Culture in Transit: Digitizing and Democratizing NYC’s Cultural Heritage

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@DigitizeNYC
http://www.mnylc.org/cit/
“How might we leverage libraries as a platform to build more knowledgeable communities?”
- Funded by the Knight Foundation News Challenge on Libraries
- Partnership with Metropolitan New York Library Council, Queens Library and Brooklyn Public Library
- Collected material will also be shared with the Digital Public Library of America
Community Scanning
Queens Library, Brooklyn Public Library

Brooklyn Public Library

Queens Library

Queens Memory
Community Scanning in Queens

- Ridgewood
- Woodhaven
- Sunnyside
- Woodside
- Forest Hills
- Flushing
- Douglaston & Little Neck
- Rochdale Village
- St Albans
- Lefferts
- Richmond Hill
Community Scanning in Brooklyn

- Williamsburg
- Clinton Hill
- Park Slope
- Flatbush
- Dyker Heights
- Greenpoint
- Bed-Stuy
- East New York
- Canarsie
- Sheepshead Bay
Not Just Libraries!

Boys and Girls High School
Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn

Neir’s Tavern
Woodhaven, Queens

Green-Wood Cemetery
Brooklyn

Emanuel United Church of Christ
Woodhaven, Queens
Pond to Lake to Ocean
Consent & Metadata

Brooklyn Public Library
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Mailing Address
Phone
Email

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Parent’s Signature __________________________ Date: __________

Questions?
Contact Manager of Special Collections, Ivy Maneal, 718-230-2707, specialcollections@librarycity.org

Alexandra Sign TWD copies only with this page, and then return to Brooklyn Public Library.
Outreach

Holding On Tight To Old New York
Updated: August 18, 2015 - 8:50 AM ET
Published: August 31, 2015 - 12:05 AM ET

npr history dept. A FRESH LOOK AT AMERICAN HISTORY

Share Your Own (or Grandma's) Greenpoint Story with this Brooklyn Archival Project
Our Streets Our Stories Community Screening (Photo by Debbie Stern)

Teddy Cholowskis hands were shaking as he rifled through a pile of photos, looking for his favorite. "Oh here!" he said, pulling out a photo of himself standing in his eyeglass shop. "When I was young - 100 years younger!" he laughed. His shop, Friendly Optical, was located at 120 Northome Avenue in Greenpoint. He's been there for 46 years, and yet his memories of the place are still as vivid as ever.

Share Your Story with Queens' Digital Archive And Celebrate Lunar New Year
By Eva Kern-Jedrzewska | January 31, 2016 6:35pm

QUEENS — Forest Hills residents can now contribute their stories, photographs and memorabilia to a digital archive that wants to record and preserve contemporary history of the borough, all while celebrating the upcoming Lunar New Year.

Next Saturday, on Feb. 6, the Queens Memory Project is coming to the Forest Hills branch of the

Queens Memory Project Helps Preserve the Borough's History
By WNY News
Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 09:46 AM EDT
Community Partnerships

- Community groups as a liaisons
- Targeted outreach
- Access to new communities
- Language support
- Credibility
- Focused documentation of traditionally under-represented communities
My Baryo, My Borough
Greater Ridgewood Youth Council
Brooklyn Connections
Trust & Credibility

Asian Americans for Equality
Brooklyn Connections
Douglaston / Little Neck Historical Society
Five Boro Story Project
Forest Hills Asian Association
Good Neighbors of Park Slope
Greater Ridgewood Youth Council
My Baryo, My Borough
Woodhaven Cultural and Historical Society
Cultural Heritage Institution Partnerships
“How might we leverage libraries as a platform to build more knowledgeable communities?”
Goals: METRO

- DPLA and ESDN
- Support needs of our smaller/underfunded members
- Pilot small-scale digitization service for members
- Collections to seed DCMNY
- Learn about our member needs - digitization and related
Choosing Partners

If you chose option two above, please briefly tell us more about these materials.

Please provide collection title and a brief description of the materials in the collection (subject matter/themes, as well as material types, e.g. photographs, postcards, pamphlets etc.).

Long answer text

What is the size of the collection?

Please provide approximate number of items you would like to see digitized. If the items are made up of multiple pages (pamphlets etc.), please provide total page count, or average number of pages per item. This will provide a rough sense of how long it will take to digitize the collection. CIT aims to visit host institutions for a 1 to 2 week period and is looking for small to medium sized collections to digitize.

Long answer text

To what extent are the materials currently organized and described?

How are the materials currently organized (boxes, folders etc.)? What metadata exists for the materials (e.g., records, spreadsheet, finding aid, etc.)?

Long answer text

Have you digitized any material from your collections before?

Small-scale or grant-funded digitization projects (not digitization on demand services for patrons).

- Yes
  - No
Choosing Partners

- Quality (cohesive, significant)
- Feasibility (material type, #s, condition)
- Collection status (processed, cataloged, rights?)
- Practicalities (location, physical space, security, contact person, timeline)
Choosing Partners

Site Visits:

- View / Assess Materials
- Go to Location / View Space
- Meet with staff
8 METRO member institutions visited

Over 1,150 unique items digitized

6 collections in METRO’s Digital Culture so far

3 collections in DPLA so far
Search Results
Your search for white plains returned 246 results.
Refined by: White Plains Public Library

Refine search
By Format
Image 246

Contributing Institution
White Plains Public Library

Partner
Empire State Digital Network

By Date
From

Image
Winchester Street in White Plains
YMCA of the USA
Winchester Street in White Plains showing houses in the background and trash and debris in the foreground. Image was included in a publication entitled Italians in an American Community by Charles R. Towson, secretary of the Industrial Department, International Committee, YMCA published circa 1913.

