Inclusive Histories: An Evaluation of Georgia Archives

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2021
Hello! My name is...

- Chaun Campos (she/her)
  - Georgia State University Library
    - Library Technical Assistant – Digital Projects
  - Atlanta, Georgia
  - Originally the land of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation
I would like to acknowledge that I am presenting and working on land that was stolen from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Their ancestors created homes and a foundation to build upon for them in Alabama, Georgia, Florida and South Carolina. They were forcefully removed from their homes as a result of the Indian Removal Act, murdered while attempting to be neutral during the American Civil War, and had even more of their land stolen after the Civil War for reconstruction.

I’d like us to take a moment to think about the atrocities that were perpetrated against the Muscogee Nation.
Now I would like everyone to join me in celebrating the resiliency, courage, and drive of the Muscogee Nation.

After all of the wrongs committed against these folks, they rebuilt and restructured their government, pushed back (HARD) against the next attempt at stealing from them, and became a sovereign nation.
Inclusive Histories: An Evaluation of Georgia Archives – Phase One

• Inspired by the RepoData Project
• Part of a larger research effort
• Georgia focused
• Accessibility driven
What’s the Problem?

Many digital collections that contain content related to underrepresented populations aren’t discoverable or able to be utilized fully by the communities that are included in them.
Mixed Method Research

• **Secondary Data Analysis** - Identify archival institutions within the state of Georgia

• **Experiments** - Interact with and analyze their digital collections’ accessibility based on professional standards*

• **Survey** - Better understand the barriers to making these collections more accessible to potential users
Spring 2021
Phase I: Georgia
Identify what archival institutions have digital collections with content focusing on marginalized communities in the state

Fall 2021
Phase I: Georgia
• Create an audit tool and have it reviewed
• Interact with and analyze digital collections based on the audit tool’s criterion
• Compile information for survey development

Spring 2022
Phase I: Georgia
• Survey development
• Survey distribution
• Survey feedback analysis

Fall or Spring 2022
Phase I: Georgia
• Findings report
• Recommendations
• Identify and notify colleagues to begin Phase II

Spring 2022
Phase II: Southeast
Identify what archival institutions have digital collections with content focusing on marginalized communities in the southeast states by working with colleagues in the southeast to gather data
Phase I: Breakdown

- Identify institutions with collections within scope
- Audit tool development
- Analysis
- Data collection
- Survey development
- Survey distribution
What Standards?

• Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
• Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)
• The A11Y Project
• Federal Agencies Digital Guidelines Initiative (FADGI)
  o Technical Guidelines for Digitizing Cultural Heritage Materials
What Criteria?

✓ Searchable PDFs
✓ Alternative text
✓ OCR Quality
  • OCR present
  • Intelligible
✓ Scan quality
Findings – Georgia

• 690 cultural heritage institutions in Georgia
• 364 Historical Societies and/or Museums
• 100 within public libraries
• 78 within Colleges/Universities
• 52 within Government
• 25 Unknown
• 2 Tribal
Georgia State University Digital Collections

Collection A
- Digitized issues of a 20th century Atlanta-based periodical

Collection B
- Born digital images

Collection C
- Digitized photographs
If you have any questions, feel free to contact me by email or connect with me on LinkedIn.