

National Endowment for the Humanities Interim Performance Report

Grant Number: PW-51064-12

Grantee: University of Florida Libraries

Project Director: Thomas R. Caswell

Project Title: Unearthing St. Augustine's Colonial Heritage: An Interactive Digital Collection for the Nation's Oldest City

Period Covered: 7/1/2012 - 6/30/2013

In March 2012, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded the University of Florida (UF) George A. Smathers Libraries a \$265,000 Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Grant. The "Unearthing St. Augustine" grant, led by project director Thomas Caswell and co-director James Cusick, has two main goals:

- 1) to establish a specialized computer digitization lab at the Government House in St. Augustine, Florida; and,
- 2) to build an online collection of hidden and fragile resources related to colonial St. Augustine.

This two-year project (funded through June 30, 2014) will create an interactive digital collection consisting of 10,000 maps, drawings, photographs and documents available freely online. The purpose of this interim performance report is to provide a summative evaluation of the project as of June 30, 2013.

Digitization Activities:

- Preliminary landing page and banner created July 2012 [<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/usach>].
- All newly digitized materials with new system features are freely, fully, and openly available from the public site [<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/usach>].
- All of the advanced SobekCM software and tools are freely, fully, and openly available for download and use by others with full documentation [<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/sobekcm>].
- Dedicated digitization and program management support for the "Unearthing St. Augustine" project started on October 26, 2012.
- The digitization lab at Government House in St. Augustine officially opened November 2, 2012, with a reception and guided tours given to over 50 invited guests from the Gainesville and St. Augustine, Florida areas.
- As of June 25, 2013, project staff have created, reviewed and edited metadata for 5,726 digitized pages of archival materials, including 442 items from the Herschel E. Shepard Collection [<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/shepard>] covering more than 20 colonial structures. All digitized files are available online, and many others in queue and in process.
- Digitization of 10,000 archival materials for the project is on target for completion.

Outreach Activities:

- Project team members promoted the project through three state-wide and regional presentations:
 - "Unearthing St. Augustine's Colonial Heritage: Creating a Digital Collection from Hidden and Fragile Resources," conference presentation for Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Conference in St. Augustine, Florida, May 2013 (approx. 70 attendees) [<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00003440>]

- "A Map Through Time: Virtual Historic Cities," conference presentation for the Society of Florida Archivists annual meeting in Tallahassee, Florida, May 2013 (approx.. 75 attendees) [<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00002778>]
- "Preserving and Digitizing the Architectural History of St. Augustine, Florida" online presentation for the LYRASIS Digital Collections Road Trip, March 2013 (20 attendees) [<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00002777>]
- In keeping with standard practices at UF, all project documentation is openly available online [<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00004298/00000/allvolumes>] and the PI has already been contacted by other professionals, regionally and statewide, regarding how this project could inform city and university collaboration for shared archives and research resources. In sharing information and collaborating with so many others who are interested, the PI has started preliminary discussions on extending the project with a national leadership grant to help others in successfully facing similar challenges.
- Collaboration with students, teachers and volunteers from partnering institutions has been successful. The project is being documented on a blog produced by undergraduate students in public history courses at Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida [<http://preservedowntownstaugustine.wordpress.com/>].
- The new materials digitized for the project have been viewed over 33,000 times since October 2012 [<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/usach/usage/>].

Programming Activities:

- Dedicated programming support for the "Unearthing St. Augustine" project started on October 26, 2012. Since then, the programmer hired for the project and programming team have written over 7,000 unique Source Lines of Code (SLOC) in support of the project. To date, the programming team has used or written 2,307 new SLOC to create supporting tools or in specific training exercises. The current beta release of the project contains 4,840 new SLOC and 68 unique files. Early project estimates were for approximately 10,000 new SLOC.
- The four broad goals of the programming support activities continue to be: 1) create a robust method of inputting geographic data directly to a collection item through the web-interface; 2) create an intuitive and appealing method of searching and displaying collection items; 3) integrate an ability to create and display custom points of interest; and 4) add additional features such as guided tours, lesson plans, EAD support, advanced image editing, etc. as project timeline allows.
- Of the four goals, the first and third are nearly completed and are now in the testing and refinement phase. Progress on the second goal has developed in concert with goals one and three, owing to the crossover of many features common to all three goals
- Specifically for the first goal of creating a robust interface for inputting and rectifying geographic data, the following features are supported:
 - Full screen Interactive Map Interface
 - Feature Rich Google Maps Integration
 - Stable Support for Current Collection
 - Quickly Geo-rectify Item Locations
 - Center on Addresses or Coordinates
 - Center on User's GPS Location
 - Expertly Toggle Several Map Layers
 - Easily Geo-Rectify Map Overlays
 - Rotate Overlays With .1° Precision
 - Adjust Transparency of Overlays
 - Seamlessly Resize Map Overlays
 - Position Overlays on Any Map Layer

- Support for the third goal of creating and displaying custom points of interest (POIs) include the following features:
 - Create Custom Points of Interest
 - Place an Infinite Number of POIs
 - Plot Points and Polygons
 - Easily Describe Each POI as Created
 - Intuitively Manage POI Collection
 - Create Any Assortment of POIs
 - Design Any Polygon Imaginable
 - Save POI Set as Part of Larger Set

Programming support for all of these features is on target for testing and completion.

- The workflows for this project have informed development of the new online Quality Control (QC) tool within the project's open source digital content management system SobekCM. Members of the project team released the SobekCM online QC tool in beta in May 2013. They released the updated SobekCM interface for thumbnail display in March 2013. The overall SobekCM interface update in July 2013 was part of the rollout for the new map interface. They demonstrated the new map interface in the July "Unearthing" advisory board meeting with the map interface operational online. Work is on schedule for further enhancements and refinements before official release in mid-year 2014 [<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/sobekcm/development/highlights>].

Advisory Board and Staffing Activities:

- Five quarterly Advisory Board meetings have been held in St. Augustine, Florida, with many project team members from the University of Florida, Gainesville, in attendance. Targeted discussions and presentations to the Board by project staff have included: 1) reviewing files of data from the City of St. Augustine Archaeological program in order to select initial sites for digitization; 2) assessing historical records at the St. Augustine Historical Society and the P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History for inclusion in the project; and 3) working with typescripts of the colonial parish records, testing them for accuracy, and asking the Advisory Board about converting them to electronic online files.
- Two new Advisory Board members were added to the "Unearthing St. Augustine" Advisory Board in March 2013 to augment the professional guidance and oversight of the project:
 - Kathleen Deagan - Distinguished Research Curator of Archaeology Emerita, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
 - Kelly Enright – Assistant Professor of History & Director of Public History, Flagler College, St. Augustine, Florida
- Monthly project team meetings were instituted in January 2013 to establish regular face-to-face interaction among the Gainesville contingent of the project team to discuss what each has been doing in support of the project and where each is headed in terms of goals reached and milestones yet on the horizon. This has become extremely beneficial to the programmers and St. Augustine project manager in seeking advice of others on the team in terms of information needed or "nuts and bolts"-type problems they may be encountering.
- One major workflow change has been the ability of the onsite project manager in St. Augustine to go from having all of his digitization work go through the Digital Library Center (DLC) in Gainesville to his handling all production aspects of the project. With oversight from DLC and the senior programmer, the onsite project manager is now importing spreadsheets and loading directly, and then reviewing and QC approving and/or rejecting and reprocessing as needed. By handling all aspects of these workflows, the original intent of the grant to set up a separate digitization lab in St. Augustine that does not impact the DLC is ultimately met.