Digital Holland

Elizabeth Ensink
Kirstin Anderson
Irene Gerrish
Sarah Lundy

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Recommended Citation

http://digitalcommons.hope.edu/curcp_16/23
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Abstract

Founded in 2014, Digital Holland is a publicly accessible website that hosts research about Holland, MI. The website, digitalholland.org, was developed by students in the college’s Mellon Scholars Program, a three-year curriculum of digitally-enabled collaborative research and experiential education funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The site features research projects completed by Hope College students from a variety of disciplines, providing a platform to disseminate exemplary scholarship. Additionally, the project continues to grow as Hope College students and community members contribute to the site. In the 2016-2017 academic year, Digital Holland underwent both an aesthetic and conceptual shift, redefining our audience and user experience to emphasize greater community engagement. Our poster highlights the Digital Holland redesign: our work product as a team, and the engaging, community-oriented repository of research. Digital Holland can serve as an example for other communities and institutions committed to partnering on digital public scholarship.

Digital Holland by the Numbers

11,078 Views since 2015

49 encyclopedia articles

198 Twitter followers

5 in-depth, interactive exhibits

34 student and community contributors

21 Average daily views

Why Digital Holland?

Digital Humanities

Digital Holland makes historical, scholarly research accessible online and more engaging through media.

Local History

The project operates under a framework that commemorates local history in an effort to promote education as an end in itself, not simply a means by which to achieve a specific goal.

Public Scholarship

Digital Holland also emphasizes a collaborative research enterprise between college students and members of the community in which they are immersed, which increases access to information.

Visit digitalholland.org

@DigitalHolland

www.facebook.com/digitalholland

Conclusions

A student-created public scholarship effort like Digital Holland can be successful. With access to resources and information at the university level, students at any institution of higher education have the ability to pursue similar projects.

Exhibits

In-depth projects featuring research on Holland’s past put into the context of broader historical themes. Each exhibit includes some type of multi-media.

Encyclopedia

Articles about people, places, and events in Holland created by students and community members.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the Andrew W. Mellon Scholars Program, Laura McGrath, Dr. Anne Heath.