

NDNP Awardee Interim Performance Report
(March 1, 2017-August 31, 2017)

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.*

Due to staff changes, the first set of outreach project deliverables will be released in September and October. The rest of the work plan remains the same as shared with NEH and LC in previous communications, and we will still be able to meet all projects deadlines and goals.

The methodology of the project as it relates to microfilm preparation, quality control processes and general workflow has remained similar to previous grant cycles. We have begun work with a new digitization and metadata creation vendor and provide the required title-, reel- and issue-level metadata information to them via a spreadsheet. The only change to previous quality review processes is the increased time spent on verifying OCR and textblock encoding. Project staff rely on online translation tools and a spreadsheet provided by the digitization vendor to check for OCR accuracy. Metadata, collation and quality review instructional documents were created and/or updated so that work could be done consistently by all project staff.

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

Project staff performed quality checks, content analysis and copyright research for the 26 titles recommended by the advisory board as candidates for digitization. The final list submitted to LC on April 21, 2017, included 19 titles covering 1834-1959 from Czech, German, Hungarian German, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Serbo-Croatian, Slovak and Slovenian. Several titles, including both Hungarian options, were excluded from the final list due to microfilm quality and availability. The resulting list still allows for diverse coverage of Ohio's immigrant communities within the limitations of the grant. All post-1922 titles under consideration were shown to be in the public domain, although some date ranges were narrowed in order to distribute page count as evenly as possible among each of the titles/languages, with about half of the content being German or Hungarian German (Fraktur font).

Pre- and post-duplication microfilm assessment, including collation and metadata collection, and duplication by our partner Bowling Green State University, was performed on the following papers:

Batch	Title	Language	Roll count
atticus	Cincinnati <i>Westliche Blätter</i> (sn83045582)	German	7
atticus	Cleveland <i>Echo</i> (sn83035337)	German	3
bartleby	Cleveland <i>Jedność Polek</i> (sn83035481)	Polish	2

bartleby	Toledo <i>Ameryka Echo</i> series (sn93058750, sn93054144, sn93054143, sn93054145, sn83045274)	Polish	6
carrie	Canton <i>Vaterlandsfreund</i> series (sn88078471, sn88078470, sn85025661, sn88078469)	German	3
carrie	Canton <i>Ohio Staats-bote</i> (sn88078466)	German	1
carrie	Pomeroy/Columbus <i>Ohio Waisenfreund</i> series (sn91069200, sn91069201)	German	6
dorothy	Cleveland <i>Enakopravnost</i> (sn83035527)	Slovenian	6
euphemia	<i>Tägliches Cincinnatier Volksblatt</i> (sn83045474)	German	11

The microfilm duplication and metadata collection for batch_ohi_euphemia is still in process. Project staff also ordered and received duplicate negatives from the Library of Congress for two Croatian titles that will be digitized in an upcoming batch (frederick).

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, but advisory board members were available via email to make further recommendations on final newspaper selections as project staff were able to provide more information about content, page count and other factors that impacted whether a newspaper could be included, and if so, how much. Advisory board members also made recommendations for potential host sites in the Cincinnati-area for a public program about NDNP and Chronicling America. This facilitated our upcoming presentation at the German-American Citizens League's German Heritage Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Advisory board members will be kept informed about the release of the video tutorial and educator/student resource so that they can promote them to their respective communities.

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

The sample reel was finalized and sent to the Library of Congress in March 2017. It was accepted in April, and full-scale production began in May.

Batch name	Reel count	Image count	Status
atticus	10	10,148	at LC
bartleby	8	9,000	will ship to LC in September
carrie	10	~10,700	digitization at vendor
dorothy	6	~6,500	digitization at vendor
euphemia	11	~10,700	pre-digitization prep at OHC

Delays on the vendor side with processing non-English content did not allow for the first batch of content to be shipped to LC until mid-August. Production time at the vendor and the Ohio History Connection will be shortened with upcoming batches, allowing the project to stay on track and submit all data by the end of the grant period.

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, although our vendor has expressed a concern with a PDF document metadata validation error that occurs on titles with accents marks. We have sent information to LC for further investigation.

