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Preserve & Respect:

Collaborative Historical African American Digital
Collections at the University of Delaware

ACRL-DVC Fall Meeting
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Theresa Hessey
Digital Collections Librarian
hessey@udel.edu

Overview

- 2 digital projects (2017) –
 - School Hill Project & Baltimore Collection
- Common themes:
 - Sensitive content
 - Collaborations
 - Mistakes = Learning Opportunities
 - Long-term preservation



School Hill Project

- Community event & digital project – May 2017
- Images (~100) & Oral Histories (7)
- Freely-accessible (DSpace)
- Short turn-around
- New endeavor



School Hill Project




School Hill Project

Delaware Interscholastic Basketball
Coaches Association


Twelfth Annual
Banquet

UNIVERSITY OF
DELAWARE
THURSDAY
APRIL 1, 1971


ALL-STATE
1970 - 71




MARVIN V. BELL
P. S. duPont




RONALD C. JOHNSON
Wilmington



LARRY R. TYRE
Indian River



JAMES F. WHITE
Scholarship



FREEMAN L. WILLIAMS
Christiansburg



Baltimore Collection

- Photographs (~50) – late 19th / early 20th century
- UD accessible (Artstor)
- Campus collaboration
 - Africana Studies/Art History course: “Curating Hidden Collections and the Black Archive”
- New endeavor



Baltimore Collection



Theme 1: Sensitive Content

Certain amount of discomfort involved – lean in!

School Hill Project

- Cultural background
- Economic background
- Relationship to UD
- Personal, face-to-face



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- Conscious/unconscious biases

Theme 2: Collaborations

Find common ground and compromise

School Hill Project

- Community engagement
 - NAACP Newark Chapter
 - UD Community
 - Newark Community
- Press coverage
- Faculty / Students



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Baltimore Collection

- UD Library / Museums

Theme 3: Learning Opportunities

Document mistakes and evolve

School Hill Project

- Rushed planning
- No one “in charge”
- Documentation was limited
- Print & digital combo

Manage expectations of final product in beginning

Baltimore Collection



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Neglected collection

- Ownership misunderstanding

Theme 4: Long-term Preservation

If you don't plan to preserve, it's lost...again.

School Hill Project & Baltimore Collection

- Preservation is often an afterthought
- Server space and/or hardware
- Identify stewards (anyone can preserve with a plan!)
- Plan for maintaining long-term personal relationships



Resources

MSS 0784 – Friends of School Hill Oral Histories and images, May 2017

– DSpace (open access)

<http://udspace.udel.edu/handle/19716/21630>

UD Museums: AFRA467 Class project: “The Baltimore Collection”

– Artstor (UD Community)

• <https://library.artstor.org/#/collection/36618>

Museums Collection, University of Delaware Library, Museums, and Press,
“The Baltimore Collection,” Course website:

<https://sites.udel.edu/baltimorecollection/>

Department of Art History, “News: The Baltimore Collection Online,” 2017.

<https://www.arthistory.udel.edu/news/Pages/The-Baltimore-Collection-online.aspx>

