5-12-2017

Creating Primary Sources with First-Generation Students

Jane Monson
William Cuthbertson
Jay Trask

Follow this and additional works at: https://digscholarship.unco.edu/libfacpub

Recommended Citation
Monson, Jane; Cuthbertson, William; and Trask, Jay, "Creating Primary Sources with First-Generation Students" (2017). University Libraries Faculty Publications. 62.
https://digscholarship.unco.edu/libfacpub/62

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at Scholarship & Creative Works @ Digital UNC. It has been accepted for inclusion in University Libraries Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of Scholarship & Creative Works @ Digital UNC. For more information, please contact Jane.Monson@unco.edu.
Creating Primary Sources with First-Generation Students

William Cuthbertson
Jane Monson
Jay Trask

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

The Meriam Library at California State University, Chico
The Assignment In Two Sentences:

Students record interviews with one another discussing their transition to college as first-generation students.

Those recordings are added to the permanent archives of the University of Northern Colorado.

Slides, assignment, and example videos available at libguides.unco.edu/firstgen
The Growth of First-Gen Student Populations

Outreach to first-generation students is essential to reaching new and returning students.

34% of undergraduates nationally are first-generation students (2011-12, via NCES)

7x more likely to earn bachelor’s degrees if attending 4-year college vs 2-year college (via Pell Institute)

libguides.unco.edu/firstgen
The Growth of First-Gen Student Populations

Outreach to first-generation students is essential to reaching new and returning students.

34% of UNC’s undergraduates are first-generation (about 3,190/9,930)

54% of Chico State’s 2017 incoming freshman are first-generation (about 2,200/4,200)

libguides.unco.edu/firstgen
About the University of Northern Colorado

The James A. Michener Library is the main library for the campus of UNC, serving approximately 15,000 full-time students.

The Libraries’ Information Literacy & Undergraduate Support department teaches multiple eight-week one-credit courses to students in

- First-generation/TRIO program
- Honors, Scholars & Leadership program
- Dept. of Criminal Justice & Criminology
- Dept. of Audiology

libguides.unco.edu/firstgen
Our Project Goals

A desire on the part of instruction faculty and archivists at the University of Northern Colorado to:

• Better introduce to students the *purpose, value, and immediacy* of primary source materials

• Increase *awareness and use* of digital collections and university archives

• Improve *information literacy* skills with these materials
Additional Goals

- Increase **student voice** in UNC Archives
- Make materials **accessible to future researchers**
- Demonstrate **value of lived experiences** in academic setting
The Purpose of Archives

- Identify records and papers of **enduring value**
- To **preserve** those materials
- To make those materials **accessible** to researchers
- **Information Literacy** element
What We Collect

- University Records
- Special Collections
- James A. Michener Papers and Collections
The Administrative voice is the primary voice of the archives.

The Student voice is limited.
Engage students with physical materials from the collection.
The Purposes of Digitization

• To increase **access** to materials

• To aid in **preservation** of original materials

• To provide “**value-added**” features
  • OCR
  • Data visualization
Selection for Digitization

**Copyright status**
- Ownership
- Public domain

**Physical condition**
- Size
- Fragility

The item is **unique** or of **wide interest**
- Michener collections
- Campus newspapers, yearbooks, course catalogs
Digital UNC

Archives & Special Collections @ Digital UNC

Scholarship & Creative Works @ Digital UNC
Welcome to Digital UNC.

Digital UNC is a digital repository service offered by the University Libraries to capture, store, organize, index, preserve, and provide access to examples of the University of Northern Colorado’s information resources and intellectual output.

Search this repository

Browse all collections >>
Scholarship & Creative Works @ Digital UNC
a service of University Libraries

Browse
Collections
Disciplines
Authors

Search
Enter search terms: Search
in this repository
Advanced Search
Notify me via email or RSS

Browse Research and Scholarship

• All Collections
• Student Research
• Colleges, Schools, and Departments
• Journals and peer-reviewed series

The repository is a service of the University of Northern Colorado libraries. Research and scholarly output included here has been selected and deposited by the individual university departments and centers on campus.

At a Glance
Top 10 Downloads
All time
Recent Additions
20 most recent additions
Activity by year

Paper of the Day
Counseling Competencies for Child Maltreatment Risk Assessment and Management
Janessa Marie Farra
Primary Source Attempt #1

“Primary Source Show & Tell”

- Students bring personal item to class
- Pre-complete “6 C’s of Historical Analysis” (UTSA)
- Students present object to class based on 6C’s
- Physical objects on displayed in room
- Archivist in audience

Problems
- Objects selected w/o deep consideration
- Poor method for digital objects
- Students less interested in others’ objects
- No interaction with Archivists

libguides.unco.edu/firstgen
Primary Source Attempt #2

“Primary Source Showcase”

- Students bring personal item to class
- Pre-complete “6 C’s of Historical Analysis” (UTSA)
- Visit other objects in classroom & complete 6C’s for each visited
- Archivist visits with students one-on-one

Similar Problems

- Objects selected w/o deep consideration
- Poor method for digital objects
- Students less interested in others’ objects
- Few met with Archivist meaningfully
The Interview Assignment

- Student-to-student interviews
- 4 min./student of interview time
- One ‘required’ question, others suggested but open to student interest
- Phone-recorded formats welcomed or library 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 expectations, and the desire to illuminate a path for their peers.
Assignment feedback and created videos show a personal attachment from first-generation students in telling their story to a larger audience.
UNC’s TRIO program, The Center for Human Enrichment, excited by results and student enthusiasm, uses the videos as examples of student achievement and promise in program assessment and recruitment.
Putting Files in the Digital Repository

• Students submit files to instructor via the Canvas LMS

• Descriptive metadata is created when the files are uploaded into the repository

• Recordings are streamed via Ensemble multimedia server
Deed of Gift

Students submit a deed of gift that gives them the option of transferring ownership and, optionally, copyright to UNC Archival Services, as well as permission to make recordings accessible via Digital UNC.

Students also have the option of placing a 5-year embargo on their recordings.
digscholarship.unco.edu/voices/

libguides.unco.edu/firstgen
At CSU Chico, while library develops its credit course, the assignment will be used in UNIV 101, the college success course for TRIO students, co-taught by library faculty.

The First Generation Faculty & Staff group has expressed interest in capturing their personal stories for the institutional repository.
What’s Next?

At UNC, faculty seek to attach the assignment more deeply to teaching visual literacy.
Thank you!
Friday, May 12, 2017
45th Annual LOEX Conference
Lexington, Ky.

Questions?

Slides, assignment, and example videos available at
libguides.unco.edu/firstgen