Narrative Section of a Successful Application

The attached document contains the grant narrative and selected portions of a previously funded grant application. It is not intended to serve as a model, but to give you a sense of how a successful application may be crafted. Every successful application is different, and each applicant is urged to prepare a proposal that reflects its unique project and aspirations. Prospective applicants should consult the Division of Preservation and Access application guidelines at http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/national-digital-newspaper-program for instructions. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to consult with the NEH Division of Preservation and Access staff well before a grant deadline.

Note: The attachment only contains the grant narrative and selected portions, not the entire funded application. In addition, certain portions may have been redacted to protect the privacy interests of an individual and/or to protect confidential commercial and financial information and/or to protect copyrighted materials.

Project Title: Tennessee Digital Newspaper Project
Institution: University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Project Director: JoAnne Deeken
Grant Program: National Digital Newspaper Program
Narrative

This is a joint proposal from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK) and the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) to digitize important and representative Tennessee newspapers from 1836 to 1922. Virtually from the beginning of the United States, the Southwest Territory (as it was known then, and after 1796 the State of Tennessee) has been both at the forefront and at the crossroads of the trends, wars, colonizing movements, and social and political issues that formed our nation. With the first newspaper in the Southwest Territory starting publication in 1791, Tennessee newspapers predate the historical window of this proposal by almost five decades and document the 1836-to-1922 scope of the project. Such newspapers include influential daily newspapers across the state, foreign language newspapers for newly arrived immigrants, and black-owned papers from after the Civil War to the most turbulent days of the Civil Rights movement. TSLA’s long term commitment to microfilming newspapers gives our grant proposal strong support and allows us to reduce both the time and the cost of obtaining the required master negatives. Their expertise in producing the masters and our ability to control the output will ensure the best possible digitization. Our work plan provides thorough oversight, with fiscal responsibility, expertise in OCR conversion, review and quality control procedures, a realistic timeline, and deliverables. Our methodology and standards use state-of-the-art equipment and digitizing methods, and we have lined up an experienced staff, and advisory board for this project. In addition, we have experience with successful RFPs and with long term vendor cooperation.

For more than fifty years TSLA, which owns the digital masters of Tennessee newspapers, has understood the necessity for preserving newspapers published in Tennessee. It began microfilming newspapers in the early 1950s and continues to do so today. TSLA staff began filming began prior to the development of the United States Newspaper Project (USNP) (and most other) standards, so some of their early film do not meet those standards. However, TSLA has implemented standards as they were promulgated. It is the supplier of both positive and negative copies of Tennessee newspapers for sale and for use. TSLA staff know their film and know how to produce the best possible copies. Only the highest quality copies will be used in this project.

UTK was the lead institution for the Tennessee portion of the USNP. UTK or USNP staff cataloged all the Tennessee newspapers held in the state and included them in the USNP. In addition UTK has had experience in statewide digital and non-digital projects. UTK’s experience with the IMLS-funded “Volunteer Voices” digital program is directly relevant to this grant proposal. This program provides “…access to primary sources that [document Tennessee’s] rich history and culture. ‘Volunteer Voices’ combines the collaborative efforts to Tennessee archives, historical societies, libraries, museums, and schools.” (http://diglib.lib.utk.edu/cgi/b/bib/bib-idx?c=vvs-bib) This project required coordination with schools to ensure curricular coordination and coordination throughout the state with libraries, museums, and historical societies that owned the documents that were digitized. UTK’s connections throughout the state, developed over time through the USNP, “Volunteer Voices,” and other projects have allowed us to create an exemplary Advisory Board that will assist us with the selection of titles for the NDNP project. In addition, it provided us with experience in working with external hard drives held in multiple locations and gave us the opportunity to develop a tracking system that will be modified for use in NDNP. UTK is bringing their state-wide project management experience, their history of successfully creating large digital projects, and their grant management experience to this proposal.

The Three States of Tennessee:
To understand the Tennessee Newspaper Digitization Project, one must understand the significance of the three Grand Divisions of the state. The three divisions (East, Middle, and West) are distinct cultural, geographic, and politico-legal areas within the state. The three stars on the Tennessee flag represent these divisions. The divisions are so ingrained that until late in the 20th century, the welcome signs as they crossed into the state said, “Welcome to the Three States of Tennessee.” Each
county in the state is designated by law as being part of one of the three Divisions. By law, the State Supreme Court must have representation from each of the three divisions, and no one division can have a majority on that Court.

East Tennessee, mountainous and (through much of its history) isolated, is geographically dominated by the Great Smoky Mountains, part of the Appalachian Range. Middle Tennessee, characterized by rolling to steeply sloping hills with exceptionally fertile soil, contains the most navigable rivers. West Tennessee is largely flat and rural farm land bounded by the Mississippi. During the Civil War, East Tennessee was the area of Tennessee that did not automatically side with the Confederacy. In fact, one of the first newspapers devoted to emancipation, The Emancipator, was published in East Tennessee. More than most areas, this was the part of the Confederacy where brothers did join opposing armies and fought against each other. It was the home of the Cherokee Indians and the starting point of their forced migration to Oklahoma, commonly called “The Trail of Tears,” and is dominated by the cities of Chattanooga and Knoxville and the University of Tennessee main campus. Middle Tennessee is the most agrarian part of the state and has the state capitol in Nashville. West Tennessee is dominated by low-lying delta areas of the Mississippi River and the city of Memphis. It has always been a port city, and prior to the Civil War it was a large slave-holding area. The percentage of African Americans in West Tennessee is much greater than in East Tennessee. Even in stereotypical popular culture, the differences exist: East Tennessee is the birthplace of Appalachian Bluegrass and Mountain Music; Middle Tennessee is the birthplace of “The Grand Ole Opry” and Country Music; and West Tennessee was home to Delta Blues.

