

# Digital Public Library of America: Minnesota's Contribution

Jason Roy  
University of Minnesota Libraries

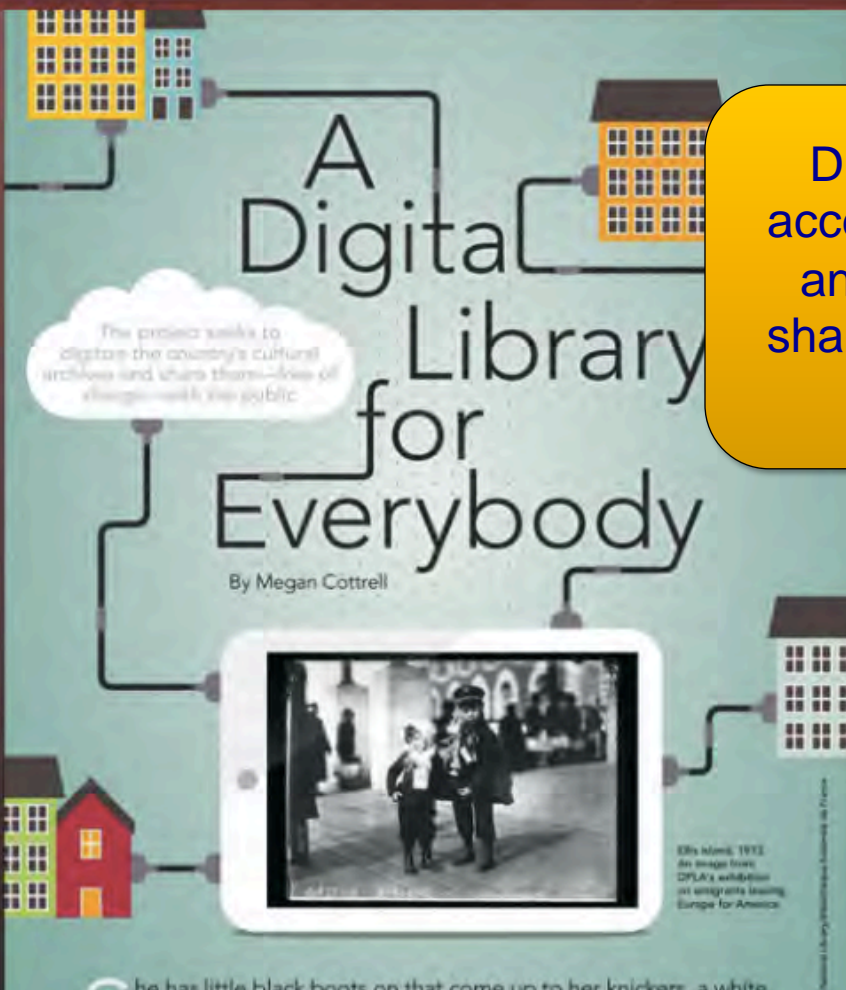
[dp.la](http://dp.la) | [reflections.mndigital.org](http://reflections.mndigital.org) | [mndigital.org](http://mndigital.org)



MINNESOTA  
DIGITAL LIBRARY



# Digital Public Library of America



The project seeks to digitize the country's cultural archives and share them—free of charge—with the public.

DPLA seeks to aggregate access to the nation's cultural and scientific archives and share them – free of charge – with the public.

Instead of being a repository, DPLA will be an aggregator.

More than just a repository of information, DPLA aspires to provide a technological and social platform that fuels creative endeavors, and enables engagement and conversation.

American Libraries: March/April 2013 issue

most inhabitants. The problem, things were spread out all over the place, you had to know they were there in the first place.

is our cultural heritage in our hands. Making it part of our natural history is part of our natural history. We have the tools to do that before. We have the tools with the resources." The Digital Hub Pilot Project, a national effort to digitize state and local libraries (six state and nine local larger cultural and others).

to document heritage from much of the past century.

But the plan isn't to stop there, said Marx. "Those every American cultural institution can be part of it," she said. "It's not just about digitizing books but about broad access to a treasure trove of cultural materials."

Utah. Larger institutions like Harvard University are also on board to share their digital collections with DPLA. (The initiative will focus initially on content that is not copyrighted or has been cleared for public use.)

Instead of being a repository, DPLA will be more of an

Ervin Jr. of North Carolina, the main investigator into the Watergate scandal, and saw his personal correspondence and keepsakes from that era, which are housed at Piedmont Community College in Morganton. She also found tapestries and pottery at the Museum of the Cherokee Indians that tell

the Digital Library of Georgia.

Gene explained that DPLA is all about what librarians are passionate about: compelling content. The technology is just a way get to more of it more easily.

"To us, the technology is just a tool to access these great

# DPLA Funders

- Alfred P. Sloan Foundation (\$2.5M)
- Arcadia Fund (\$2.5M)
- John S. and James L. Knight Foundation (\$1M)
- National Endowment for the Humanities (\$1M)
- Institute of Museum and Library Services (\$250K)

