



# Erasing Borders Through Digital Discovery

**EXPLORE Chicago Collections as the Foundation for Collaboration Among Libraries, Archives, Museums (and Others)"**

Bucknell University Digital Scholarship Conference  
October 29, 2016

#budsc16  
#TogetherChicago

# Presenters

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**Tracy J. Seneca** [tjseneca@uic.edu](mailto:tjseneca@uic.edu)

Head, Digital Programs & Services | University of Illinois at Chicago

**Ellen Keith** [keith@chicagohistory.org](mailto:keith@chicagohistory.org)

Director of Research and Access | Chicago History Museum

with thanks to:

**Scott Walter** [swalte11@depaul.edu](mailto:swalte11@depaul.edu)

University Librarian | DePaul University

Search



The place to discover the history and culture of Chicago.

SHOWN: Mayor William H. Thompson and Edward F. Dunne, Chicago History Museum. | [View >](#)

EVENTS

GOVERNMENT

DAILY LIFE

CREATIVITY

ENVIRONMENTS

WORK



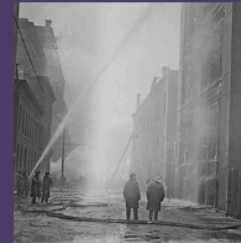
Settlement House Movement



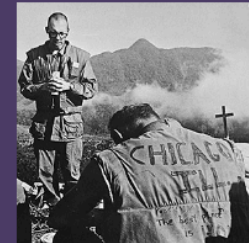
Disasters



Fairs & Conventions



Iroquois Theater Fire



Wars



## NEIGHBORHOODS

[See All](#)



Bronzeville



East Garfield Park



Uptown



Pilsen



Near North Side



# What is EXPLORE Chicago Collections?

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- **The place to discover the history and culture of Chicago**
- **United** discovery across Chicago-area libraries, archives and museums
- More than **105,000 images** and **4,900 archival collections**
- **Explore** by topics, neighborhoods, and cities
- **Explore** by the people and organizations that have contributed to Chicago History
- **Locate** institutions where you may visit materials in person
- **Get help** on how to use archives
- **Get answers** from a virtual reference desk



Search



## Filter

SORT BY: Relevance ▾

- TYPES

  - Digital Images 1042
  - Archival Collections 7
- LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

  - Chicago History Museum 1049
- TOPICS

  - + Daily Life & Identity 1049
  - + Government & Leadership 1
- NEIGHBORHOODS

  - Near West Side 504
  - Wrigleyville 338
  - Lake View 309
  - Armour Square 23
  - Loop 1
- CITIES

  - Chicago 1016

## Results

Chicago Cubs ✕ Clear Facets

1 to 12 of 1042 Digital Images shown

SEE ALL >



1 to 7 of 7 Archival Collections shown

### Chicago Cubs records, 1873-1966, bulk 1873-1973

Correspondence, unbound and in letterbooks; ledgers, cash books, attendance data, and other papers relating to the administration and management of the Chicago Cubs baseball team, a member of the National League of Professional Baseball Clubs. The correspondence is chiefly letterpress co...

DATE: 1873-1966

TOPIC: Sports

LIBRARY/ARCHIVE: Chicago History Museum

### Chicago Cubs training camp photographs, 1926.

Includes 20 photoprints of members of the Chicago Cubs baseball team at training camp in Catalina (Calif.) in 1926. About half of the views show groups of players in street clothes, while the remainder show the players in uniform. All the views are identified; some of the people depicted include ...

DATE: 1926.

TOPIC: Sports

LIBRARY/ARCHIVE: Chicago History Museum

# What does EXPLORE do for scholars?

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- Not just a list of collection guides and finding aids!
- By searching finding aids full text across institutions, you can find:
  - Connections between collections held at different institutions
  - A wealth of materials in your research area held at archives you didn't consider searching or visiting.

# A Foundational Project

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To build EXPLORE Chicago Collections, we had to erase the borders between our archives, our digital collections, and, to some degree, our institutions.

What is Chicago  
Collections?

# Who Are We?

## Founding Members

CHICAGO  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY



Chicago **History** Museum



ART  
INSTITUTE  
CHICAGO

Columbia  
COLLEGE CHICAGO



Northwestern  
University



**ROOSEVELT**  
UNIVERSITY



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



*Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives*

# Who Are We?

## Participating and Associate Members

---



Northern Illinois  
University

CHICAGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY



Alliance Française



Chicago Zoological Society  
*Inspiring Conservation Leadership*



HEMINGWAY  
FOUNDATION  
OF OAK PARK



LAKE FOREST  
COLLEGE

THEATRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF AMERICA

OAK PARK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



# Who Are We?

## Our Newest Members

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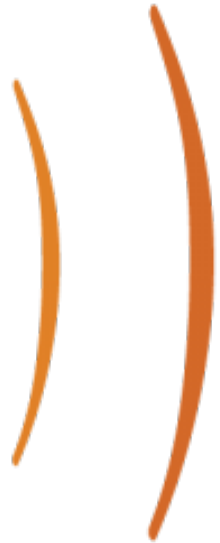
THE PEGGY NOTEBAERT  
**NATURE MUSEUM**

*The Museum of the Chicago Academy of Sciences*



*Frances Willard*  
**House Museum & Archives**

**ESS**  
Experimental Sound Studio





# Why Are We Here?

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To preserve, present, and promote the history and culture of the Chicago region by coordinating, promoting, and leveraging the collections, programs, and expertise of our members.