Illustrating “The Three States of Tennessee” concept

This proposal envisages digitizing key Tennessee newspapers that provided important news, merchandising, and advertising services for citizens and governments alike through towns and cities growing up in the state's three Grand Divisions. While each area was and is separate and distinct on many interests and issues, it is only by covering all three Grand Divisions that an accurate representation of the state can be provided.

This emphasis on the three regions and the prior cooperation with multiple institutions is mirrored in our Advisory Committee. While specific names and resumes are included in Attachment 7 and in the listing of grant staff, the group includes representatives from each of the three regions, a member of the Tennessee Department of Education curriculum area, independent researchers, a journalist/editor, the head of a local genealogy society, journalism professors, and interested “private citizens. Together with TSLA and UTK staff, this group should make the newspapers selected for the NDNP not only interesting, but also relevant to users of Chronicling America.

History of Newspapers and Cataloging

Tennessee Newspapers, 1836 to 1922

As Tennessee settlements evolved into towns, newspapers became attributes that reflected their growing modernity. Early newspapers not only chronicled political, commercial, religious, and social events but
also served as a “booster press” to attract new settlers. Early newspapers mainly served local interests, with state, regional, and national concerns increasingly evident in the hand-set typography of the late 18th and early 19th Centuries.

The first newspaper in Tennessee was the Knoxville Gazette, although it was first published in nearby Rogersville on November 5, 1791. With the encouragement of Territorial Governor William Blount, editor George Roulstone brought his press down the French Broad and Holston Rivers to begin publishing on October 10, 1792, in Knoxville, the town chosen by Governor William Blount (Tennessee’s first governor) to be the capital of the new state. The founding of a newspaper in Middle Tennessee was not far behind. A printer known to history only by the surname Hinke started The Tennessee Gazette and Metro District Advertiser in Nashville. In Jackson in West Tennessee, The Pioneer was founded in 1822, to be succeeded in 1823 by The Jackson Gazette.

The first 25 years covered by this digitization project — 1836 to 1861 — are vital to understanding both the history of Tennessee in particular and of newspapers in general. The 1830s saw the rise of a mass press and mass politics, the expansion of democracy, and an acceleration of America’s westward expansion. In addition, the new democracy saw a new kind of newspaper in the 1830s, one independent of political parties, and relying on advertising and circulation for financial support rather than subsidies from a political party. Andrew Jackson of Tennessee was President of the United States from 1829-1837. While this period covers only the earliest portion of the grant, it does demonstrate the importance of Tennessee during this period. Important technological innovations arose in the period or their full significance came light. These included the railroads, the steam-powered press, and the telegraph. In fact, with the telegraph, transportation and communication were no longer synonymous and for the first time in history communication was separated from human movement.

By the 1850s, the 19th century revolutions in transportation, technology, and manufacturing were having a dramatic impact on the state. Although the interests and issues served by Tennessee’s press at that time were still mostly local or regional, technology helped feed the growing population’s hunger for news. During the 1850s more than 1,200 miles of railroad tracks were built in Tennessee, which meant that major out-of-state newspapers — including Horace Greeley’s Weekly New York Tribune and James Gordon Bennett’s weekly edition of the New York Herald — fed information into the state. The Herald and Tribune, with rapid steam-driven presses, sent hundreds of thousands of newspapers around the US, as well as to readers in Tennessee. Tennessee editors likewise sent out news via “exchange” papers, helping to nationalize news flow at a crucial time in American history.

Tennessee newspapers were particularly important at this time because of the geographic and ideological crossroads at which they existed. Cities in each of the three grand divisions — especially Knoxville and Chattanooga in the east, Nashville in the middle, Memphis in the west — were major transportation and information centers, and the state’s newspapers reflected a startling range and intensity of opinion.

During the 1850s, North-South tensions grew, fanned by angry newspaper accounts and commentary on a series of divisive events including the 1857 Dred Scott decision of the US Supreme Court, declaring a slave is property, not a person, and John Brown’s 1859 raid on Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia, seeking guns to arm slaves. Newspaper invective — depending on the paper’s point of view — painted northerners as fanatics and southerners as extremist pro-slavery “fire-eaters,” with each group depicted as foes of the Constitution and enemies of the Republic. Tennessee editors joined the war of words, and anyone reading newspapers of that time will see many efforts to sow the seeds of regional hatred.

In 1860, Tennessee was a microcosm of national divisions in terms of geography, politics, and newspapers. The Tennessee and Cumberland rivers were important highways into the Confederacy. Crucial north-south and east-west rail lines made Knoxville strategically important in the east. Memphis, one of the ten largest cities in the south, was a major cotton and commercial center for the west, with four rail lines, and Mississippi River traffic. With eight banks, it was also a major financial center.

In the Civil War, Shiloh — midway between Memphis and Nashville — may have been the state’s most famous battle, inspiring great literature from such great writers as Stephen Crane and Herman Melville.
Gen. Ulysses S. Grant called Shiloh, with more than 20,000 casualties, the most severe battle of the western campaign. A few months later, in September 1862, the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga were among the bloodiest days of the entire war. At least two great legends of the era — William Tecumseh Sherman, and Nathan Bedford Forrest — are intimately linked to the state and their myths to its post-war newspapers. Forrest has been deemed by some as nothing less than a military genius, the one man who could have continued the war after the fall of Robert E. Lee at Antietam. He remains a part of the state’s public face, as there are more statues in Tennessee honoring Forrest than any other public figure, even though he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan and possibly one of its founders. Sherman’s famous March to the Sea had its genesis in the Tennessee River valley, where Sherman’s campaign was a tactical training ground for the march from Atlanta to Savannah.

