DIY History: Building Digital Connections between Collections and Courses

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<td>Philip H. Conard diary, 1864-1865</td>
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<td>Joseph Franklin Culver papers, 1863</td>
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<td>Shelton family letters, 1864-1936</td>
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<td>James B. Weaver letters, 1860-1864</td>
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<td>Wise-Clark family letters, May-July 1865</td>
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### Current Progress:

As of August 6, 2012 there have been **14,705** pages transcribed.

### Rediscovering Voices

Thanks to the development of "crowdsourcing" or collaborative transcription of manuscript materials, libraries are now able to use the knowledge and interest of the general public to meet goals that they would never have the time, financial, and staff resources to achieve on their own. Please help us improve access by transcribing the hand-written pages in this collection.

Simply select an item and enter the text as it appears on the digitized image.
TIL how to participate in history while sitting on my ass by transcribing Civil War diaries online. (digital.lib.siu.edu)

In a way, you are already doing that by logging in to some websites with captchas from google recaptcha :). Currently digitizing old New York Times editions.

That knowledge makes me actually a little happy every time I have to deal with one. It also makes me extra careful, because if I mess up it has actual consequences beyond just having to retype it.
212,138 people visited this site

- Visits: 291,271
- Unique Visitors: 212,138
- Pageviews: 1,531,569
- Pages / Visit: 5.26
- Avg. Visit Duration: 00:04:03
- Bounce Rate: 52.68%
- % New Visits: 71.92%
13 Things For History Lovers To Do Online When They’re Bored

Help out historians by volunteering to transcribe old documents online. Here are some fun projects to work on.

History needs your help!

There are tons of libraries, institutions, archives, and historical societies out there that have gobs and gobs of documents, letters, data logs, and basically anything written. To fully digitize all this handwritten information, they’re asking for help from volunteers to transcribe the pages.

They’ve already taken photographs or scans of the pages, all you need to do is look at the image and type out what you see written there. That way, the information can be made searchable.
2. Uncover the history of the pioneer women of Iowa through their diaries and letters.

The University of Iowa’s DIY History project includes a lovely collection of women’s letters, diaries, and other personal papers from the 1800s–1900s. If you ever wanted to read someone’s diary, now you can actually do it for a good cause.


The letters and diaries from soldiers of these major military conflicts will be like gold to researchers of American history. The collections include official notices, as well as sweet love letters from soldiers to their wives, like this one.

8. Have a knack for cooking? Transcribe cookbooks from as early as 1600 from the Szathmary Culinary Manuscripts and Cookbooks collection at the University of Iowa.
LAURA
LA PLANTE
A GREAT COMEDY in LOADS OF LAUGHS
"Thanks for the Buggy Ride"
with Glenn Tryon
RAY MAR and his CHEER REVUE CO.
HELD OVER A SECOND WEEK—ALL NEW SHOW
ALWAYS DELIGHTFULLY COOL IN THE SUMMER!

LAURA
LA PLANTE
UNE GRANDE COMEDIE — dans — CHARGEMENTS DE RIRE
"Thanks for the Buggy Ride"
avec Glenn Tryon
RAY MAR et son RABLE Revue Co.
Engagé pour une deuxième Saison. — Tout Nouveau Spectacle —
TOUJOURS AGREABLEMENT FRAIS EN ÉTÉ!
Merrill, Aug. 28, 1863.

Gentlemen: It having been reported to me that you are interested in the proposition of the St, Paul and Duluth and Bemidji Railroad, I have been directed to answer your inquiries. In my opinion it would be a most advantageous proposition to the state, and I hope you will give serious consideration to the proposition.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

[Address]
The Word Science Fiction Convention

The First Day, July 2, 1939

We set out with the self-certification and launch ourselves directly into an account of the greatest convention of all time: the First World Science Fiction Convention.