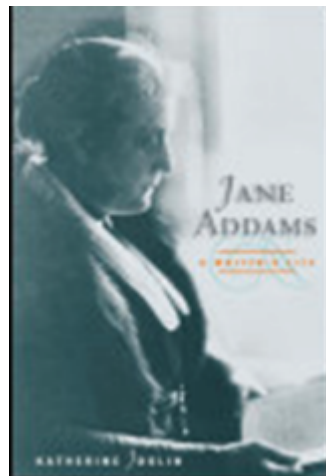
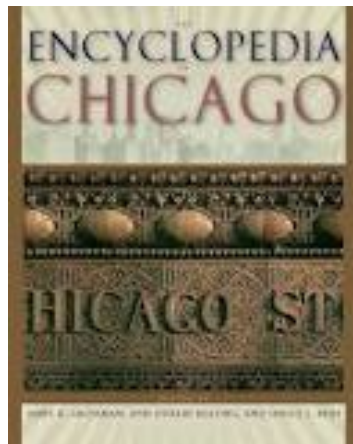
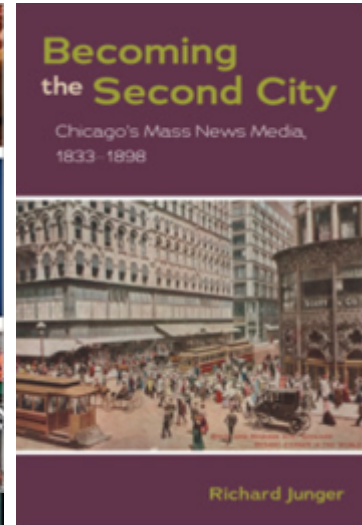
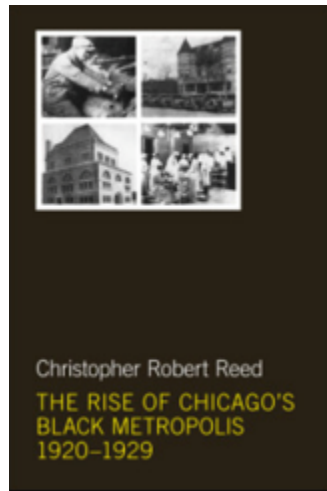
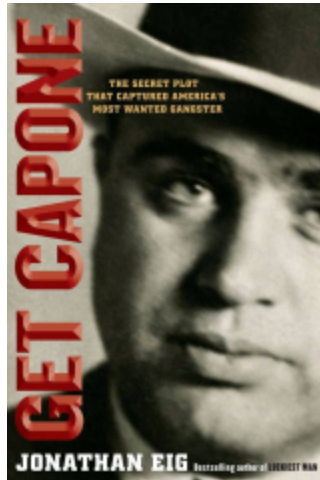
<http://chicagocollections.org/about/consortium-mission-vision/>

# Our Vision

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- Provide **a virtual collection of primary** resources about Chicago that is **freely accessible**
- Increase the **use of primary sources**
- Enhance awareness and access to the **expertise** found in member institutions
- Improve **teaching and learning** of Chicago history
- Preserve Chicago history and culture by **preserving primary sources**
- **Serve as an exemplar** to other cities and organizations
- **Transform libraries** and other holders of archival collections

# Early Goals: Facilitating Scholarship



# Early Goals: Engaging Community

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# Generous Supporters

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THE  
ANDREW W.

**MELLON**  
FOUNDATION



GAYLORD & DOROTHY  
DONNELLEY FOUNDATION

*THE GLADYS KRIEBLE DELMAS  
FOUNDATION*



THE RICHARD H. DRIEHAUS  
FOUNDATION

MacArthur  
Foundation

We are also supported by many individuals,  
including an anonymous donor



# The Digital Foundation

## EXPLORE CHICAGO COLLECTIONS



[explore.chicagocollections.org](http://explore.chicagocollections.org)  
Launched October 22, 2015

THE  
ANDREW W.  
**MELLON**  
FOUNDATION

# Who is the Target Audience for EXPLORE Chicago Collections?

- Researchers
- Faculty
- K-12 Teachers
- Students
  - K-12
  - Undergraduate
  - Graduate
- Lifelong Learners
- Members of the Public





# Building the Portal: The Challenge

---

This metadata comes  
from 26 (and counting)  
discovery systems...

... it wasn't written to  
interoperate.



Chicago Daily News, "Cart Stuck in a Flooded Road" (1909)  
[http://explore.chicagocollections.org/image/chicagohistory/71/  
b27q03r/](http://explore.chicagocollections.org/image/chicagohistory/71/b27q03r/)

# Range of Formats

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## Archival Collections

- EAD
- PDF
- MARC records

## Digital Images

- Metadata from CONTENTdm (no fixed standard)
- Spreadsheets
- Metadata from Wordpress exhibits
- MARC records

# Variations Within Formats

---

EAD with Subjects at:

- ead/archdesc/controlaccess/subject
- ead/archdesc/controlaccess/controlaccess/subject
- ead/archdesc/controlaccess/p/subject
- ead/archdesc/dsc/c02/controlaccess/subject
- ead/archdesc/descgrp/controlaccess/subject
- And so on...

# Descriptive Metadata Challenges

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13,139 extracted subjects.

6,318 lead to one item.

1,335 lead to more than one institution.

The greatest number of libraries you can reach with one term is 6.

That happens 7 times.