By the time of the Civil War, as many as 200 newspapers, many of them short-lived (or as one editor said, "they came and went like dog fennel in July heat"), had begun in the state, including three of the nation’s leading abolitionist journals. The Knoxville Whig and the Chattanooga Rebel were noteworthy East Tennessee newspapers, not just for their journalistic inherent journalistic value, but also as the starting points for individuals who went on to national fame and historical significance. The Rebel was published from August 1862 to April 1865, when publisher Franc M. Paul was arrested and imprisoned by occupying Union forces. The Rebel, started as a newspaper for Confederate soldiers, attracted wide readership among civilians, and was a stepping stone in the careers of several historical figures. Henry J. Watterson wrote for the Rebel from November 1862 to September 1863, when he left to join the Nashville Banner. Along with Henry Grady of The Atlanta Constitution, Watterson became a leading voice in the "New South" movement, pushing for industrialization, after he moved to Louisville, Kentucky, in 1868, where he was editor and part owner of the Louisville Courier-Journal. The Rebel retreated by rail to Marietta, Georgia, in August 1863 as Gen. Sherman moved toward Chattanooga. The general’s March to the Sea prompted another move, this time to Griffin, Georgia, where the newspaper stayed for a few months until Sherman’s forces threatened again after the burning of Atlanta. The Rebel ended its days in Selma, Alabama, where its offices and equipment were destroyed by Union forces.

The Knoxville Whig was most notable for its publisher, William Brownlow, a Methodist preacher who became a hellfire-and-brimstone publisher, courting conflict at every turn. He published the Whig in several different East Tennessee cities, and at times had circulation of up to 10,000. He was both pro-Union and pro-slavery, one of a number of apparent contradictions in this brawling man of the pulpit. During his journalistic career he was involved in numerous fights, was shot in the leg during one of them (while beating his assailant with a cane). Early in the Civil War, Brownlow was captured by Confederate soldiers, escorted by them until he was near Union lines where he was allowed to proceed to Cincinnati. He returned to Knoxville with the Union occupation in November 1863, was elected governor in 1865, and US senator in 1867.

Chattanooga was much in the news during the Civil War as a great railroad and transportation center fought over by North and South, with famous battles including Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge in Chattanooga and the battle of Chickamauga just a few miles away in North Georgia.

In Middle Tennessee, Nashville was a publishing center prior to the Civil War. Most newspapers in the region were suspended for their Confederate sympathies, reflected in the fact that so many of the area’s publishers and press employees joined the Confederate Army. Federal occupation during much of the war meant that newspapers were little more than public relations organs for the Union cause. One exception was The Vidette in Hartsville, started by the infamous raider Gen. John Hunt Morgan. Morgan seized the Huntsville newspaper’s presses and started the Vidette, which is published to this day in Huntsville.

From 1860-1865, at least 22 different newspapers were published in West Tennessee, most of them small weeklies, but seven of them dailies in Memphis, an important city in the western theatre of war. The most important newspaper of the city and region during the war was the Memphis Daily Appeal, which soon became famously known as the “Moving Appeal.” The paper was dedicated to the Southern cause and rallied both civilian and army soldiers during the war. The paper left Memphis in June 1862 when Federal occupation began. The paper first moved to Grenada, Mississippi, where it stayed for a few months, until approaching Federal troops threatened again, forcing a move in November 1862 to
Jackson, Mississippi, where it published until May 1863, when Federal troops again arrived. By this time, the Appeal had gained notoriety among Union forces as a rebel sympathizer while it remained on the run. The next stop was Meridian, Mississippi, from where, one issue and two days later, the wandering journalists moved on to Mobile, Alabama, then to Montgomery, and ultimately to Atlanta, the economic heart of the Confederacy. Publication from Atlanta began in June 1863 and continued through July 1864, when it returned to Montgomery, where it published from September 1864 to April 1865. Its final move was to Columbus, Georgia, where Federal forces finally caught up with it. It resumed publication following the war in Memphis on November 5, 1865.

After the war, another southern trauma loomed: Reconstruction. In April 1865, formerly mentioned newspaperman William Brownlow became governor. The radical pro-Unionist loudly and mercilessly suppressed the former Confederates, and he oversaw the enactment of laws restricting the right to vote to loyal Union men. Another Tennessean, America’s Reconstruction President, Andrew Johnson, was at odds with Brownlow. Tennessee newspapers were again in the middle of a national political brawl with the 1867 movement to impeach Johnson. The Knoxville Whig and the Nashville Daily Press and Times were among those cheering on the action.

Post-war Middle Tennessee is the birthplace of a dark and bloody chapter in American history, the birth of the Ku Klux Klan. Its origins are murky, but Pulaski, Tennessee, appears to have been the site of its genesis shortly after the war. Nathan Bedford Forrest is given credit as being among its founders, but that is debatable. He was a Klan member and a part of its growth, but it is not certain that he was its leader or founder. The violence of the Klan, Forrest asserted, was a matter of “newspaper rumors.”

The start of the 20th century saw little diminution in the press of colorful characters, righteous journalists, and violence. For example, Edward W. Carmack edited the Commercial Appeal in Memphis and served in both the US House and Senate, and then, after losing a re-election bid, moved to Nashville in 1908 to edit the Tennessean. That same year he was shot and killed on a street near the newspaper office by an associate of the governor, whose anti-prohibitionist stance Carmack had opposed. At the ensuing trial, the father and son involved in the shooting blamed “offensive editorials” for their action. They were sentenced to 20 years in prison but were soon pardoned by the governor. Mark Twain immortalized his time as a journeyman printer in Tennessee in a short story satirizing violence, “Spirit of the Tennessee Press.” Knoxville newspaper writers in the late 19th century who later achieved prominence included William Gibbs McAdoo, who became a cabinet member of the Wilson White House; Edward T. Sanford, a US Supreme Court justice, and Robert Love Taylor, governor and senator. Other newspaper reporters or editors who started their careers in Tennessee between 1880 and 1910 and became widely known were sports writer Grantland Rice, and African-American activists Ida B. Wells-Barnett and W. E. B. DuBois.

