WPLC Historical and Local Collections Committee
June 25, 2019

Present: Jill Fuller (Bridges Library System), Alison Hoffman (Monarch Library System), David Kranz (Southwest Wisconsin Library System), Amanda Lee (Outagamie Waupaca Library System), Nate Pflager (Winding Rivers Library System), Tamara Ramski (South Central Library System)

Project managers: Stef Morrill, Emily Pfotenhauer

Updates from previous meeting or general project updates

DPI-funded digitization kits
The digitization kits supported by WISE funding from DPI have been acquired and assembled by SCLS and are being distributed to public library systems through the delivery network. Two "train the trainer" workshops are scheduled to train public library system staff on using the kits, including procedures for contributing content to Recollection Wisconsin. The workshops will take place on July 22 (SCLS offices, Madison) and July 29 (College of Menominee Nation, Keshena).

General historical newspaper updates
WPLC project managers are coordinating the transfer of approx. 175,000 scanned newspaper pages from Wisconsin Historical Society to Wisconsin Newspaper Association. The Historical and Local committee approved the use of allocated WISE funds to offset the per-page upload cost to libraries. Content should be transferred by end of July and available in the platform before the end of the calendar year.

NDNP project update from WHS: Recent uploads to Chronicling America include the Dodgeville Chronicle, Odanah Star (Ashland) and Der Sonntagsbote (Milwaukee German-language newspaper). They are currently working on the quality review of the last two batches, writing the last title essays and planning final outreach efforts before the end of this grant cycle (August 31).

There were no questions about the updates.

Newspaper Platform Usability Testing and Evaluation Next Steps

At the last meeting, the committee reviewed a chart that included features/functionality important in a platform and if the current platform had this functionality. E. Pfotenhauer completed the chart for the other platforms under consideration and walked the group through the chart and provided some context on the different options:

- Chronam/Open ONI is an open source platform that would need to be hosted local. It's the open version of the Chronicling America platform.
- ProSeek is the platform from Northern Micrographics, based on Rescarta. The primary large organization using it is the Minnesota Historical Society.

- Veridian is a commercial vendor who works with a number of state-wide and university newspaper projects.
- Both ProSeek and Veridian offer options to host locally or with them.

The group discussed the look and feel of the various platforms and how well they met the list of criteria. They favored Veridian as it was the easiest to use, had download/print/email functionality, was the most visually appealing, works well on mobile devices and is discoverable via Google. They felt ProSeek was a bit difficult to navigate, they missed the functionality of exporting PDFs, and there was concern about not having METS-ALTO functionality. With Chronam, the level of support and expertise needed, along with hosting, were concerns. Viability was also a concern because it will only continue if there is an invested community. It may not evolve as much as

The group decided to start by reviewing a more complete proposal for Veridian. This proposal should include:

- Setup cost, annual costs, uploading costs
- References/other user experience
- Migration process
- WHS thoughts
- Example of download and print quality
- Information about vendor support
- Information about training and training tools
- Workflow for uploading and metadata, along with time estimates and needed skills to do this work
- Exit strategy: how do we migrate out if needed?
- Contract terms: length of contracts, etc.
- Backup plan for data
- Partners that should be part of the process
- Clarification on the availability of browsing and sorting by city

WiLS will prepare this proposal for the next meeting of the committee.

Creator discussion

At their last meeting, the committee had a demonstration of Creator and discussed some possible pilot projects. E. Pfotenhauer outlined more details for the potential pilots. The group discussed the potential pilot projects and the cost. It would be $20,000 to do these pilots.

The group felt that because the materials are already made available through other platforms, it may be better to use the money on other things. The platform was also discussed by the Recollection Wisconsin Steering Committee with the same response: it would be interesting to try, but it isn't a compelling need right now. The demand for newspaper access has been much higher than content curation. The group decided to table the project and not move forward with it.

The group discussed outreach more generally. Recollection Wisconsin has experimented with the WISELearn OER platform, which is not intended for this use, but could be a way to align curation with teaching standards. In general, we will keep an eye out for ideas and potential projects around outreach for digital collections, knowing that it's a need. S. Morrill will include an update in the WPLC Board report for the month to let them know that we won't be pursuing Creator at this time but keeping our eyes open for opportunities related to outreach.

Potential R&D projects
At their August meeting, the WPLC Board will discuss potential R&D projects for 2020. The group felt that the newspaper project should be put forward as an R&D project. In addition to adopting a new platform and migrating, there is also work to be done to encourage people to digitize more content. This could include sharing ideas for how people have done it, raised money for it, etc. Prior to the Board meeting, D. Kranz and S. Morrill will talk so that D. Kranz can present the project to the Board at their August meeting.