

What materials are most difficult to work with?

This was a question we got through the feedback form - thank you for your submission! The form is linked at the bottom of the newsletter, if you have any questions you'd like us to answer.

As might be expected, we each encounter different challenges with different materials.

From the manuscripts side, bound materials tend to be most time-consuming, as tight bindings require a more involved process to capture for digitization. Folded booklets, newsprint clippings, and fragments of pages are other common items that we find challenging either because of the fragility or size (too large or too small) of the materials. Scrapbooks, with the various items affixed to pages in a variety of ways, also present a significant challenge in trying to capture without causing any damage to the physical items.

For A/V, motion picture film can be the most tricky. This format can become brittle if it was never stored properly in cold storage, and can also warp & curl to the point where getting a good image during digitization is a struggle. Color can also fade, giving the image a pink hue, and altering this back to its original look during the digital capture is a time-consuming process.

April Publishing Highlights!!

Our team finished working on a couple of very large or highly-used collections last month:

- [Minnesota Geographic Board](#)
 - Massive collection of index cards – 119,129 pages of material published in 269 PDF/As!
- [Rochester State Hospital- Patient Case Books](#)
 - A frequently used collection of 50 large volumes, now available digitally – will help maintain collection integrity (due to less physical handling). Also increases accessibility for patrons and researchers.

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Collections Digitization Technician:
Evelyn Gaunt



Hi all! While pursuing my degree in archaeology and history from UW-L, I also worked for my campus archive. It was that experience that led me to this archival position on the Dig. team here at MNHS.

My favorite thing about this work is getting to see in-depth the huge array of collections we have here. During the digitization process, we lay our eyes on every single page 4+ times, so we really get familiar with each collection we work with. I also love that we make material accessible and available that in some cases may have never been used otherwise.

New this Month:

Published Media Content:

 Humanities Commission audiotapes
(64 digital audio files, 16.4 GB)

Published Collections Content:

 [Minnesota Geographic Board](#)
(269 PDF/As; 119,129 pages)

 [Rochester State Hospital- Patient Case Books](#)
(50 Volumes; 16,940 pages)

 [Cameo Social Club Records](#)
(26 folders; 1,097 pages)

 [Minnesota Works Progress Administration Papers](#)
(28 Folders; 3,194 pages)

Collections in Progress this Month:

 AI Noice Band & Orchestra
 Office of the Adjutant General Military Service Records
 Minnesota Works Progress Administration Research
 State Auditor Township and Village Org. Records
 Northern Pacific Railway President Records
 War Records Commission WWI- Soldiers Photographs

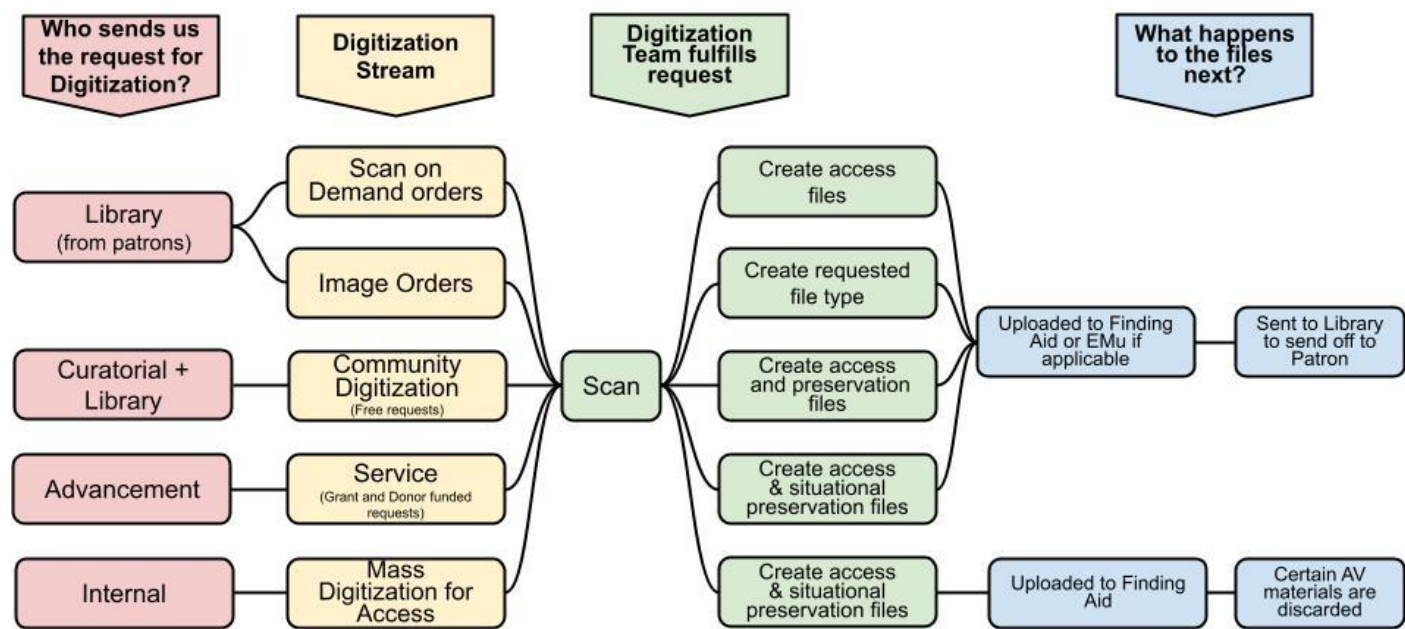
Fun April Stats!:

Photo orders completed: **112**
Media files ordered & completed: **49**
Pages scanned: **22,692**
Digital access files created: **155**

Social Media Posts:

[Stillwater UFO sighting. 1982](#)
[Medtronic Day](#)
[George Morrison Digitized Collection](#)

Digitization Process Spotlight



Have you ever wondered how we chose which collection items to digitize?

There isn't a singular answer to that question, as Digitization has several streams to accommodate a variety of unique requests. The chart above is a rough visualization of the collections digitization process. Each month, we will feature a short article on an aspect of this workflow, aimed at providing a more in-depth look at the process and work that goes into digitizing materials here at MNHS.

Digitization Stream - Service

Our Service stream is where we collaborate with Advancement, alongside Curatorial and Cataloging, to accomplish digitized access to specific collections that are brought to our attention. Advancement builds and develops these relationships, and then makes the connection internally to fit the needs of the requestor. Two examples that spring to mind are: [The St. Paul's On-the-Hill Episcopal Church records](#) and [The Study Club records](#) but there are many more accessible collections that have come out of this partnership and we look forward to developing additional alliances.

!! 📢 We want to hear from you!! 📢 !!

What questions would you like to see answered about Archival Digitization at MNHS?
Let us know in the form below and we may feature it in an upcoming newsletter!

<https://forms.gle/rp22rMo8yFtdscGR9>

ARCHIVAL DIGITIZATION STAFF

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Media Digitization

moving image, video and audio files

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Collections Digitization

manuscripts, government records, & still-images

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