Also of interest is Alfred Ochs, who began his newspaper career with the Chattanooga Times, while he left the state in 1896 when he purchased the New York Times, the Chattanooga paper remained in his family until late in the 20th century. Ida B. Wells (Wells-Barnett in her later years), through her fiery writing and great courage, became the most influential black woman journalist in the United States as a pioneering crusader for racial justice and women’s rights. She began her career as a schoolteacher and essayist, and edited the African-American Baptist newspaper, Living Way. In 1884, she was forced off a railroad train because she refused to sit in the “smoking car,” and had tried to enter a car “set apart for white ladies and gentlemen.” She sued the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, arguing that the two railroad cars were not equal accommodations. She was one of the first African-American women to sue in a state court. She won at the trial court level, and white-owned newspaper, the Memphis Daily Appeal, ran the headline: “A DARKY DAMSEL OBTAINS A VERDICT FOR DAMAGES AGAINST THE CHESAPEAKE & OHIO RAILROAD.”

The Tennessee Supreme Court, however, overturned the verdict, stating that Wells’ lawsuit was not in good faith, but merely intended to harass the railroad. During the 1880s, Wells using the pen name “Iola,” was a columnist for the nation’s most prominent black newspapers. After becoming a partner in Memphis newspaper Free Speech in 1889, Wells dared to denounce the lynchings of black men. In 1892 in the US there were 255 lynchings, including two of her own friends. She wrote that lynchings were often used by whites to suppress black businesses, urging in Free Speech that blacks should arm themselves: “A Winchester rifle should have a place of honor in every home.” Soon thereafter, a mob shut down Free Speech. Wells, out of Tennessee on business at that time, moved to New York. There, she became a
partner in a leading black newspaper, the New York Age, publishing stories and lecturing against lynching. In 1894, she became the first black columnist hired by the Chicago Inter-Ocean, a white-owned newspaper.

Another notable African-American scholar and journalist, W.E.B. DuBois, briefly published the Memphis Moon, starting in 1906. Later, DuBois said the paper was a precursor of The Crisis, the influential publication of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In addition to black newspapers, papers for the growing immigrant population began publishing in East Tennessee, including the Chattanooga Deutsche Zeitung (1894) and the Chattanooga Volks Freund (1895).

After the Civil War, newspapers owned and operated by African-Americans or designed to appeal to a black audience began publishing in Tennessee. It is estimated that 24 such papers were published between 1876 and 1900, spread across the state in the largest cities but concentrated in the capital city of Nashville. Nineteen new black papers began from 1900 to 1910; most during this period concentrated in Memphis, where the population was approximately 50 percent African-American. The life expectancy of these papers averaged less than two years, but one of the most influential black papers, the Globe in Nashville, started in 1905 to combat Jim Crow laws, continued for 55 years. Another enduring black paper was the East Tennessee News, founded in 1909 and continuing in Knoxville into the 1940s.

In the volatile social and economic climate of the late 19th century, idealists opened socialist colonies in Rugby, Ruskin, and other lesser-known Tennessee locales. The founder of the Ruskin experiment, Charles Augustus Wayland, has been described by one Marxist historian as the greatest propagandist of socialism to have lived. Wayland began publishing The Coming Nation in April 1893 in Indiana, moving it to Tennessee from 1894-1899, after which both Wayland and the paper had moved on. Rugby published its own newspaper, The Rugbeian, and was the site of four other utopian-idealist papers.

Labor unrest struck Tennessee, too, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and included disasters such as the worst coal mining accident in the state’s history, resulting in the death of 184 miners in 1902, and the Great Tennessee Miners’ Rebellion of 1891-92, involving some 300 armed miners. This effectively ended a government-sanctioned form of corporate welfare known as “convict leasing” in which corporations paid the state less money for convict laborers than other laborers would demand. Other labor disputes covered by newspapers during this period were strikes by drivers of the horse-drawn Memphis City Railway Company (1885), wagon makers in Memphis (1896), coal miners in Jellico (1894), theater employees in Nashville (1899), copper miners in Ducktown (1899), and coal miners at Coal Creek and Cripple Creek mines (1900).

Prohibition sparked heated editorials in Tennessee papers, where opinion was divided. The Knoxville Sentinel, for example, published this statement on the subject in 1907: "If the southern states adopt prohibition it will be largely because of the necessity of keeping whiskey from the colored man." The National Prohibition Party mounted campaigns for state elective offices in 1888 and 1890, but its candidates were soundly defeated. Immediately after the 1890 elections, the Nashville Issue, the Prohibition Party newspaper, called "for another tilt with the enemy of God and man," but the party was finished in Tennessee. More successful was the Anti-Saloon League, which in 1902 published a newspaper named the Anti-Saloon Journal, which the Knoxville Journal and Tribune declared a power in Tennessee politics.

The Nashville Tennessean, which today is one of the most important papers in the state, was started in 1907 as a prohibitionist journal. By 1909, prohibition was effectively the law in the state. Hatred of alcohol led a wealthy New York real estate man to establish the town of Harriman, Tennessee, in 1890, along with a newspaper to promote its growth. By 1903 four papers had begun publication in the town founded on the principles of industry and prohibition. The American Temperance University opened in Harriman in 1903, enrolling more than 300 students from 20 states in its second year.

Tennessee and its newspapers were part of the drama of the closely fought adoption of the 19th Amendment, extending the right to vote to women. Newspapers were full of editorials and letters to the editor expressing deep-seated resistance to giving women the vote. Major pressure came from liquor interests, which feared that if women were given the vote, liquor would be outlawed. In the summer of
1920, President Woodrow Wilson telegraphed Tennessee Governor A.H. Roberts, urging him to call a special session of the state legislature to vote on the 19th Amendment. The session convened in August 1920 and adopted the amendment 49-47. Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment, the pivotal vote in the amendment’s adoption by virtue of the fact that 36 states (75 percent) were needed for national approval of the amendment.

