

Historical and Local Digital Collection Committee Update for WPLC Board May 2022

The Historical and Local Digital Collections Committee met for the first time since 2019.

- The newspaper metadata and file processing project, supported by LSTA funds, continues to make progress. Over 400,000 pages have been fully processed, with approximately 150,000 pages waiting for transfer. We are on track to complete the project by the end of 2022.
- Progress on selecting or implementing a new access platform for historical newspapers is stalled due to pandemic-influenced backlogs and leadership vacancies at the Wisconsin Historical Society. Given that, the committee has agreed to suspend work on this project for the foreseeable future. Meanwhile, WPLC project managers continue to receive inquiries about newspaper digitization and access. Messaging to interested libraries will outline the pros/cons of various strategies to digitizing local newspapers which include alternatives to waiting for a new access platform option. At the same time, the WPLC will suspend adding new content to the Archive of Wisconsin Newspapers as this is not seen as a long-term solution.