4-1-2014

DIY History and Participatory Archives

Paul A. Soderdahl

University of Iowa
DIY | History & Participatory Archives
DIY History & Participatory Archives

Introduction

Crowdsourcing transcriptions

Participatory archives

Citizen science, citizen scholars

Questions and discussion
DIY | History & Participatory Archives

Introduction

Paul Soderdahl
Director
Library Information Technology
University Libraries
100 Main Library
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1420
319-335-5867  Fax 319-335-5900
paul-soderdahl@uiowa.edu
DIY History & Participatory Archives

Introduction
DIY | History & Participatory Archives

Introduction

Crowdsourcing transcriptions

Participatory archives

Citizen science, citizen scholars

Questions and discussion
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>George S. and Sarah Smith, 1860s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Original</td>
<td>186-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topical Subject (LCTGM)</td>
<td>Soldiers, Women, Spouses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topical Subject (LCSH)</td>
<td>United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Name Subject</td>
<td>Smith, George S., Smith, Sarah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic Subject</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronological Subject</td>
<td>1860-1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type (DCMIType)</td>
<td>Still image</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type (AAT)</td>
<td>Portraits, Tintypes (Prints), Photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type (IMT)</td>
<td>jpg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Collection</td>
<td>Civil War Diaries and Letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributing Institution</td>
<td>University of Iowa Libraries, Special Collections Dept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archival Collection</td>
<td>George S. Smith papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Identifier</td>
<td>MsC890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding Aid</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/spec-coll/msc/MsC890/MsC890/georgessmith.html">http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/spec-coll/msc/MsC890/MsC890/georgessmith.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rights Management</td>
<td>Educational use only, no other permissions given. U.S. and international copyright laws may protect this digital image. Commercial use or distribution of the image is not permitted without prior permission of the copyright holder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Information</td>
<td>Contact the Special Collections Dept. at The University of Iowa Libraries: <a href="http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/spec-coll/contact/index.html">http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/spec-coll/contact/index.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digitization Specifications</td>
<td>Scanned with Ricoh Aficio 2335 Scanner at 600 ppi, 24-bit color. Master image available in tiff format.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FileName</td>
<td>31658055129575_Tintype.jpg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
military guard appeared at the gate, the officer in command stating that his orders were to arrest all parties attending the funeral. The attendants, to the number of nineteen, were then taken under escort to the Gilmore House, and placed in a room in the second story, adjoining Gen. Tyler’s headquarters. The officiating clergymen named above were not arrested, they having left the ground after the chapel services. It is stated that the services in the chapel were confined strictly to those for the burial of the dead, and that no eulogistic discourse was spoken. The body was clothed in the suit which the deceased wore on the field of battle, although statements had been made that a new Confederate uniform had been procured and placed upon it after reaching Baltimore. The gentlemen arrested were kept under guard until about nine o’clock, when Colonel Cheesborough, of General Schenck’s staff, appeared, and informed them of the circumstances which led to their arrest. Information had been received by the military authorities that the body of Captain Brown had been dressed in Confederate uniform, after its arrival, and kept here several days, for the purpose of allowing parties to view it.

The reading of the above paragraph can not fail to occasion the deepest indignation in the public mind. Permission having been
TUESDAY, May 5th, 1863.

Cloudy with chills.

Dear Mort, I am...
DIY History & Participatory Archives
Crowdsourcing transcriptions
DIY History & Participatory Archives

Crowdsourcing transcriptions

Select an Item to Begin Transcribing:

- Clara Barton letters to cousin Len., 1863-1864
- Bean family letters, 1845-1863
- Bean family letters, 1862-1863
- Bean family letters, 1848-1858
- Miles Reay letters, 1854-1863
- Miles Reay letters, 1893
- Oliver Boardman letters, 1861-1862
- John C. Brown diary, 1864
- Anson R. Butler letters, 1861-1900
- Letters to Hattie Smith Cree, 1863-1865
- Andrew F. Davis letters to wife and daughters, 1861
- Andrew F. Davis letters to wife and daughters, 1862
- Andrew F. Davis letters to wife and daughters, 1863
- Laura Gilson letters to mother, 1863
- Iowa Cavalry, 1st Regiment, letters, 1861-1862
- Frank Malcolm letters, 1864
- Mann family letters, 1851-1856
- Byron McClain letters, 1863-1864
- McDowell family letters, 1837-1863
- Mead family letters, 1861
- Mead family letters, 1862
- Mead family letters, 1863
- Mead family letters, 1864
- Mead family letters, Jan-March 1864
- Mead family letters, May 1864
- Mead family letters, June-July 1864

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.
DIY History & Participatory Archives
Crowdsourcing transcriptions

SHELTON family papers, 1864-1936

Enter transcription in the box below.
Copy the text exactly, including misspellings, abbreviations, and punctuation.
Indicate illegible text in square brackets: ']' or '[town?]
Hit the return key to indicate a new paragraph.

