

Mar 23rd, 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Using Archives and Metadata to Uncover Women's Lives: Challenges and Opportunities for Scholarship through Archives and Digital Libraries

Joanna Di Pasquale
Vassar College

Jen Palmentiero
Southeastern New York Library Resources Council

Laura Streett
Vassar College

Follow this and additional works at: http://repository.brynmawr.edu/greenfield_conference
[Let us know how access to this document benefits you.](#)

Di Pasquale, Joanna; Palmentiero, Jen; and Streett, Laura, "Using Archives and Metadata to Uncover Women's Lives: Challenges and Opportunities for Scholarship through Archives and Digital Libraries" (2013). *Women's History in the Digital World*. 22.
http://repository.brynmawr.edu/greenfield_conference/papers/saturday/22

This paper is posted at Scholarship, Research, and Creative Work at Bryn Mawr College. http://repository.brynmawr.edu/greenfield_conference/papers/saturday/22

For more information, please contact repository@brynmawr.edu.



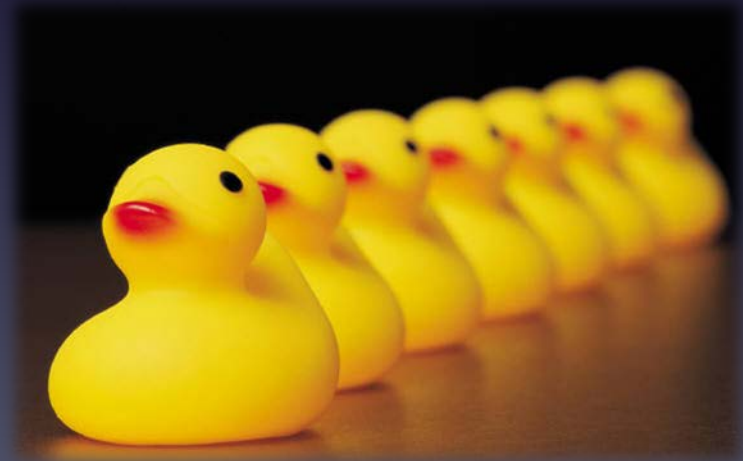
Women's history + technology

Ideas and challenges from the Student
Diaries project at Vassar College Libraries