*The original metadata does not unite access to Chicago libraries.*

# Assume

No one is going to adjust their local standards or practices

No one is going to maintain a second version of metadata for Chicago Collections

“We are not going to catalog these twice!”

We will not have full time programmers available to adjust portal code or processing with every new format or member organization



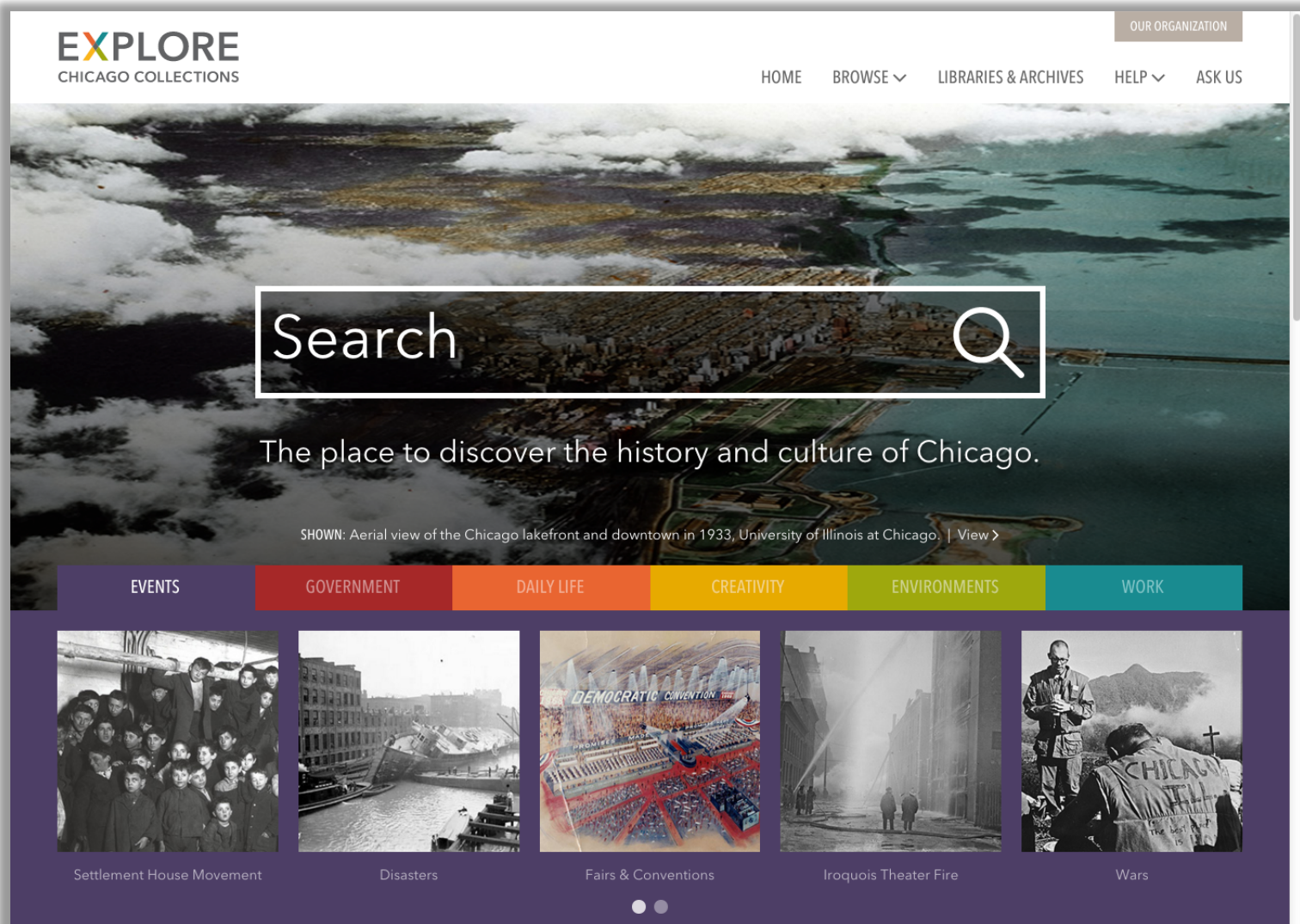
[Credit: [L.E. Baskow, Portland Tribune](#)]

# Our Solution?

---

- No requirements - **"You make it, we take it!"**
- When depositing metadata, *you tell the system what your standards mean* (mapping tool)
- As metadata comes in, the system matches incoming terms to a standard, shared vocabulary (autotagging)
- You can enhance those applied tags as needed before you publish the content to the portal
- *All of the original metadata is kept and indexed!*

# The Result





convention



## Filter

SORT BY: Relevance ▾

### — TYPES

Digital Images 2002  
Archival Collections 419

### — LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

University of Illinois at Chicago 1008  
Chicago History Museum 945  
Art Institute of Chicago 343  
Newberry Library 63  
Northwestern University 15  
Chicago Public Library 12

▾ More

### — TOPICS

+ Events & Movements 1720  
+ Government & Leadership 497  
+ Natural & Built Environments 398  
+ Daily Life & Identity 278  
+ Work 196  
+ Creativity & Thought 147

### — NEIGHBORHOODS

Loop 198  
Near North Side 169  
Hyde Park 94  
South Loop 88

## Results

1 to 12 of 2002 Digital Images shown

SEE ALL >



1 to 24 of 419 Archival Collections shown

### Chicago Citizens Commission to study the Disorders of Convention Week. Records, 1968-1969

A citizens' commission, chaired by Edward J. Sparling, was formed to investigate the 1968 Chicago peace march that ended in police confrontation. The group reconvened to examine the violence associated with the 1968 Democratic National Convention. The second committee, named the Chicago Commissio...