Transcription:
Saturday, April 23rd
This has been a day of some excitement. The surgeon in charge and the other
both pulled early as the morning. We all got up early and I went over with
an idea of going out to see the gun. We had to wait until the rain
stopped. We had almost no rain. This did not please us, and we did not
know when we could get to work and again the whole crowd
and a few persons with us. We felt like nothing had
changed us. I shall not forget the way the people in their
selves to their houses and the
name of the girl called to town and when she

Name (optional):
Email (optional):

Submit Transcription

Questions? Contact us at hhdigital@uiowa.edu
This has been a day of some excitement. The surgeon in charge and executive both called early in the morning. Miss Hagan and I were not quite ready to go out so [auntie?] had to talk with them alone. Dr. Byrd was sarcastic and almost insulting. Said he did not know when we could get to work, and from the whole manifested a contemptuous indifference that we felt like asking him to leave us. I shall not forget the vile filthy beds in which they put us to sleep nor the refusal to let us have an ambulance. The girls [walked?] to town and raised the indignation of our friends. They brought clean bed clothing and provisions. Also a [hr?] for a toilet. Before they went we sent for Dr. [?]. He came and while here informed Satuday April 23d.
DIY History & Participatory Archives

Crowdsourcing transcriptions

Collections

- Civil War Diaries and Letters
- Szathmary Cookbooks and Manuscripts
- Iowa Women’s Lives: Letters and Diaries
- Building the Transcontinental Railroad
- Nile Kinnick

*Over 40,200 pages transcribed*
DIY History & Participatory Archives

Crowdsourcing transcriptions

Public agenda

To make historic artifacts accessible by enhancing catalog records with full-text search capabilities.
DIY|History & Participatory Archives

Introduction

Crowdsourcing transcriptions

Participatory archives

Citizen science, citizen scholars

Questions and discussion
DIY History & Participatory Archives

Participatory archives

Cooking Up a Crowdsourced Digitization Project that Scales

By Meredith Schwartz on October 22, 2012

If the NYPL Labs’ crowdsourced menu transcription project only whetted your appetite, now the University of Iowa Libraries is taking it to the next level with a similar project for transcribing, among other things, recipes.
Thanks to the University of Iowa Libraries, curious culinarians can transcribe a vanilla wafer recipe from a 1920s American cookbook.
Even better than one’s own diaries are other people’s diaries. So when I found out that the University of Iowa needs us all to spend a little time poking through other people’s diaries, I said Sign me up! That is, I said it to myself, since you don’t actually have to say it to the University of Iowa. You just go to the website and start poking through a bewildering line-up of fascinating documents. And here’s the thing — it’s not nosiness, it’s scholarship. Disguising nosiness

Crowd-Sourcing Private Life, plus free recipe for Biskit Pudin (with Suckit!)

“I never travel without my diary. One should always have something sensational to read on the train.”
— Oscar Wilde

Even better than one’s own diaries are other people’s diaries. So when I found out that the University of Iowa needs us all to spend a little time poking through other people’s diaries, I said Sign me up! That is, I said it to myself, since you don’t actually have to say it to the University of Iowa. You just go to the website and start poking through a bewildering line-up of fascinating documents. And here’s the thing — it’s not nosiness, it’s scholarship. Disguising nosiness as scholarship — my modus operandi!

It works like this. Archives with piles of unedited material post the photos online, and civilians like you and me do the transcription. To give it its official description, the transcription is crowd-sourced. The process is fun, because

DIY History
Help build the historical record by doing it yourself!
DIY|History & Participatory Archives

Participatory archives

Hidden agenda

To engage the public to interact with primary source materials in new ways, fostering personal connections with 19th Century British chefs, Iowa women pioneers, and Civil War soldiers.
DIY History & Participatory Archives

Participatory archives

secondary sources

→ primary sources

→ untold narratives
DIY | History & Participatory Archives

Introduction

Crowdsourcing transcriptions

Participatory archives

Citizen science, citizen scholars

Questions and discussion
DIY | History & Participatory Archives

Citizen science, citizen scholars
Galaxy Zoo

- Photos of hundreds of thousands of galaxies
- Volunteers classify them and find anomalies

“If you have enough humans, you retain the possibility of serendipitous discovery. We would never have written a program to look for green blobs.”
The Galaxy Zoo volunteers who discovered the Green Peas—and who call themselves the “Peas Corps” and the “Peas Brigade”—began discussing the strange objects in the online forum. (The original forum thread was called “Give peas a chance.”)
DIY|History & Participatory Archives
Citizen science, citizen scholars

The Peas Corps

• Rare galaxies: out of 1m photos, 250 peas
• None had training beyond H.S. science
• Recruited a programmer through forum
• Reinvented signal-to-noise, spectrum analysis
DIY History & Participatory Archives

Citizen science, citizen scholars

- Surveyed 10,000 of the most interested volunteers and asked their motivations
- About half of responded said their primary motivation was their **desire to help** scientists with their research
Tips for engaging citizen scholars

1. Telling people about the purpose of the research and about its context is important. You have to convince them that what they’re doing is helpful to research.

*Dressing it up as a game is counterproductive.*
DIY | History & Participatory Archives

Citizen science, citizen scholars

Tips for engaging citizen scholars

2. Treat participants as collaborators, not as subjects. Every paper published from Galaxy Zoo research has a footnote to the "complete" list of 350,000 authors.

Community outreach is not public engagement.
DIY|History & Participatory Archives
Citizen science, citizen scholars

**Tips for engaging citizen scholars**

3. Don’t waste people’s time. People are investing in your project, so you must be very sure that what you’re asking is a research problem.

*Don’t use the illusion of participation without meaning.*
2013 Award for Access
Jennifer Wolfe, Digital Scholarship Librarian, University of Iowa
Nominated by: Paul Soderdahl, University Librarian for Information Technology, University of Iowa

For her efforts in the development of University of Iowa’s crowd-sourcing DIY History initiative, which features five collections, beginning with “Civil War Diaries and Letters.”
DIY|History & Participatory Archives

Special thanks to the staff of the University Libraries and Digital Research and Publishing, especially:

• Jen Wolfe
• Shawn Averkamp
• Matthew Butler
• The Crowd
DIY|History & Participatory Archives

Introduction

Crowdsourcing transcriptions

Participatory archives

Citizen science, citizen scholars

Questions and discussion