

VUMC Through Time: Implementing a Participatory Online Image Archive

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Objective: To describe the implementation of a participatory online image archive informed by crowd-sourcing strategies

Setting/Participants/Resources: The special collections of a large academic medical center library; medical center schools, departments, and alumni

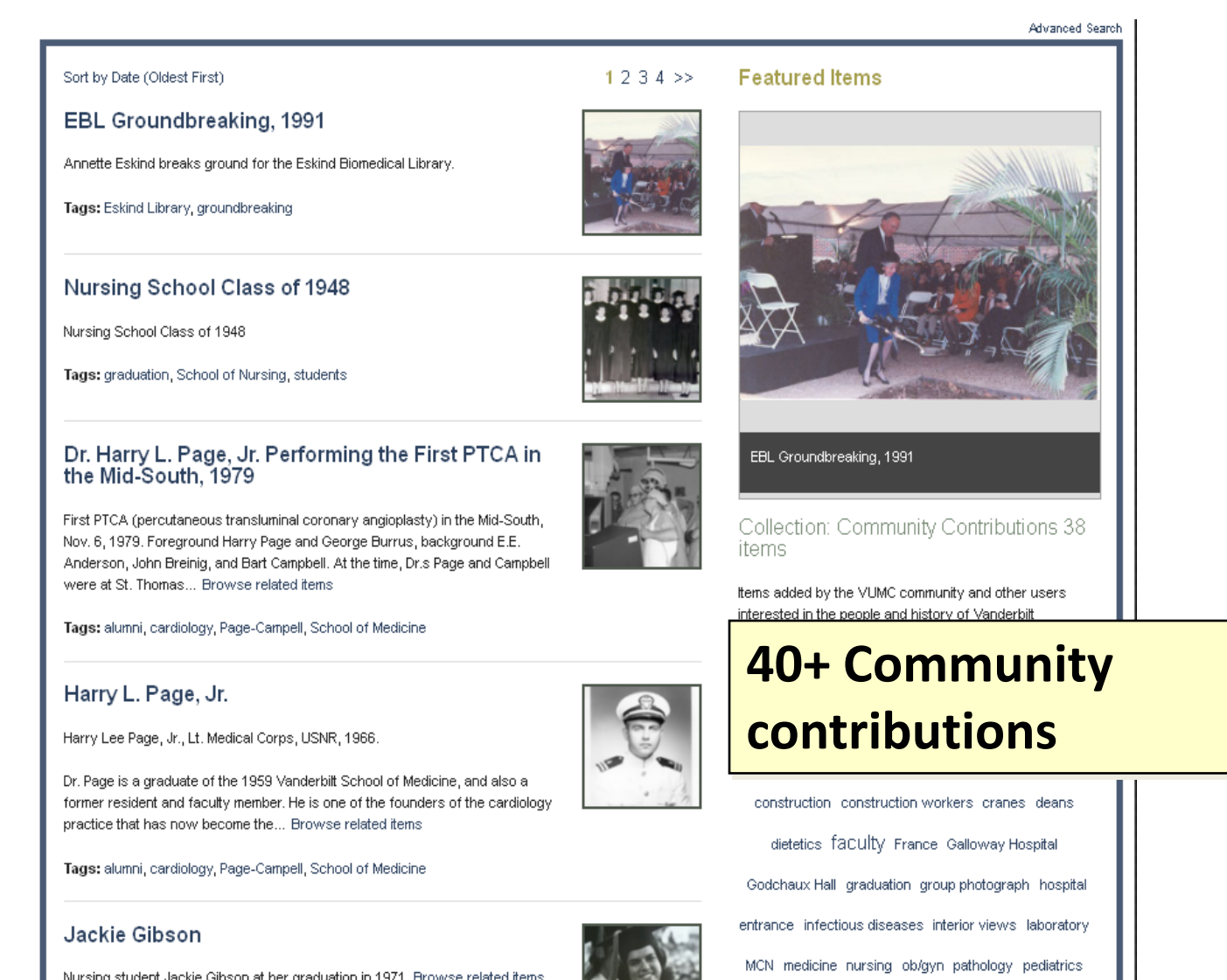