DATE: 1968-1969

TOPICS: [Demonstrations](#) | [Social Justice](#) | [Politics](#) | [Civil Rights](#) | [Riots](#)

LIBRARY/ARCHIVE: University of Chicago

### Democratic National Convention Records, 1965, 1968

The majority of this collection details the events of the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, with some information about the protests and police response that occurred alongside the campaign to choose a democratic candidate for president.

Search full text metadata records from more than  
18 Chicago area institutions.

Search



Explore Chicago collections by topic – from government to everyday life, and beyond.

SHOWN: Section gang working on railroad track, Newberry Library. | [View >](#)

EVENTS

GOVERNMENT

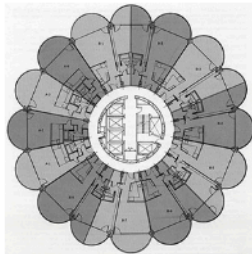
DAILY LIFE

CREATIVITY

ENVIRONMENTS

WORK

## FEATURED NATURAL & BUILT ENVIRONMENTS



Architecture



Roads



Forest Preserves



City Planning



Waterways



## ALL NATURAL & BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

[Airports](#) (21)

[Architecture](#) (17975)

[City Planning](#) (1087)

[Ecology](#) (13)

[Forest Preserves](#) (1517)

[Houses](#) (3489)

[Lake Michigan & Lakeshore](#) (146)

[Maps](#) (356)

[Parks](#) (2274)

[Railways](#) (2435)

[Roads](#) (2292)

[Waterways](#) (596)

Explore by topics from Events & Movements  
to Natural and Built Environments.

Search



Learn about the individuals, organizations and families of Chicago's rich heritage.

SHOWN: Men standing in a line during a stockyards strike, Chicago History Museum. | [View >](#)

## ALL NAMES

### A (1071) | [View All >](#)

[American League of Professional Baseball Clubs](#) (1739)

[Adler & Sullivan](#) (1640)

[Adler, David, 1882-1949](#) (915)

[Adler & Work](#) (575)

[Annunzio, Frank](#) (265)

[Atwood, Charles B., 1849-1895](#) (164)

### B (2696) | [View All >](#)

[Burnham & Root](#) (810)

[Beman, Solon Spencer, 1853-1914](#) (509)

[Burnham, D.H., & Co](#) (479)

[Bowen, Louise de Koven, 1859-](#) (459)

[Bowen Country Club](#) (448)

[Barnett, H.](#) (341)

### C (2792) | [View All >](#)

[Chicago Daily News](#) (53751)

[Chicago Daily News, Inc](#) (49304)

[Chicago Architectural Photographing Co.](#) (2574)

[Century of Progress International Exposition](#) (1428)

[Chicago Cubs](#) (1049)

[Chicago White Sox](#) (929)

### D (1474) | [View All >](#)

[Davis, Robert A](#) (1033)

[DeGrane, Lloyd](#) (568)

[Dostatni, Yvette](#) (444)

[Dangler, Henry C](#) (359)

[Daley, Richard J., 1902-1976](#) (186)

[Detroit Tigers](#) (115)

Explore by the people and organizations that have contributed to Chicago history.

Search



Search Within



TOOLS ▾

LOCATION

NEED HELP?

SHARE ▾

[Back to Results](#)

## John T. McCutcheon Papers, 1834-1996

See Also: [World War I](#) | [Politics](#) | [Media](#) | [Lake Forest](#) | [McCutcheon, John T., 1870-1949](#) | [McCormick, Harold F., 1872-1941](#) | [View All](#) >



1 to 12 of 120 Digital Images shown

SEE ALL >



### Descriptive Summary

**IDENTIFICATION:** Midwest MS McCutcheon

**TITLE:** Inventory of the John T. McCutcheon Papers, 1834-1996, bulk 1889-1950 Midwest.MS.McCutcheon

**PUBLISHER:** The Newberry Library - Modern Manuscripts

**REPOSITORY:** The Newberry Library - Modern Manuscripts

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 95.0 linear feet (115 boxes, 1 oversize folder, and 47 volumes)

**DATE:**

Bulk 1889-1950

When collections have been digitized, the images are available via the finding aid.

Search



Search Within



## CONTENTS

Descriptive Summary

Provenance

Access

Ownership and Literary Rights

Cite As

Processed by

Acknowledgements

Biography of John T. McCutcheon

Scope and Content of the Collection

Organization

Control Access

Inventory

## COLLECTION LOCATION



### Newberry Library

Roger and Julie Baskes Department of Special Collections

Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street  
Chicago, IL 60610 United States

#### Phone

(312) 943-9090

NEED HELP?

