DIY Natural History: Public Engagement through Digital Collections

Mark F. Anderson

University of Iowa
DIY Natural History
Public Engagement through Digital Collections

Iowa History Camp
Nov. 14, 2015
Des Moines, Iowa

Mark F. Anderson
Digital Collections Librarian
The University of Iowa
The Iowa Digital Library features more than a million digital objects created from the holdings of the University of Iowa Libraries and its campus partners. Included are illuminated manuscripts, historic maps, fine art, historic newspapers, scholarly works, and more. Digital collections are coordinated by Digital Research & Publishing.

Collection Spotlight

**Victorian Tradecards**

Colorful ephemera used to advertise American goods & services in the late 1800s

**UI Physical Education for Women**

100 years of photos documenting the UI's pioneering program for women

**University of Iowa Museum of Art**

Nearly 10,000 works of art from the UIMA's permanent collections

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Iowa Digital Library News

The feed providing these headlines is not available.
100+ collections, 750,000+ images, sound, video

<table>
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<tr>
<th>University of Iowa Libraries, Special Collections and Archives:</th>
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<td>• Civil War Diaries</td>
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<td>• Henry Wallace Papers</td>
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<td>• Historic Iowa Landownership Maps</td>
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<td>• Ding Darling Editorial Cartoons</td>
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<td>• Stradivari Quartet Recordings</td>
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<td>• Office of the State Archaeologist Photographs</td>
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<th>Off-Campus Contributors:</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Figge Art Museum Grant Wood Scrapbooks</td>
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<td>• Live From Prairie Lights Readings</td>
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<td>• WWII Iowa Press Clippings</td>
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<td>• Iowa City Foreign Relations Council Videos</td>
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<td>• Evelyn Birkby Scrapbooks and Recordings</td>
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http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu
Saturday April 23rd
This has been a day of some excitement. The surgeon in charge and Lieut. Smith called early in the morning to see Mrs. Hazen and I was not quite ready to go out. So Doctor had to talk with them. Among other things, he was sorry we had almost missed seeing Mrs. Hazen, and almost missed seeing Doctor who did not know when she could get to such a place. The whole manuscript had a continuous airliness that we felt how nice it was to have us. I shall not forget the ride fifteen miles in which they took us to a house near. They refused to let us have an air balance. The girls smelled to town and saved the dogs.
Crowdsourcing the Civil War

June 7, 2011 / Permalink / Short URL

Have a little time to spare? Consider helping transcribe Civil War letters and diaries online.

In commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, the libraries of the University of Iowa put together the exhibit “Now Do Not Let Your Courage Fail: Voices from the Civil War,” currently on display at the university, which incorporates letters and diaries from three manuscript collections. As a part of this exhibit documents were scanned and made available online here (image below).
Anyone else getting a really slow connection to this site?

Reddit the giant
Wants to pet the small website
Squishes it instead
also received a letter from Mr. Vancooper.
Jan 25 Weather clear and [belly?] as at spring. Nothing new in Camp.
Jan 26 Weather clear and warm cloudy this evening, looks like Storm I have a very sore foot caused by a [gastric?] on my heel. Nothing new.
Jan 27. Snowed a little last night. Raining by spells all day. Had an Oyster Supper last night. Good news in the papers think the Rebels are getting sick of their Job. Wrote a letter to Sally
Civil War Diaries and Letters

8556 of 9154 pages have been transcribed!

- JOSEPH KOHOUT LETTERS, 1865-1865
- GEORGE HALL LETTERS, 1861-1864
- CLARA VINSON WEAVER'S LETTERS TO HUSBAND JAMES B. WEAVER, 1862-1864
- MARY SHELTON DIARY, 1864
- NARRATIVE OF THE WESTERN THEATRE IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, 1860s
- MANN FAMILY LETTERS, 1851-1856
Iowa Women’s Lives: Letters and Diaries

941 of 973 pages have been transcribed!

- 2% started: IOWA BYINGTON REED DIARY, JANUARY 1, 1883-DECEMBER 31, 1883
- 26% started: CORRESPONDENCE TO ALBERT MILLER FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS, BOONE COUNTY, IOWA, 1875-1915
- 61% started: RUTH SALZMANN BECKER RECIPE BOOK, MID- TO LATE 20TH CENTURY
- 71% started: LAURA ROBINSON DIARY, 1865
- 74% started: EVE DREWLOE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL WRITING, 1980s
- 81% started: EVE DREWLOE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL WRITING, 1980s
Szathmary Culinary Manuscripts and Cookbooks

8141 of 6379 pages have been transcribed!

