"Above All, Try *Something*": Invoking FDR's Innovative Spirit to *Make Access Happen*

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Abstract: This poster presents the Roosevelt Library's recent innovations in digitization and online access. Over three years and at very little cost to the government, we employed a combination of modified open source tools and rapid capture techniques to accomplish one of NARA's most important strategic goals: *make access happen*.

By combining the spirit of MPLP, the strategies encouraged by NARA's organizational transformation, and inspiration from Franklin D. Roosevelt's own commitment to information access, the FDR Library embarked on an ambitious digitization program culminating in unprecedented levels of online access to presidential history. With a small staff and a small budget, the Library developed and launched an extensive new online research database, FRANKLIN, that serves finding aids, text-searchable digitized historical manuscripts presented in archival context, and fully cataloged historical photographs.

Our program is the result of a special cooperative effort—a unique combination of public, nonprofit, and corporate support. Based on simple yet effective asset capture and management principles, embracing emerging best practices for standardized encoding of legacy description, open source and inexpensive tools, this program model could be implemented in any repository.

The poster describes in detail how the Roosevelt Library and its parent agency, NARA, worked with nonprofit partner the Roosevelt Institute on low-cost mass digitization of whole collections from microfilm; Library staff used photography and PDF scanning for in-house digitization; staff worked with local partner Marist College to develop and host FRANKLIN's underlying infrastructure based on open source platforms; and how staff arranges, describes, and manages its growing digital collections.

About the authors:

Kirsten Strigel Carter is Digital Archivist at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum in Hyde Park, New York, where her work primarily involves digitization, web development, and research services. Kirsten is a primary creator of the FRANKLIN research database, a newly launched online resource providing public access to FDR Library digital collections. She also acts as co-webmaster for the Library's overall website. Prior to her 2008 start with the National Archives and Records Administration, Kirsten was an Assistant Archivist at the National Museum of Health & Medicine, a Student Assistant at Cornell's Flower-Sprecher Veterinary Library, and at both the University Archives and the National Public Broadcasting Archives at UMCP. She holds an MLS from the University of Maryland College Park, and BA from Wells College. Her research interests include user interface design and digital photography for rapid capture digitization.

Sarah Malcolm is an Archivist at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum. Sarah has worked at the Roosevelt Library since 2007, beginning as a student intern, then serving in the progressively responsible roles of Archives Technician, Archives Specialist, and Archivist. Her work at the Library largely focuses on metadata and description, social media, digitization and reference, and includes co-managing the content population of the new FRANKLIN research database. Prior to working at the Roosevelt Library, Sarah was a Student Assistant at the both the Rutgers University Archives and the University of Scranton Archives. Sarah holds a MLIS from Rutgers University and a BA from the University of Scranton. Her research interests include using social media and other new media for archival outreach.