July 2, 1939 found the fans already starting to arrive early. At 10:00 A.M. there were quite a number of editors, authors, and fans already at the hall. As you probably know, if you received this copy of the program, the opening session was a set-together affair from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Fans were able to meet, be introduced to the famous authors, and possibly even meet their heroes. Those famous science fiction personalities that they had heard so very much about. Everyone who was anyone was there, including H. Beam Piper, E. E. Barnard, and Donald M. Grant. And the price of the book is $1.50. It is the length of three novels.

Then a little trouble to break in with a stack of cosmetics and multi-convention booklets. It was finally necessary to call the police to keep them out, but they quickly set off the sound of the Convention. From then on, for the very first time, the fans were shown how a science fiction convention should be run. And it was a success. Hell just look at page 80 in the Convention issue of "Science Fiction" magazine. It was packed with stories from many standpoints. It gave fans the time of their lives. It introduced many new readers to fantasy. It was a sound financial investment. It made new readers and valuable publicity for professional magazines through the write-up in "Science Fiction" and through the paid advertisements in the printed program. And no doubt you could pick out many examples of success-value.

The Convention was called to order at about 1:00 P.M. Chairman Moskowitz mounted the platform and waited for order. In that official declaration "The World Science Fiction Convention has been launched." He explained to the fans to keep the minutes of the Convention. Howard Van Buren volunteered and was accepted. Then Moskowitz launched the famous Fandoms, which are reprinted in full elsewhere in this volume. This first speech was given by William S. Sykora, who is Fandom and New Fandom. Sykora said indirectly, the spirit of Fandom which is now to be known as the word Science Fiction and New Fandom. It's better than we can repeat here, if fandom wanted things done right, wereChild a whole organization which could do it. --- NEW FANDOM

"Science Fiction and the Spirit of Youth" was the subject of the famous Fantasy and Space-Fiction. Frank A. Pollock, editor, but due to the fact that Leo Margulies, editor of Thrilling Wonder Stories had to leave soon, Moskowitz temporarily had Pollock's talk postponed until the last. Margulies made a few extemporaneous remarks from the floor. Leo Margulies' talk was a possibility of two hours. In a long discussion plans with the editor of this magazine for a new idea that Standard is about to put forth that concerns every science fiction lover. He was reticent to admit just what it was, but from the hints here and there, it seems to be something exceedingly good.

Kenneth Milling, who was present by the Convention, asked how much the Convention would be possible to succeed? As an important announcement he would like to make. Moskowitz knocked him in immediately after his talk. He was the editor of the F. O. L. for 20 years. He worked in his memory. The editors of this volume, Mr. Barret and Donald M. Grant, and the price of the book is $1.50. It is in the length of three novels.

The last of August, but since some introduction by the chairman, the editor of the Fantasy and Space-Fiction, Frank A. Pollock, fantasy-author imaginative plus, was introduced to the Convention. Some events of the Convention should be worse the cocky of Pollock's heart, and we think it did in his smug expression. He spoke on a high subject, exemplifying the fact that science fiction had a large share of science fiction in space and old world a youthful and vigorous mind and an attitude which was very well for the future development of the world. He pointed especially to the fact that the world has made more progress in the past 30 years than in the preceding three thousand. He firmly believes that science fiction is a medium which keeps old minds and young minds alike a constructive influence toward the formation of a greater world of tomorrow.

At the request of Mr. Margulies, Roy Cummings, whom I have shortly, was introduced to the assembly and received a thunderous applause. He spoke on a high subject, exemplifying the fact that science fiction had a large share of science fiction in space and old world a youthful and vigorous mind and an attitude which was very well for the future development of the world. He pointed especially to the fact that the world has made more progress in the past 30 years than in the preceding three thousand. He firmly believes that science fiction is a medium which keeps old minds and young minds alike a constructive influence toward the formation of a greater world of tomorrow.

