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Recovering Women's Lives in Digital Worlds: A Collaboration in Undergraduate Primary Source Literacy and Research

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Recovering Women’s Lives in Digital Worlds: A Collaboration in Undergraduate Primary Source Literacy and Research

Women’s History in the Digital World Conference
July 6, 2017
Elizabeth A. Novara
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University of Maryland Libraries
Introduction

- Undergraduate course at the University of Maryland.
  - ENGL 347/WMST498V: Women and Public Memory in Material and Digital Worlds
- Two semesters – spring 2016 and spring 2017
- Collaboration between and English and Library faculty member.
Introduction

Two projects
 Remembering Alice Paul’s Unknown Sisters (Biography Project)
 Transcribing Madge Preston’s 1865 diary (Transcription Project)

Overview of the projects and strategies for implementing such projects in the classroom.

Librarian/curator perspective.

Public engagement and collaboration are keys to success.
Project 1: Recovering the Lives of Maryland Suffragists

- Working with Historian Tom Dublin on enhancing *Women and Social Movements* database through crowdsourced writing.
Project 1: Recovering the Lives of Maryland Suffragists

- More traditional research project and traditional library instruction role.
- Students asked to do research using primarily digital resources.
- Requested local Maryland women’s names as research topics.
- Presenting research publicly at Undergraduate Research Day.
Project 1: Recovering the Lives of Maryland Suffragists

Philippine Suffrage Movement Exhibit and Presentation, Spring 2017
Project 1: Recovering the Lives of Maryland Suffragists

Undergraduate Research Day Posters and Presentations, Spring 2017
Project 1: Recovering the Lives of Maryland Suffragists
Project 2 – Digital Transcription

- Transcribing 5 manuscript pages online through UMD Libraries pilot transcription website: Transcribe MD.
- Historical context for the diaries already established through previous scholarship.
- Students visited Hornbake Library to learn about handling of special collections materials and to interact with the original diaries.
Project 2 – Digital Transcription

Reading the physical diary in the space of the archive
Project 2 – Digital Transcription

Transcribe Maryland
DEVE DEEPER INTO HISTORY

Help us transcribe historical documents from Special Collections and University Archives at the University of Maryland Libraries!

Preston Family Papers

Mary Eliza Bradbury Papers

Clara Barton Papers
Project 2 – Digital Transcription

Decoding Diaries
Transcribing Women’s History Together

May 3rd, 2017
2:00pm to 4:00pm
McKeldin Library
Room #6137
Decoding Diaries
Decoding Diaries
Decoding Diaries
Decoding Diaries
Decoding Diaries - Reflections

- Thinking like public historians.
- Public engagement.
- Close and distant readings of the archive.
- Importance of physical and digital spaces.
Conclusion

- The importance of regional and local information in historical recovery projects.
- Public engagement contributed to active learning and the creation of new knowledge.
- Collaboration between instructional faculty and librarian faculty was a major part of the success for this project.
- Demonstrating the value of special collections and the Libraries to the campus and how we fit into the teaching and learning mission of the university.
Thank you!

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