Emory University Libraries Digitization Proposal

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1a. Please give us an overview of your digitization request proposal in the context of your larger goal or project: *

We are proposing to digitize three-dimensional artifacts from the Historical Collection and the Calhoun Room Collection held by the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library. The approximately 170 artifacts included in this proposal have been acquired by the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library through donations by medical school alumni, faculty, and others. Most of these items are currently not on display and are available to researchers and other interested parties on an appointment-only basis.

1b. Describe any project deadlines that we should be aware of in evaluating and prioritizing this proposal? *

None

2. What is the value in having these resources digitized? *

The digitization of these objects will serve several purposes within the wider research and educational goals of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library. It will provide a record of items in the collection and their condition, helping to preserve details and description of historical objects. Digitization will also allow for greatly expanded access to our artifact collection, which is currently available to researchers on an appointment-only basis. Digitization will expand the possibilities for publicizing and promoting the Historical Collection and will contribute to Emory’s public profile in the area of medical history and education.

Additionally, the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library is a Resource Library in the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM), and this organization has as part of its mission to “make unique and historical collections accessible within and without the institution.”

The digitized resources will be made available to the scholarly community in order to contribute to the study of medical history in Georgia and the Southeast.

3. What is the intended use for the digitized resources? Who is the audience? Do you have an online venue/outlet in mind for storage and/or dissemination? Is this for research purposes only? *

The intended audience for these resources ranges from scholars of medical history in Georgia and the Southeast to members of the Emory community and the general public. The original files will be stored in DAMS (Digital Asset Management System), which will provide internal access and control. Smaller images can be exported to a public-facing platform for image management and display, such as Artstor Shared Shelf.
4. Please describe the types and quantity of resources you are proposing to be digitized: *

The collection consists of approximately 170 artifacts. Six of these are doctor’s bags containing approximately thirty items apiece—if these individual components are counted within the total, then the final count of artifacts would rise to about 350. These artifacts include surgical, dental, and diagnostic instruments, therapeutic devices, uniforms of healthcare professions, and medical and dental equipment and devices such as doctors’ kits (which contain a variety of items ranging from tools to perform examinations or medical procedures to pharmaceutical supplies), as well as personal items previously owned by donors.

5a. Is there anything about the condition of the source materials that will require special treatment or handling during the digitization process? *

Yes

5b. If the answer to 5a is “Yes” describe as best you can the known issues:

The three-dimensional artifacts will require transportation from the WHSCL to Woodruff Library and back, which will be the responsibility of archivist Clayton McGahee. Some of the items, such as doctors' kits, contain materials which have the potential to be hazardous, such as pharmaceutical chemicals and sharp objects. Clayton McGahee will consult with the digitization team in order to ensure correct handling of these items. A small number of items are fragile and cannot be transported.

The items represent a wide range of sizes and condition. Items which are too fragile for transportation or digitization will not be submitted for digitization.

6a. Does metadata exist for your materials already (data that describes the materials, i.e. catalog records, spreadsheets, etc.)? *

Minimal metadata exists at the item level for around 90% of these artifacts, in the form of finding aids created by Clayton Mcgahee. WHSCL staff will be responsible for creating metadata content during the digitization process. The metadata will conform to the Emory Libraries & Information Technology guidelines for core metadata (http://metadata.emory.edu/guidelines/descriptive/core-metadata.html).

Kyle Fenton plans to add a catalog in DAMS to allow for the creation of metadata for the digitized artifacts.

6b. Please provide information about the availability, completeness, and other information about the metadata or cataloged status of your materials.

7. Who owns the materials to be digitized? *

All of the objects to be digitized are owned by the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library.

8. Please describe any known copyright restrictions/concerns regarding the material to be digitized *

No known issues at this time.
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