

NDNP Awardee Interim Performance Report
(February 1, 2011–August 31, 2011)

NEH Award Number: PJ-50039-08

NDNP State: Ohio

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INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT NARRATIVE

1. *Describe any changes that you have made or that you anticipate making in the project work plan or methodology from the award proposal submitted to the competition.*

Changes have been made to the revised project work plan that was sent to the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities in February 2011.

- Asynchronous outreach projects (podcasts) to be released starting in November 2011, rather than March 2011.
- Monthly shipment of deliverables to the Library of Congress began in June 2011, rather than March 2011.

The postponement in the release of the podcasts was done in order to ensure usefulness and longevity of these efforts. To be most effective for potential users, it was important to release these after Chronicling America's new interface was fully released. This also allowed us to show users the most current features of the website.

Delay in vendor processing led to a slight delay in the start date for monthly shipments of content to LC. Since June 2011, we have been able to ship batches to the Library of Congress on a monthly basis, and will be able to submit at least 25% of our digital content to LC by October, as is required by the updated schedule of deliverables for 2010 awardees.

The methodology of the project as it relates to microfilm preparation, quality control processes and general workflow procedures remains the same with one exception: we have added another step to our post-digitization quality review process. Our digitization vendor has included OCR corrections into the per page digitization price for our current grant cycle. As part of these corrections, the digitization vendor provides us with a report that shows the original OCR-ed heading and the corrected heading which we review so that we can determine the effectiveness of these OCR enhancements for user retrieval and overall improvement of the user experience.

2. *Please describe any selection or film acquisition/evaluation activities during the performance period.*

Pre- and post-duplication microfilm assessment, including density readings and full collation has been performed on the following papers:

Title	LCCN	# of Rolls
Anti-Slavery Bugle	sn83035487	3
Western Reserve Chronicle (series)	sn84028384, sn84028385	8
Conservative	sn87075001	1
South-eastern Independent	sn87075000	1
Highland Weekly News	sn85038158	11
Urbana Union	sn85026309	4
Xenia Sentinel	sn85038244	1
Perrysburg Journal (series)	sn85026192, sn85026193, sn87076843	5
Fremont Journal (series)	sn85026050, sn85038229, sn87076766	8
Cleveland Leader (series)	sn83035143, sn83035144, sn85042437, sn83035163	18
Gallipolis Journal	sn85038121	7
Holmes County Farmer	sn84028822	1
Holmes County Republican (series)	sn84028820, sn84028821	4
Belmont Chronicle (series)	sn84028479, sn85026241	16

Pre-duplication assessment has also been performed on the following papers:

Title	LCCNs	# of Rolls
Jeffersonian Democrat	sn84028083	2
Ashtabula Telegraph (series)	sn83035216, sn88078580, sn88078581	7
Cincinnati Daily Press (series)	sn88077413, sn84028745	3

During collation of several papers, the following additional titles for digitization were revealed:

- Fremont Journal Extra, sn87076766
- Cleveland Tri-Weekly Leader, sn83035163
- Ashtabula Weekly Telegraph (1880), sn88078581

We also updated our selection list to remove the Ohio State Journal series and expand the time period of digitization for the Daily Ohio Statesman. We had hoped to be able to digitize a portion of the Ohio State Journal, a significant Civil War era newspaper published in Columbus, Ohio, but were unable to obtain access to the master negatives for this paper.

NDNP cataloging staff worked with OCLC and the Library of Congress to update the record for the Cincinnati Daily Press (sn84028745) so that portions of this paper could be included in *Chronicling America*.

3. *Describe any specific award activities that have taken place between collaborating institutions in your state.*

Since the last report, we have not held any advisory board meetings. Advisory board members, however, have been working to promote the project to their institutions and communities. There have been some

changes to the membership of the advisory board that resulted from efforts to fill vacancies left by committee members who have left the project due to retirement or other factors.

During the spring and early summer, NDNP staff hired two interns affiliated with the Kent State University School of Library and Information Science. Over the course of 200 hours, these interns assisted with metadata collection, collation, digital object quality review and historical sketch research. In August, NDNP staff interviewed candidates and selected an intern who will complete 200 hours from September to November 2011. This program has helped MLIS candidates gain additional skills and work experience in the library and digital services fields and has enabled NDNP-OH to meet its pre-digitization microfilm preparation and post-digitization quality review production goals ahead of schedule.

