

NDNP Awardee Interim Performance Report
(September 1, 2016-February 28, 2017)

NEH Award Number: PJ-50039-08

NDNP State: Ohio

Submitted By: Jenni Salamon, Project Coordinator

Report Date: March 31, 2017

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.*

We have modified the work plan submitted with the grant proposal in the following ways:

- The advisory board met in February 2017 to select newspapers for digitization.
- The sample batch will be submitted to LC in March 2017.
- Full production, pending LC approval of the sample batch, will begin in April 2017.
- Deliverables for outreach projects will be released beginning in June 2017.

These changes to the overall schedule have allowed project staff and advisory board members more time to review and select newspapers for this grant cycle. Because of the focus on non-English language titles and the possibility of including content published after 1922, additional time has been needed to research titles and finalize the selection list. Despite these changes to the schedule, we will be able to meet all projects deadlines and goals. A revised schedule detailing these changes was sent to NEH and LC in October 2016.

The methodology of the project as it relates to microfilm preparation, quality control processes and general workflow will remain similar to previous grant cycles. Because we are working with a new vendor, we anticipate there might be some small changes made once we begin full production.

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

The advisory board met on September 28, 2016 to learn about the National Digital Newspaper Program and Ohio's participation to date, as well as 2016-2018 project goals. Project staff provided instructions on the selection process and a list of newspapers available for digitization. During this meeting, advisory board members selected a sample reel from a list of five German-language newspapers that either had unique political/social perspectives or were from communities not well-represented on *Chronicling America*. A Roman Catholic newspaper published in Pomeroy and then Columbus, the *Ohio Waisenfreund* series (sn94069200; sn91069201), from May 2, 1873 through December 29, 1875, was selected.

On February 22, 2017, the advisory board met to identify which papers should be digitized for *Chronicling America*, pending additional quality checks and research into public domain status as needed. Prior to this meeting, each of the five advisory board members submitted their top five German-language newspapers and top two newspapers from each of the other available languages (Czech, Hungarian, Hungarian German, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Serbo-Croatian, Slovak and

Slovenian), along with a newspaper review worksheet explaining why each was identified as important and appropriate to include in this project. These rankings guided the discussion and final recommendations, which included about 26 titles covering: 1834-1963, each of the immigrant groups listed previously, and three communities not already represented on *Chronicling America*. Project staff have begun performing additional quality checks and research into public domain status of post-1922 newspapers in order to finalize the selection list prior to its upcoming submission to LC.

During this time, project staff performed pre- and post-duplication quality assessment of the sample reel. Preliminary quality checks were also performed on most of the titles on the list provided to the advisory board at the September meeting. These evaluation activities included the review of positive use copy microfilm, allowing staff to gather initial information on quality, completeness and page counts in preparation for the February advisory board meeting.

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

As discussed in section 2, the advisory board has been convened twice since the last report. Advisory board members come from multiple cultural heritage institutions from throughout the state: Columbus Landmarks Foundation, Ohio History Connection, Ohio University (in Athens), University of Cincinnati and Western Reserve Historical Society/Case Western Reserve University (in Cleveland). Their knowledge of and/or experience with newspaper collections, ethnic/immigrant history and local communities allowed for a collaborative approach to newspaper selection. Through this process, about 39 titles were identified for consideration by the entire board.

Advisory board members also offered feedback on the proposed plans for outreach projects—educator/student resources, video tutorials and public presentations—during both meetings. They suggested topics to cover, groups to partner with and general approaches for each of these activities. Based on their advice, the initial set of projects which are to be completed by September 2017 using German-language resources on *Chronicling America*, will focus on: connecting students to their local communities through diversity and citizenship; working with Fraktur font and online translation tools; and a partnership with and presentation for one or more German heritage organizations in Columbus and/or Cincinnati. Project staff will continue to work closely with the advisory board to determine the direction for the remaining outreach projects over the course of the grant.

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

A contract with Bowling Green State University for microfilm duplication was signed in August 2016. We have worked with them to produce second-generation silver negative microfilm for all our previous grant cycles, and they have been an exemplary partner, allowing us to create high quality deliverables and meet our monthly production goals.

A request for proposal (RFP) for microfilm scanning and metadata creation services was sent out in September 2016. As part of their proposal, each vendor processed a sample reel that would

ultimately be sent to the Library of Congress. A sample reel of poorer quality was chosen, and this allowed us to see how each vendor would overcome the unique challenges of working with older newspapers. A total of four vendors responded, and after reviewing the cost, deliverables, and the overall proposal, project staff selected Northern Micrographics as its vendor for the 2016-2018 grant cycle. Not only did they produce high quality images and OCR, but they have experience working with variety of foreign languages with other National Digital Newspaper Program participants, making them an ideal partner for this phase of our project.