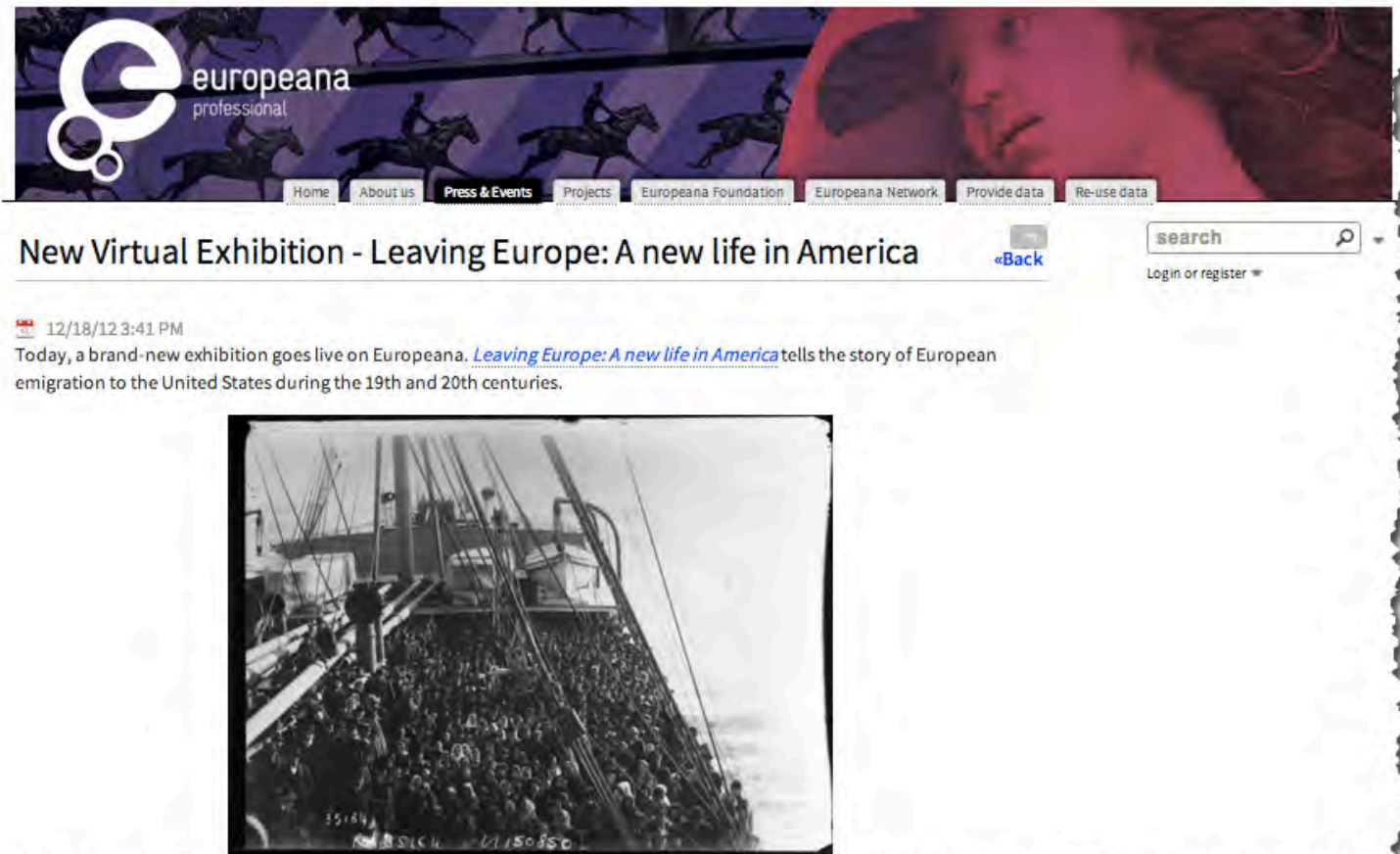


INSTITUTE of  
Museum and Library  
SERVICES



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE  
Humanities

# DPLA Milestones



The screenshot shows the Europeana professional website interface. At the top left is the Europeana logo, a stylized 'e' with a magnifying glass, and the text 'europeana professional'. To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with links: Home, About us, Press & Events, Projects, Europeana Foundation, Europeana Network, Provide data, and Re-use data. Below the navigation is a search bar with the text 'search' and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar are links for 'Login or register'. The main content area features a news post titled 'New Virtual Exhibition - Leaving Europe: A new life in America' with a 'Back' link. The post is dated '12/18/12 3:41 PM' and contains the text: 'Today, a brand-new exhibition goes live on Europeana. [Leaving Europe: A new life in America](#) tells the story of European emigration to the United States during the 19th and 20th centuries.' Below the text is a black and white photograph of a large crowd of people on the deck of a ship, looking out at the sea. The photo has a caption at the bottom: '35164. K. S. SICILY - 11150850'.

europeana professional

Home About us Press & Events Projects Europeana Foundation Europeana Network Provide data Re-use data

search


«Back

Login or register

## New Virtual Exhibition - Leaving Europe: A new life in America

12/18/12 3:41 PM

Today, a brand-new exhibition goes live on Europeana. [Leaving Europe: A new life in America](#) tells the story of European emigration to the United States during the 19th and 20th centuries.



35164. K. S. SICILY - 11150850

*The DPLA will provide links to the Smithsonian's digital collection of books, journals, museum objects, manuscripts and videos*



# *A Palace for the People*

FREE-TO-ALL

*"We aspire to establish a system whereby all Americans can gain access to information and knowledge in digital formats in a manner that is 'free to all.'*

*— John Palfrey*



# DPLA Launch - April 18, 2013



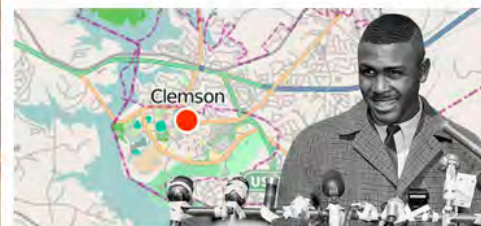
## A Wealth of Knowledge

from libraries, archives, and museums



## Exhibitions

[View all »](#)



## Explore by Place

[Map »](#)

## Explore by Date

[Timeline »](#)



1946 1947 1948 **1949** 1950 1951 1952

## Apps

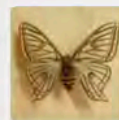
The DPLA is a platform. Developers make apps that use the library's data in many different ways. Here are just a few. [App Library »](#)



### Library Observatory

Created by metaLAB at Harvard

Library Observatory is an interactive tool for searching and visualizing the DPLA collections, accompanied by an interactive documentary that weaves together history, visualizations, and



### Search DPLA and Europeana

Jesús Domínguez

Through the Europeana and DPLA APIs, it's easy to discover sources of information previously unknown or unforeseen and go directly to a digital version of an item.

## News



[A Proud Day for the DPLA](#)  
Apr 18

[Welcome to the Digital Public Library of America](#)  
Apr 18

[All News »](#)

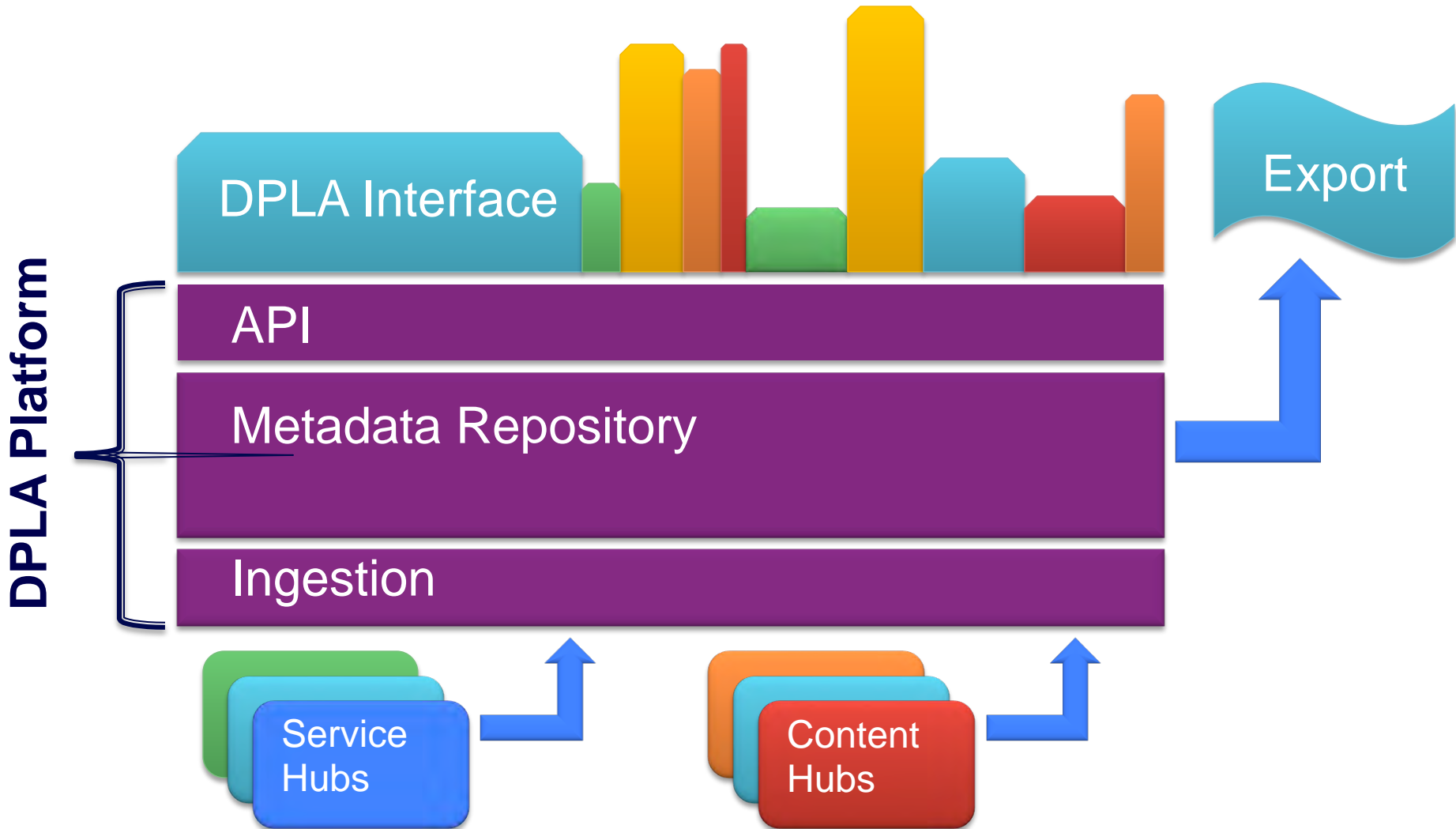
## @dpla on Twitter

RT @foundhistory MT @omeka: Like exhibitions in @dpla? [bit.ly/11yyREX](http://bit.ly/11yyREX) All are built in @omeka [n.b. platform was chosen before @dancohen joined up] [about 27 minutes ago](#)

