Digitization at a Public Library

Hennepin County Library’s Digitization Program and Our Work with Community and Civic Organizations
Hennepin County Library’s Digital Collections

45 collections

92,682 digital objects (from 35,000 at the Nov. 2016 launch)

10,000 sessions/month

Also accessible through DPLA

Mostly photographs and property-related documents, but also includes yearbooks, annual reports, manuscripts (correspondence), cartoons, magazines, newspapers, government documents, technical drawings, posters, postcards, art work, and sound and video recordings.

Principal focus is on Hennepin County, with a few collections related to WWII.

Content is freely accessible by anyone, anywhere at any time. With a few exceptions, all content can be used without restriction.
How did we get here? Some background…

Historic Minneapolis Photos - 2000

Seth Eastman Sketchbook - 2001

WWII Posters - 2003
Minnesota Digital Library - *Minnesota Reflections*

- **Stereocards** - 2005
- **Programs and Reports** - 2007-09
- **Maps and Atlases** - 2007-14
- **Advertisements and Trade Catalogs**
Grant-Funded Projects: Northern Micrographics

Minneapolis High School Yearbooks - 2010

Minneapolis City Directories - 2011-2018
Development and Expansion of an “In-House” Program

- Standards and Best Practices
- Developing Work Processes
- Identifying Sources
- Equipment Acquisition
- Software Development
- Storage and Digital Preservation
Now that it’s up, what do we do with it?
Dr. Johnson and Mr. Sparky
Objectives:

- Getting our stuff out there
- Access to materials previously unavailable or difficult to get to
- Access to materials in multiple formats – expanding the Library’s offerings
- Branding

Methods:

- Programming
- Social Media
- Marketing (Media, printed materials)
- Direct appeals
- Platform customization and other “improvements”
Changing Content Sources into Community Partners

• Civic Organizations
  • City of Minneapolis
  • Other County Departments
  • Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board
  • Minneapolis Public Schools

• Neighborhood associations and community groups
  • Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc.
  • Prospect Park Neighborhood Association
  • CARE Task Force
  • MN Black Communities Project

• Community advocates and other individuals
City of Minneapolis

Maps in the Clock Tower “Archives”

Preservation, Storage and Access Solutions
City of Minneapolis

Preservation, Storage and Access Solutions

Photos in the Clock Tower “Archives”
Hennepin History Magazine
Residential Photo Collection
Mpls. City Council asked to change gambling law for ice arena

Some city council members and some other charitable gambling managers oppose the city ordinance change, saying it would benefit Edison Youth Hockey Association alone.

Patty’s Journey: From an orphanage to Northeast

The story of how Patty and her friends escaped from the orphanage and started their own business.

New city law will try to move "adult only" from neighborhoods

by Yon Anderson

"IT BURNED LIKE A TORCH"
Advocates and Community Partnerships

The John Glanton Collection and the Minnesota Black Community Project
Building Relationships

- University of Minnesota (DPLA)
- Hennepin County Recorder’s Office
- Star Tribune
- Neighborhood Organizations: NRP, Elliot Park, Prospect Park, Cedar-Isles, Central, Marcy-Holmes, Lowry Hill, Hawthorne, and Seward.
Why the Library?

• Open Access for All
• Reputation for “neutrality”
• No commercial interests
• Excellent facilities and services
• “Building Community Together”

An evolving future – Determining our role
Thank you