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### Creating Primary Sources with First-Generation Students

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# Creating Primary Sources with First-Generation Students

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The James A. Michener Library  
at The University of Northern Colorado

# Our Project

After a couple unsatisfying efforts to demonstrate the value and personal nature of the University Archives to students in Undergraduate Research courses.

Finally, we asked students to interview each another about their first year at UNC.

These videos are being added to the university's permanent online collection.

Slides, assignment, and videos available at  
[libguides.unco.edu/firstgen](http://libguides.unco.edu/firstgen)

## The Purpose of Archives

- Identify records and papers of enduring value
- To preserve those materials
- To make those materials accessible to researchers

## What We Collect

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- University Records
- Special Collections
- James A. Michener Papers and Collections

University Publications. Bulletins, Catalogs and  
Newspapers, 1890-2016.

Student Clubs and Organizations. Fraternities to political  
activists, ca. 1890-2016

Scrapbooks and Albums, Lantern Slides, ca. 1890s-1920s

The Administrative voice  
is the primary voice  
of the archives.

The Student voice is limited.



## The Goals of the Assignment

- Teach purpose and use of Primary Sources to LIB course students
- Increase use of the University Archives
- Increase student voice in UNC Archives
- Demonstrate value of lived experiences in academic setting
- Make materials accessible to future researchers





## The Assignment

- Student-to-student interviews
- 4-mins of interview time ea.
- One 'required' question, others suggested, but open to student interest
- Phone-recorded formats welcomed or equipment provided

The assignment was given to students in two groups of one-credit library courses:

First-Generation students in LIB 150

Honors students in LIB 151



While the Honors students were engaged, and spoke often to pressures they felt in the program, the responses from **First Generation** students were considerably **more varied**.

First Generation students spoke to issues of **education, race, privilege, “fitting in,” family expectation**, and the desire to **illuminate a path** for their peers.

UNC's TRIO program,  
The **Center for Human  
Enrichment**, uses the assignment  
as an example of student  
achievement and promise in  
program assessments.



## The Purpose of Digitization

- To increase access to materials
- To aid in preservation of original materials
- To provide “value-added” features

## Selection for Digitization

- Copyright status
- Physical condition
- The item is unique/of wide interest

# Digital UNC

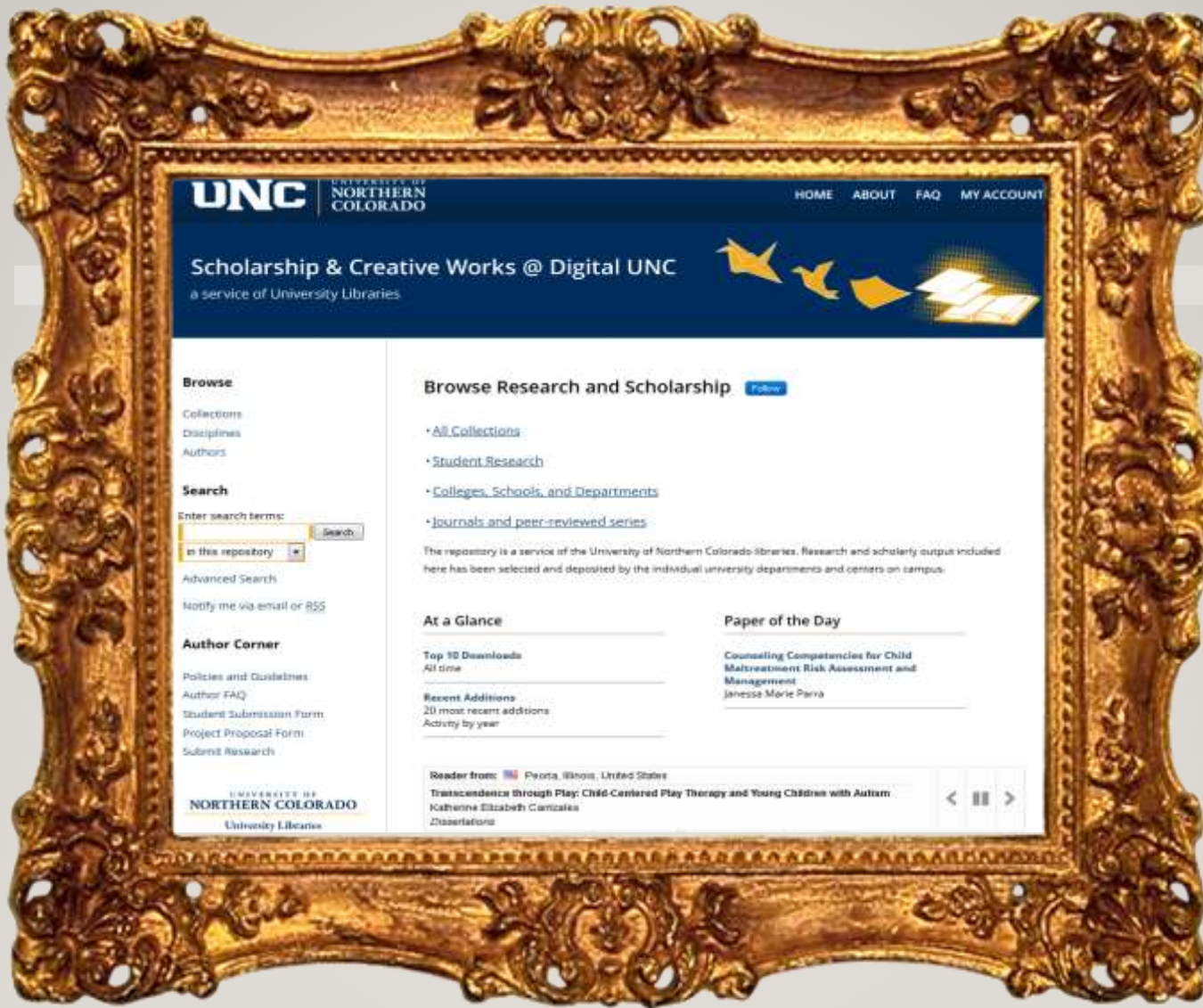


Archives & Special  
Collections @  
Digital UNC

Scholarship &  
Creative Works @  
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## Putting Files in the Digital Repository

- Students submit files directly or we scrape from YouTube
- Scanned deed of gift uploaded
- 5-year embargo option

[digscholarship.unco.edu/voices/](https://digscholarship.unco.edu/voices/)



[libguides.unco.edu/firstgen](https://libguides.unco.edu/firstgen)

access

Thank you



Friday, August 12, 2016  
IFLA Information Literacy Section  
Satellite Preconference  
Chicago, Ill.