# Elements of the DPLA

- **Code** – technical backbone of the DPLA; open, interoperable globally
- **Metadata** – discovery framework, aggregate existing and create new metadata; all metadata placed in the public domain
- **Content** – all media types and formats including the written record—books, pamphlets, periodicals, manuscripts, and digital texts—and expanding into visual and audiovisual materials in concert with existing repositories. Interested in exploring orphan works and materials that are in copyright but out-of-print; models for digital lending of in-copyright materials.
- **Tools & Services** – platform is generative and open to public innovation to facilitate new discovery, encourage new kinds of questions, and enable the creation of new tools and services, including social sharing and networking services, research tools, and as-yet unforeseen applications.
- **Community** – a participatory platform that facilitates the involvement of the public in all aspects of its design, development, deployment, maintenance, and support.

# DPLA Architecture

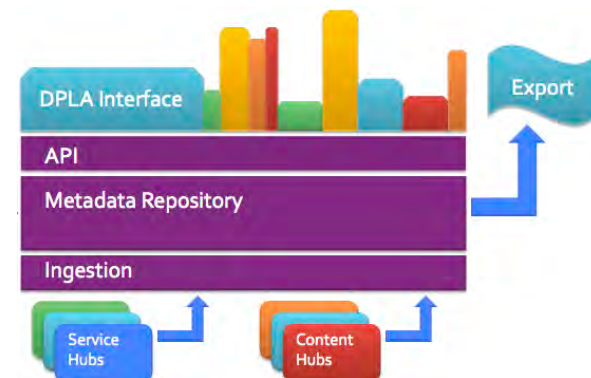




# Metadata Repository

## Metadata Repository

- The DPLA is a metadata repository, not a content repository
- Metadata is aggregated through identified service and content hubs
- Metadata types: item, collection contributor, event



# Sources



- Metadata for cultural heritage digital objects and books aggregated from service and content hubs
- Starting with OAI-PMH harvesting from Service Hubs for the initial dataset, but will rapidly add support for a wide variety of formats

## SERVICE HUBS

- Mountain West Digital Library (Utah, Nevada and Arizona)
- Digital Commonwealth (Mass.)
- Digital Library of Georgia
- Kentucky Digital Library
- **Minnesota Digital Library**
- South Carolina Digital Library

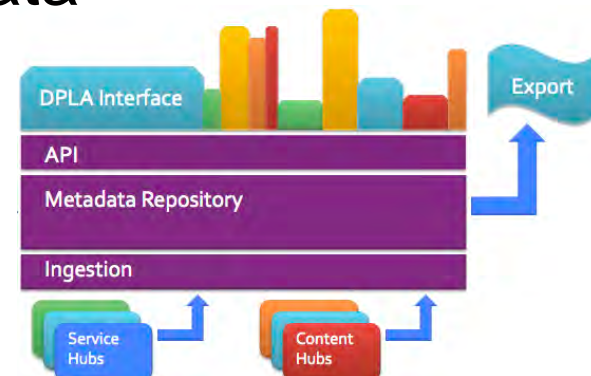
## CONTENT HUBS

- National Archives
- Smithsonian Institution
- New York Public Library
- Harvard University
- University of Illinois
- University of Virginia
- ARTstor

# Ingestion

## Ingestion

- **Automated ingestion pipeline to handle diverse data sets**
  - File transport (http, ftp, OAI-PMH)
  - Mapping/crosswalk to DPLA schema (v.3 released)
  - Data enrichment and normalization
- **Goals**
  - Enable the API to provide useful search results
  - Preserve complete original metadata (the “dark schema”)



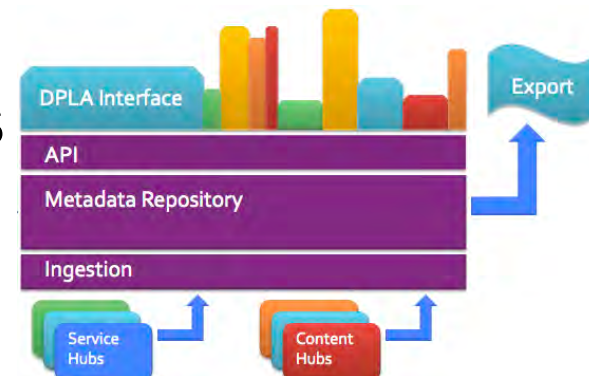


# DPLA Interface

DPLA Interface

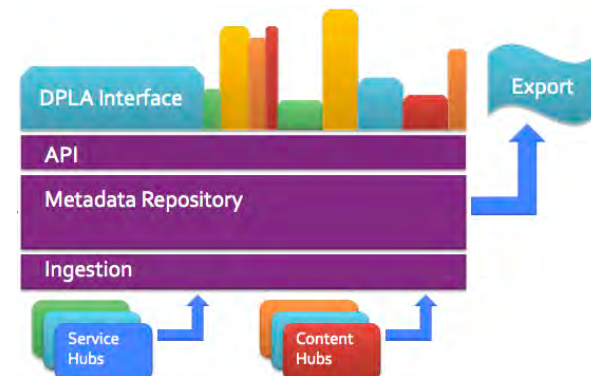
## Front End

- **iFactory** is built the front end interface to the DPLA
- **Scope**
  - Browse and search
  - Facilitate discovery of related content
  - Create and share personalized collections
- A **gesture** towards the possibilities of the full DPLA

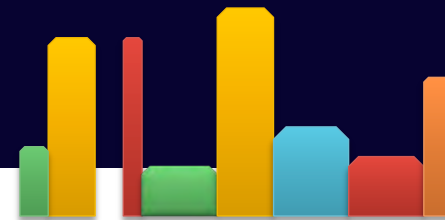


## Application Programming Interface

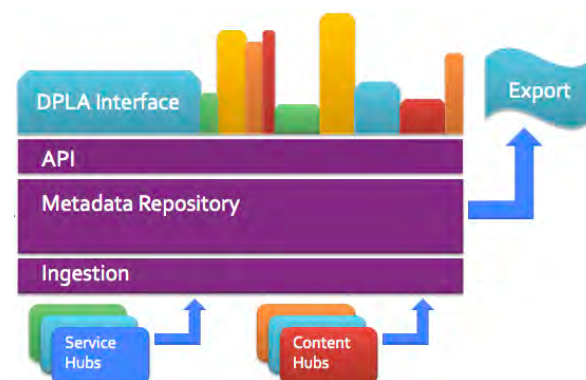
- **Goal** is to support whatever people might want to do with DPLA data, and extend as necessary
- **Services** – search by keyword, creator, date, location, collection, etc.
- **Faceted search**
- **REST API** – supporting JSON, XML, HTML, etc.
- **Bulk export** option available



# Community



- The point of the API is for the community to build on it
  - Beta sprinters
  - Appfests
- **Developer Portal** – [http://dp.la/wiki/Dev\\_portal](http://dp.la/wiki/Dev_portal)
- **Code** – <https://github.com/dpla>
- **App Library** – <http://dp.la/apps>





# Aligning Policy with Aspiration

- The DPLA hopes that the content and resources in the library will be put to ***creative uses that educate, inform, and empower*** current and future generations.
- The DPLA aims ***to make the cultural and scientific record available, free of charge***, to all through databases of metadata. The DPLA, for this purpose, has undertaken the task of ingesting, indexing, enriching, and making available descriptive metadata and wishes ***to make such metadata widely available for reuse***.
- The DPLA wishes to promote innovation in the development of applications and tools that use and rely on this metadata. In order to foster such innovation, the DPLA is ***committed to ensuring such metadata is unencumbered by legal restrictions***.