- Julian Booker Thompson Recipe and Travel Book, 1896 (6% started)
- New England Manuscript Cookbook, 1860-1910 (7% started)
- M. J. Delaney Cookbook, 1933 (10% started)
- American Cookbook, 1900 (12% started)
- New England Manuscript Cookbook, Ca. 1897 (15% started)
- Wisconsin Cookbook, 1903-1920 (16% started)
Building the Transcontinental Railroad

1872 of 1872 pages have been transcribed.
Citizen Science

Galaxy Zoo is a Zooniverse project.

Classify

Note: Please always classify the galaxy in the center of the image.

SHAPE
Is the galaxy simply smooth and rounded, with no sign of a disk?

- Smooth
- Features or disk
- Star or artifact
All projects complete! To find an incomplete project to work on, please try selecting from a different Museum/Archive or Theme. All projects complete! To find an incomplete project to work on, please try selecting from a different Museum/Archive or Theme.

**THE BUMBLEBEE PROJECT - SET 1**
Please help us create digital records for the United States National Entomological Collection! We will be transcribing the labels of specimens of bumblebees. Bumblebees are found in the Bombus genus (Hymenoptera: Apidae). They are social insects that feed on nectar and collect pollen to feed their young. Bumblebees are very important pollinators! Learn how to transcribe this project and get started. The digitization of this project has been made possible with the generous support of Pixel Acuity, LLC. Please contact Jessica Bird (birdj@si.edu), Department of Entomology, for any questions or comments about the transcriptions and thanks to all of you for your help!

**THE BUMBLEBEE PROJECT - SET 10**
Please help us create digital records for the United States National Entomological Collection! We will be transcribing the labels of specimens of bumblebees. Bumblebees are found in the Bombus genus (Hymenoptera: Apidae). They are social insects that feed on nectar and collect pollen to feed their young. Bumblebees are very important pollinators! Learn how to transcribe this project and get started. The digitization of this project has been made possible with the generous support of Pixel Acuity, LLC. Please contact Jessica Bird (birdj@si.edu), Department of Entomology, for any questions or comments about the transcriptions and thanks to all of you for your help!

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### Oological Collection of T. W. Dewing, New York

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A.O.U. Number</th>
<th>616</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>C. viridula hercia (Linnaeus)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Set Mark</td>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>Branch Swallow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collected In</td>
<td>Cornell, New Hampshire</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Collector</td>
<td>T. W. Dewing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>June 10, 1895</td>
<td>Number in Set</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incubation</td>
<td>Fresh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This set of 3 eggs collected by myself*
About UIMNH Collections

Most collections at the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History originated in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and came from University expeditions, faculty collections, and private donors. Egg collecting was a popular hobby before 1918, when the Migratory Bird Treaty Act went into force to protect birds and made it illegal to take, possess, import, export, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase, or barter, any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid permit. The Museum maintains current permits to have and use these collections. By transcribing data associated with our historic collections, you are helping the Museum to get information about the specimens into the hands of researchers all around the globe, so they can study this valuable scientific resource.

Key to Sample Egg Cards

SAMPLE COMPOUND CARD

SAMPLE FREE FORM CARD

Note: If the blank space contains similar data, transcribe the one that is more complete.
The 80/20 rule

Pareto principle

Law of the vital few

Principle of factor sparsity
THE 80/20 RULE OF SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING

By Ryan Joneson

If you aren't familiar with the 80/20 rule in the business world, it basically means that 80% of your revenue comes from 20% of your clients. Therefore you should focus your efforts on gaining more clients like your top 20%.

In short, spend more time on the things that matter, and less time on the things that don't. It's a rule that you can apply to your career, relationships, diet, and even social media.

80/20 rule in action!

In mid-October, 588 transcriptions (starts + edits)
28 registered users
20 % = 6 users
Those top 6 had done 467/588
Or...
79.4%
Questions?

Student giving a speech in class, 1940s
The University of Iowa
http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ictcs/id/3202