Newspapers of the period 1836 to 1922 constitute a record of the contours of our modern “culture war,” with the emergence of religious fundamentalism in the rural south, and reaching its zenith in Dayton, Tennessee, in the 1925 Scopes “Monkey” trial, where Mr. Scopes was convicted of illegally teaching evolution in a Tennessee classroom, using state approved textbooks. While Tennessee newspapers of the period are primary documents in national events and issues, including slavery and the Civil War, Reconstruction, four declared foreign wars, the ravages of the Gilded Age, women’s suffrage, and the growth of civil and labor rights, with Tennesseans as active participants in the issues and movements that formed America. It has been said that newspapers are a “first draft of history.” For the period 1836 to 1922, in the State of Tennessee, newspapers are history. The digitization of these diverse, colorful, and combative publications will archive American culture and will preserve these important historical records.

References


Dennis, Frank Allen, West Tennessee Newspapers During the Civil War, 1860-1865, Mississippi State University, Ph.D. dissertation, 1970.


Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) Preservation Newspaper Microfilm Program

The Tennessee State Library and Archives has the most complete collection of microfilmed newspapers published in Tennessee. From George Roulstone’s The Knoxville Gazette in 1791 to yesterday’s Shelbyville Times-Gazette, the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) preserves the newspapers of Tennessee and all the valuable information of daily life of its citizens through microfilm. Most libraries in the state send printed newspapers to TSLA for microfilming. In the course of the USNP, any paper copies were referred to, and microfilmed by, TSLA. Thus, all other collections in the state only duplicate portions of the TSLA collection. Having access to this collection means having access to all microfilmed Tennessee newspapers. The vast collection of over 20,000 rolls (15,000,000 pages) of 35mm negatives of newspaper microfilm at the Library and Archives includes almost every newspaper published in Tennessee. The filming project began in 1957 and Library and Archives staff have been preserving Tennessee newspapers ever since.

Methodology and Standards

Availability of newspapers
TSLA has the largest collection of Tennessee newspaper master negatives in existence. For the time period of this proposal over 1,000,000 pages of master negative film is available.

Since microfilming of newspapers began in the 1950s, prior to the development of the USNP standards, the quality of the early master negatives does not meet today’s standards. TSLA began implementing standards as they were promulgated, so the more current rolls meet all ANSI/AIIM standards for both the film itself and the filming process, including the use of targets. Examination of the major papers in each of the Grand Divisions (Knoxville Sentinel, Memphis Commercial Appeal, and The Tennessean) shows overall quality of Fair, with density and the lack of targets being the major issues. The technicians who will make the second generation negatives required by NDNP have had a minimum of 25 years of experience in duplicating these rolls. They know the techniques necessary to more normalize density and adjust for inadequate lighting to the best extent possible.

A few Tennessee newspapers have been digitized and included in News Bank’s collection of American newspapers. The coverage goes back only to 1990 for two titles (Knoxville News-Sentinel and The Commercial Appeal from Memphis.) The other seven papers in this collection begin coverage in the 1990s or 2000s. The Gannet group has recently signed an exclusive microfilm agreement with Proquest and we will no longer be able to film (or digitize) any of their papers published in Tennessee. That list of titles includes: The Leaf-Chronicle (Clarksville), The Jackson Sun, The Daily News Journal (Murfreesboro), and The Tennessean (Nashville). The latter paper is the major newspaper from Tennessee’s capital. TSLA has film for the historical portion of this title and we can digitize this paper for the entire span of the NDNP, but the loss of free availability to film or digitize future editions is regretful.

All the titles were cataloged by the USNP, with records available at that site, WorldCat, and many local libraries in the state.

Selection of titles
While TSLA’s collection includes over a million pages in the time period covered by the NDNP grant period, we have decided that it would be better to first digitize only those papers with long runs. While
this initial exclusion will exclude some very interesting papers (such as those published by those pro and con in Women’s Suffrage debate, African American issues, immigrant issues, and Native American issues), we feel that these shorter run papers will be best handled after we have digitized the newspapers with the longer runs that represent each of the three Grand Divisions. Future grant proposals will put more emphasis on these real treasures that will help show the true significance of the state. In the meantime, these papers with both larger circulations will give us a taste of both the diversity and the importance of Tennessee during this seminal portion of United States history.

Immediately upon award, a meeting of the Advisory Group will be convened in Nashville. Our state is long and narrow. Nashville is the most central city and is close enough to all other areas of the state that no overnight accommodations will be necessary. The meeting will be hosted at the TSLA with assistance from Knoxville by the project director and the two newspaper historians (Dr. Dwight Teeter and Dr. Ed Caudill), who will lead the meeting. The two professors will also be responsible for writing the historical essays for each paper. At the meeting we will discuss the NNDP and Tennessee’s part in it. We will ask the group to make initial selections for digitization based on:

1. Geographic coverage of each of the three major Grand Divisions of Tennessee.
2. Dates and length of publication for each title.
3. Availability of microfilm for the period covered.
4. Historical “centers of activity” during the time period (i.e., which locales were prominent between 1860 and 1922 instead of which locales are currently prominent.)
5. Influence the papers had in the local area, state, region, or nation.
6. Diversity of viewpoint (e.g., some papers pro-Union, others pro-Union in time periods leading to Civil War; during the war, newspapers published in both Union- and Confederate-held areas of the state; pro and con on the 19th amendment, etc.)
7. Coverage of events that occurred in Tennessee, but which had wider impact (e.g., Tennessee’s vote of acceptance of the 19th amendment since our vote put the amendment over the required minimum of states to endorse it. It was Tennessee that gave women the right to vote in the US).
8. To aid the Advisory Group we will provide the following resources to the Advisory Board: lists of all eligible newspaper microfilmed by the TSLA; USNP catalog records for each title; dates and cities of publications of each newspaper, copies of History of Tennessee Newspapers; the thesis West Tennessee Newspapers During the Civil War, 1860-1865; Editor and Publisher, New York, Editor & Publisher Co., 1901-1922; other selected resources such as a copy of The Moving Appeal: Mr. McClanahan, Mrs. Dill, and the Civil War’s great newspaper run; Edith D. Pope and her Nashville friends: Guardians of the lost cause in the Confederate veteran; Selected women in Tennessee newspaper journalism, the digital copies of Rowell’s and Ayer’s available through LC at http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/news_research_tools/ayersdirectory.html, essays written for this grant proposal and other information from newspaper historians. The Advisory Group members also have expertise to share. All of the sources will be available to help the group make the selections of titles to be used in this project.

References:
Dennis, Frank Allen, West Tennessee Newspapers During the Civil War, 1860-1865, Unpublished Thesis from University of Mississippi, 1971. Editor & Publisher, New York, Editor & Publisher Co., 1901-1922.
UTK’s ability to administer large-scale projects with partners:

1. **Tennessee Newspaper Project:** The NEH/USNP project visited local sites throughout the state, identifying and cataloging all known newspapers in the state. This was a multi-year project with funding received from 1995 to 2006. At various stages, we had staff and students working in each of the three Grand Divisions feeding information to the UTK campus for creation of MARC records. UTK was the administrator for these grants and created or edited all the records produced by the program. These grants taught us not only about budgetary control, but also how to work in various communities and how to build a network of contacts throughout the state. These grants produced the CONSER quality MARC newspaper bibliographic records that will be used with the Tennessee Newspaper Digitization Project.

2. **Volunteer Voices:** See [http://diglib.lib.utk.edu/cgi/b/bib/bib-idx?c=vvs-bib](http://diglib.lib.utk.edu/cgi/b/bib/bib-idx?c=vvs-bib) The University of Tennessee Libraries received a grant to digitize primary source documents from the 17th through the 21st centuries. Through this **Volunteer Voices** project over 10,000 images with associated metadata were created. The grant involved hiring staff in each of the Grand Divisions who contacted local organizations, digitized objects, and sent them on external storage drives to the University of Tennessee for metadata creation and display. This project had an advisory board that specifically targeted teachers and integration into the K-12 classroom. Through this large project, we learned much about tracking drives, verifying the contents, internal validation, and working with an Advisory Group. This experience will be used as a basis for much of the work for the Tennessee Newspaper Digitization Project.

3. **TN Documentary History:** (See [http://diglib.lib.utk.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=tdh](http://diglib.lib.utk.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=tdh)) This was the first federally funded digitization project administered solely by and through UTK. The project digitized 2000 documents and images related to ante-bellum Tennessee and was the first project to explore the use of Tennessee primary documents in the K-12 classroom. Since this was a state-wide program, it built on the relationships developed with other state libraries through the USNP and the Southeastern Native American Documents project.

4. **Southeastern Native American Documents:** This was UTK’s first work on a grant-funded digitization project. We were a sub-contractor for this project funded by the University of Georgia. Through this project we became aware of complications that can come with digitization. This was a multi-state project that required cooperation and communication across the many institutions. Coming to consensus on how to implement standards in such an environment led us to understand as how to use TEI with handwritten correspondence, but also of more intangibles such as the importance, necessity, and difficulty of implementing standards in joint projects.

5. **Other digitization experience:**

Based on our commitments to standards, UTK has worked with the DLF on creating proposed standards and analyzed the use of those standards by other DLF libraries. Melanie Feltner-Reichert, currently Coordinator of our Digital Library Initiatives, served on two DLF Aquifer Initiative Working Groups.

We have worked with various metadata formats including MODS (the UTK standard for all projects), METS, TEI (used with all project including, but not limited to South Eastern Native American document and Tennessee Documentary History), DC (as part of an early adopter with OCLC, and in the Arrowmont Project), MARC (in all our cataloging), and FGCD (in a local project dealing with TN maps, which is not yet active or available).
We have had experience digitizing long runs of publications, the most prominent being the UT Graduate and Undergraduate Catalogs, digitizing all print volumes published between 1897 and 2005.

Our experience with direct digitization of newspapers is a small portion of the *Emancipator*, which were digitized for a DLI project. (*The Emancipator* was one of the first papers published in the United States dedicated to the emancipation of all slaves. Its publication in 1819 is outside the range of the NDNP time lines, but is evidence of Tennessee’s split personality and split allegiances in the Antebellum period.) [http://diglib.lib.utk.edu/cgi/b/bib/bib-idx?c=emn-mods;cc=emn-mods;sid=0633fd1b5c93364af5a3e9a6da7bbf;page=index](http://diglib.lib.utk.edu/cgi/b/bib/bib-idx?c=emn-mods;cc=emn-mods;sid=0633fd1b5c93364af5a3e9a6da7bbf;page=index)

While we have no experience in digitizing from microfilm, the project director has been in contact with NDNP funded institutions including Kentucky, Virginia, Utah, and North Texas to discuss their experience. In addition, she attended the first and the last MetaMorphosis conferences, and had personal tours and help from the project directors of the Kentucky and Virginia NDNP sites.

**Access to Microfilm Master Negatives**

The University of Tennessee Libraries has excellent access to the master negatives of newspaper published in TN. Our partnership with the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) is deep and strong. They are our willing partners in this grant. We all feel that Tennessee’s contribution to the NDNP will add greatly to use of one of the state’s treasured resources. TSLA has excellent knowledge and skills working with microfilm. UTK has excellent experience with large-scale digital projects and has the technical background to make this a successful project. Our alliance will produce excellent results.