# Metadata Policy Statement

## THE DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OF AMERICA POLICY STATEMENT ON METADATA

### PREAMBLE

The DPLA aims to make the cultural and scientific record available, free of charge, to all through databases of metadata. The DPLA, for this purpose, has undertaken the task of ingesting, indexing, enriching, and making available descriptive metadata and wishes to make such metadata widely available for reuse.

# THE DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OF AMERICA POLICY STATEMENT ON METADATA

expresses only objective facts (which are not original) or constitutes expression so limited by the number of ways the underlying ideas can be expressed that such expression has merged with those ideas.

### 02. The DPLA's Partners Share the DPLA's Commitment.

The DPLA's partners share the DPLA's vision of and commitment to freely sharable metadata to promote innovation. The DPLA's partners agree that the vast majority of metadata is not subject to copyright. To the extent that metadata provided by the DPLA's partners may be protected by copyright, however, those partners have agreed to dedicate such metadata to the public domain pursuant to a [CC0 license](#). This means that *any raw metadata imported into the DPLA, which is protected by copyright, is provided under a CC0 license.*

### 03. The DPLA Asserts No Rights Over its Database of Metadata and Dedicates its Contributions to the Public Domain.

The DPLA hereby expressly waives any and all rights the DPLA might have with respect to metadata in the library, including rights arising from the DPLA's selection and arrangement thereof. To the extent that the DPLA's own contributions to selecting and arranging such metadata may be protected by copyright, the DPLA dedicates such contributions to the public domain pursuant to a [CC0 license](#).

### 04. Free and Unencumbered Access to Metadata.

Given the purposes of the policy and the copyright status of the metadata, and pursuant to the DPLA's terms of service, the DPLA's users are free to harvest, collect, modify, and/or otherwise use any metadata contained in the DPLA.

# Metadata Policy Statement

- ① The vast majority of metadata is not subject to copyright restrictions
- ② DPLA's partners share the DPLA's vision of and commitment to freely sharable metadata to promote innovation.
- ③ DPLA asserts no rights over its database of metadata and dedicates its contributions to the public domain
- ④ DPLA's users are free to harvest, collect, modify, and/or otherwise use any metadata contained in the DPLA.



# Differentiation

- **Unprecedented aggregation**
  - Scale, types, major partners with Main street collections
- **Openness**
- **Tools to support creative endeavors**



# A Wealth of Knowledge

from libraries, archives, and museums

Search the Library



## Exhibitions

[View all »](#)



Explore by Place

[Map »](#)

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View:   

Search the Library



## Exhibitions

Share



Activism in the U.S.



America's Great Depression and Roosevelt's New Deal



Boston Sports Temples



Bread and Roses Strike of 1912: Two Months in Lawrence, Massachusetts, that Changed Labor History



History of Survivance: Upper Midwest 19th Century Native American Narratives



Indomitable Spirits: Prohibition in the United States



This Land Is Your Land: Parks and Public Spaces



View: [List Icon] [Location Pin Icon] [Bar Chart Icon]

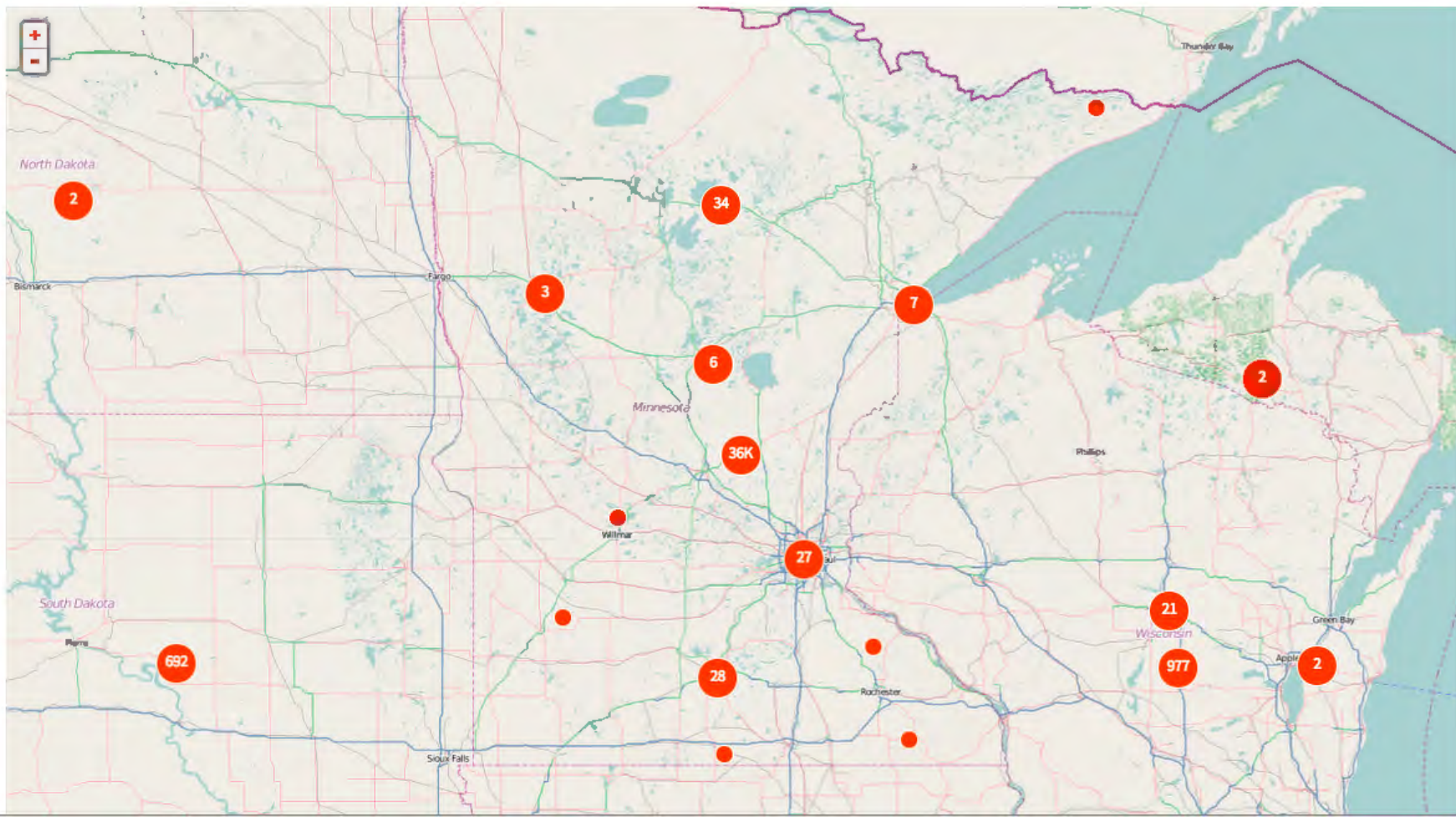
Search the Library



## Map

Your search returned 2,399,506 results. Only results with location data are shown below.

