digitalcommonwealth.org

- Digital library of historical materials from Massachusetts institutions
- Over 900,000 items from libraries, archives, museums, historical societies
- Photographs, manuscripts, maps, artwork, video, artifacts, newspapers
- Hosted and harvested materials, links to other repositories
- Launched in 2006, funded by IMLS
- DPLA Service Hub
Covering April 2020 - March 2021

- Collections added
- Project updates
- New features
- Work in progress
- Usage trends
- Top 20 items

Staff at base hospital in Lawrence, MA during the epidemic of influenza in 1918
Lawrence History Center; Lawrence History Center Photograph Collection
<https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/4x51hz65v>
COLLECTIONS

Weymouth Public Libraries, Harry C. Belcher Lepidoptera Collection
<https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/73666x08q>
GROWTH: INSTITUTIONS

- 2014: 84
- 2016: 126
- 2018: 322
- 2020: 383

The graph shows the growth of institutions over the years, with a steady increase from 2014 to 2020.
GROWTH: COLLECTIONS
GROWTH: HARVESTED v. HOSTED

- Harvested: 61.0% (555,619)
- Hosted: 39.0% (353,642)
GROWTH: HARVESTED v. HOSTED
Last 5 Years
GROWTH:
HARVESTS

NEW HARVESTS
○ National Archives at Boston
   (Morgan v. Hennigan Case File)

RE-HARVESTS
○ Boston City Archives
○ Historic New England
○ Northeastern University Library
○ Scottish Rite Masonic Museum
○ Southeast Asian Digital Archive
○ Springfield College
○ UMass Boston
GROWTH: FILES
PRIMARY FILES ONLY

Graph showing the growth of files from 2017 to 2021:
- 2017: 384,509
- 2018: 448,455
- 2019: 554,242
- 2020: 635,817
- 2021: 690,879
GROWTH: STORAGE (TB)
GROWTH: CONNECTING COLLECTIONS

SCHOOL DESEGREGATION
○ Boston City Archives
○ National Archives at Boston
○ Northeastern University Library

SACCO & VANZETTI
○ Boston Public Library
○ Harvard Law School Library
○ Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives

Police-escorted school buses on first day of court-ordered busing, South Boston
Boston Public Library; Spencer Grant Collection
<https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/7m01bm508>

Photograph Album of Ballistics
Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives; Commonwealth v. Sacco and Vanzetti
<https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/hd76wj53q>
Rhododendron giganteum
Massachusetts Horticultural Society Library; Botanical Prints
<https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/0p097m40h>
antislaverymanuscripts.org

- Crowd-sourced transcription of letters from BPL Anti-Slavery Collection
- Over 13K volunteers; transcribed 12K letters over 2.5 years
- Currently being reviewed by BPL staff
- Will support full-text search w/highlighting
UPDATES: Wikimedia Commons

- Uploaded to Wikimedia Commons by DPLA
- Public-domain and select Creative Commons-licensed items
- BPL; Mass. Archives, Dept. of Conservation & Recreation; Phillips Academy Andover; National Archives Boston
UPDATES:
Wikimedia Commons

- Propagating collections beyond our own properties
- Greater discoverability
- Items can be used to enhance Wikipedia articles
- Increasing re-use: publications, research, teaching, student projects, etc.
UPDATES:
Primary Source Sets & Educator Resources

digitalcommonwealth.org/for_educators

- Curated selections of items, collections, and subject headings
- Grouped by National Council for the Social Studies curriculum themes
- Tutorials on searching the collections, using primary sources
UPDATES: DC 3.0

New repository system:
- Database-backed
- Cloud storage for file assets
- Increased storage capacity
- API-driven
- Open-source

Migration begins later this Spring!

Migrating geese
Boston Public Library; Frank W. Benson (1862–1951). Prints and Drawings
<https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/dv142676q>
NEW FEATURES

Cherry blossoms and bees / Apple-blossoms and bees
Boston Public Library; Louis Prang & Company Chromolithographs
<https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/9306t576v>
FEATURES:
Statement on Harmful Content

digitalcommonwealth.org/harmful_content_statement

- Provides further context for presence of harmful content
- Affirms our values
- Links to community standards and practices
FEATURES: Content Warning

- Applied at the item level
- Provides context for why item is presented
- Links to full Statement of Harmful Content and collection description
FEATURES:
HOW TO REQUEST

digitalcommonwealth.org/feedback

- Select “site feature suggestion”
Cherry blossom time in Washington, D. C.
Boston Public Library; Tichnor Brothers Postcard Collection
<https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/8g84mr407>
USAGE: ITEM VIEWS