SHARE ▾

1996

See Also: [World War I](#) | [Politics](#) | [Media](#) | [Lake Forest](#) | [McCutcheon, John T., 1870-1949](#) | [McCormick, Harold F., 1872-1941](#) | [View All >](#)



1 to 12 of 120 Digital Images shown

SEE ALL >



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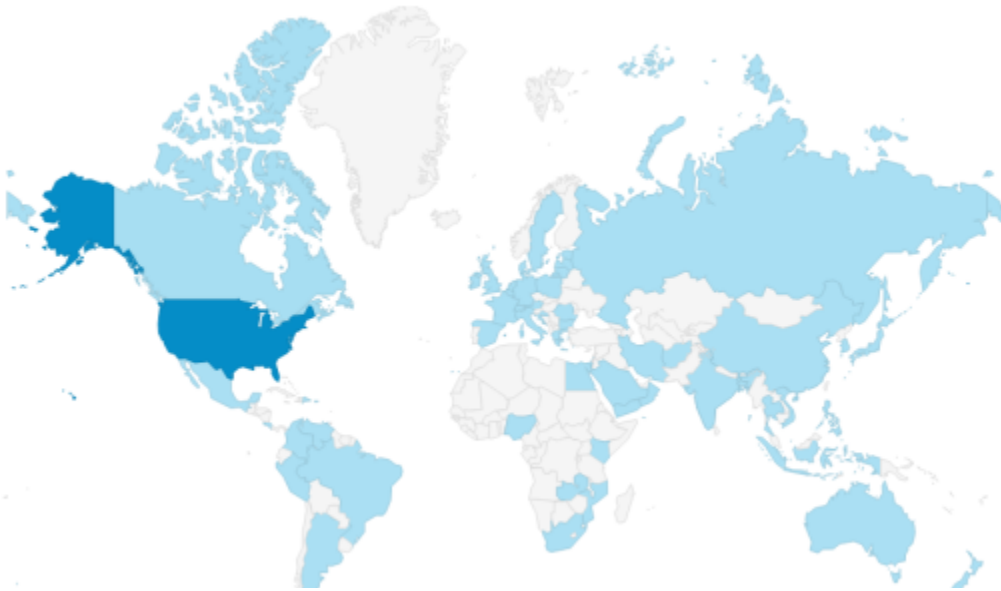
DATE

Get collection location information.



# Who is using EXPLORE Chicago Collections?

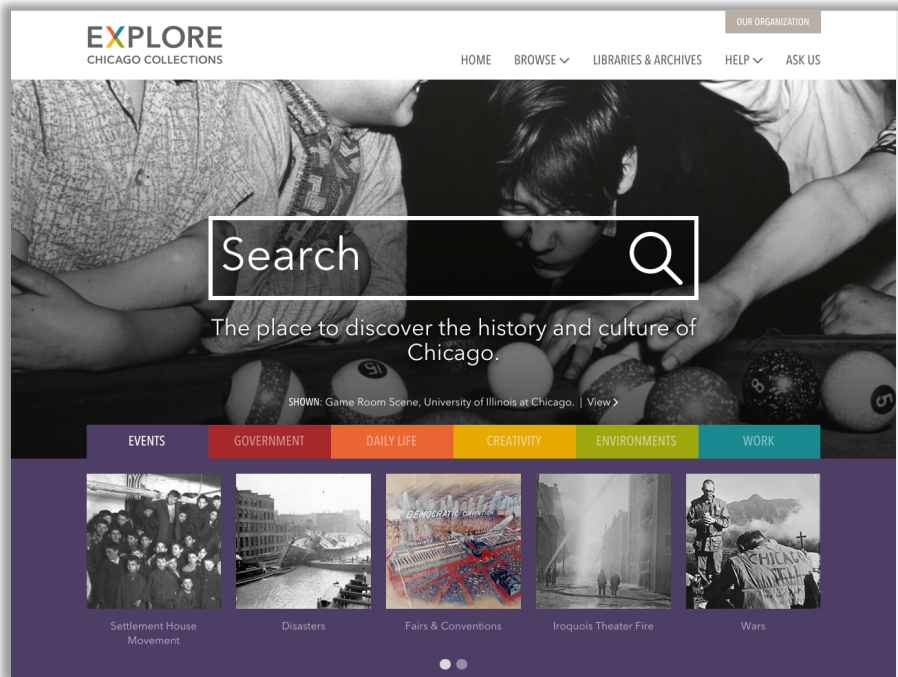
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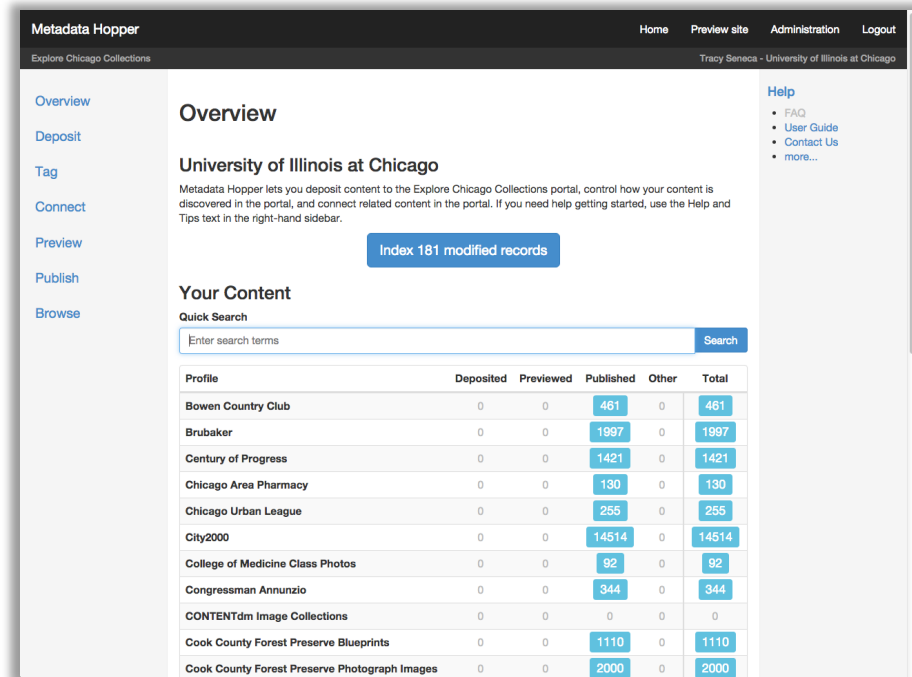
## One year live...

