

MINUTES

Delaware Digital Newspaper Project (DDNP)

Advisory Board Meeting

Fall 2019 Meeting

2019/2021 Grant Cycle

Date: Thursday, November 7, 2019

Time: 10 - 11:30am

Location: University of Delaware
Library, Museums and Press
Morris Library, **Room 114**
181 S. College Avenue
Newark, DE 19717

Present:

DDNP Team: Molly Olney-Zide, David Cardillo, Theresa Hessey, Tom Pulhamus, Monica McCormick

Advisory Board: Max Moeller, Dawn Fallik, Beth-Ann Ryan, Maegan Peterman, Kit Fluker, Rebecca Fay, Missy Williams (Zoom), Kaitlyn Tanis, Syl Woolford

Absent:

DDNP Team:

Advisory Board: Jonathan Russ, Jamar Rahming

Minutes: Tom Pulhamus

Agenda Items

1. Welcome / Introductions (5 min)

2. DDNP Phase II Wrap-up / Introduction to Phase III (5-10 min)

DDNP Phase II, 2017-2019, focused on the *Evening Journal* and *Every Evening, Wilmington Daily Commercial*. We met all of our deadlines and deliverables for the last grant cycle thanks to the DDNP team. We have approximately 195K pages in *Chronicling America* and about 200K when everything is up. We are approved for 100K pages next grant cycle.

We made a bigger push to do more outreach this cycle. First big effort was the creation of two DDNP sponsored prizes for National History Day (NHD) in May last year. We only awarded one since only one student met the criteria. In addition, we had to find them rather than them finding the award. There were no self nominations. This situation raised the issue of how we can better promote these awards and the resources available through the DDNP project.

The observation was made that students are aware of NHD prizes at the national level but not at the state level like that offered by DDNP. The need to push out the availability of the awards to teachers was discussed. The point was raised that students may not have realized they could self-nominate. Teacher workshops in Dover this past July, although not well attended, gave Theresa and Molly better sense of what information to include in presentations.

Proposed changes to prize? - Discussion about possible changes to prizes included two specific suggestions

1. Allow group projects and not just individual projects
2. Expand scope of the prize to include information discovered through the loc.gov website not and not just Chronicling America to potentially increase the number of people applying.

Some concern was expressed over how much money group members would get. Since the awards are only \$100, splitting it between group members might make it less attractive. The point was raised that some see the value of the award in applying for college, not just as a monetary award. Possibly have one group prize one individual with a higher prize amount for group? Perhaps make a recommendation to Library to increase or change the prize since the Library is awarding it.

Most of the (NHD?) efforts are aimed at grades 6-12. 90% of effort in state is aimed at New Castle county. There is a real effort to push more into Kent and Sussex counties.

ACTION: Molly will send out poll to advisory board members to vote on proposed changes to the prizes.

3. Phase III Titles (30 min)

The proposal from the DDNP team is to include a reel from a batch not submitted as our sample reel. This reel includes *Every Evening*, *Wilmington Daily Commercial* (Sept - Nov 1921). There was no objection to this proposal, so this reel will be used for the sample reel to be submitted to Library of Congress by April 1, 2020.

The main titles suggested for this cycle are the *Milford Chronicle* and the *Smyrna Times*. *Smyrna Times* could cover a lot of the Civil War. These two titles have long runs to provide some coverage of Kent and Sussex counties, which there have been many requests for. The question was raised about the coverage of Sussex county available in Chronicling America. These two titles will also cover post 1922 content that will require additional copyright research. So far no copyright renewals have been found. We will, however, need to iron out any copyright issues for third party content for post-1924 issues/titles (cartoons, music, poems, etc.).

The suggestion was made for *Delaware Coast Press* which might provide better coverage of Sussex county. *Delaware Coast Press* is still publishing so they might have issue with old stuff being included. The *Cape Gazette* was suggested although not included in the spreadsheet. It was quickly recognized that it was out of our date range and also presented a host of copyright issues. The *State News* was suggested. They are still publishing although they have been around for a long time and provide good coverage of Kent and Sussex counties. Started publishing around 1901(?). Is microfilm available for the *State News*?

It was quickly realized that we are running up against page limits. Given the rough estimation of 90-100 reels containing 100K images, we could go over our page limit with just *Smyrna Times*. It would seem we have more than enough content. What titles does board think we should prioritize?

