

The Iowa Heritage Digital Collections

Advisory Committee

Linda Brown-Link
State Historical Society of Iowa

Barbara Corson
State Library of Iowa

Scott Dermont
Ames Public Library

OJ Fargo
Green Valley AEA

Claudia Thornton Frazer
Drake University

Bruce Gilbert
Drake University

Amy Groskopf
Davenport Public Library

Nancy E. Kraft
University of Iowa Libraries

Grace E. Linden
Pearl Street Research Center
Sioux City Public Museum

David Muhlena
National Czech & Slovak
Museum & Library

Gerry Peterson
University of Northern Iowa

Becki Plunkett
State Historical Society of Iowa

John H Pollitz
St. Ambrose University

Hilary Seo
Iowa State University

Dan Stout
University of Iowa Libraries

Tanya Zanish-Belcher
Iowa State University

July 2004

Dear Colleague:

The Iowa Heritage Digital Collections (IHDC) is a statewide collaborative project with a goal of building a web portal to access digital collections. It will focus on state and local history collections that are located in libraries, museums, historical repositories, and other cultural heritage institutions. If your institution owns collections, resources, and other materials that cover some aspect of Iowa history or culture, we urge you to take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the survey and utilize this document as a worksheet for completing the survey online at <http://lib-transition.iowa.uiowa.edu>. This project might be the solution for those of you who would love to have the best items in your collections digitized and available on the web, but who have little or no money, staff, or database expertise.

Making your collections available electronically, for search and retrieval via the Internet and Web, is a wonderful way to increase interest in your institution, and to offer your patrons a new and perhaps more convenient approach to accessing and utilizing your resources. Further, having your historical materials available in a digital format allows people access to these priceless resources, while preserving the originals.

Currently, we would like an expression of interest and a description of the collection(s) you would be willing to share online. Additionally, we are trying to assess digitization capabilities and needs statewide. Filling out this survey does not commit you or your institution to any further action at this time; but filling out this survey will help us gather the information we need to apply for grants and other funding. We will update you as the project continues takes shape and you can visit the website listed above for updated information.

Should you have any questions or comments as you review and complete the survey, please feel free to contact Holly or me at the addresses listed below our names. Thank you for your interest and cooperation and we hope you will follow the progress of this project.

Respectfully,

Nancy E. Kraft
Chair, IHDC Project
nancy-e-kraft@uiowa.edu
319-335-5286

Holly Martin Huffman
Graduate Assistant
holly-huffman@uiowa.edu