



Highlights

Collection Update for August 2020

1,304 new items were added in August

Hosted

- Jamaica Plain Historical Society - Doyle's Cafe Memorabilia (6 items)*
- Lawrence Public Library - Lawrence, Mass. Engineering Department (1 item)*
- Lawrence Public Library - Lawrence Public Library Map Collection (3 items)*
- Lawrence Public Library - Pemberton Mill Disaster (1 item)
- Lawrence Public Library - Walter Milton Kimball (1 item)
- Nahant Public Library - Florence Johnson Herbarium (387 items)

Harvested

- Springfield College Archives and Special Collections - Leslie Mann Baseball Lantern Slide Collection (314 items)
- Springfield College Archives and Special Collections - Springfield College Armed Forces Collection (592 items)

* Items added to existing collection ** Reharvested

192,472 Item views **846,712** Total item-level records **344,179** Total hosted items

"Expanding Your Digital Horizons" Online Event Series

Wednesday September 23, 2020, 10-11:30am

"Who is Little Joe, Photo Detecting 101" with Maureen Taylor

Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$10 for Digital Commonwealth members; \$20 for non-members.

[Register for "Who is Little Joe - Photo Detecting 101"](#)

Thursday October 8, 2020, 1-2pm

"Introduction to Omeka" with Matt Amory of the Canton Public Library and Lenora Robinson of Bridgewater State University.

Pre-registration is required. There is no charge for this event.

The event is being offered in partnership with the Massachusetts Library System. This event will be recorded and made available on the MLS Vimeo page.

[Register for "Introduction to Omeka"](#)

Other events in the works include:

October 26, 2020, 1-2PM (tentative)

"Getting Started with Digital Genealogical Resources" with the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

November 2020, date TBD

"Perspectives on the Sacco-Vanzetti Case" with MA Supreme Court Justice, Judge Peter Agnes (ret.).

**Meet New
Digital Commonwealth
Board Member
Rachel Jirka**



Rachel was elected to serve on the Digital Commonwealth Board in June. We sat down with Rachel to find out more about her background and what she hopes to achieve during her time on the Board.

Can you tell us about your professional background and what drew you to pursuing a career as an Archivist?

I have about twelve years of experience working in Archives and Special Collections. Before becoming the archivist at Amherst College I worked in the City University of New York system at the College of Staten Island, and as the Research Services Librarian for the Society of the Cincinnati, a rare book and manuscript library focusing on the military theory of the 18th century. I've worked in museums and libraries my whole life, but I was particularly drawn to archival work because I wanted to help provide equitable access to primary source materials to allow folks from all kinds of backgrounds to tell as-yet unsurfaced stories.

How and when did you first become aware of DC?

I think DC has been on my radar since it first started. I grew up on a historic property in Massachusetts, and I've personally used DC over the years to track down information on the place, and the folks who lived there.

How do you use DC in your professional life?

Because the history of Amherst College is inextricably linked with the history of the town and the Connecticut River Valley, DC is usually the first place I go to look for information if I need to search outside our own holdings. I've found so many different pockets of information in places I may not have thought to have looked!

Why did you decide to become involved with DC?

In addition to providing primary source information to broader audience - I like how DC brings different types of institutions together (not just colleges and universities, or historical societies). It's helpful to get different institutional perspectives in the same room. And I really appreciate the variety of professional development opportunities that DC offers.

What do you hope to achieve in your tenure on the Board?

I'm interested in thinking about how the pandemic will affect the organizational experience. Not just how the online repository will be affected, but how we'll need to adjust programming and the conference to meet our current needs.

Welcome to the Board, Rachel, and thank you for your service!

DPLA News.....

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) has announced the launch of its new [Black Women's Suffrage Digital Collection](#). The collection makes freely accessible nearly 200,000 artifacts, including images, videos, letters, diaries, speeches, maps, diaries, and oral histories, from DPLA's more than 4,000 partner institutions that document the contributions and experiences of Black women during the women's suffrage movement as well as Black women's activism from the 1850s to the 1960s.

Digital Commonwealth 2021 Conference "The Politics of Collections"

Online on Tuesday, April 13, 2021

- Live from LA, Keynote Speaker, Virginia Steel, University Librarian, UCLA
- John Bracken, Executive Director, DPLA
- Submissions for presentations are due by October 1 and are welcome from all organization types including those focused on K-12 issues

[Call for Speakers](#)

Member News

Welcome New Friend!

Paul Engle

Welcome Back Returning Members!

Amherst College
Amherst Regional High School Library
Attleboro Public Library
Berklee College of Music
Boston City Archives
Boston Latin School - Harry O'Keefe Library
CLAMS
Grafton Public Library
Hamilton Historical Society
J. V. Fletcher Library
Kingston Public Library
Lee Library Association
Lenox Library

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Massachusetts Historical Society
McCann Technical School
New Bedford Free Public Library
Palmer Public Library
Peabody Institute Library of Danvers
Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives
Sturgis Library
Suffolk University
UMass Dartmouth Library
Upper Housatonic Valley NHA
West Bridgewater Public Library
Western New England University
Weston Public Library
Weymouth Public Libraries
WGBH Education Foundation

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Digital Commonwealth, 210 Park Avenue, #311, Worcester, MA 01609-2246

Phone: 617-431-3933

email: membership@digitalcommonwealth.org

Digital Commonwealth BLM Statement