4. *Describe specifically your progress in conversion and/or vendor selection (attach documentation as desired).*

Monthly shipments to our vendor, iArchives, have gone according to our anticipated schedule.

Batch Name	# of Reels sent to Vendor	# of Images Received	Status
Ariel	13	7593	at LC
Borachio	16	10518	at LC
Cobweb	13	11270	in process (post-digitization) at OHS
Desdemona	18	9651	in process (post-digitization) at OHS
		39032 (total)	

Batches Edgar and Feste are currently in-process at iArchives, and Batch Guildenstern is undergoing pre-digitization metadata collection at OHS.

As part of the 2010-2012 grant application, we had proposed the development of a technical project that would examine predicted word accuracy (PWA) information provided in the DVV as a way to identify issues in image quality and improve quality review processes by singling out problem images. It was thought that this project could help in the following scenarios: 1) in the post-digitization quality assessment, where efficiency could be improved; 2) where the problem image(s) can be corrected by rescanning; 3) where documentation or notes can be added to enhance technical or descriptive metadata; or 4) where newspaper selections need to be amended or reconsidered altogether.

A tool was created that pulled out the PWA value for each digitized page into a spreadsheet, and the reports were reviewed to identify problem images with a PWA of less than 70%. Those images were then examined in order to determine what factors led to lower PWA. Overall, it was noted that relatively few pages were below this threshold and, for those that were, lower PWA most often resulted from the condition of original newspaper page on the microfilm (for example, bleed-through was common). Since these problems are observed in the pre-digitization quality assessment (collation), cannot be corrected through rescanning processes and were not frequent throughout the entire digitized newspapers, it was determined that this tool was not useful in the four ways described above.

5. *Do you have any questions or comments regarding the use of the tools provided by LC (Digital Viewer Validation)?*

We do not have any questions or comments regarding the DVV at this time, but if we do, we will contact LC.

6. *Provide an update on your planned schedule for delivery of digital assets for the award, including samples, to the NDNP repository. Include anticipated number of files to be delivered and planned means of delivery or transfer. (Keep in mind the delivery deadlines noted in the Cooperative Agreement Document, but also take into consideration your own resources and workflow plans. LC requests that you plan to deliver new data monthly, with one batch per hard drive. Batches that have been submitted and require rework should be shipped to LC as soon as fixes are complete (send more than one hard drive at a time, if needed).*

Monthly processing of deliverables began on schedule in February 2011. Although we had anticipated sending our first completed batch to LC in by the beginning of April 2011, processing was delayed slightly on our vendor’s side, and our first batch was not sent to LC until the end of June. Since then, batches have been sent to LC via external hard drive approximately every 4 to 6 weeks.

An updated batch schedule has been provided below, which will account for these slight delays in processing. We have also modified the number of total batches that will be delivered. This was done to make the batch sizes more manageable for our microfilm duplication and digitization vendors.

Batch Name	Paper Titles	Approximate Image Count	Anticipated or Actual Date Sent to LC
Ariel	Anti-Slavery Bugle Conservative South-eastern Independent Western Reserve Chronicle (series)	8000	June 2011
Borachio	Highland Weekly News Urbana Union Xenia Sentinel	9000	August 2011
Cobweb	Perrysburg Journal (series) Fremont Journal (series)	10000	September 2011
Desdemona	Cleveland Leader (series)	10000	October 2011
Edgar	Gallipolis Journal Holmes County Farmer Holmes County Republican (series)	7000	November 2011
Feste	Belmont Chronicle (series)	9000	January 2012
Guildenstern	Ashtabula Telegraph (series) Cincinnati Daily Press (series)	7500	February 2012
Horatio	Jeffersonian Democrat Dayton Daily Empire (series)	8500	March 2012
Iago	Hancock Jeffersonian (series) Tiffin Tribune (series)	10000	April 2012
Jaques	Stark County Democrat	7000	May 2012
Kent	McArthur Democrat/Vinton Record Vinton Record McArthur Enquirer (series)	5000	June 2012
Lysander	Ohio Statesman	10000	July 2012

7. *State briefly the status of any other digitized newspaper activities in your or collaborating partners' institutions (non-NDNP-funded).*

NDNP staff have continued working with the Amherst Public Library to digitize additional years of the Amherst New-Times and the Amherst Times to the NDNP specifications. This is outside of the scope of NDNP, since issues published between 1922 and 1940 were digitized. This content will join what is already available on Ohio Memory from two previous Amherst News-Times batches. This collection can be viewed at the following URL:

<http://www.ohiomemory.org/amherstnewstimes/>

We have also been in contact with other institutions around the state to provide advice to them regarding their potential newspaper digitization projects. The Ohio Historical Society's participation in NDNP has positioned us as a resource for smaller institutions that would like to see their local papers digitized and online and allows us to share our experiences with them as they begin to think about their own projects.