An intermission of 15 minutes was agreed to while the apparatus for the fantasy film "Ectopolis" was set up. The audience was large and talked, but there was an atmosphere of intense interest to see what the so-called greatest of fantasy film would really and actually be like. Fortunately a virtually new print had been discovered in time apparatus, which showed up in an ideal fashion to the full-screen. It was clearly evident from the start that the apparatus was too melodramatic and considerably overdone, still, though there were parts of it which could not help but enjoy the most obvious pre-assigned touches, the theme of the film, even unsurpassed even today. There was no doubt, but despite what happens, the film was magnificently produced, that it was a record of events long ago, a highly noticeable at times. Certainly "Ectopolis" was not the greatest of all time, as believed, but it most certainly was, worth seeing. The film lasted two hours on the screen, but all too short for such science fiction lovers as myself and others. Arrangements was then called for about half an hour to give fans a chance to indulge in refreshments, which were supplied in great abundance. It was during this intermission that some of the finest times
Archives Alive

| really happy now
| you should meet
| really a knock-out.
| may else I shuld
| had bettl tell
| with me.
| from injuries
| last night.
| not last sunday.
| to the mille
| 5:30 & really worked
| back to the house
| on my bed.
Start with students
My Dearest Darling,

It is Sunday morning and my wife and I are up in room 203 in Hotel San Diego. I am really happy now that I am married. You should meet my wife. She is really a knockout. I just asked her last else I should do next.

11-16-41
Students can do more than they are usually asked
Good learning objectives account for context
My dear son Herman

Papa loves you so much - he knows you are such a good boy and that you love your Mama with all your heart.

Papa kisses this paper right inside this ring,

and so, if you will kiss it too, it's like kissing Papa. You must also let dear Francis and little darling Sophy kiss the ring, so that Papa knows that all his children love him.
Teach multimodality
Hello, Evelyn. You know I think I really am in love, because he just kept talking about you all night while I was trying to sleep. Sure wish you and Helen taught school in San Diego. On weekends we could all get together. Try to get a job here next year. I'm really missing you.

Adios, Amigos.

[Signature]

Oct. 14
teach with projects
Course & Student Learning

- Writing center
  Specialists, Tutors
- Instructional design and assessment
- Classroom instructors
  Instructor(s), TAs, Librarians
- E-learning
- Content management
  Instructor, Library
- Classroom technology
  Instructional technologists and support
- 1:1 student support
  Instructor, Library and student services
“In high school, I was never very interested in whatever research project was assigned to me and it was very difficult to enjoy what I was doing. With Archives Alive!, all I wanted to do was continue researching... This project taught me that when something interests you, it never really feels like research as much as it feels like learning more about an old friend or uncovering hidden, exciting secrets.”

“I was pleasantly surprised that I found myself enjoying the research. Next time I’m home I’m planning on reading through some of my grandpa’s old letters... I’m interested in hearing about his personal experiences and will hopefully get some good stories. My grandpa passed before I was born, so it will be a good 'bonding' experience for us.”

“When I was researching... I realized just how little of Iowa, the state where I have lived my whole life, I actually know and have seen. I used to think that I knew everything about Iowa and how all the people here lived, but it really put into perspective exactly how little that I do know. To think of each little town, each with its own history and attractions, made me want to just drive around the state and see it for myself.”
Recipe for Obtaining a Pig's Face

After having cleaned the head thoroughly, set the head in a pot and cover it with salted water and set it on the fire. When the head is thoroughly covered, place it in a pot of boiling water and cover it. After it has been cooked for three hours, take it out and remove the skin. The eyes and brains can then be removed from the pot. After the skin has been removed, the head can be cut into smaller pieces.
HOW CAN I DO THIS?
my dear mother your letter received today and you don't know how glad I was to hear from you. It is only this second time I have got from you since you went to the hospital. I am not writing to you as much as I have to Leona. Next month you are mistaken for every time with very few exceptions that I have written to her. I write
Be Unafraid of Scale
Resources in Reallocation
@DIY_History
@Idealinitiative
@UILibraries