Show >



View: [Menu] [Location] [Bar Chart]

Search the Library



## Timeline

Your search returned 2,399,506 results.

Only results with time data are shown below.

Show >

1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000

View: Decades

1790

1800

1810

1820

1830

1840

1850

1860

1838

8710 items



# Minnesota Digital Library's Role in the DPLA

[dp.la](http://dp.la) | [reflections.mndigital.org](http://reflections.mndigital.org) | [mndigital.org](http://mndigital.org)



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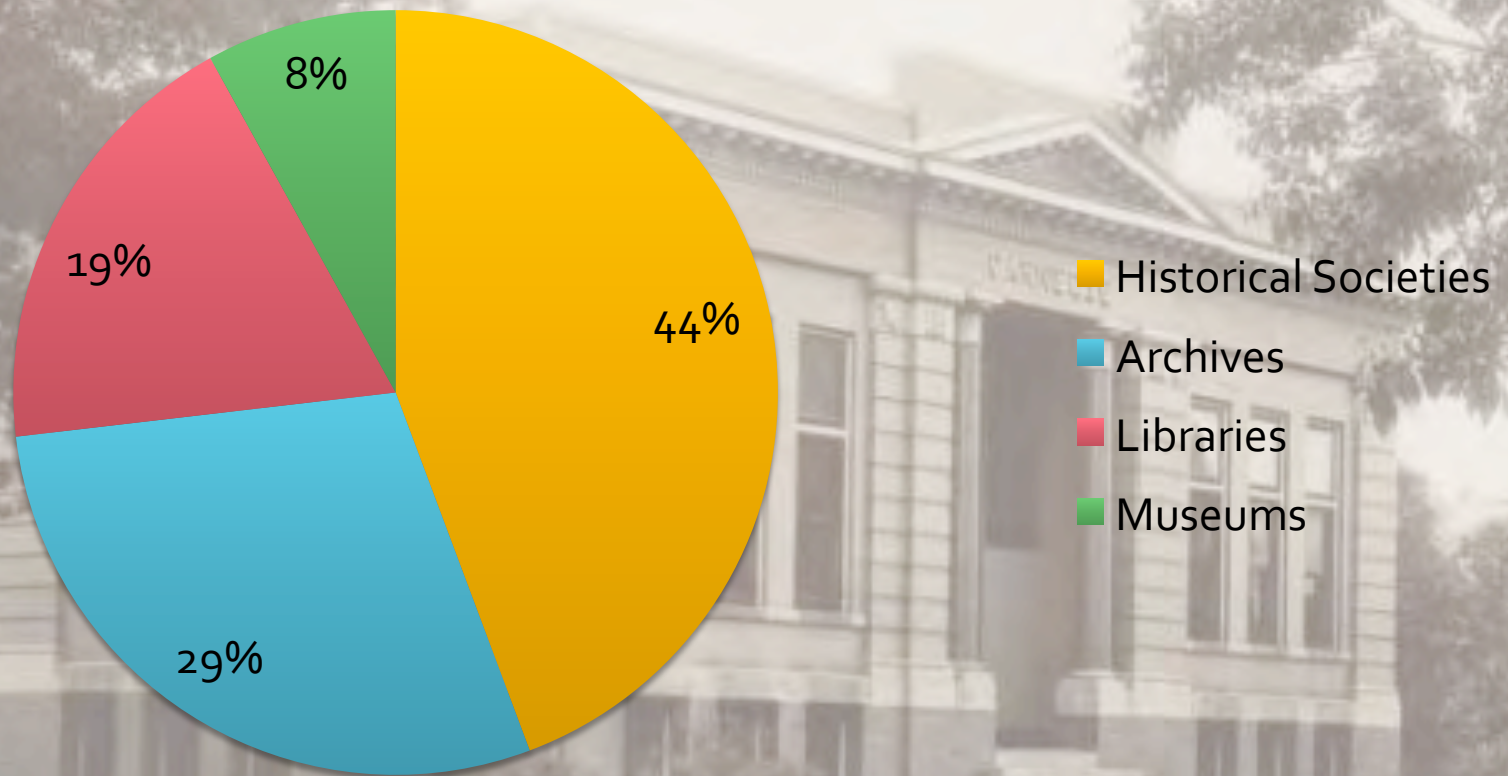


# MDL Footprint (2013)

- **~150** cultural institutions – all types and sizes
  - County, Area, and Regional Historical Societies
  - Academic, Public, and Special Libraries
  - Museums
  - Governmental agencies, including national, state, and county offices
  - Non-profit foundations
  - Religious organizations
  - Church and monastery archives
- **130,000** images, audio-recordings, newspapers, maps and documents
- **Integration**
  - Education and programming

# MDL Footprint (2013)

## Contributing Organization Types







# Minnesota Reflections

The screenshot displays the Minnesota Digital Library website. At the top left is the logo for Minnesota Digital Library, featuring a green map of Minnesota. To its right, the text reads "MINNESOTA DIGITAL LIBRARY" and "minnesota reflections". A navigation bar below the logo contains links for "Home", "Browse All", "User Guides", and "Newspapers". On the right side of the navigation bar are "Favorites" and "? Help". Below the navigation bar is a search bar with a "Search" button and a link to "Advanced Search".

The main content area is titled "Minnesota Reflections" and is divided into two columns. The left column, titled "All Collections", lists several historical collections with brief descriptions and small thumbnail images:

- County Historical Society**: contributed to *Minnesota Reflections* show early street scenes, business... [more...](#)
- Baptist General Conference History Center**: The work of the Baptist General Conference History Center was established in 1898. Located on the campus of Bethel University, the BGCHC collects, preserves and disseminates materials significant to Swedish Baptist institutional, cultural, and immigration history; the Baptist General Conference; and Bethel University. The images... [more...](#)
- Basilica of St. Mary**: The archival collection of the Basilica of Saint Mary contains documents and artifacts dating to the parish's founding in 1858. Images contributed to *Minnesota Reflections* include photographs documenting the life of the church from 1907 to 1966, and also architectural drawings for the interior finish of the Basilica church, rectory... [more...](#)
- Becker County Historical Society**: From Detroit Lakes, Minn., in the northwestern part of the state, the Becker County Historical Society serves the public with a museum, archive collection, cultural demonstrations and K-12 workshops. Their holdings include artifacts dating back to the glacial period of the county, a newspaper microfilm archive, photo collection and an... [more...](#)
- Beltrami County Historical Society**: The Beltrami County Historical Society operates out of the James J. Hill railroad depot in Bemidji, Minnesota. The historical society collects photographs, printed materials and artifacts related to the history of this north central Minnesota county. In *Minnesota Reflections*, Beltrami has images showing early street scenes, milling and... [more...](#)
- Bethel University**: Bethel University is a leader in Christian higher education with approximately 6,400 students from 25 countries enrolled in undergraduate, graduate, seminary, and adult education programs. The Bethel University archive collection includes photographs and documents related to the history of this St. Paul, Minnesota, institution from its... [more...](#)

The right column, titled "About the collections", provides an overview of the project:

**About the collections**

*Minnesota Reflections*, which is more than 10 years old, is a project of the Minnesota Digital Library. The collection brings you more than 135,000 images, maps and documents from more than 150 of the state's cultural heritage organizations. This site offers resources on Minnesota's history and geography for researchers, educators, students, and the public. We add collections and items throughout the year so check back often.

