

State Library Report
February 2016

Cause for Celebration: NC Museum of Natural Sciences Library holdings migrated into the GHIL Catalog!

Approximately 22,000 records for holdings of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences' Library has now been incorporated into the Government & Heritage Library's catalog and into OCLC's WorldCat. The process took almost two years, but is a success that both the Museum and the Library are proud of!

Prior to their holdings joining the GHIL catalog, the Museum of Natural Sciences' Library had an electronic catalog that was previously on one computer so old it was no longer supported by I.T. Museum staff hoped the data could be saved before the computer died. It took GHIL staff almost two years to move the records off the one computer that housed them, clean them, replace many of the previously insufficient records with good records from OCLC, and add them to the GHIL catalog. Not only was GHIL able to save their data, but the Museum Library's collection is also now more accessible to their staff.

"Prior to the addition of the N.C. Museum of Natural Science's library holdings to the GHIL catalog, users had to either come to the library or ask library staff to check the stand-alone online catalog to determine whether a desired item was held. Our offsite users were at a particular disadvantage. Museum staff, as well as the general public, can now easily determine whether an item is part of the library collection here at the Museum," Janet Edgerton, librarian at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences.

Other news

Kay Tillotson and Rebecca Hyman did a presentation on researching African American Ancestors from North Carolina for students from the NC School of Math and Science when they visited Raleigh on Feb. 29. The students also had a tour of the Government & Heritage Library research room and heard about other resources available here. The students also worked with staff from the State Archives of North Carolina, the NC Museum of History, and the Director of the N.C. African American Historical Commission.

Kelly Agan attended the NC Council for the Social Studies annual conference in Greensboro. She presented a session titled, "NCpedia in the Classroom: Integrating Online Access to Content, Educator Tools & Primary Sources." She also staffed a shared table in the exhibit hall for the State Library of North Carolina and State Archives of North Carolina.

UNC School of Information and Library Science students toured the State Library on Feb. 16th. Students learned about the State Library from Cal Shepard, and then were given a tour of the Government & Heritage Library by Rebecca Hyman.

Cal Shepard, Nitin Arora, and Michelle Underhill attended the Lyrisis Leaders Forum at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. Discussion topics included community supported software for libraries, archives and museums, digital services, and challenges and opportunities.

The second year of Edge Initiative assessment in NC closed on 2/15/2016. The Edge Initiative is a toolkit of resources to help libraries measure their public access technology performance in three strategic areas: Community Value; Engaging the Community, and Organizational Management. 73% of public libraries participated by taking the assessment and on average, NC libraries scored 10% higher than last year. A full report of the results will be released in March.

Ninety people registered for the ONE Access: School-Library Partnership webinar including staff from both public and school libraries. Feedback from participants during and after the session: "It was a wonderful webinar. We invited our school superintendent, a county commissioner and a city councilwoman to attend. We are now working towards implementation in August!" "My county is holding a public library and school library collaboration discussion. Thank you for this information. I'm excited to share what I've learned." "This is a very exciting program and I can see our county's schools participating."

Jeffrey Hamilton hosted the quarterly Continuing Education Advisory Committee meeting at the State Library. The committee had updated its technology competencies and updates were posted to the web for use by any type of library.

Lori Special participated in Seeds of Change, a collaborative program of the State Library of North Carolina, N.C. State University Department of Education, Motherhead, and Our Children's Place which started in late January for women in the Transitions program. Many women in this program are in recovery and also have been incarcerated. The State Library provided encouragement for the participants to take advantage of public library resources, such as books, databases, and programs and events to increase parental involvement and encourage practice of family literacy skills emphasized during the sessions with Motherhead and story times at the public library.

Certification Commission - The NC Public Librarian Certification Commission met on February 10, 2016, to evaluate 39 applications for certification; 35 applications were approved and 4 denied.

Molly Westmoreland provided a trustee workshop for Lincoln County Library trustees, Friends and key staff members on February 13, 2016. Using pre and post workshop outcome-based evaluations, workshop participants reported a 33% increase in their commitment to advocating for their public library, a 43% increase in their understanding of board and Friends roles and responsibilities, and a 57% increase in their comfort level anticipating interactions with government officials.

LSTA grant season is once again upon us. Federal programs consultant Raye Oldham updated grant review materials and reviewed draft applications with applicants, providing comments and suggestions for improvement.

Comments from customers:

Comment from patron: *Three of us came over from Atlanta to spend three days here, and it's not enough time to even scratch the surface of all they have here! I could easily spend another week here alone*

before going upstairs to the Archives! Everyone is delightful and extremely helpful. It's the best genealogical research library I have yet visited.

Email from a patron: *A big THANK YOU! Yes, the images [sent from the Digital Collections] are for my personal use to add to my genealogy files. You are super!!!*

Comment received after Amanda Johnson responded to a data analysis inquiry: I just want to say again that this is all VERY COOL! I know we'll use these in our budget presentation. I'm amazed at how well you pulled out just the data that helps make the point.

Comment from Library Director: I have attached Lee County Library's application for the 2016-2017 LSTA EZ Literacy and Lifelong Learning grant. Thank you to Raye and Amanda for the questions they answered about this year's grant offerings. The work the State Library does to help the North Carolina public libraries makes it easier to serve our communities. Thank you for your consideration.

NCpedia comments:

- Thank you for this bit of history of my great grandfather Benjamin Franklin Grady, and my grandfather Henry Alexander Grady.
- This is great for my project for school about plott hounds!!!

GHL Blog stats:

6,632 sessions, 7,600 page views* and 6,424 unique sessions.

Top new posts from February 2016:

- How to find the parents of Orphans, Part 2 (244 views) posted 2/8/2016, <http://wp.me/p17ckJ-4tP>
- Celebrating African American History Month: New NCpedia biographies (160 views) posted 2/10/2016, <http://wp.me/p17ckJ-4Fc>
- American Slavery Database: Slave Narratives (101 views) posted 2/1/2016, <http://wp.me/p17ckJ-4Dp>

*Most of the views to the GHL blog came on 2/11 (4,161) and the referring link was from Reddit.com. A Reddit user posted a link to the GHL blog post, "To reshelve books or not to reshelve...that is the question" originally posted on April 28, 2014, <http://wp.me/p17ckJ-3li>.

LD Blog Stats:

1,370 Sessions, 1,089 Users, 4,105 Pages Views.

Top Posts:

- Webinar featuring Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's ONE Access program (736)
- We're hiring! (154)
- Funding Opportunity: Knight News Challenge Wants to Support Your Big Ideas (153)