



News Release

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New Agreement Increases Access to Digital Collections at South Dakota Universities

PIERRE, S.D. – The Digital Library of South Dakota has partnered with the Digital Public Library of America to bring more than 50,000 items held by South Dakota universities to national audiences. As a result, specialized collections, including the papers of political leaders Tom Daschle, Karl Mundt, and George McGovern and oral histories of National Guard soldiers dating back to the 1800s, will be more accessible to the general public.

A collaboration of the libraries at the six South Dakota Board of Regents' universities and other partner institutions in the state, the Digital Library of South Dakota provides digital access to unique resources on regional history and the lives and experiences of generations of South Dakotans. The Digital Public Library of America is a non-profit organization that works to increase the discovery of library, archive, and museum collections from across the nation. It has a growing network of contributing institutions bringing diverse materials through digital and digitized formats to a large public audience.

“This collaborative agreement means that more people will be aware of and have digital access to many South Dakota-specific collections,” said Paul Turman, the regents' system vice president for academics affairs. “I'm extremely pleased with how our libraries have continued to be innovative by exploring how advances in technology could be used to expand the audiences for these valuable collections.”

Highlights of the collections being shared between the DLSD and DPLA include:

Black Hills State University:

Digitized materials from BHSU include photographs and documents from collections reflecting the general history of the Black Hills. Featured collections include: Black Hills National Forest Historical Collection, Watson Parker Ghost Town Notebooks, BHSU Archives, Joseph R. Douda Black Hills Railroading Collection, and the W.R. Cross photographs.

Dakota State University:

Dakota State University houses two archival collections currently featured on DLSD. The first is the papers of Sen. Karl E. Mundt (1900-1974), who served in the U.S. House Representative from 1939-1948 and in the U.S. Senate from 1948-1973. The second collection contains materials relating to the history of Dakota State University, notable persons from the university's

past, as well as student and alumni activities. The collections at DSU contain a variety of media in varying formats including print documents, audio-visual materials, and born-digital items.

Dakota Wesleyan University:

DWU's collection includes images and scans of archival items from alumni, Senators George McGovern and Francis H. Case, as well as digitized images and yearbooks that capture the history of Dakota Wesleyan University. Dakota Wesleyan University is the only private university in the DLSD consortium.

Northern State University:

Northern State University's South Dakota National Guard Collection is one of the largest collections of primary source material related to the militia and the National Guard of South Dakota. Among the items included in the South Dakota National Guard Historical Resources Collection are oral history interviews with veterans who served in all of the nation's conflicts from the Spanish-American War of 1898-99 to the Berlin Crisis of 1961-62, a manuscript collection dating from 1861 which contains documents related to various South Dakota National Guard units and individuals, a large collection of photographs and drawings, and a variety of films related to South Dakota National Guard units.

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology:

SDSM&T's collection features scans of items relating to campus history, including catalogs, yearbooks, press releases, and newspaper clippings. Also included are a number of items relating to local history: the Black Hills 1972 flood, local mines and mining documents and images, and portraits of notable individuals.

South Dakota State University:

From the Hobo Day Homecoming Collection celebrating the largest one-day event in the Dakotas, to the exceptional Sen. Thomas A. Daschle Congressional Papers, the South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections carries a wide range of materials about the university and state of South Dakota. The SDSU collection hosts unique Native American resources that include the rare 1850s Dakota Friend newspapers and the papers of Ben Reifel, a Lakota Sioux who served as a U.S. congressman. Researchers can dig into materials of local interest, such as the George and Evelyn Norby Collection with images dating back to 1886, or study international connections, including a glimpse into Cuba, provided by items from a 1977 SDSU men's basketball trip. Other digitized manuscript collections, such as the N.E. Hansen Papers and the Loucks-Pettigrew Correspondence, showcase the impact South Dakota leaders and scholars have had on the region and the world.

University of South Dakota:

USD's selection of digitized material includes 18th century violin treatises, correspondence from the South Dakota suffrage movement, recorded speeches of South Dakota politicians, and the history of the university through early photographs.

More can be learned about the Digital Library of South Dakota and the Digital Public Library of America at their respective websites, explore.digitalsd.org and dp.la.