

July 2010 #16

CONTENTS

[News of the Day](#)
[Featured Collections](#)
[Project News](#)
[WHO Resources Wiki](#)
[Events to Note](#)

News of the Day

Refresh Content Harvest Update

University of Wisconsin-Madison DoIT has resumed harvesting data from collection sites that were harvested prior to June 2009. In June 2010, the Wisconsin Heritage Online portal had nearly 52,000 items in forty-four different collections from eleven different server sites around the state. You can search Wisconsin Heritage Online at wisconsinheritage.org. If you want to review a list of the collections in WHO, choose the Guided Search option and use the Any Sub-collection pull-down list.


When we are once again harvesting from new sites and collections, we will add data from South Wood County Historical Society, Richland County History Room, Museum at the Portage, Hales Corners Historical Society, McMillan Memorial Library Digital Collections, and Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum. These collections are all hosted by the Milwaukee Public Library. We hope to include these collections in a fall harvest.

Is Your Organization Interested in Digitization?



Emily Pfothenhauer, Wisconsin Heritage Online Outreach Specialist, has time to discuss with you whether a digital project is a good fit for you and WHO. Emily's services are free through June 2011. After that, who knows? Talk to her now! It takes between six months and two years to get a digital project organized and online at the Milwaukee Public Library's hosted CONTENTdm server. Contact Emily at 608 265-2138 or epfothenhauer@wils.wisc.edu.

WHO on Facebook

 Heritage Online posts periodic tidbits and selected images from the Wisconsin Heritage Online portal. It's a great way to have images from your collections seen by people who may not be your usual clientele. You can see images from other collections that may complement something in your collection or you can post a comment or image from your collection which adds to something on the Facebook site. "Like" us at [Facebook WisconsinHeritage!](#)

Featured Collections

Blanchardville Historical Society

Another new WHO collection comes from the Blanchardville Historical Society. Volunteers at the Society scanned and cataloged two local history books published by the Blanchardville Woman's Club. Nicknamed the [Red Book and the Purple Book](#) by local residents, these popular publications feature photos and histories of community life in Blanchardville from the 1840s up to the 1980s.



Neville Public Museum Digital History, the Lost Soldiers



Neville Public Museum, guided by Louise Pfothenauer, has been using Save Our History grant monies from the History Channel to digitize World War One materials from the Brown County War History Committee. The materials include each soldier's application record and often a photograph; in addition, letters and diaries are added for many soldiers. There are over 650 soldiers available now with a total of 1721 planned at project completion. One of the poignant aspects of this historical collection is the number of family members represented, brothers in most cases I expect, but sometimes cousins or father and son. Do a [search](#) on the Gussert, Kaczmarzinski, and Lally surnames. Can you figure out what relationship the soldiers have? Don't you wonder what happened to these people?

Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum



On July 14 Milwaukee's Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum will open the exhibition *Cyril Colnik: A New Look is on View* which features a selection from the Colnik Archives and will introduce the Museum's collaboration with Wisconsin Heritage Online. The Archives consist of nearly 1,000 original drawings, blueprints and photographs from the papers of noted Milwaukee metalworker Cyril Colnik. This material is extremely fragile and concerns over conservation limit public access to this important collection. The Museum's partnership with WHO brings this material to a broader audience through a searchable [online database](#). The digitization of the Colnik Archive complements another digital collection available through WHO, the [Wisconsin Decorative Arts Database](#), which includes 47 artifacts from the Museum's collections made by Colnik and the Colnik Manufacturing Co.

Cyril Colnik: A New Look is on View is on view at the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum July 14-September 26, 2010. More information about the exhibit and related events is available from the Museum's [website](#).

Project News

Tales of Old Portage



The Portage Historical Society has been working with Wisconsin Heritage Online for more than half a year on the best way to develop use of a unique resource. This WHO collection features articles from the "Tales of Old Portage" series written by local historian Dorothy McCarthy for the Portage Daily Register, 1958-1975. See content.mpl.org/portagemuseum to explore the collection.

Newest projects in the works

St. Norbert College in DePere and the New Berlin Historical Society are the latest organizations to tackle a digitization project with WHO. Both groups will digitize historic photographs and make them available through CONTENTdm collections hosted by the Milwaukee Public Library.

Volunteers at the New Berlin Historical Society will scan and catalog a group of glass lantern slides documenting the Swartz Brothers Cornfalfa Farms, widely known in the early 20th century for innovative and experimental farming techniques. To read more about Emily's visit to New Berlin in June, check out our [Facebook](#) page.

Staff members at St. Norbert College's Miriam B. and James J. Mulva Library are preparing to create a digital collection of 2,500+ images of life on campus since the early 1900s. The library will host a "picture night" during the college's 50th reunion and share the images online with other alumni in order to discover more information about the photos.

WHO Resources Wiki

Are You Subscribed?

The Wisconsin Heritage Online resources [wiki](#) is a terrific resource if your organization is planning to digitize a fragile or unique collection of any kind of material. You can join Wisconsin Heritage Online for as little as \$50 per year! In addition to planning resources, there are links to useful professional websites everywhere.

Events to Note

Hosted-WHO list serve

In April, we set up a list serve for content providers with collections hosted by Wisconsin Historical Society or Milwaukee Public Library. List members are invited to share new digital content, post questions about digitization, and discuss ways to promote digital collections. List administrators will also post updates about training opportunities, new resources, etc. If we didn't sign you up at set-up in April you can subscribe yourself [here](#).

Upcoming event: Northwoods Regional Meeting

An ongoing collaboration between WHO and the Langlade County Historical Society will be featured at the Northwoods Regional Meeting of the Wisconsin Council for Local History and the Wisconsin Historical Society on August 28. Langlade County Historical Society president Joe Hermolin and WHO Outreach Specialist Emily Pfothenauer will discuss the digitization of the Arthur J. Kingsbury Photography Collection. Langlade County and WHO are working with students in the Tribal Libraries, Archives and Museums class at UW-Madison's School of Library and Information Studies to research and catalog Kingsbury's photographs of Ojibwe and Menominee Indians in northern Wisconsin in the early 20th century.

Registration information and a full agenda for the meeting, which will take place at the Antigo Public Library on August 28, are available from the [Wisconsin Historical Society](#).

[To Top](#)

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[Wisconsin Heritage Online](#)

[Wisconsin Heritage wiki](#)