Our Year in Transit: Observations from the Culture in Transit Team

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@DigitizeNYC
http://www.mnyc.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

- 22 public events
- 750 unique items digitized
- Close to 100 items cataloged on BPL

Queens Library

- 20 public events
- 665 unique items digitized
- 550 items cataloged on queensmemory.org and prepared for ingest into DPLA
Not Just Libraries!

Neir’s Tavern
Woodhaven, Queens

Green-Wood Cemetery
Brooklyn

Boys and Girls High School
Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn
Outreach

Holdng On Tight to Old New York

Share Your Own (or Grandma’s) Greenpoint Story with this Brooklyn Archival Project

Tadas Chabrewil hands were shaking as he sifted 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, Family Optical, once located at 130 Norman Avenue in Greenpoint, has been closed for 16 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

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
Recent Partnerships

My Baryo, My Borough
- Documenting the Filipino-American community in Queens
- Collected over 100 unique photographs

Good Neighbors of Park Slope
- Organizes cultural events for the over 50 population of Park Slope
- Collected 138 unique items

Local Historical Societies
- Digitization training
- Co-sponsorship and promotion of scanning events
Challenges

Language

- Bilingual outreach materials
- Volunteer translators

Trust

- Our partners help bridge the gap between us and the communities we’re working with

Lack of Meaningful Takeaways

- Is a flash drive the best takeaway for a senior with little to no computer skills?
Collected at PS 66, PS 131 and George Westinghouse HS
Institutional Scanning - METRO

“How might we leverage libraries as a platform to build more knowledgeable communities?”
New York Academy of Medicine, Carte de Visite Collection

The Carte de Visite Collection consists of 223 late 19th and early 20th century photographs of national and international figures in medicine and public health. Many are from the New York area.

Learn More About the Collection

Card of Visite, A.S. Bull
Carte-de-visite of A.S. Bull, taken by photographic studio Rockwood and Co.

Hostos Community College, Hostos Arts and Culture Collection

The Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture Collection includes 101 promotional cards featuring original artwork that documents musical performances, gallery exhibitions and art installations that have taken place at Hostos Community College. The cards illustrate the incredible variety of artists and performers who have come together at this dynamic South Bronx venue.

Learn More About the Collection

'Sophy' Concert Postcard
Postcard advertising a gala concert by 'Sophy', a Puerto Rican vocalist. Held on November 14, 1998.

WCS Archives, Ephemera Collection

This digital collection includes 112 items from the Wildlife Conservation Society Archives' extensive collection of publications and printed ephemera created by WCS, which begins in 1899, in the New York Zoological Society. Within this digital collection are materials related to exhibits and events at WCS's Bronx Zoo and New York Aquarium and souvenirs from the New York Aquarium. Materials date from 1911 to 1992, with the bulk dating from the 1960s through the 1980s.

Learn More About the Collection

Admission ticket for grand re-opening of the Farm-in-the-Zoo exhibit
Admission ticket for grand re-opening of the Farm-in-the-Zoo exhibit at the New York Zoological Park on May 7, circa 1957

Admission ticket for opening of new Great Ape House exhibit
Admission ticket for opening of new Great Ape House exhibit at the New York Zoological Park on October 12, 1950

Admission ticket to Breakfast by the Sea event, May 15, 1985, New York Aquarium
Admission ticket for event 'Breakfast by the Sea held at the New York Aquarium on May 15, 1985.'
Search Results

Your search for white plains returned 246 results.

Refined by: White Plains Public Library

Items per page: 10  Sort by: Relevance

1 2 3 4 5

By Format
- Image 246

Contributing Institution
- White Plains Public Library

Partner
- Empire State Digital Network 246

By Date
- From
- To

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, 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.
Facts & Figures

So far.....

- 8 METRO member institutions visited
- Over 1,150 items digitized
- 4 collections in Digital Culture
- 3 collections in DPLA
LGBT Center - Unique & Historically Important

**New York City Gay Scene Guide Quarterly**
- Spring 1984 Quarterly Vol. 1, #1
- Special Features:
  - Manhattan offers a great deal of activity, primarily because so many folks live here, but it’s also possible that a visitor to New York might find himself in a great vacuum if he doesn’t know where the gay fun spots are in “fun city.” With this in mind, the editor of the NYC GSG is providing here a brief rundown of points of interest in the city.
- First of all, we must point out that certain areas in the city can be “danger areas” in the late hours of the evening. Times Square has been a terrific gathering spot for a hundred years or more. Once the scene of top entertainment, it is now on the world side with all night movie, several all-night coffee houses, and many bookshops. Forty-second Street, between 4th and 5th Avenues is always lively, with plenty of cruisers. However, this is also the area most prolific with hustlers, so be careful.

**NYC Destination 1989-1990**
- LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY
- YOUNG OR OLD, NEW OR NATIVE.
Hostos Community College- Celebration of Local Culture
Yeshiva University- Oversize & Inaccessible

[Image of a rolled-up document on a table]

[Image of a tripod with a camera mounted on it]

[Image of a protest poster with the text: "PROTEST OPPRESSION OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE SOVIET UNION" and "LET MY PEOPLE GO!"

[Image of a sign with the text: "U.N. AND BUSH: TAKE A MORAL STAND"]
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’ll 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
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 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
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.

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So what’s in a kit?

**Posted on July 22, 2015 by Caroline Catchpole**

This post focuses on our mobile digitization kits and what they contain.

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

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

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

**Scanning Kit**

- Please note that we are including pricing information and links for two different scanners, the Epson V600 and the Epson V800. These scanners have slightly different specifications, and are most appropriate for different institutions or projects. Future documentation will discuss the differences between these scanners in more depth.

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CIT Visits NYPL Labs

**Posted on July 14, 2015 by Maggie Schneider**

Last week Culture in Transit’s three mobile digitization specialists took a field trip to visit NYPL Labs at the Book Ops facility in Long Island, Queens. After reading the recent Urban Omnibus article *Middleways: Landscapes of Library Logistics* which delves into some of the technical services coordinated at Book Ops, we were really excited to visit the building and check out the digital imaging lab. We brought along one of our mobile copy stand kits – its first trip around town on the MTA!

At Book Ops we met with Eric Showes, the Manager of Digitization Services. After a tour of the impressive digitization facilities, we set up our copy stand to get his feedback and suggestions.

Caroline has been using the copy stand at her first placement at the Wildlife Conservation Society (more to come about that in a future post), and she compiled a list of questions and concerns. Here are some of the main takeaways from our discussion:

**Lens Curvature**

We are using a Canon EOS Rebel T5 DSLR Camera with 18-55 mm

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www.mnlylc.org/cit
Contact Us!

Twitter: @DigitizeNYC
Blog: www.mnylc.org/cit
Email: cultureintransit@metro.org