**Tutorials**

- Browsing & Searching
- Viewing an Object
- Special Features
- Advice on Newspapers
- Saving a Personal Collection Using Favorites

At the bottom of the right column are logos for "CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT", "INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES", "DPLA", and "Minitex DEDICATION EXPLORATION INNOVATION." A small image of a lake is also visible in the top right corner of the page.

reflections.mndigital.org



# Storytelling

**Minnesota Digital Library History Mysteries**


## History Mysteries



[Download the Sleuth Sheet here](#)

In this program you'll be a history detective - you'll examine photographs from the Minnesota Digital Library ([www.mndigital.org](http://www.mndigital.org)) and related texts for clues to help solve a range of mysteries. Download and print the History Mystery Sleuth Sheet (above) before you begin.

Click on one of the surrounding pictures to get started.



©2007 Minnesota Digital Library [www.mndigital.org](http://www.mndigital.org)

[mndigital.org/ed\\_assets/historymysteries/](http://mndigital.org/ed_assets/historymysteries/)

# Educational Resources



## MINNESOTA DIGITAL LIBRARY



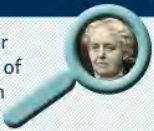
Home | About | Projects | Digitizing & Metadata | For Educators | Events & Training | Contact

### More For Educators

- Guides to Minnesota Reflections
- Digital Delights
- Pachyderm Training Projects 2008
- A Foot in Two Worlds: Indian Boarding Schools in Minnesota
- History Mysteries
- Immigrants in Minnesota: A Demonstration Project

minnesota | reflections

Search our collection of more than 135,000 images, maps & documents!



Home > For Educators

## For Educators

**Note to Users:** Use of objects in the Minnesota Reflections collections is governed by U.S. copyright law. However, all contributors to Minnesota Reflections have agreed to allow nonprofit educational use of their Minnesota Reflections collections. Students and teachers may use the collection for classroom and other educational purposes without seeking permission. Anyone wanting to use an object in Minnesota Reflections for profit or for other non-educational purposes must contact its contributing organization.

### Guides to Minnesota Reflections

"Guides to Minnesota Reflections" provide short trips into Minnesota Reflections for everyone interested in delving deeper into this growing collection of resources from across the state. Designed for teachers and their students, the guides will also help everyone get the most out of Minnesota Reflections.



Classroom of students in newly built St. Benedict's Mission School, White Earth, MN, circa 1895. Image courtesy of Minnesota Reflections.

### Digital Delights

Digital Delights are a monthly glimpse into the collections at Minnesota Reflections.

### Pachyderm

Pachyderm allows the creation of web-based and multimedia learning experiences by educators with limited technical skills. Learning materials created with Pachyderm are optimized for web, CD-ROM or desktop delivery.

- Learn more about the Pachyderm project  
Project background, links to resources created with Pachyderm, and more.

### Learning from Photography

Bonnie Wilson, who was the photography archivist at the Minnesota Historical Society before retiring in 2005.

# MDL Program Areas

- **Digital Conversion**
  - Photographs, textual materials, maps, audio, video
- **Online Access**
  - Metadata brokering (WorldCat, Google)
  - Experimentation with Google SA, Steve Project (tagging)
- **K-12 and Lifelong Learning Support**
  - Teacher guides, tied to Minnesota Curriculum Standards
  - Teacher-designed Pachyderm modules (online learning objects)
- **Digital Master Storage and Preservation**
  - Evolving towards a state-wide preservation service
- **Professional Development & Education**
  - Metadata and digital capture training/webinars
  - Annual conference

# MDL Funding and Support

- **Start-up:** year-to-year LSTA awards
  - \$150K – \$235K per year
  - Generous in-kind effort contributions from MDL Coalition anchors
- **Establishing:** annual state-wide LSTA funding
  - \$200K – \$225K per year
  - Generous in-kind effort contributions from MDL Coalition anchors
- **Stability:** State-wide Legacy and Minitex Funding
  - Legacy Funding established for years 2010-2035 – \$250K/year
  - Minitex Funding (Office of Higher Education)
  - Generous in-kind effort contributions from MDL Coalition anchors
  - Pursuing strategies to increase allocation



