

SENYLRC
Digital Advisory Committee
DATE: September 26, 2007
TIME: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
MINUTES AND ACTIONS

Members & SENYLRC Staff: Jerry Henry, Helene Tieger, Tessa Killian, Jim Cosgrove, Morgan Gwenwald, Clifton Patrick, Jeff Katz, Bob Clark, Eric Roth, John Shaloiko, Zack Spalding, Jennifer Palmentiero, Sally Pellegrini

Members excused: John Ansley, Ron Patkus, Christopher Pryslopski, Laurie Shedrick

Issues/items Discussed

Plan future meeting dates: Meetings were planned for Thursdays 10 am – 12 pm for December 6, 2007; January 24, 2008; March 27, 2008; and May 22, 2008.

New HRVH homepage demonstration: The committee had a demonstration of a beta for the new home page. Several people thought that the images were “too busy.” The feeling of the committee is that the river is what ties us together. Committee members like a large image of the river, but suggest that we look for a different photograph. Committee members like the new drop down boxes for browsing.

Reports

Working group on location field: The working group decided to stay with the current guideline for the location field, which is to enter the village/town/city name, the county name, and then the state name for locations in the United States. The goal is to stay consistent so that we can search and browse by location.

LSTA project “The African-American Experience in the Hudson Valley”: The LSTA project is underway, after hiring Susan Stessin Cohn to research the topic and create the learning activities. Susan identified a fourth grade teacher in the New Paltz School District to try the lessons in her classroom. These classroom activities will take place in January, 2008. Committee members discussed issues pertaining to the topic of the project: that the manumission laws do not mention race; that FDR desegregated the US defense laws; and to remember that there were isolated communities of African-Americans (e.g. Skunk Hollow) in the Hudson Valley.

Distribution of HRVH bookmarks: HRVH bookmarks were distributed to all SENYLRC members and public libraries. They will be distributed to all DHP organizations and schools (after the African American Experience is officially launched).

Brief review of 2007/08 digitization activities

Timeline: The committee reviewed a project timeline for HRVH that includes Grants, Themes, K-12 activities, Newspaper Planning, Training, User’s Group and Publicity.

Budget: The RBDB budget that funds HRVH was reviewed. The committee reviewed a spreadsheet outlining all of the activities funded by RBDB and the dollar amounts. Activities include: Equipment, Telecommunications, HRVH Digital Grants, Newspaper Digitization, HRVH Digitization, HRVH Marketing and the CONTENTdm License.

Discussion and planning for the following activities:

Development of regional themes for HRVH: It was determined that there is a need to develop regional themes for HRVH for the purpose of filling in “gaps” in the collections with materials that we deem to be relevant to the Hudson Valley and as a way for HRVH contributors to select items from their collections to digitize, based on these themes.

Future grants to be awarded by SENYLRC for HRVH: SENYLRC plans to offer grants for special projects in HRVH. We need to figure out what to fund and how to administer these grants. A working group was created to address the issues of themes and grants. Volunteers include: Chris, Bob, Helene, Sally and Jerry.

Planning for newspaper digitization: SENYLRC is taking the year to plan a newspaper digitization project. Jennifer P. and Judy F. attended a conference on digitizing newspapers.

Publicity of HRVH: We created a working group to discuss issues related to publicizing HRVH. Volunteers include: Ron, Morgan and Jim.

Actions/Recommendations

- SENYLRC will make revisions of the beta of the new HRVH homepage for the committee to review at the next meeting.
- Working Groups were established for Themes/Grants and Publicity. A meeting of the Themes/Grants working group needs to be set up ASAP.

Meeting End Time: The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm

Recorder: Tessa Killian