Image
Description of White Plains Village
1918
Description of the village of White Plains including information on population (1,087 at time of writing), location of the village, number and denomination of churches and number of dwellings. The description includes an illustration of the central part of the village.
LGBT Center: Unique & Historically Important
Hostos Community College: Celebration of Local Culture
Yeshiva University: Oversize & Inaccessible
Use Cases of Digitized Content
Use Cases of Digitized Content

New York State Department of Health

Diphtheria Toxin-antitoxin Certificate

This is to certify that Alfred Wilson, age 49, has received three injections of one cubic centimeter each of toxoid antitoxin on the following dates:

First dose, M. A. Wilson, M.D.


Issued by the Commissioner

Community History Day
Saturday, December 12
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Still making scrapbooks?
Bring history into the 21st century at the
White Plains Public Library!

Bring up to 10 photographs, documents, or maps related to your family or White Plains history (from any era) to be digitized and added to our online collection. Everyone leaves with digital copies to share with family and friends! More info: www.whiteplainslibrary.org/local-history
Refreshments will be served.
Use Cases of Digitized Content

A Sense of Place: Research Workshop

January’s edition of the White Plains History Roundtable will be A Sense of Place: Research Workshop on Wednesday, January 20, from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM.

Ever wondered what the layers of history and human experience are that combine to create White Plains? Join Librarian Ben Himmelfarb and student of White Plains history Cliff Blau to learn how to research the history of any address, building, business, house, or spot in White Plains. Maps, directories, photographs, and online resources from the White Plains Collection will be available for everyone to use.

Come prepared with a favorite place to research and we will walk you through the process of discovering more! There will be plenty of time for storytelling and sharing the history we are bound to uncover. We hope you will leave with a stronger sense of place and a new perspective on the places we live, work, and spend time in.

The White Plains History Roundtable is an educational, participatory, and social event where we hear a presentation on an historical topic, examine primary source documents from the White Plains Collection, and engage in discussion with each other.

January’s History Roundtable is one of many programs commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the City of White Plains during 2016. Check out the City’s Website and the White Plains Historical Society for information on other events!

January 17, 2016 | by Ben Himmelfarb
Categories: Events and History.
Tags: adults, all ages, families, historical research, local-history, teens, white plains centennial, white plains collection, and white plains history.
Digitization Equipment Sets

Flatbed Scanner

Copy-Stand

Outreach
Flatbed Scanner: Epson V Series

- V600 and V800 models: Excellent quality & capability for negatives
- SilverFast software for color management & pre-scan functionality
- V800: Extended capability vs. additional weight
Copy-Stand

- Canon EOS Rebel T5 DSLR
- Inverted tripod
- Fluorescent & LED lighting
- Muslin backdrop

Original Lights
LED Lights
Outreach

Interactive Resources:

Historic photographs slideshow & comparison

Oral history listening station

Community mapping
Outreach & Education

- Provide a point of entry into the project
- Teach about archives, technology, and historical record
- Demonstrate the value of participating in the project
- Empower communities to steward their personal & local history
Transporting Digitization Equipment

- We love our wheeled Pelican cases!
- Don’t underestimate overall weight
Born Digital Donations

Images created in the last decade are likely digital.

Great way to attract walk-in donors.

Best practices are still being developed.
Welcome to Culture in Transit

Culture in Transit is a partnership between the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO), the Brooklyn Public Library and Queens Library to bring mobile scanning equipment to smaller libraries, archives, museums, and the communities they serve. We are one of 22 projects to win the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation’s Knight News Challenge on Libraries. Our work falls into two main areas:

- **Community Events** (Queens Library and Brooklyn Public Library): We bring our mobile digitization kit to library branches and invite residents to bring in family photos and memorabilia. We scan the materials, which are returned to the donors along with a flash drive of digital copies. The digital copies are also included in our digital catalog and shared with the Digital Public Library of America.
- **Institutional Scanning** (METRO): We bring our mobile digitization kit to METRO member institutions across New York City and Westchester. We scan selected collections and make them available on METRO’s digital platform and the Digital Public Library of America.

So what’s in a kit?

Posted on July 22, 2015 by Caroline Catchpole

This post focuses on our mobile digitization kits and

Below, we have compiled a comprehensive list of all iTransit. Not all equipment features in each kit due to community events and at institutions.

We see this list almost as a first draft of equipment to thought important when embarking on a digitization in and using the kit more, we will talk more about what use at all and additional purchases we’ve made to ensure our digitization needs.

The costs listed for these items represent the cost of have purchased three of most items (one for each, M have fluctuated since the time of our purchases – our to the end of June 2015.

Scanning Kit

** Please note that we are including pricing information scanners, the Epson V500 and the Epson V800. Their specifications, and are most appropriate for different institutions or projects. Future documentation will discuss the differences between these scanners in more detail.

Creative Commons Licenses: How They Work and Why We Use Them

Posted on January 26, 2016 by Sarah

Founded in 2001, Creative Commons is a non-profit organization that provides free legal tools to promote the sharing of knowledge and artwork by allowing creators to manage their work’s copyright restrictions and public domain status. It isn’t a substitute for copyright, it lets the creator choose from one of six licenses that will allow them to retransmit their status as copyright holders while allowing for flexibility in how the work can be used by others. There’s no need to register with Creative Commons, creators need only to identify the license in the HTML code or on some part of their image, text, webpage or rights field.

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Contact Us!

Twitter: @DigitizeNYC

Blog: www.mnylc.org/cit

Email: cultureintransit@metro.org