Digitization Projects and Missouri Digital Heritage

Sponsored by the
Office of the Missouri Secretary of State

Landmark Initiative
Portal to Digital Resources
Collaborative Effort

Missouri State Library

Missouri State Archives
Many other Libraries and Cultural Institutions

Launched in April 2008
9 million records accessible
500 million visits reached in 2014

Explore Family & Genealogy Resources

- **Birth & Death Records Database Pre-1910**
- **Death Certificates 1910-1969**
- **Census Schedules from 1830-1940**
- **Coroner's Inquest Database**
- **Judicial Records**
- **Land Patents: 1831-1969**
- **Naturalization Records (1816-1955)**
- **Soldier's Database: War of 1812 – WWI**
- **Supreme Court of Missouri Historical Records**
- **Union Provost Marshal Papers 1861-1866**

Missouri Digital Heritage — John. R Ashcroft, Secretary of State

by Topic
by Media Type
by Institution
View All

Explore our Collective Past

More than 9 million records can be accessed through Missouri Digital Heritage, including the collections of the Missouri State Archives, the Missouri State Library and other institutions from across the state.
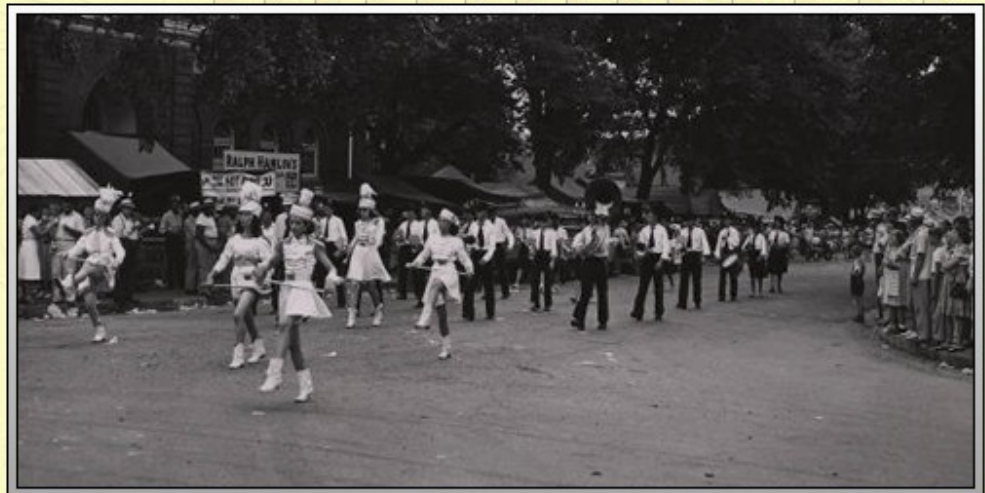
Search
Advanced Search

We're always working to help local organizations digitize their collections and share them online. If you have ideas or suggestions, please send them to mdh@sos.mo.gov.

Latest Updates

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Marching band at the Missouri State Fair, Sedalia, circa 1940-1950. Gerald R. Massie, photographer. From the Secretary of State, Publications Division, Photographs Collection, contributed by the Missouri State Archives.

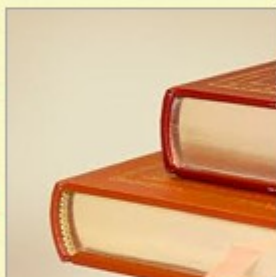Missouri Digital Heritage :: Collections by Title (All) :: Media Types

Browse Collections by: Topic | Media Type | Institution | View All

BROWSE COLLECTIONS By Media Type
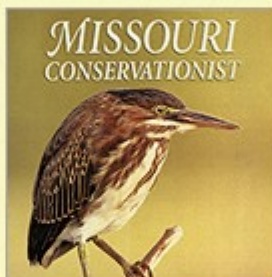

Art

Books and Pamphlets

Collection Guides

Magazines and Journals

Maps and Blueprints

Newspapers

Organizational Records

Personal Papers

Photographs

Physical Objects

Sound Recordings

Video and Film

Missouri Digital Heritage

John. R Ashcroft
Secretary of State

BROWSE COLLECTIONS By Topic

- **Archaeology and Anthropology**
  Collections relating to the study of world cultures.

- **Art, Architecture, Literature, Music, and Theater**
  Documents related to artists, composers, musicians, authors, playwrights, architects and their works.