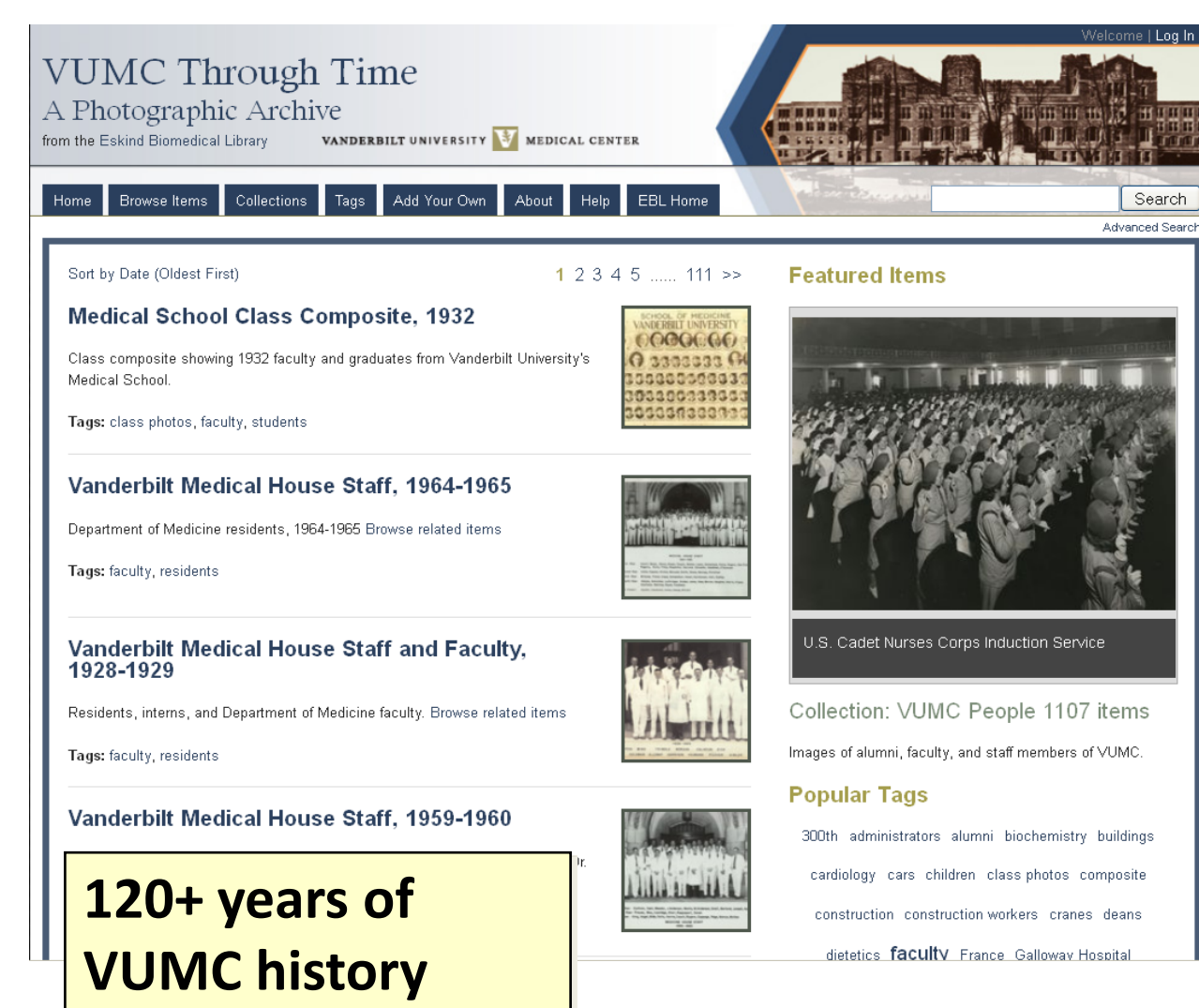
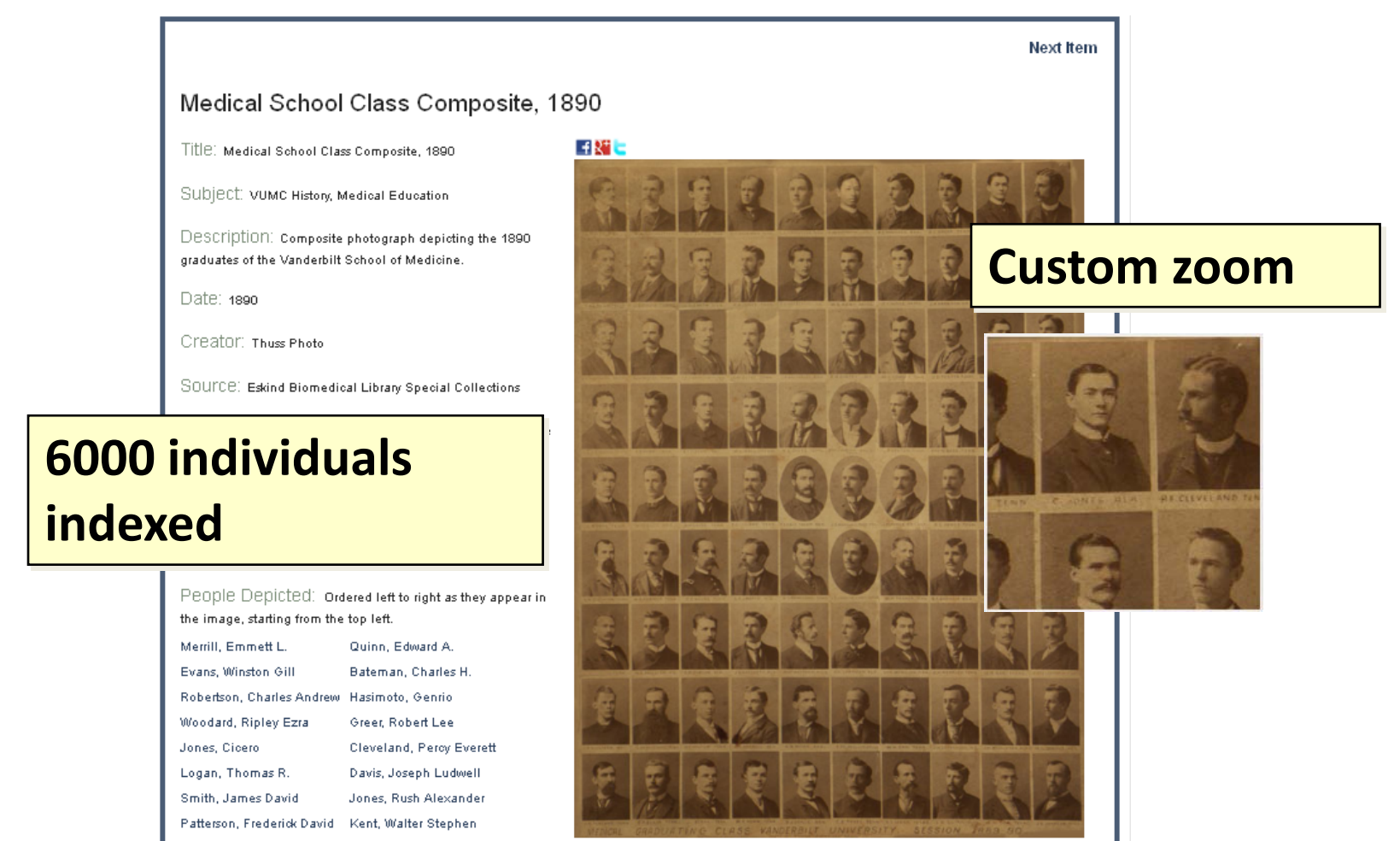
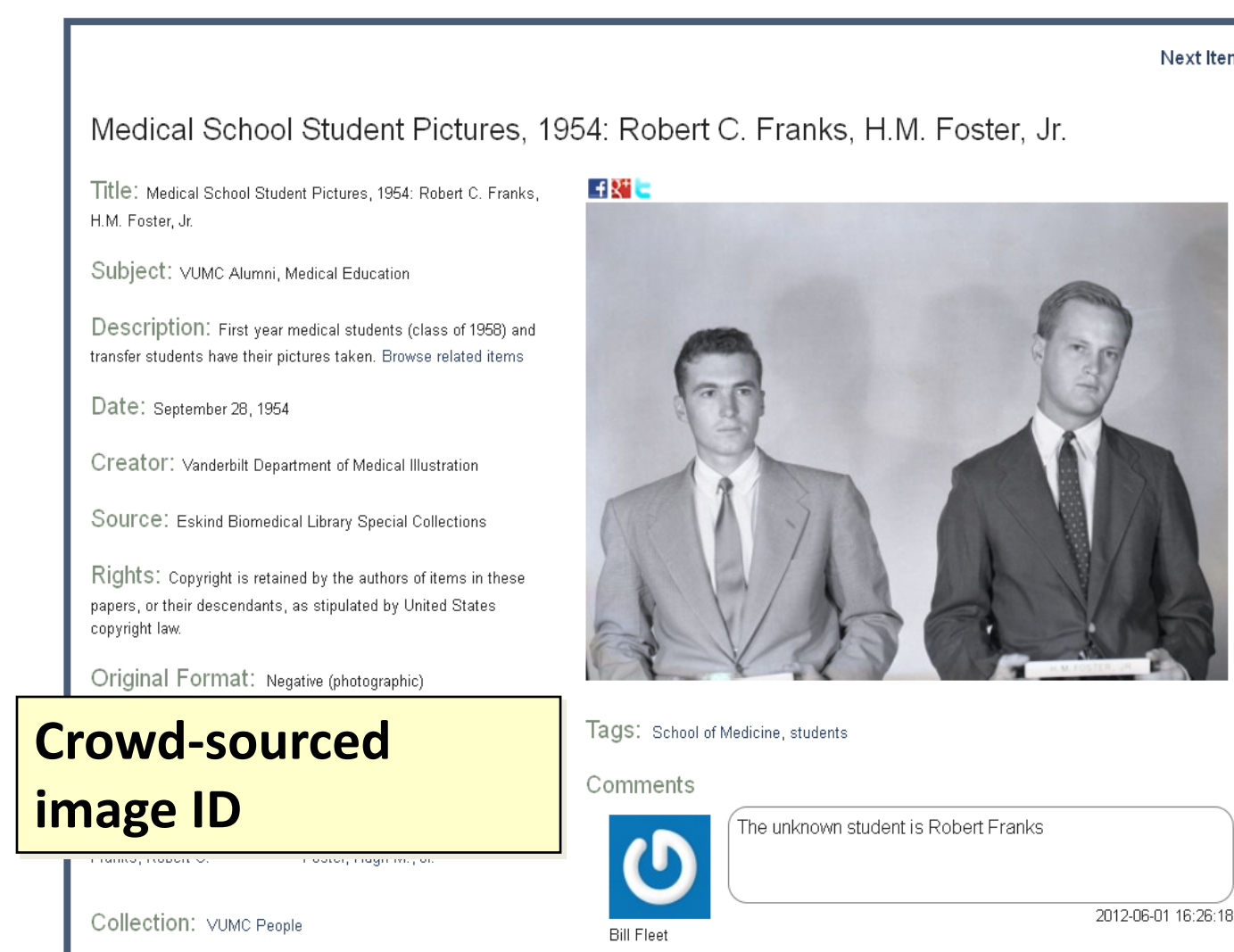
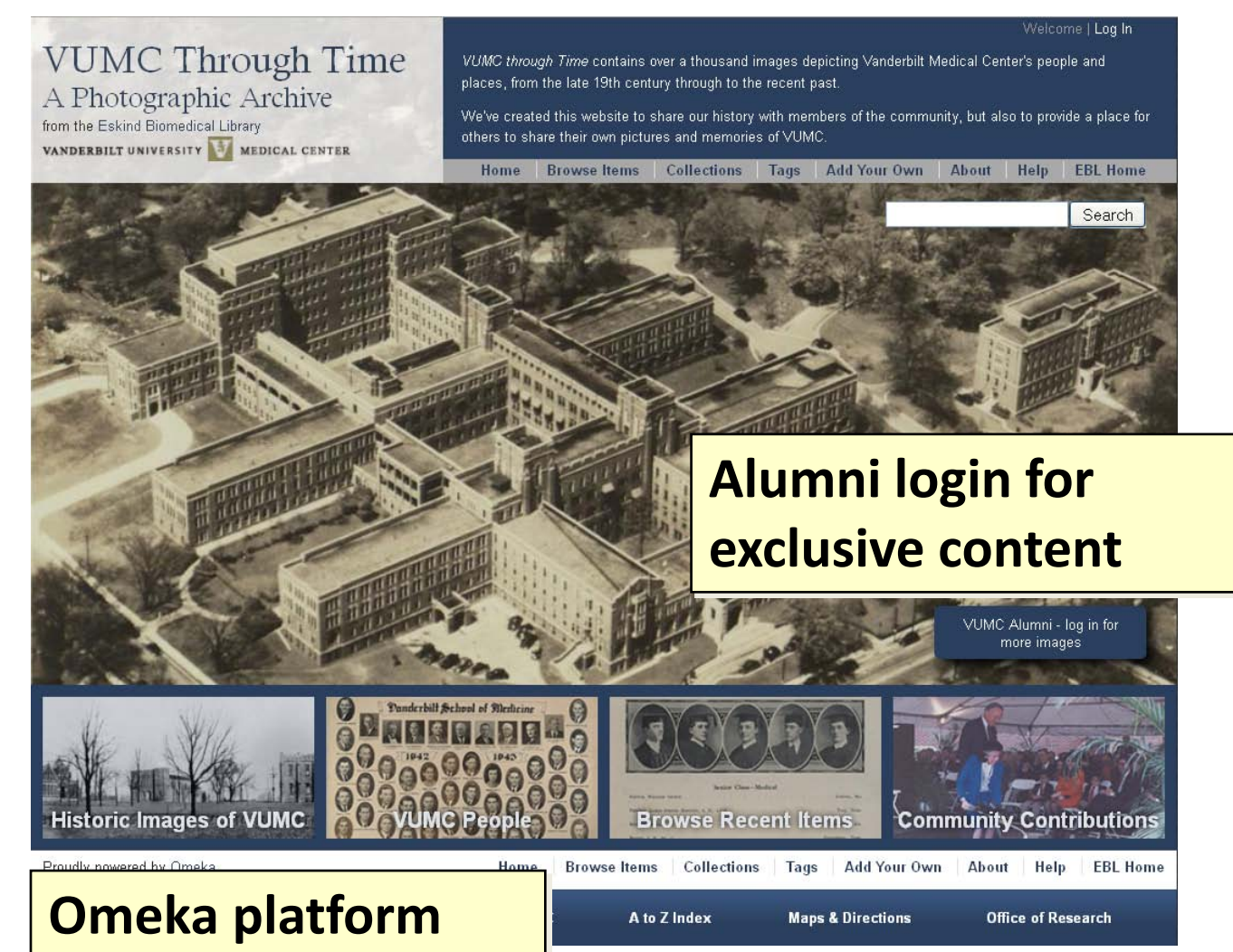
Results:

- Launched June 1, 2012
- Distributed through email, social media, news and alumni offices
- 3,000 visits (through July 7)
- 65,000 page views (through July 7)

Results (continued):

- 41 contributed images
- Increased access to images
- Increased collection visibility
- Strengthened relationships with alumni & news offices

Brief Description: In alignment with the medical center’s increased emphasis on institutional knowledge management, the library special collections has proposed a participatory model of sharing archival resources with users. This model positions the archives as “facilitator of community history,” empowering users to detail, enrich and enhance the historical record. In this model, we create archival spaces for community involvement, disseminating existing resources to create opportunities for online sharing, historical knowledge management, and collection development. The first such space is a comprehensive online image archive using freely available open source software. This website contains over 2500 images documenting Medical Center people and buildings for over 100 years. In developing and publicizing this resource, the library partners with the Schools of Medicine and Nursing, academic departments, news and public affairs, and alumni officers to increase awareness of resources and to encourage sharing and contribution of historical information and resources.



<https://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/throughtime/>