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) began in May, and the first batch was delivered to LC in August. Batches will continue to arrive via external hard drive until the project is complete, with a goal of submitting one batch every four to six weeks. A production schedule was submitted to LC in April with the selection list, and an updated version is below:

Batch	Pre-digitization prep/duplication	Digitization	Quality review	Send to LC
atticus	May 2017	June-July 2017	August 2017	August 2017
bartleby	June 2017	July-August 2017	August 2017	September 2017
carrie	July 2017	August-September 2017	September 2017	October 2017
dorothy	August 2017	September 2017	October 2017	November 2017
euphemia	September 2017	October 2017	November 2017	December 2017
frederick	October 2017	November 2017	December 2017	January 2018
gatsby	November 2017	December 2017	January 2018	February 2018
holden	December 2017	January 2018	February 2018	March 2018
ichabod	January 2018	February 2018	March 2018	April 2018
janie	February 2018	March 2018	April 2018	May 2018
kino	March 2018	April 2018	May 2018	June 2018

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](#). We currently have ten active partners that have contributed nearly 150,000 pages of content to *Ohio Memory* since 2010, and we add more content and partners each year. In partnership with the Akron-Summit County Public Library, we recently completed a project to digitize the entire run of [The Reporter](#), an African-American newspaper published in Akron, Ohio. The collection currently covers 1969-2016 and new issues will be added on a yearly or biyearly basis.

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 about 130,000 pages from about 25 titles. When selecting newspapers for our local projects, we focus on newspapers from communities not represented on *Chronicling America* or *Ohio Memory*.

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, *Chronicling America* and *Ohio Memory*. Since the beginning of this report period, we have made the following presentations:

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

Upcoming presentations include:

Date	Event	Presentation name
10/6/2017	Ohio Local History Alliance/Society of Ohio Archivists Fall Meeting	Moving Beyond 1922: Understanding Public Domain and Copyright from 1923-1963
10/18/2017	Warren County Genealogical Society	Newspaper Research at the Ohio History Connection
10/21/2017	Palatines-to-America Genealogy Society Fall Seminar	German-Language Newspapers at the Ohio History Connection
10/25/2017	Akron-Summit County Public Library	<i>The Reporter on Ohio Memory</i>
10/29/2017	German-American Citizens League	All About <i>Chronicling America's</i> German Language Newspapers

We will be working with additional community groups to provide presentations about *Chronicling America's* foreign language content over the course of the next year.

Educator/student resources

Due to staff changes, we delayed the production and release of our first educator/student resource featuring foreign language content on *Chronicling America*. In June, a high school teacher from northwest Ohio was contracted to create this material. His work was completed in July and project staff are finalizing it for release via our project website. It will be promoted via the NDNP listserv, Ohio History Connection educator contacts and our advisory board once it is made available. The resource contains a week's worth of lessons encouraging students to explore anti-German sentiment during World War I and its connection to current events through a variety of primary sources, including several English- and German-language newspaper articles from *Chronicling America*.

Video tutorials

Over the course of the grant, project staff will be producing and releasing three instructional videos, using Camtasia screencasting software, related to non-English content on *Chronicling America*. The first screencast was recorded in August and will be released in September. It focused on how to work with Fraktur font—particularly reading and translation. In addition to helping users of German-language newspapers, others working with German-language printed materials may be able to apply the information shared to their research.

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 was on April 29, 2017 this year. Only a Junior Division prize was awarded this year. The students used a number of newspaper articles for their project *Alice Paul and Her Hunger for Change*.

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. Although we had planned to release information about the project through our membership newsletter, Echoes, once we had finalized our selection list, our Marketing and Communications staff recommended we begin promoting the project once we have new content available online. We regularly use our project website and Ohio History Connection social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) to promote *Chronicling America*.

Website

The [project website](#) features information about our participation in NDNP, including title selections, project updates and advisory board documentation. We also include information about our participation in NDNP on [Ohio Memory's Newspapers page](#).

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 project and will continue to work with her and other LC/NEH staff as needed.