

Since 2000, GMU's Center for History and New Media (CHNM) has received Trustee support for *Exploring and Collecting History Online (ECHO)—Science, Technology, and Industry* (<http://echo.gmu.edu/>). GMU has become the leading center of digital work in the history of science and technology, and its history doctoral program is now attracting students who want to combine the two. The university has markedly improved its standing in the history of science and technology with seven recent hires in the history of science and technology—most recently including Sean Takats (18th-century history of science).

The ECHO website has become a leading global portal in the history of science, technology, and industry. It appears among the top results of Google searches on “History of Science and Technology” and acts as a gateway to more than 5,200 other sites in history of science and technology. More than 2,800 of these sites are presently annotated on the ECHO site, up from 700 in 2005. Traffic has tripled over the last year, and the site now averages around 90,000 page views per month. The ECHO team members have made numerous presentations at public and scholarly meetings and have generated extensive publicity in the history of science, technology and industry communities. Furthermore, the ECHO website is now home to a new Science and Technology Studies “working archive,” expected to grow to well over 100 papers in circulation by November.

The ECHO team continues to hold workshops for scholars and public historians interested in practicing online collecting as well as digital history in general. They have already held three of these workshops with more than 50 participants and have a fourth scheduled for later this fall along with two more planned in 2007. All of the workshops have had at least twice as many applicants as available seats.

In addition to workshops and the website, the ECHO team remains committed to fostering new online collecting through consulting with individuals and groups. Recent consultees include: a global health initiative by the NIH/National Library of Medicine; an examination of the Australian asbestos industry; a history of the Transportation Security Agency; a history of the employees and customers of the Reynolds Metals Company; and a collecting project on the history of the Las Vegas trade show and convention

industry. In order to encourage the practice of online collecting, the ECHO project is currently accepting proposals for a number of seed grants to jump start new digital collecting projects.

Internally, CHNM is also applying the digital memory bank approach to two case studies of the open source movement. One focuses on the Mozilla foundation, the group behind the successful Firefox browser and other open source projects. The *Mozilla Digital Memory Bank* already contains over 900 objects and several lengthy digitally collected first person accounts, and has attracted additional support from the Mozilla Foundation. A second project has begun to collect materials on the open source encyclopedia Wikipedia, and has already led to a widely read scholarly article by CHNM's Roy Rosenzweig.

Boosted by the Sloan project, CHNM now aims at becoming the national center for interactive history and is seeking funding to spread this approach to other domains beyond science, technology, and industry. CHNM's most extensive recent internal effort at creating a Digital Memory Bank came in response to the 2005 hurricanes. Launched in November 2005, the *Hurricane Digital Memory Bank* (HDMB) now holds 11,700 objects in its digital archive, from items submitted by individuals to special collections from 19 partner institutions, including the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History and the Louisiana State Museum. To date, *HDMB* has received 4.5 million hits and 800,000 page views, thanks in part to CHNM's direct outreach campaigns during Mardi Gras festivities, the Katrina and Rita anniversaries, and the re-opening of the Superdome (including radio/television interviews and leafleting of public and university library workstations). The success of the Katrina project also inspired the Jewish Women's Archive to work with us to create their own hurricane memory bank.

As part of the ECHO initiative, the CHNM team has significantly upgraded its suite of freely available, open source digital tools to help others build and operate interactive history websites. More than 5,800 scholars and students have signed up to use these tools, which include a new version of Scribe, a note-taking tool, and the Web Scrapbook, a collaborative web research tool. Our tool-building continues in three major directions:

- A new platform for building entire Digital Memory Bank sites, knitting together the functionality of the Survey Builder and the Web Scrapbook;
- Text-mining tools that offer a means to improve search and analysis of primary and secondary source material, notes, and networks of similar documents with a particular focus on materials in the history of science, technology, and industry;
- Zotero, a next-generation research tool building on prior work with Scribe, which has already received substantial interest and use in both the research and library communities.