



September 11 Digital Archive <911digitalarchive.org>

Saving America's Treasures grant, PT5019111

Interim report (January 2013 through June 2013)

Principal Investigator: Tom Scheinfeldt

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During the past six months, the *September 11 Digital Archive* team proceeded on schedule in its tasks to move the *Archive* to the more stable Omeka platform.

Digital Archivist, Jim Safley has tested and completed all but one import script for merging the major collections within the *September 11 Digital Archive* into the final database. Safley is now developing with the newest version of the Omeka software, 2.0. Safley has successfully tested merging all of the collections into this much-improved version of the platform.

During the spring months, Safley consulted regularly with Dan Cohen, RRCHNM Director, and SAT Principal Investigator, Tom Scheinfeldt, regarding these custom scripts and the required customizations for Omeka to ensure that there is no loss of data at the time of the final import. As a member of the Omeka development team, Safley has been working very carefully to ensure that all work on the *Archive* will match up with the new developments in the Omeka code.

Safley, with the help of RRCHNM Webmaster Ammon Shepherd, continues to prepare and configure the new server. The *Archive* has been successfully copied from RRCHNM's most active production server into a temporary server space for this testing. Due to the size and complexity of the Archive, we have experienced a few blips related to the new production server's capacity and functionality. The new server will better balance website traffic and usage once re-launched. Shepherd and Safley, are working together to resolve those issues before the final migration occurs.

The biggest changes in the project during this reporting period are in personnel. Dan Cohen left RRCHNM in May to become the founding Executive Director of the Digital Public Library of America. And, PI Tom Scheinfeldt announced in the spring that he will be taking a new position as Director of the

Digital Media Center at the University of Connecticut in early August. This shift in personnel is not affecting the progress of the project. RRCHNM is working closely with the NEH and with our Office of Sponsored Programs at GMU to adjust the budget and to transfer the Principal Investigator position to Sheila A. Brennan, the Associate Director of Public Projects at RRCHNM. Brennan is an experienced project manager with many years of experience working on online collecting and digital archive projects. She is also a member of the Omeka team.

In the next six months, the team will complete the transfer of the newly-merged database to the newly-configured server. We will finish and implement any necessary customizations in the Omeka installation and will begin end user testing of the *Archive*.

Currently we are on schedule for completing all project goals for the grant.