There was a general discussion that we should do one or the other (*Milford Chronicle* vs. *Smyrna Times*) but that neither really gives Sussex county coverage. The *Smyrna Times* provides a longer available date range. There was a suggestion that we either do a shorter run of *Smyrna Times* or 'cherry pick' dates so that we could include a Seaford or Rehoboth paper to get better Sussex county coverage. The *Delmarva Leader* was mentioned. The suggestion was made that if we meant to shorten the run of *Smyrna Times* in either of these ways, it perhaps did not make sense to do the *Milford Chronicle*. The question was raised about whether there were any microfilm reels with earlier material from some of these titles available elsewhere in the state. Maegan Peterman potentially would know more on the Delaware Public Archives side.

The question was raised about whether longer runs of titles provided the best resource? There followed some discussion of how to reach out to departments, both to make them aware of the resource and discuss what DDNP is collecting. The English department was mentioned as somewhat disconnected from DDNP. It was suggested that we could talk with department about what we are collecting so they could shape classes using what we have as primary source. The suggestion was made that outreach to departments could perhaps provide more clarity about available material and some suggestions as to possible curriculum use. It was suggested that we craft a communication plan to departments that is as direct and suggestive as it can be (Sample topics? An exhibit tie-in?) so it's easy for them to pick up. It was suggested that we directly address the professors for greatest impact.

The general consensus was that a new list of titles including/providing better coverage of Kent and Sussex counties should be drawn up and that it should be circulated to the Board by email in order to allow them to review and vote on the titles.

ACTION ITEM: Molly

- **Send proposal for national history prize changes**
- **Send prioritized list of titles to board for review and voting**

4. DDNP Collaborations (audience of students, teachers/faculty, and community) (30 min)

a. Review of Nov. 6th Chronicling America Workshop:

<https://library.udel.edu/events/events/?id=218>

Rebecca Faye and Molly did statewide meeting for teachers. Not a huge turn-out but those in attendance were very engaged. Got good feedback from attendees. List of who/what was presented at the meeting (get from Molly)

Events page on DDNP website: <https://library.udel.edu/ddnp/home/events/>

b. Planned Efforts

A suggestion was made to try presenting on-line events as a way to get more participants. It was noted that recording something is surprisingly expensive and difficult (~\$600 through Media Services). Some anecdotal evidence indicates mixed feelings about the value of on-line presentations. It was noted that there is value in people meeting face to face. Also turnout for events tends to be low so it is not necessarily an indicator of something unusual. The value in putting presentations like that of November 6 together is that you can reuse what you've prepared. Necessary changes tend to be small.

The suggestion was made that some of the material from the presentations could be included with UDLib/SEARCH materials/presentations. The suggestion was also made that DESA, the state teacher's union, does a lot of professional development activities. Perhaps we could share materials with them? It would be a good idea to contact DESA.

ACTION: Molly reach out to DESA to notify them of the project.

The suggestion was made that DDNP/Chronicling America could be included in State Archives tours as a resource to their patrons. The video of how to search ChronAm was played and suggestions were made that this could be shared more widely.

Video with NHD promo:

https://capture.udel.edu/media/Chronicling+America+Tutorial+-+%28Prize+Announcement%29/1_eazgzaki

Shareable Link: <https://library.udel.edu/instruction/tutorials/chroniclingamerica/>

A suggestion was made that the project could be added to the Delaware Division of Libraries LibGuides or other resources. It was noted that Middle States Council for Social Studies would be holding their annual conference in Towson, MD in April next year and they were looking for proposals for presentations. It was suggested that materials be made available that DEHS and UDLib/SEARCH (<https://udlibsearch.lib.udel.edu/>) could take with them to events. It was noted that collaborations and outreach activities would be very helpful in making an attempt at a fourth grant cycle.

5. Meetings (5 min)

It was suggested that people should be involved they like but that reaching out to their respective communities was essential and encouraged.

The suggestion was made that board meetings should be held quarterly.

ACTION: Molly - A Doodle poll for dates/times (Feb/March) for next meeting will be forthcoming. Hagley was suggested as the site for the next meeting.

6. Questions for the DDNP team? (10 min)

7. Close and Action Item Review