



HERITAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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HPL Joins National Online Archive Project Community Webs

New Kent, Virginia (May 24, 2021) – Heritage Public Library was selected as one of four Virginia libraries to participate in Community Webs, a nationwide project that preserves digital local history in a virtual archive that is available to everyone.

“Much of our recent local history was “born digital,” meaning it exists on the web or in social media and nowhere else. We are excited to be able to share our community’s digital life with the nation, and to preserve it for future generations, before it disappears as virtual information is likely to do,” stated Chandra McPherson, Director of Heritage Public Library and President-Elect for the Virginia Public Library Directors Association. “We hope to build a collection that reflects the Virtual Village that grew as we all moved to virtual services during the pandemic. Our schools, our churches, our library and others developed innovative ways to connect virtually. So much was said and done virtually that was never printed or published in a tangible format we can hold. We don’t want to lose it.” HPL was chosen to present on their participation in this program and other virtual programs at the Virginia Library Association Annual Conference in October.

The Community Webs Program provides training, software and cloud storage for selected public libraries across the country to document their local history and the lives of their patrons. Currently 90+ libraries from 33 states and 3 US territories participate in the Community Webs program, which will soon be an international project with the addition of Canadian libraries. The Community Webs program was made possible with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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