# MDL + DPLA = Amplification

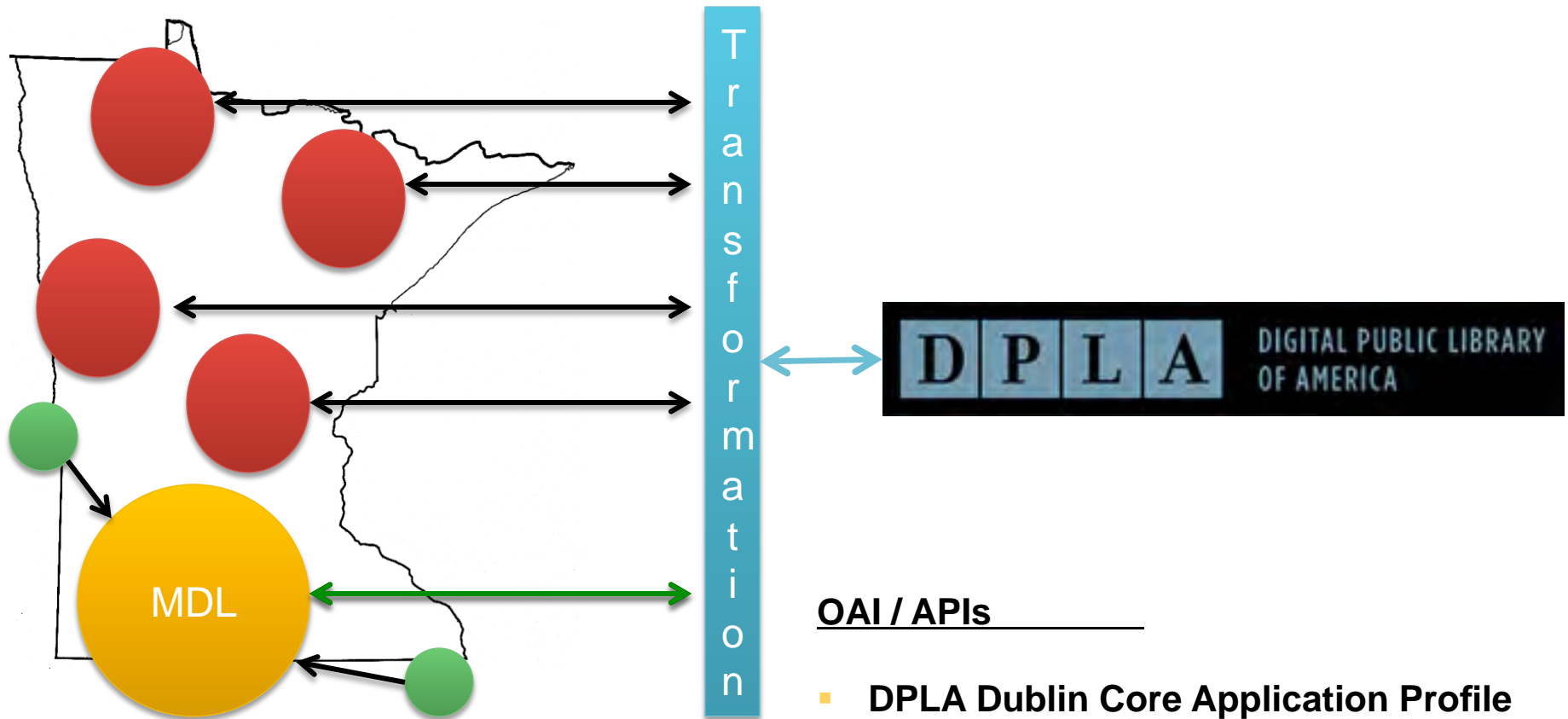


- State-/Region-wide Digital Library Metadata Aggregation



# MDL + DPLA = Amplification

Beyond the MDL Digital Collections



# MDL + DPLA = Storytelling

Exhibitions *History of Survivance: Upper Midwest*

## History of Survivance: U Narratives

### Dressing a Buffalo Skin

Seth Eastman, an American soldier stationed at Fort Snelling near modern-day Minneapolis in 1840, was commissioned by Congress to create maps and images of the Native inhabitants. Engravings were collected in several volumes, including *Information Regarding the History and Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the Upper Midwest*. Eastman was charged with providing the U.S. government an idea of what tribes existed in the region. One early engraving in particular is general and could be depicting either a Dakota or Anishinabe scene. The image is of a woman performing the traditional practice of prepping and cleaning a hide next to a tree. The background is a stylized landscape.

◀ Prev Next ▶ 2 of 7



Dakota quillwork leather vest



Dakota quillwork leather vest, a photograph by the Minnesota Historical Society, <http://www.mnhs.org/>

#### Credits

Minnesota Digital Library, <http://www.mndigital.org>



Something more than just a story, the exhibit is Native American history, a story of survival, of endings, as well as beginnings.

Survivance is a term that refers to the persistence of Native American cultures in the face of colonialism and the forced assimilation into Christianity, despite the loss of land and the death of many of those who were once there.

Through the lens of history, we can see the resilience of the Native American population and the ways in which they have survived and thrived in the face of adversity.

# MDL + DPLA = Storytelling



Portrait of Big Frog Mac-cakee, ca. 1908  
Pennington County Historical Society



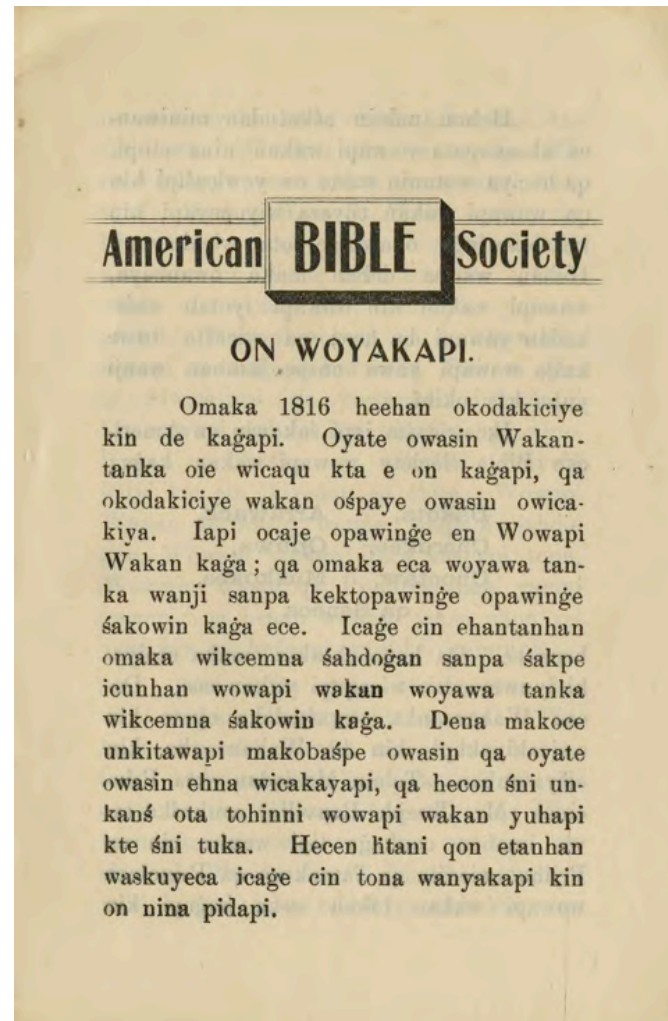
# MDL + DPLA = Storytelling



Group of Chippewa Indian Chiefs, Washington, DC, January 1899  
Becker County Historical Society



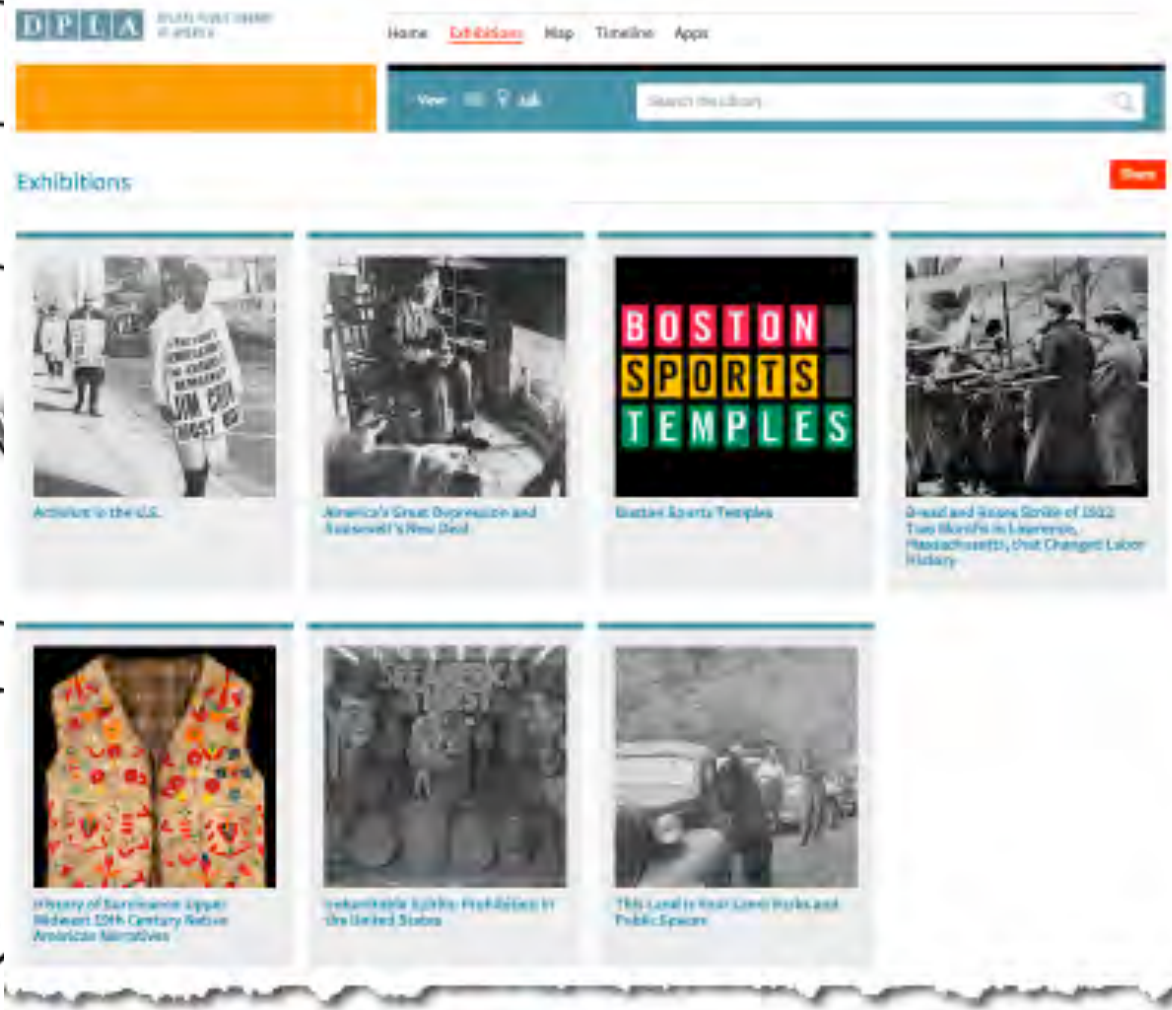
# MDL + DPLA = Storytelling



American Bible Society, On Woyakapi (Dakota language), ca. 1880-1890  
Synod of Lakes and Prairies, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