**Work Plan**

Note: A chart at the end of this section illustrates the timelines involved in this work plan.

**Selection of titles:**

Once the grant award is announced, the Project Director will call a meeting in Nashville of all Advisory Group members. Using the criteria listed above and the additional information provided, the group will make an initial selection of approximately 200,000 pages to be filmed. A priority ranking will be assigned to each title. All work except the introductory meeting will be conducted over the Internet. We will use both email lists and a dedicated and password protected WIKI as the mode of communication. The selection of twice the number of pages will give the project team the opportunity to evaluate the quality of the film and experience the training curve it needs to complete the project before attempting to deal with complex metadata on many small papers. Advice from the Kentucky project who did attempt the multiple-paper model in their initial grant submission is informing our decision in this area.

Grant staff will choose a high priority selection of the recommended titles, ask the TSLA staff to evaluate the master negative rolls of microfilm and, assuming the film is acceptable, create the second-generation negative copies, which will be the film used in digitization. They will attach a copy of the collation they have from the Tennessee Newspaper Project. Both the film and the metadata copies will be used in our initial testing with the digitization partner. They will also produce sample microfilm copies for use in choosing the digitization partner.

**Evaluation and Duplication of Microfilm:**

After the Advisory Group selects titles and the digitization partner has been chosen, Project Director, the Project Coordinator, and Drs. Caudill and Teeter (the newspaper historians who lead the Advisory Group) will choose the initial title(s) to be digitized. One or more rolls of film of this title will act as a test for the entire digitization process. The exact number of rolls for the test will be determined by consultations between UTK and the digitization vendor. TSLA will review each...
Analysis and Duplication of Microfilm

Analysis for each roll will include consideration of the following elements (based on the USNP technical standards):

**Condition**: overall characterization of the condition of the film, including issues relating to curvature, shadows, focus, scratching, splices, etc.

**Collation**: all missing, illegible, blank, and damaged pages; sequence or pagination errors; loose leaf or bound volume indicators; foldouts; and other irregularities.

**Skew**: if skew exceeds two degrees from parallel, the degree of skew will be recorded.

**Text legibility**: underlining, smearing, foxing, and other problems that may inhibit overall text legibility by an OCR engine.

**Scanner targets**: what targets were used, how many, and where filmed.

**Resolution**: quality index, measuring the relationship between text and target patterns. If no resolution targets exist, text quality will be examined with a microscope and compared to equivalent film containing a resolution target.

**Reduction ratio**: including any changes in reduction ratio made during filming and at what points.

**Image placement**: the filming position, including any shifts in orientation.

**Film density**: density readings for both master and duplicate negative (10 per reel), plus average and Dmin density.

**Collation**: Each roll will be examined and all collation issues noted. These may include duplicate pages, missing pages, duplicate or missing issues, unreadable pages, incorrect order of pages, excessively dark or unreadable filming on a few pages, or any other visible irregularities that would affect individual images, but not rise to the threshold of making an entire reel unsuitable for filming. All of these conditions will be recorded on spreadsheets and used for quality control of the digital files produced by outsourcing partner. If time constraints do not allow recording of complete collation data, the level of detail will be noted and the collation completed at the University of Tennessee.

**Duplication**: The microfilm negatives will be duplicated from the master using every possible setting to improve density problems. This will produce clean second-generation silver negatives as required for NDNP. The expense for the film itself as well as the staff to do the work is part of matching funds projected for this project.

Selection of Digitization Partner: To foster collaboration on this project, the Project Director invited the University of Kentucky to perform the NDNP digitization work for the Tennessee Project; however, the university was unable to accept that collaboration role. Accordingly, an RFP for the actual digitization, OCR, and metadata creation (as well as production of derivatives) will be finalized and sent to the University of Tennessee Purchasing Office for review and posting as soon as possible after receiving notice of the award. According to state law, the RFP must be cleared by Purchasing and then made available to the public for 3 weeks. Since that department will not review the draft RFP without receipt of the grant, we need to allow at least 5 weeks post beginning of award (NOT award announcement) before bid responses may be opened and reviewed. Outsourcing partner will be selected 8-10 weeks after the award. Some of the digitization vendors to be targeted include iArchives, Backstage Library Works (formerly OCLC Preservation Services), Heritage Microfilm, and Proquest. We have been unable to locate any in-state microfilming vendors who are willing to comply with NDNP standards.

While the RFP will refer to the entire technical documents some important features will include:
a. **Demonstrated ability to handle all the technical specifications** as stated in the Technical Plan designated by the grant. See [http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/pdf/NDNP_200911TechNotes.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/pdf/NDNP_200911TechNotes.pdf) for full details. Highlights are listed below.

b. **Ability and willingness to meet tracking, error reporting mechanisms and validation procedures.**

c. **Deliverables:**

   **TIFFs:**
   - Create digital images from a preservation copy of microfilm, a clean second-generation duplicate silver negative.
   - Scan at 8-bit grayscale with a resolution of 400 dpi, if possible; otherwise, 300 dpi (relative to the size of the original newspaper)
   - Create image output file as an uncompressed TIFF 6.0, from which a JPEG2000, PDF, and text derivatives with the same file name will be made.
   - If a target on the microfilm indicates a page or issue of a paper existed, but has not been filmed, the vendor will create a file name and other associated files indicating the missing page or issue existed, but is not digitized.

   **PDFs:**
   - Create a PDF image with hidden text for each page image, with a file name that corresponds to the appropriate page image.
   - Create appropriate XMP metadata per Appendix B - File Format Profiles of the NDNP Technical Guidelines for Applicants for each PDF file.
   - Provide a page image that will be grayscale, downsampled to 150 dpi and encoded using medium JPEG quality setting.
   - Ensure that PDFs do not contain any bookmarks, links, named destinations, comments, forms, JavaScript actions, external cross references, alternate images, embedded thumbnails, annotations, or private data.