The sample reel was digitized in December 2016 as part of the RFP process, and initial quality review was completed in January 2017. Northern Micrographics needed to make some changes to the metadata and to test different scan settings in February, and the final version of the reel will be delivered in March.

Title	# of reels sent to vendor	# of images received
<i>Ohio Waisenfreund series</i> (sn94069200; sn91069201)	1	1,142

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 will contact LC if we do.

6. *Provide an update on your planned schedule for delivery of digital assets 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).*

Processing of monthly deliverables (8,000-10,000 images per batch) will begin in April, pending LC approval of the sample reel. Batches will arrive via external hard drive and continue until the project is complete with a goal of submitting one batch every four to six weeks. An anticipated batch schedule was submitted to NEH and LC in October 2016 along with our revised schedule. There are no updates to this schedule at this time, as we have not yet finalized the exact titles/date ranges we will be digitizing. The selection list will be finalized by April 30, per the grant's requirements, and an updated production schedule will be made available via the project website at that time.

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

Project staff have continued to work with several institutions in Ohio to provide newspaper digitization and hosting services via *Ohio Memory* (www.ohiomemory.org). We currently have ten

active partners that have contributed just over 100,000 pages of content to *Ohio Memory* since 2010, and we are add more content and partners each year.

The Ohio History Connection also digitizes its own microfilmed newspapers for *Ohio Memory* using operating funds and local/state grants. To date, we have digitized over 115,000 pages from about 20 titles. When selecting newspapers for our local projects, we focus on newspapers from communities not represented on *Chronicling America* or *Ohio Memory*. Of particular note is a project undertaken in 2016, funded by the State Library of Ohio through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), to digitize a portion of the *Americké Dělnické Listy (American Workingmen's News)* from 1918-1941 (about 13,000 pages). This was a historically significant, Czech-language newspaper published in Cleveland, and this project has helped prepare us for digitizing 100,000 pages of foreign-language content for *Chronicling America* over the course of this grant cycle.

Project staff is in regular contact with institutions around the state, providing advice regarding their potential newspaper digitization projects. Our participation in NDNP has allowed us to act as a resource for smaller institutions that would like to have their newspapers digitized and available online.

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).*

Presentations

Project staff regularly provide presentations on newspaper digitization and *Chronicling America*. Since the beginning of this grant period, we have made the following presentations:

Date	Event	Presentation name	Presentation copy
9/7/2016	Delaware County Historical Society meeting	Unearthing History with Delaware Newspapers on <i>Ohio Memory</i> and <i>Chronicling America</i>	Attached to end of report
10/7/2016	Ohio Local History Alliance annual meeting	Preserving & Digitizing the <i>Kent Tribune</i>	Attached to end of report
1/28/2017	German Community Forum at the Columbus Metropolitan Library	German-Language Newspapers at the Ohio History Connection	Attached to end of report

Upcoming presentations include:

Date	Event	Presentation name
6/19/2017	Teachers-in-Residence at the Ohio History Connection	Using <i>Ohio Memory</i> & <i>Chronicling America</i> in the Classroom
7/31/2017	Ohio as America Professional Development Institute	<i>Ohio Memory</i> and <i>Chronicling America</i> : Finding Primary Sources Online

10/21/2017	Palatines-to-America Genealogy Society Fall Seminar	German-Language Newspapers at the Ohio History Connection
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As discussed previously in this report and in our grant proposal, we will have another presentation on German-language newspapers available through *Chronicling America* this fall. This will be provided in partnership with a German heritage group.

Ohio History Day prize

In support of NEH’s *Chronicling America* History Day Prize, the Ohio History Connection continues to offer a similar prize at Ohio History Day each year. This prize recognizes exceptional use of primary resources available on *Chronicling America* and/or *Ohio Memory* in the development of a student’s History Day project. A prize is offered for the best individual or group project in each of the Junior and Senior Divisions. Ohio History Day is on April 29, 2017 this year.

Articles, press releases and blog posts

Project staff will work with Marketing and Communications staff at the Ohio History Connection to promote our current NDNP grant cycle. We plan to release information about the project through our membership newsletter, Echoes, once we have finalized our selection list. Ohio’s *Chronicling America* content is regularly featured on Ohio History Connection social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) and the *Ohio Memory* blog.

Website

Project staff recently transitioned the National Digital Newspaper Program in Ohio Project Wiki to a new website: <http://ndnpohio.ohiohistory.org/>. This website will feature information about our participation in NDNP, including title selections, project updates and advisory board documentation. We will also continue to include information about our participation in NDNP on *Ohio Memory*’s Newspapers page: <http://www.ohiohistoryhost.org/ohiomemory/newspapers>.

- 9. Describe any follow-up issues or questions you would like convey to the NDNP program committee.

We do not have any follow-up issues or questions at this time. We have been communicating regularly with our LC liaison, Tonijala Penn, regarding our selection list for this grant cycle and will continue to work with her and other LC/NEH staff as needed throughout our project.