Joanna DiPasquale, Digital Projects Librarian

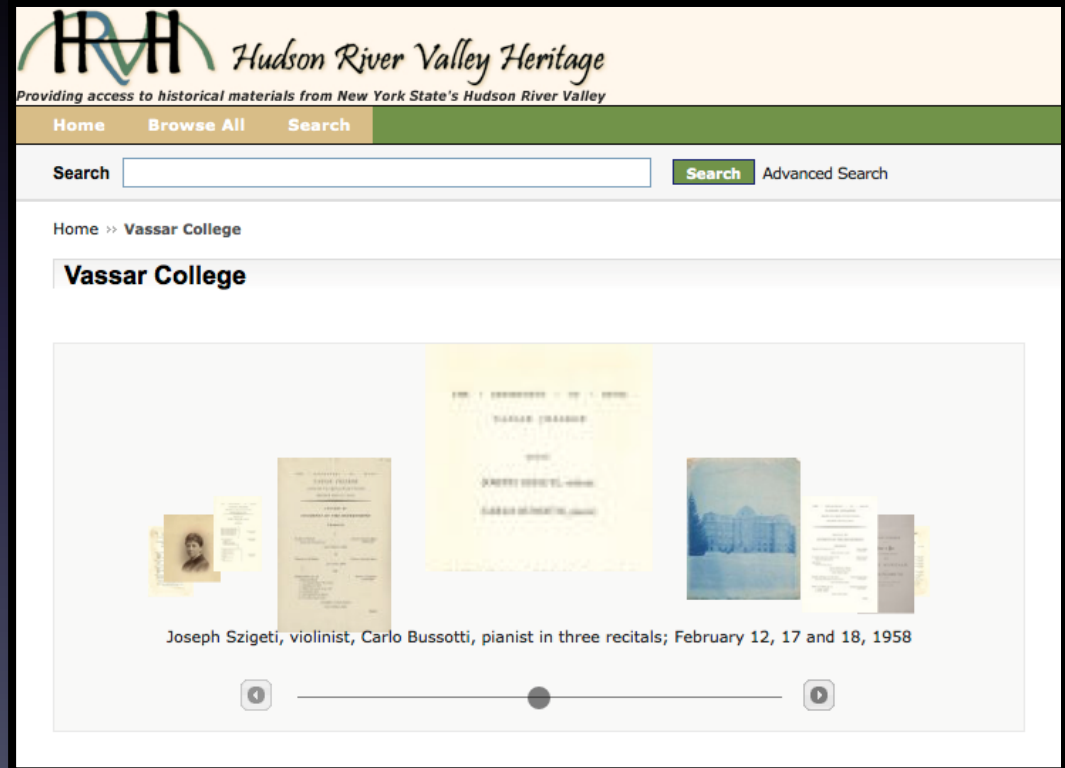
Overview

1. The Student Diaries Challenge
2. Technology as bridge to solutions
3. End results and continued challenges



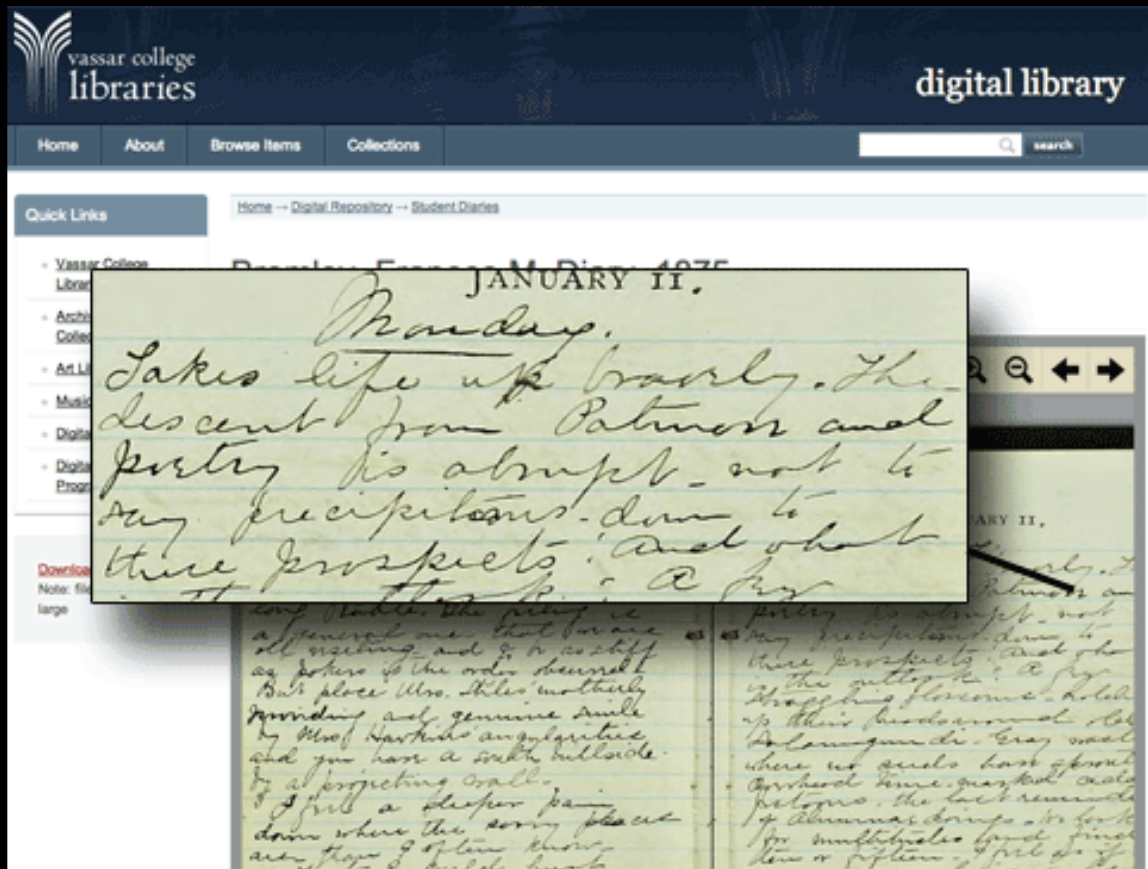
Our connection to HRVH

- CONTENTdm collections
- Newspaper archives
- Collaboration & sharing



Part 1. Some theory and practice, from (my) digital library perspective

THE STUDENT DIARIES CHALLENGE



Student Diaries Project – Frances Bromley, 1875

Handwritten, some typewritten pages

390 pages

Sometimes illegible

Women's history + digital (library) world

- Goal: present personal, primary source materials to researchers
 - Women as students, researchers, scholars
- Immediate challenges
 - Multi-part objects
 - 19th century documents, handwritten
 - But not enough time to read every page

Critical questions

- What technology choices do we need to make when we create digital projects in libraries?
- What about the practice of history – specifically women's history – helps make these decisions?

In other words... what do we need
"it" to "do"?