- 2017: 1.11 million item views
- 2018: 1.13 million item views
- 2019: 1.55 million item views
- 2020: 1.69 million item views
- 2021: 2.23 million item views
 USAGE: DEVICES
 Last 4 Years

![Bar chart showing device usage from 2018 to 2021]

- Desktop
- Mobile
- Tablet
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bpl.org</td>
<td>39,171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dp.la</td>
<td>22,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>omnia.ie</td>
<td>4,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pijamasurf.com</td>
<td>4,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kottke.org</td>
<td>4,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sec.state.ma.us</td>
<td>3,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>revolution250.org</td>
<td>2,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oldhousedreams.com</td>
<td>2,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>en.wikipedia.org</td>
<td>2,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bostonbasinhills.org</td>
<td>1,706</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
USAGE: SOCIAL
Last 4 Years

- Facebook
- Reddit
- Pinterest
- Twitter
USAGE: SITE SEARCH
SESSIONS WITH SEARCHES
Last 5 Years
MOST-VIEWED ITEMS

Daffodils
Boston Public Library; Louis Prang & Company Chromolithographs
<https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/gt54kn78z>
TOP 20 ITEMS

○ April 2020 - March 2021
○ Unique page views
○ Includes change from previous year
  □ Baseline: +32%
TOP 20 ITEMS

#20: 774 views (3418%)

Eastern Star Home, Dedication, Orange, MA
UMass Lowell, Center for Lowell History; George Russell Photograph Collection
https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/1j92gn72x
TOP 20 ITEMS

#19: 789 views (+25%)

The Brass Rail, 7th Avenue at 49th Street, New York City, N. Y.

Boston Public Library; Tichnor Brothers Postcard Collection
https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/kp78gm27b
The rats leaving a falling house

Boston Public Library; Social and Political Cartoons

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/9880w969z
Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo greets her husband

University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries; Kathy Borchers Photojournalism Collection

https://credo.library.umass.edu/view/full/muph083-b03-f22-dvd-i076
TOP 20 ITEMS

#16: 937 views (+44%)

Keeping Chair City Alive
Mount Wachusett Community College; W. Joseph Carr Collection
https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/bk1291778
TOP 20 ITEMS

#15: 1,003 views (-44%)

Ascending and descending

Boston Public Library; M. C. Escher (1898-1972). Prints and Drawings
https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/3r076s51v
TOP 20 ITEMS

#13: 1,038 views (+255%)

Rocky Marciano and Barbara Cousins on their wedding day

Boston Public Library; Press Photography from the Brearley Collection

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/1831dk866
TOP 20 ITEMS

#12: 1,173 views (+62%)
The Bostonians in distress, plate II.

Boston Public Library; Social and Political Cartoons
https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/9880w842b
Southern chivalry - argument versus club's

Boston Public Library; Social and Political Cartoons

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/9880wb139
Our national bird as it appeared when handed to James Buchanan

Boston Public Library; Social and Political Cartoons

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/9880w8854
World's largest trailer park, Bradenton, Florida

Boston Public Library; Tichnor Brothers Postcard Collection

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/mp48sw766
Row of naked boys stand on diving board at indoor pool

Boston Public Library; Leslie Jones Collection
https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/sj139t62x
TOP 20 ITEMS

#6: 2,519 views (+187%)

Peters World map

Boston Public Library; Norman B. Leventhal Map Center Collection

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/x633f923g
Row of naked boys stand on diving board at indoor pool

Boston Public Library; Leslie Jones Collection
https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/sj139t64g
The bloody massacre perpetrated in King-Street Boston
Boston Public Library; Colonial and Revolutionary Boston (Collection of Distinction)
https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/vh53x3780
TOP 20 ITEMS

#3: 4,580 views (+474%)

K. K. K. application form

University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries; W. E. B. Du Bois Papers

http://credo.library.umass.edu/view/full/mums312-b157-i167
TOP 20 ITEMS

#2: 8,657 views (+9310%)

Nudist beauty contest winner, Assonet

Boston Public Library; Spencer Grant Collection

https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/qb98mv10z
TOP 20 ITEMS

#1: 19,787 views (+7%)

Gleason's new standard map of the world
Boston Public Library; Norman B. Leventhal Map Center Collection
https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/7h149v85z
THANKS!

THOUGHTS?

eenglish [at] bpl [dot] org
@ebenenglish (twitter, github)

Arboretum roadway, artists painting beneath trees in bloom
Boston Public Library; Leon Abdalian Collection
<https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/0p0979604>