# MDL + DPLA = Storytelling

## Telling a National Story

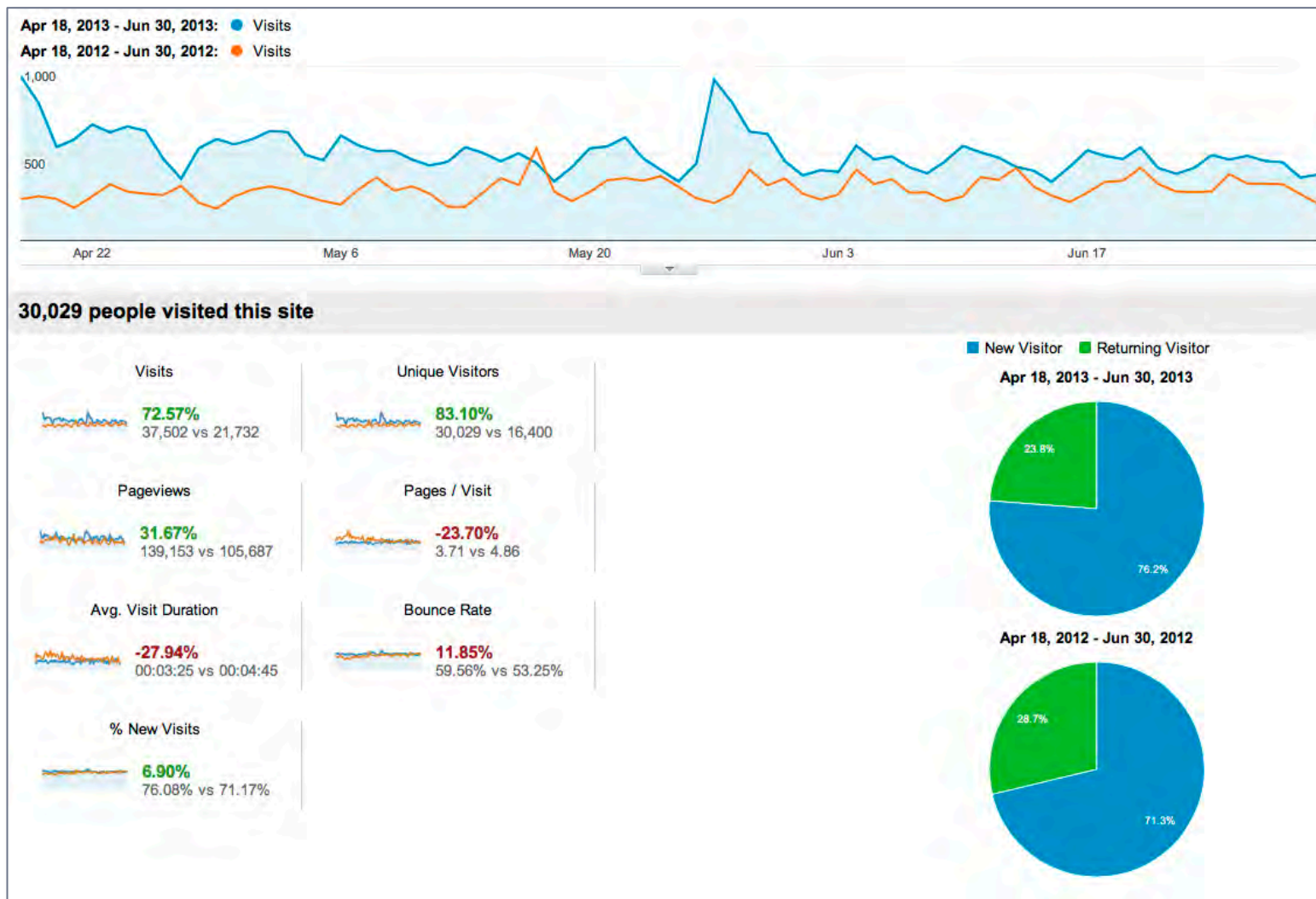


The screenshot displays the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) website. At the top, the DPLA logo is visible alongside navigation links for Home, Exhibitions, Map, Timeline, and Apps. A search bar is located below the navigation. The main content area is titled "Exhibitions" and features a grid of seven exhibition cards. Each card includes a representative image and a title:

- Activists in the U.S.**: Image of a person holding a protest sign.
- America's Great Depression and Roosevelt's New Deal**: Image of a man sitting on a bench.
- Boston Sports Temples**: A graphic with the text "BOSTON SPORTS TEMPLES" in colored blocks.
- Great and Risks Strike of 1932: Two Murders in Lawrence, Massachusetts, that Changed Labor History**: Image of a group of people.
- History of Burnt Orange Eggs: Midwest 20th Century Native American Narratives**: Image of a colorful patterned vest.
- Unworkable Light: Prohibitions in the United States**: Image of a group of people in a dark setting.
- This Land is Your Land: Parks and Public Space**: Image of a person in a field.

On the right side of the image, there is a vertical stack of logos: "alth actions Online" with a colorful grid icon, a logo for "MA RI CT J E D" (likely representing the New England states), and the "SOUTH CAROLINA DIGITAL LIBRARY" logo.

# Initial Data Analysis



# Data Aggregation

Currently providing DPLA with ~38,000 records (~130,000 objects) from 147 cultural heritage organization throughout the state.

## Moving forward:

- How to best leverage resources to ensure the most impactful and sustainable aggregation of online cultural materials?
- Identify and chart a path to getting additional partners interested and participating in the DPLA initiative?
  - ✓ Both within and outside of the current MDL participant model
- What is our bounding box in our role as a service hub?
  - ✓ Conversations with the Digital Library of South Dakota
  - ✓ Opportunities to help on board other potential service hubs?



# Digital Content Expansion

Published the exhibit “History of Survivance: Upper Midwest 19<sup>th</sup> Century Native American Narratives.”



Moving forward:

- Our initial grant proposal set aside money to support new digitization efforts, both separate from and in support of the work being done within the current MDL framework.
- Questions:
  - ✓ What opportunities does this new money provide us with in terms of new directions and increased efforts in digitization?
  - ✓ Are there areas of digitization that had previously been seen as prohibitively expensive or whose extent was deemed to be too large? Might we revisit those previous decisions?

# New Documentary Initiatives

## Opportunity to document the 'Absent Narrative'

How best to we tell today's story?

- Is it through documenting Minnesota's new immigrant communities—capturing oral histories, documentary photographs and video interviews?
- Collaborating with partners who have the requisite expertise in this area of documentation
  - ✓ Immigration History Research Center
  - ✓ Minnesota Historical Society
  - ✓ Local community groups
- Challenges – CCo Public Domain; Role of the MDL as content creator

# Community Engagement/Outreach

- Presentations
- Articles
- Videos
- MDL press room
- Public library engagement



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# Questions



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