Part 2. Making our projects come to life

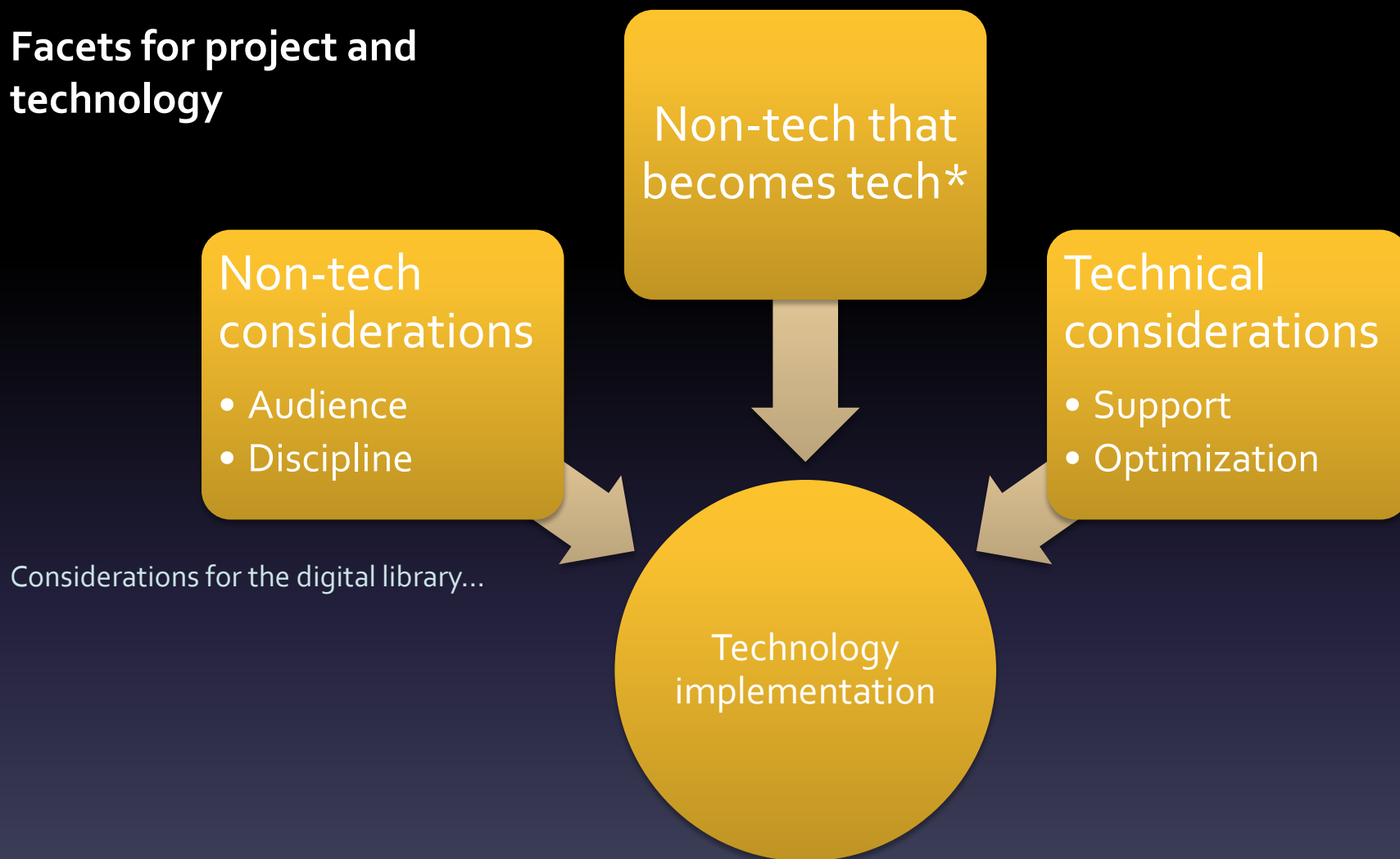
TECHNOLOGY AS A BRIDGE

First steps

- Find a good software solution (Quickly)
- Ingest 20,000+ TIFFs and metadata
- Good user interface
- Solve problems, make lives available!



Facets for project and technology





Non-tech that become tech (a.k.a. the really interesting part)

- Nature of the objects
- What are user expectations?
 - **What will researchers ask these materials?**
- Nature of the data and metadata
- **How can we help aid discovery?**









What we need “it” to “do”

- Fine-grained full-text search
- Date searching and faceting
- Stable URLs
- Provide longevity, opportunity
 - Decouple UI from data
 - MODS records, METS structure, more

Part 3. Solutions and Challenges

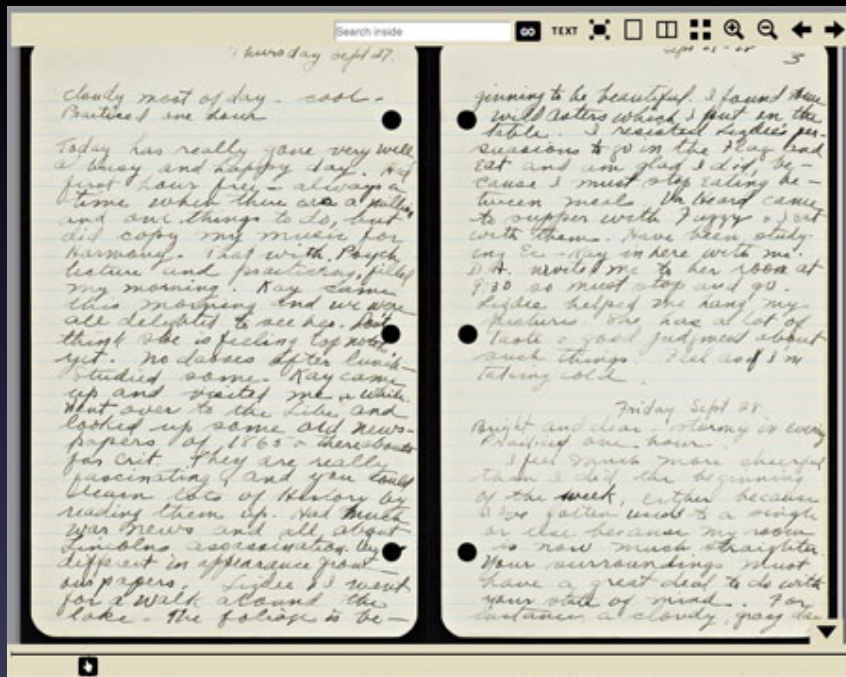
SO, WHAT DID WE DO?

