Fun with Digital Commons

Charlie Cowling
Rose Archives
College at Brockport

Joshua Rakower
E. H. Butler Library
Buffalo State College
Yearbooks, lots of them...
Moving to the book scanner...
We scan!

- Saving as .tiff files
- Editing for image quality as needed
- Then merging in Adobe Pro, running OCR...
The book scanner

- We have a Konica Minolta unit. It’s essentially a camera on a stand with an articulated base.

- It will scan up to 600 dpi, b&w, greyscale or color, up to 18”x24”.

- It allows easy scanning of fragile books and other documents.
For another project I’ll use a flatbed...
A typical higher end flatbed

An Epson, scans photos, slides, negatives and so forth at as high resolutions as one might want.
Diary of
The Sidewalk Superintendents Club
Brockport Junior Chapter
Ages 8-10
By
The Pupils of the Fourth Grade of the Campus School
Brockport State Normal
Brockport, New York
1939
Once I have a digital file, I go to Digital Commons and log into my account.
Fill out the form...
And after a bit...
Batch Uploading

- Scan documents
- Upload to Google Docs
- Run automated workflow script (http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/msl_facpub/105/)
- Add URLs and metadata to spreadsheet
- Upload spreadsheet
Timeline JS

- Free and Open Source!
FlippingBook

- Fun to use
- Great for viewing large files
Plan ahead when building larger collections
Contact local groups that may want to feature a link to your collection.

Create a Wikidata page for your collection.

Add links to your collection on relevant Wikipedia pages.
Materials were previously digitized as part of another project.

We already had permissions to publish materials.

Groups who owned copyright to materials were easy to contact to obtain permissions.
Why digitize and post one collection instead of another?

- Same reasoning as prevails in a lot of archival work; collections that are likely to be of more interest, more significance, get picked first.

- Yearbooks for example were a simple pick.

- The Sidewalk Superintendents book is a special project of our library Friends group.
Digital Commons or...?

- Digital Commons isn’t the only game in town. ContentDM for example is widely used, a very sophisticated software.

- I have used both. ContentDM does allow higher control over vocabulary etc., a must in projects like NY Heritage where multiple contributors work must work together.

- Digital Commons for a stand alone gets the job done simply and effectively.