- 58,000+ unique users
- 122 countries
- All 50 United States
- 419,000+ page views

# The Pieces



**EXPLORE Chicago Collections**  
(front end user interface)



**Metadata Hopper**  
(back end administrative tool)



# Learn more about our approach

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Digital demo session in the Terrace Room, 5-6 pm today will cover

- Explore Chicago Collections
- Metadata Hopper

# How did EXPLORE erase borders?

---

1. United our content, both structurally and in the descriptive terms used.
2. Enabled organizations with very different resources, staffing and procedures to participate.
3. Engaged academic, public & special libraries, museums, small organizations and major institutions
4. Laid the foundation for further cross-institutional collaboration.

# Building on the Foundation: Teaching Research Skills

## Help Guide

Search Guides Search

Overview

Search Tips

Understanding Search Results

Research Concepts

Citing Sources

Copyright & Permissions

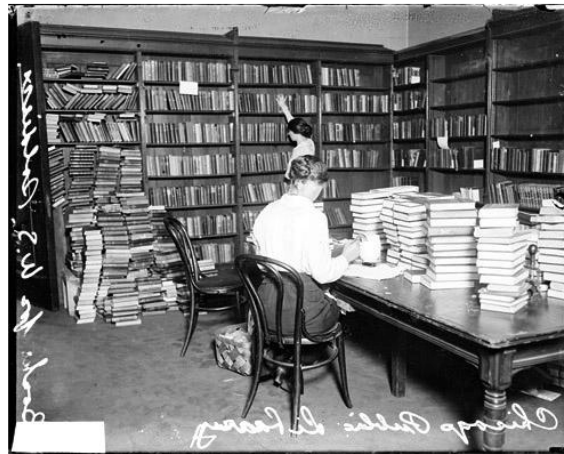
Planning Your Visit

Broadening Your Research

Teaching Resources

### What You'll Find in this Guide

The purpose of this guide is to assist users of [Explore Chicago Collections](#) throughout the research process. As you click through the navigation menu on the left, the guide will provide tips for navigating the search portal, creating citations, visiting member institutions and expanding your research beyond the Explore Chicago Collections portal. It will also address rights and access issues and offer resources for educators.



Women working in a room at the Chicago Public Library where they are collecting books for U.S. Soldiers. Photograph. Chicago History Museum, Chicago.

<<http://explore.chicagocollections.org/image/chicagohistory/71f18s2c/>>.

Next: Search Tips >>

# Building on the Foundation: Cooperative Reference Network

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- ASK Chicago Collections  
<http://ask.chicagocollections.org/>
- A Virtual Reference Desk
- Full integration with the Portal
- Joint Development of, and Access to, Instructional Materials

# Building on the Foundation: Community Engagement

Curious City

## Zeppelin Poseurs: Why Chicago's Airship Dreams Never Took Off

Jason Nargis, Logan Jaffe

August 8, 2016

▶ PLAY 13 MIN

+ ADD TO QUEUE



Infrastructure on the roof of the Intercontinental Hotel, formerly the Medinah Athletic Club, hints it once was an airship mooring mast. So why didn't the airship business take off in Chicago? (Images: Logan Jaffe/WBEZ and Art Institute of Chicago, M524651.jpg)

Joint podcast, Curious City  
and Chicago Collections,  
April 2016

<http://curiouscity.wbez.org/>

# Building on the Foundation: Community Engagement

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- **Digital Preservation Planning**  
Member Workshop: (May 2016)
- **Researcher Round Tables**  
(May 2016)
- **Encountering Primary Sources: Teaching,  
Learning, & Critical Thinking**  
Member Workshop, November 2016

# Building on the Foundation: Community Engagement

#BigShoulders  
**Edit-a-Thon**

Chicago Collections  
*Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon*



Michigan & Moore, early 1920s; SCOT Chicago Traffic Photography; University of Illinois at Chicago



# Building on the Foundation: Joint Exhibitions

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## RAW MATERIAL

Uncovering Chicago's Historical Collections

Harold Washington Library Center  
August 7 - November 15, 2015



*THE GLADYS KRIEBLE DELMAS*  
*FOUNDATION*



# Building on the Foundation: Joint Exhibitions



University of Illinois at Chicago, "Students  
Protest, 1968"

[http://explore.chicagocollections.org/image/  
uic/111/rf5mm1c/](http://explore.chicagocollections.org/image/uic/111/rf5mm1c/)



*Civil War to Civil Rights: African-American  
Chicago in the Newberry Collection*