Fedora + Islandora

| Detailed List of Content | | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Dublin Core Record | View | Download | text/xml |  |
| | | 2013-03-17T01:26:09.321Z ▾ | | |
| Fedora Object-to-Object Relationship Metadata | View | Download | application/rdf+xml |  |
| | | 2013-03-05T21:08:29.463Z ▾ | | |
| Archival IMAGE | View | Download | image/tif |  |
| Compressed JP2 | View | Download | image/jp2 |  |
| Thumbnail | View | Download | image/jpeg |  |
| JPEG image | View | Download | image/jpeg |  |
| Transcript | View | Download | text/plain |  |
| MODS Record | View | Download | text/xml |  |

- Flexible, with excellent datastream and preservation management aspects

Search and display



Home -- mar '00

Search Results

(1 - 50 of 1402)

1 [Navigation icons]

| Title | Description | Creator | Subject | Date |
|--|-------------|-----------|--|---|
| Mary Lemer, n6, 1870-03-05 | Unknown | Mary | Women's colleges--New York (State)--Poughkeepsie., Women college students--New York (State)--Poughkeepsie. | 1870-03-05T01:00:01Z-1870-03-05T23:59:59Z |
| Gay, Mary, Diary, 1878 | | Gay, Mary | Women college students--New York (State)--Poughkeepsie., Women--Diaries. | 1878 |

Limits

Date

- 1860 - 1870 (49) --
- 1870 - 1880 (26) --
- 1880 - 1890 (8) --
- 1890 - 1900 (2) --
- 1910 - 1920 (1) --

Subject

- Women college students--New York (State)--Poughkeepsie. (93) --
- Women's colleges--New York (State)--Poughkeepsie. (89) --
- Women--Diaries. (4) --
- College teachers -- New York (State) -- Poughkeepsie. (3) --
- College buildings -- New York (State) -- Poughkeepsie. (2) --

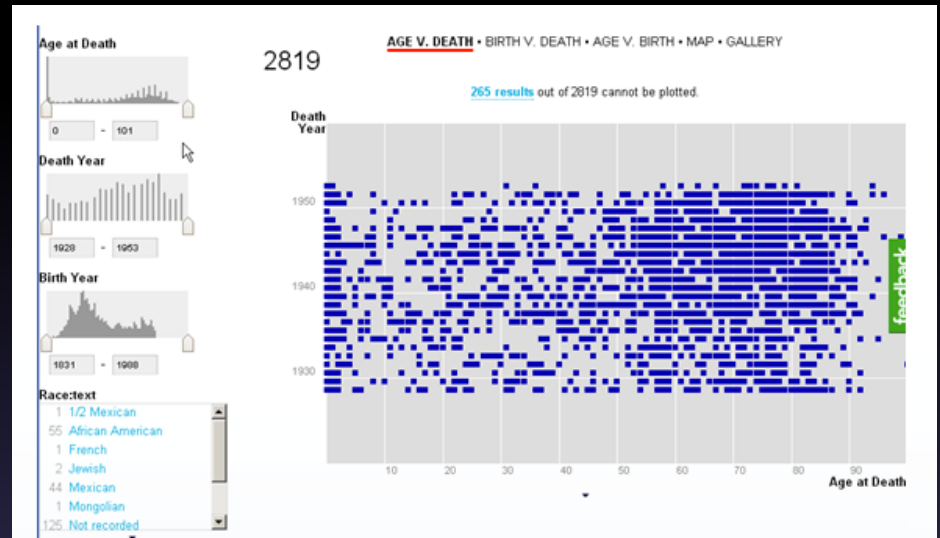
Creator

- Woodworth-Parker, Mary (38) --
- Gaston, Mary E. (13) --
- Barkley, Mary M. (7) --
- Pratt (Morris), Mary (5) --
- Gaston, Mary E. (4) --

Show more

Future

- Visualization
- Data exports
- User participation
- What are other needs?



Thank you!

- Vassar College Digital Library – <http://digitallibrary.vassar.edu>
- jdipasquale@vassar.edu