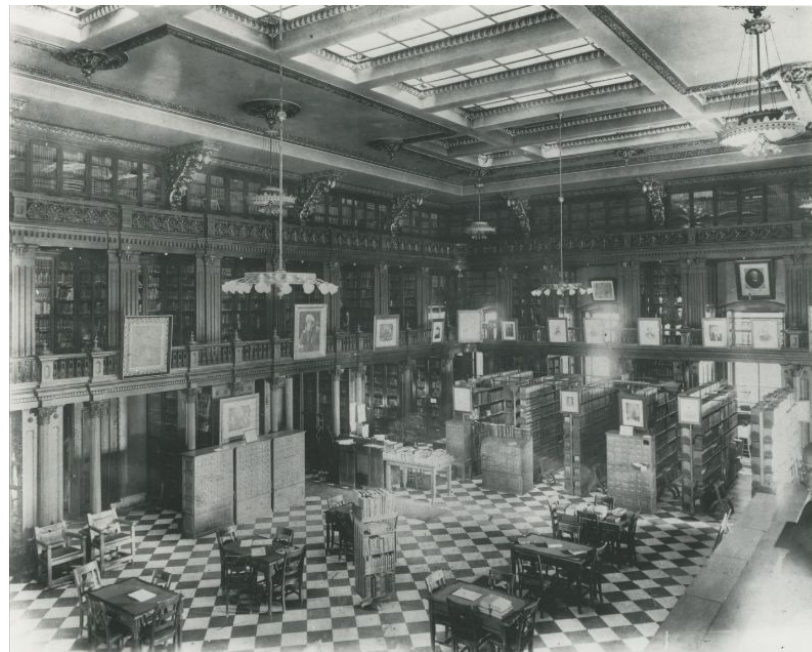
[State Library of Ohio fair booth](#), 1920, State Library of Ohio

THE COLLECTION

Amplifying Wisconsin History



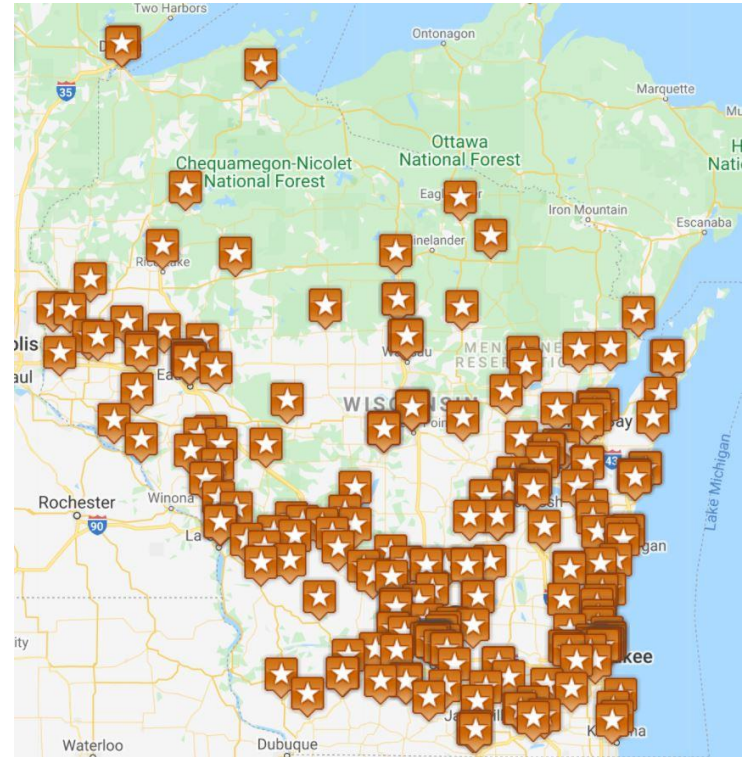
Recollection Wisconsin and the
Digital Public Library of America



[State Library of Ohio](#), undated, Columbus
Metropolitan Library

THE COMMUNITY

- Nearly 250 Content Partners contribute their historical resources to the collection
- 6 organizations anchor our Governing Board
- 13 members of our Steering Committee guide collection growth and maintenance
- 7 members of our Education Advisory Committee inform K12 outreach efforts



THE COMMUNITY



WHAT IS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

- “Come correct or don’t come at all” - mutually beneficial relationship building
- RELATIONSHIPS at the heart



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH RECOLLECTION WISCONSIN

- Curating Community Digital Collections
- Statewide Digital Readiness Community of Practice
- Gap analysis
- Stakeholder survey



CCDC GOALS

- Provide hands-on learning opportunities for graduate students
- Help small libraries, archives and historical societies gain control of digital assets
→ NDSA Level 1
- Build statewide community of practice around digital stewardship