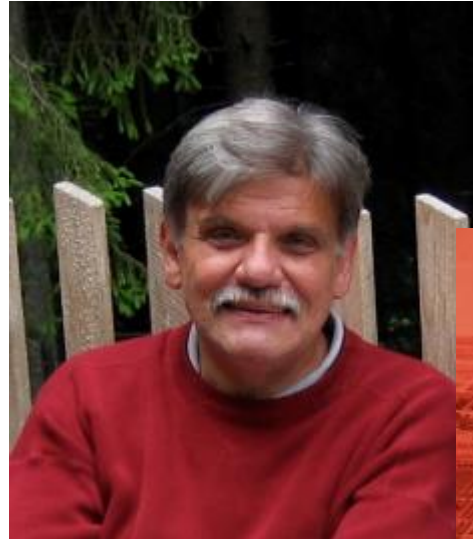
[https://www.newberry.org/civil-war-civil-  
rights](https://www.newberry.org/civil-war-civil-rights)

# Building on the Foundation: Speaker Series

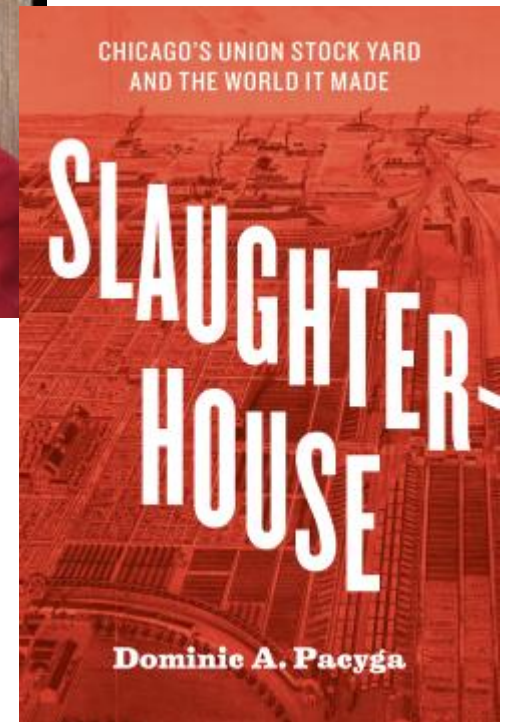
## "Engaging Chicago: Telling the City's History"

with

Dominic A. Pacyca, PhD



Harold Washington Library Center  
October 6, 2015



# Building on the Foundation: K-12 Programs and Partnerships

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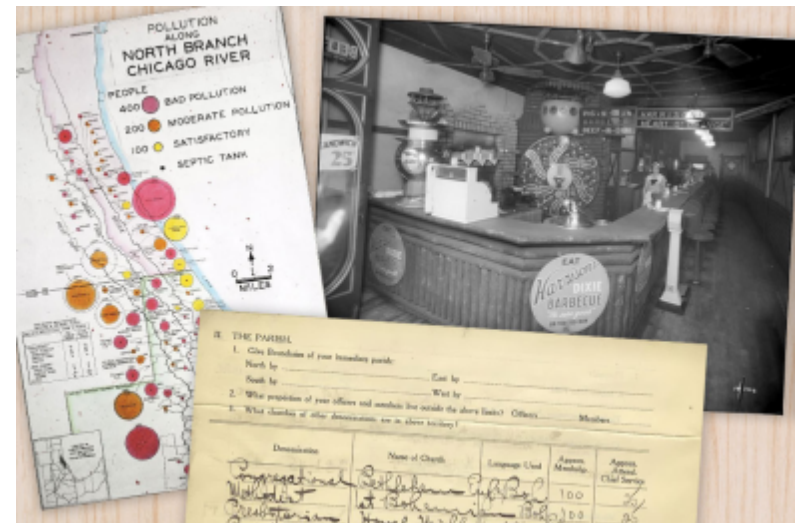
- Mini-Curators Program with Chicago Public Library
- Chicago Metro History Fair
- Professional Development Programs for Teachers



# Building on the Foundation: Public Relations

Chicago Collections  
activities reported in 15+  
publications since Fall  
2015, including:

- *The Chicago Tribune*  
(Nov and Dec 2015)
- *ILA Reporter* (Feb 2016)
- *American Libraries*  
(Mar 2016)

