11-14-2015

DIY Natural History: Public Engagement through Digital Collections

Mark F. Anderson

University of Iowa
100+ collections, 750,000+ images, sound, video

University of Iowa Libraries, Special Collections and Archives:
• Civil War Diaries
• Henry Wallace Papers
• Historic Iowa Landownership Maps
• Ding Darling Editorial Cartoons
• Stradivari Quartet Recordings

University Campus Partners:
• UI Museum of Art
• Office of the State Archaeologist Photographs
• Dentistry College Class Photographs
• Iowa Journalists Oral Histories
• University of Iowa Alumni Publications

Off-Campus Contributors:
• Figge Art Museum Grant Wood Scrapbooks
• Live From Prairie Lights Readings
• WWII Iowa Press Clippings
• Iowa City Foreign Relations Council Videos
• Evelyn Birkby Scrapbooks and Recordings

http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu
Saturday April 23rd
This has been a day of some excitement. The surgeon in charge and several ladies called early in the morning. Miss Hope and I went out to get ready to go out. So Dottie had to take the children. The ladies were so noisy and almost drove us away. Said we didn’t know when we could get to church and upon the whole, scrappy had a constant absence of what she felt like. She was so sick that she was sent to bed, and I don’t think she will be able to leave us. I shall not forget the mile of dirty roads in which they took us to church. She refused to let us have our own bed. She and the girl smell the 440 and was so kind.
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

http://www.reddit.com/r/todayilearned/comments/humy3/til_how_to_participate_in_history_while_sitting/
also received a letter from Mr. Varnum.  
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 [gathering?] 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
World War II Diaries and Letters

7688 of 7689 pages have been transcribed!
Building the Transcontinental Railroad

1872 of 1872 pages have been transcribed

CLARK W. DURANT
CORRESPONDENCE,
ALBANY, N.Y., 1853-1858

CORRESPONDENCE
FROM W. F. GRAY TO
THOMAS C. DURANT,
CHICAGO, ILL., 1868

DUNCAN, SHERMAN &
CO. CORRESPONDENCE
TO THOMAS C. DURANT,
NEW YORK, NEW YORK,
1853

DURANT, LATHROP & CO.
CORRESPONDENCE,
INVOICES AND
RECEIPTS, 1852-1856

THOMAS C. DURANT
ESTATE
CORRESPONDENCE,
1885-1910

HELOISE H. DURANT
FINANCIAL AND LEGAL
DOCUMENTS, 1875-1881
Citizen Science

Galaxy Zoo is a Zooniverse project.
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 (bird@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 (bird@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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Museum of Natural History Egg Cards

712 of 1893 pages have been transcribed!

THOMAS WILMER DEWING, EGG CARDS
12% started

FRANK CARROLL, EGG CARDS
14% started

CLINTON MELLON JONES, EGG CARDS
19% started

CLINTON MELLON JONES, EGG CARDS
23% started

WILLIAM FERRELL COULTAS, EGG CARDS
60% started
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.O.U. Number</td>
<td>616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td>C. livia (Linnaeus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set Mark</td>
<td>3/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Collector</td>
<td>T. W. Dewing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Collected</td>
<td>June 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number in Set</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incubation Stage</td>
<td>Fresh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locality</td>
<td>Cornell, New Hampshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handwritten Note</td>
<td>This set of 3 eggs collected by myself</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 these specimens into the hands of researchers all around the globe, so they can study this valuable scientific resource.

Key to Sample Egg Cards

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**SAMPLE COMPOUND CARD**

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**SAMPLE FREE FORM CARD**

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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