8. *Please provide copies of or URLs for any public presentations or publications on topics related to your participation in NDNP (or describe future plans for such).*

NDNP staff will be presenting hour-long sessions about NDNP and Chronicling America at both the 2011 Great Lakes Regional National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference on September 27 and the 2011 Ohio Library Council Convention and Expo on October 26. These presentations will extend knowledge of the National Digital Newspaper Program and Chronicling America to different audiences such as educators and public library staff. Copies of the presentations will be made available after each conference in the Presentations section on the National Digital Newspaper Program in Ohio Project Wiki (<http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/ondp/index.php?title=Presentations>).

An NDNP staff representative will be attending the 2011 Midwest CONTENTdm Users Group Meeting on October 14 and 15 and participating in the following panel discussion: "Large Text Projects with CONTENTdm – Newspapers and Playbills." Through this program, he will discuss how the Ohio Historical Society's involvement in NDNP has shaped our thinking about putting newspapers online and our efforts to include NDNP-specification content in a CONTENTdm hosted environment. This is an opportunity to discuss NDNP with colleagues interested in the technical side of the project, including both challenges and successes.

Matching funds have been allotted toward additional outreach projects, including podcasts and a webinar demonstrating the use of Chronicling America. Development and recording of the "Using Chronicling America" podcasts was completed in early April 2011. This 11-podcast series are tutorials aimed at general users and include the following topics:

- Introduction to NDNP and Chronicling America
- How to browse and perform basic and advanced searches
- How to work with results and manipulate images
- Features of the website (Recommended Topics, Newspaper Directory, etc)
- Historical vocabulary differences and alternatives to controlled vocabulary
- Understanding keyword searching

These recordings are currently in the final editing stages and will begin to become available through the Ohio Historical Society's YouTube page by the end of the year.

Webinar planning was ongoing over the last several months and included collaborating with the Ohio Historical Society's Education and Outreach Division to develop a program appealing to its intended audience of teachers and History Day coordinators. Education and Outreach staff also assisted with advertisement of the webinar by sending out announcements to their contacts in the education and History Day spheres. Though covering much of the same material as the podcasts, this webinar highlighted how this resource could be used by both teachers and students for History Day and other research by focusing on the 2012 History Day theme: Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History. The webinar will be held on September 13, 2011 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm, and as of August 31, 8 participants were registered to attend this program.

Additional matching funds have been allotted toward the use of the creation of a promotional poster that will highlight *Chronicling America*, NDNP and Ohio's newspapers. This poster is aimed toward teachers, students and public library users. The design process is currently underway. Once complete, it will be distributed around the state by NDNP staff and our advisory board.

As mentioned in section 3, advisory board members have been working to promote NDNP in their local communities through word-of-mouth and publication efforts, including publications in the Ohio Department of Education's "Ohio Social Studies Signal Newsletter", the McKinley Presidential Library & Museum's "McKinley News" and the Salem Historical Society Historical "Bugle." Copies of these articles are provided at the end of this report.

NDNP staff has also been promoting the project through the Ohio Historical Society Collections Blog and press releases. Links to these items are provided on the NDNP-OH Project Wiki at: http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/ondp/index.php?title=Press_Releases

9. *Describe any follow-up issues or questions you would like convey to the NDNP program committee as you begin your digital conversion project.*

Since production has begun, it has become apparent that the page count estimates used to determine how many reels could be digitized within the 100,000 page mandate was off by approximately 5,000 pages. We anticipate that we may need to use surplus funds from other categories (such as consultant fees) in order to digitize all selected reels. Once we have determined how much additional funds we need for digitization, we will be in contact with NEH to discuss the appropriate course of action.

We do not have any additional issues or questions at this time, but would like to inform NEH that we will be submitting a supplemental proposal for the 2012 award year and are waiting to for the new grant guidelines to be posted. We invite any comments and feedback and look forward to the continued development and success of the National Digital Newspaper Program in Ohio.