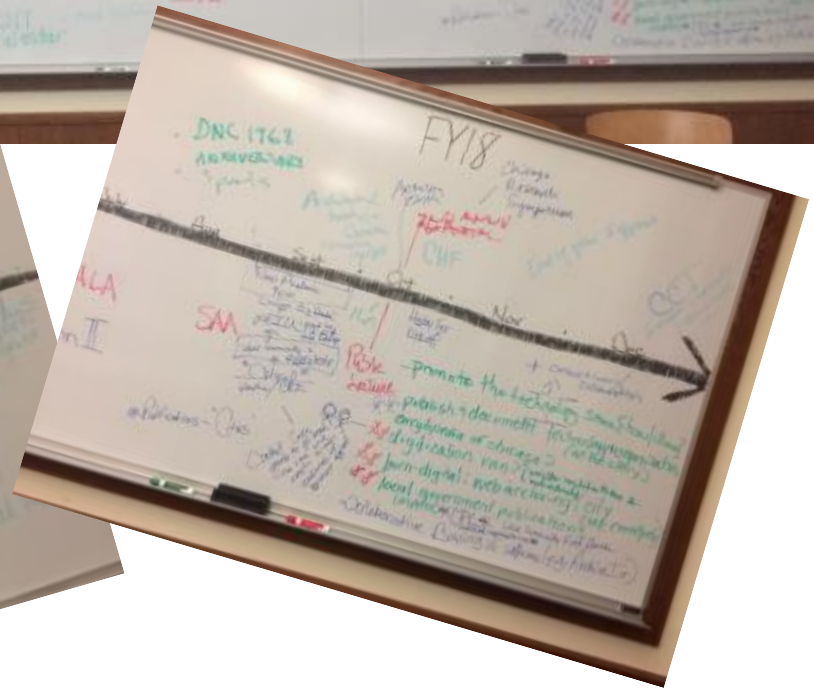
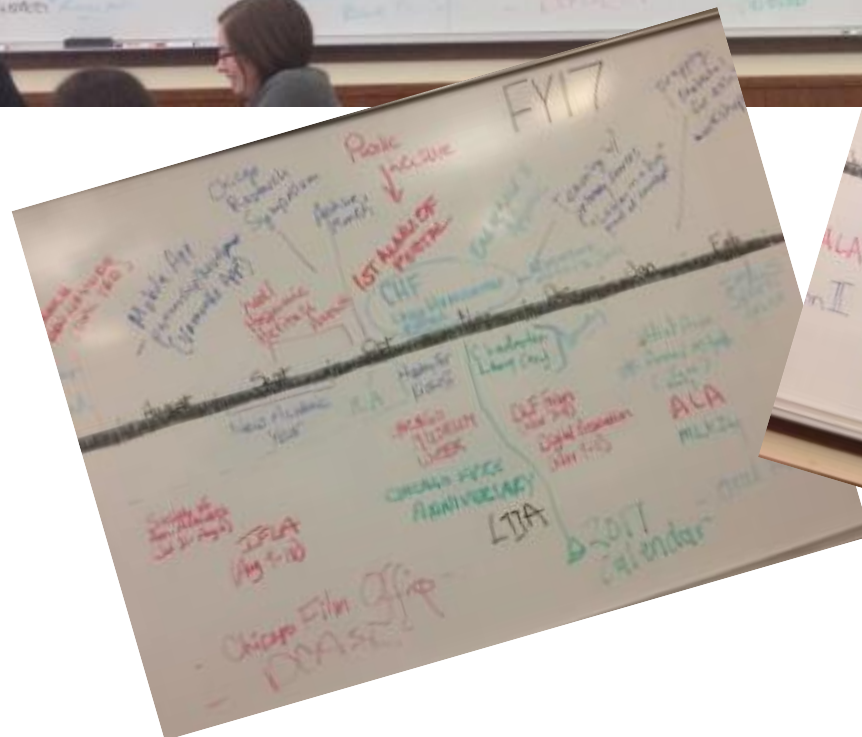
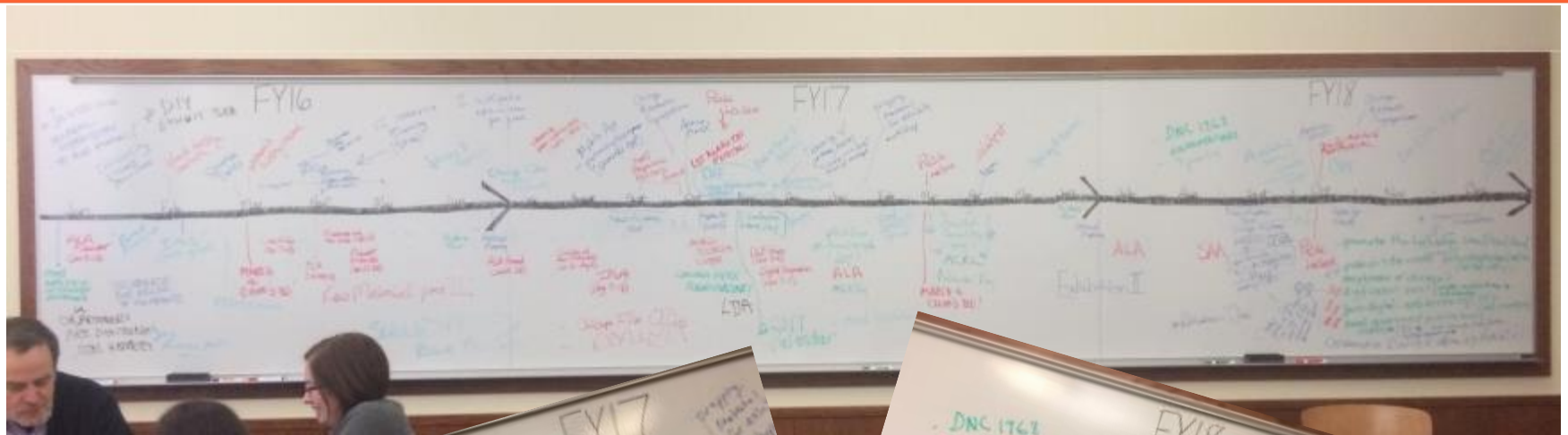


"All Together Now: Libraries  
Collaborate to Create History"  
*American Libraries* (March 2016)

[http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/  
2016/03/01/explore-chicago-  
collections-all-together-now/](http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2016/03/01/explore-chicago-collections-all-together-now/)



# Building on the Foundation: Committee Chairs at Work





Twitter [@ChiCollections](https://twitter.com/ChiCollections)

[#TogetherChicago](https://twitter.com/ChiCollections)

Facebook [facebook.com/ChiCollections](https://facebook.com/ChiCollections)

Join our eNews from our Homepage at  
[chicagocollections.org](https://chicagocollections.org)

Explore collections at  
[explore.chicagocollections.org](https://explore.chicagocollections.org)



# Questions?



Chicago Zoological Society, "The 'Question House'" (c. 1940)  
<http://explore.chicagocollections.org/image/bz/104/4b2z926/>