CCDC PROJECTS

- 120 or 150 hours work
- On site and remote
- Virtual communication and project management tools
- Academic credit + summer stipend for students
- Site visits and mentor check-ins
- Virtual capstone event in August each summer
- Digital preservation policies and workflows



CCDC COMMUNITY

Relationships built:

- Between Recollection Wisconsin and cultural heritage organizations
- With students
- With mentors
- Between all of the above

Digital Readiness Community of Practice

Supported by NHPRC *Archives Collaboratives* grants

- We define digital readiness as having the knowledge, tools, resources and infrastructure to provide online public access to archives and historical records.
- First - planning and gathering information
- Then - implementing responses to what we learned



PLANNING FOR A DIGITAL READINESS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

- Community conversations
- Statewide survey
- Past experiences and conversations

RESPONSES

- Community conversations
 - 116 individuals representing 62 different local history organizations
 - 5 regional community conversations
- Community survey
 - Sent to 410 local history organizations in Wisconsin
 - 127 individuals representing over 90 different Wisconsin local history organizations responded



DIGITAL READINESS SURVEY

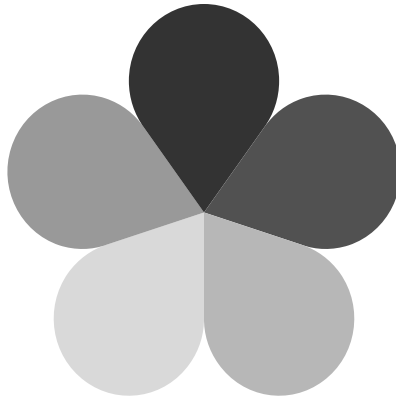
Lack of time/funding

27%: biggest obstacle to digitizing is lack of funding

41%: biggest obstacle is lack of time

Digitizing without guidelines

75%: no written guidelines or policies that inform decisions to scan or create digital files.



Community partnerships

73%: partner with other organizations to digitize historic materials

Standards and best practices

25%: don't know which standards or best practices they use in their digitization work.

Existing communities of practice

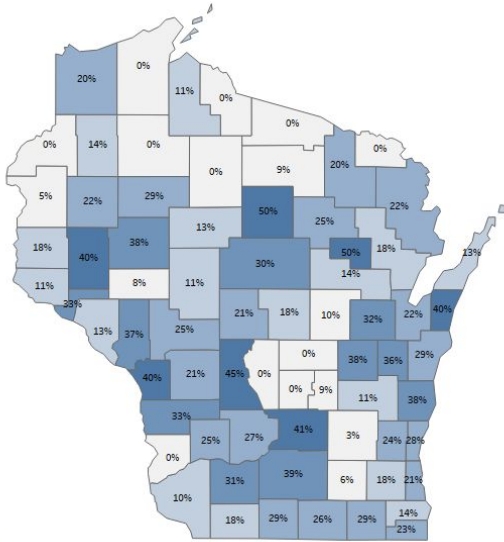
41%: use peer organizations for support related to digitization or digital collection development work.

IMPLEMENTING DIGITAL READINESS

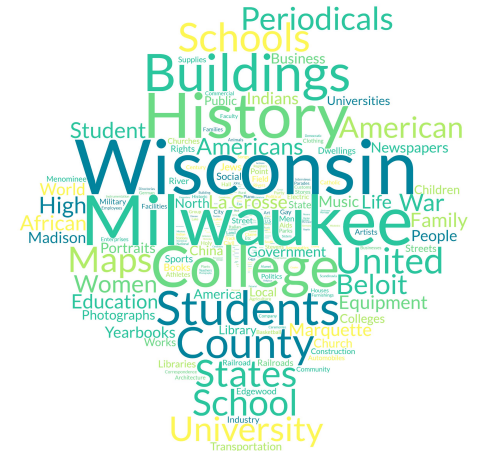
- Digital Readiness Levels
- Glossary
- Case Studies
- Digital Readiness Fairs
- Digital Readiness Toolkit



GAP ANALYSIS



- Content partner analysis
- Search expectation analysis
- Collection analysis



STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

Importance	Individual Organization	State's Cultural Heritage Community
#1	State Portal (Q13)	Enhance Diversity with Small, Rural, and Tribal Collections (Q17)
#2	Enhance Diversity with Small, Rural, and Tribal Collections (Q17) – TIED WITH – Guidance/Support of RW (Q15)	State Portal (Q13)
#3	Discoverability through Metadata (Q18)	Guidance/Support of RW (Q15)

WHAT WE LEARNED

- Surveys work...
- ...when built on a foundation of relationships
- Responding to needs and requests goes a long way
- Accessibility in language, format, and tone are really important

YOUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Which communities do you engage with?
- What's worked, what hasn't?
- Community engagement opportunities coming up that you'd like to discuss?

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<https://recollectionwisconsin.org/newsletters>

Thank you!



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