- **Business, Industry and Agriculture**
  Collections that demonstrate the diversity of Missouri's economic and agricultural activities.

- **Cultures and Communities**
  Documents regarding Native Americans, African Americans, immigrant groups, urban and rural neighborhoods, and regional cultures of Missouri.

- **Education in Missouri**
  Collections documenting the history of schools and education in Missouri.

- **Exploration and Settlement**
  Documents referring to French and Spanish settlers, fur traders, native tribes, explorers, land speculators, miners and other early residents.

- **Genealogy**
  Genealogical resources that include birth, marriage, death, church and cemetery records and family papers.

- **Government and Politics**
  Collections documenting the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government at the territorial, local, state, and federal levels.

- **Military and Conflicts**

BROWSE COLLECTIONS By Institution

Archives and Historical Societies | Higher Education | Missouri State Library | Museums
Public Libraries | Schools | Special Libraries | Miscellaneous

Archives and Historical Societies

- Archives of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

- Boone County Historical Society

- Concordia Historical Institute

- Iron County Historical Society

- Harry S. Truman Library & Museum

- Historical Society of University City

- Missouri State Archives

- National Archives & Records Administration

  - Central Plains Region Archives

- Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation

- St. Louis Jewish Community Archives

- State Historical Society of Missouri

How can institutions get involved?

How can institutions get involved?

- Request that the MDH site link to your already-digitized content

How can institutions get involved?

- Request that the MDH site link to your already-digitized content
- Apply for an LSTA Digital Imaging Grant

Digital Imaging Grants

- Typically involve production of both digital images and metadata
- Competitive - Prioritize collections with unique content focusing on Missouri history and culture
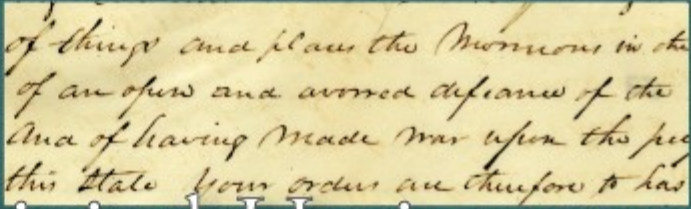- Collaboration and mentoring are encouraged
- Awards vary from $5,000 - $75,000

Digital Imaging Grants -
Who's eligible?

- Public libraries certified to receive state aid
- Academic, school, or special libraries with original source materials (historical or cultural)
- Archives, historical societies, or museums may be eligible to participate in a partnership with a library

Digital Imaging Grants - Timeline

- Letter of Intent – due December 1
- Full application – due February 1
- Grants typically run from May to April
- Reports due at end of August, December, and May

Digital Imaging Grants - Letter of Intent

- Scope, content and historical significance
- Description of existing cataloging, finding aids or other inventory of the collection
- Technical infrastructure in place at the institution (personnel, equipment, etc.)
- Planning process for the project
- Technical issues in the project
- Copyright statement

How can institutions get involved?

- Request that the MDH site link to your already-digitized content on the Web
- Apply for an LSTA Digital Imaging Grant
- Temporarily loan materials to the Secretary of State's office for digitization through the Imaging Services office of the State Archives
- Upload already-digitized content to MDH's CONTENTdm server

Planning – Questions to Ask

- Do we have adequate funding and staff?
- What are our users' needs?
- Besides physical custody, do we own the rights to digitize these materials and make them available online?
- Do we possess the equipment to effectively digitize/present material?
- How will we manage digital content?

Planning – Selection

- Don't bite off more than you can chew
- Records should be unique or rare – are they already available online?
- Is there noticeable demand?
- Hidden jewels – would usage justify cost?
- If there's demand, would access be improved?

Planning – Metadata

- Does metadata already exist in a database, spreadsheet, or finding aid?
- Size of collection may dictate the sort of metadata necessary
- Use unique naming identifiers adhering to a standard – e.g. XYZ-B001-F007-0001.tif

Other things to think about

- Scanning standards and file types - Are we scanning for preservation or just access?
- Maintaining copies – format obsolescence, bit rot
- 3-2-1 Rule (3 copies, 2 formats, 1 offsite)
- Platforms – CONTENTdm, Omeka (self-hosted), Omeka.net (hosted, free <500 MB), Collective Access, Biblioboard

Questions?

Missouri Digital Heritage
mdh@sos.mo.gov
(573) 751-3280

Matt Butler, Digitization Consultant
matthew.butler@sos.mo.gov
(573) 522-1477