   **JPEG2000s:**
   - Create a JPEG2000 for each page image, with a file name that corresponds to the appropriate page image.
   - Incorporate appropriate XMP metadata per Appendix B - File Format Profiles of the NDNP Technical Guidelines for Applicants for each JPEG2000 file.
   - Ensure the JPEG2000 will be 6 decomposition levels, and 25 quality levels.
   - Produce JPEG2000 with compression of 8:1.
   - Capture a standards-based target film strip at the start of each session, to monitor equipment performance.
   - Split dual images into individual newspaper images as necessary.
   - Deskew images with more than 3% skew.
   - Crop page image files to the edge of the newspaper, retaining the original edge and up to a quarter inch beyond.
   - Capture microfilm target frames; however, metadata will denote these as incidental images.
   - Incorporate tagged metadata relating to the creation of the images into the headers for all image deliverables (TIFF 6.0, JPEG2000, and PDF).
   - Produce grayscale images that have exactly the same dimensions, spatial resolution, skew, and cropping as the images used for OCR.11

   **OCR:**
   - Each page of the paper will be scanned using an OCR.
   - The OCR image will be machine-created only. There will be no manual view or revision. The text will be word-bounded, column aware, but without article segmentation.

   **Metadata:**
   - Metadata sufficient to express the structure of a paper (title, date, page) will be created.
   - ALTO schema will be used for the OCR metadata.
Other Derivative Files:
* The vendor must provide a searchable PDF image with hidden text and a JPEG 2000 image of each newspaper page.
* The JPEG must include the XMP data from the technical specifications found at http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/index.html. SEE APPENDIX B OF XMP METADATA REQUIRED.
* File names will correspond to the page it represents.
* The page image will gray-scaled, downsampled to 150 dpi, and encoded using a medium JPEG setting.

File Naming:
* For issue, the combination of LCCN, Issue Date, and Edition Order can be used as a unique identifier.
* For page, the combination of LCCN, Issue Date, Edition Order, and Page Sequence Number will be unique.

Other:
* The vendor will work with the University of Tennessee on communication and delivery schedules satisfactory to both parties.
* The vendor will validate each file using the Library of Congress validation tool.
* Once validated, the files will be copied to the UT provided external drives and returned to UT with the second generation copy of the microfilm from which the files were produced.
* Each bidder will be asked to complete a sample digitization and full derivative production from a roll of microfilm according to full NDNP standards. The trial results will be weighted heavily in selecting the outsourcing partner.

Quality Control
The microfilm duplicates will be sent to the University of Tennessee. Project staff will check collation, complete tracking information, and mail to outsourcing partner on an agreed upon schedule. OCLC CONSER Level Bibliographic records created for the USNP will be verified and updated, as necessary, and as film on each title is sent for digitization.

As digitized files are received, student workers will review the files against the collation record created prior to submission to the digitization partner. Any problems will be noted and referred to the Project Manager. Any questions or problems will be discussed with the vendor. If necessary, the files will be returned to the vendor for correction up to and including a complete re-do of the digitization process with creation of all associated files. While the first batches will be examined individually, over time we will create sampling programs to maintain quality. If no problems are found with the film, it will be re-validated and sent to LC.

Hiring Staff
Project Coordinator: A position description for the Project Coordinator will be sent to UTK’s Office of Human Resources by the Project Director as the grant begins. When approved, a search will commence following University protocol and the most appropriate person hired. Responsibilities for the position are listed in Appendix C. In general terms, this person will be in charge of the day-to-day activities of the project, to include supervising student library assistants, monitoring work by the digitization partner, paying invoices, ensuring essays on each title are written and transmitted with digitized materials, validating files, and be in contact with LC over any problems.
Student Library Assistants: As selection and digitization of material begins, the Project Coordinator will post ads and will hire and supervise SLAs. Their responsibilities are also listed in Appendix C, but include work on collation both before and after digitization, revalidating the digital files and ensuring that all files or other objects related to a microfilm reel remain together.

Writers: UTK Journalism Professors and Newspaper Historian Drs. Ed Caudill and Dr. Dwight Teeter will write all the essays for NDNP as part of the cost share for this proposal. No additional expenditures will be needed.

Tracking
Experience with the Volunteer Voices Grant has shown us that a tracking database that simply shows the location of a physical or digital object is not sufficient. It must also include a workflow showing each step of the process, where the object is in that process (as well as where it is physically located), what the next step in the process is, who is responsible for that next step, what their deliverables are, and when they are expected. Also any attendant parts, such as the Excel spreadsheet mentioned in Appendix B of the Technical Specifications for the NDNP project must be tracked. Such a tracking database was created for the Volunteer Voices grant, but it will need extensive work to make it usable for the TNDP. Paul Cummins will begin work on this as soon as the grant is announced, and will train and monitor usage during the entire grant period.

Digitizing
After TSLA duplicates microfilm, it is sent to UTK for quality control and tracking. Project staff will complete collation spreadsheets required by LC and will send the film to the Digitization partner. That partner will have a supply of UTK’s external hard drives. The partner records receipt of film and drives in the tracking database.

The Digitization partner produces all the required files and metadata as stated in the RFP and on the LC web site. They store the files on a project external hard drive as well as on their own computer system and validate their files using the LC validation tool.

The digitized files are sent to UTK along with all required derivatives. Project staff will check the product against the collation records created earlier and will monitor the quality of the digital images. Any problems will be recorded and discussions held with the vendor. Especially with the test roll, there will be mutual discussion possibly leading to a redo of the digitization if problems cannot be resolved.

Once UTK is satisfied with the finished product, we will save a copy on our own servers, validate the files once again, and send the drive to LC. Backups will be made of the UT stored data at least until LC has added the contents of the drive to the Chronicling America web site. The second generation negative master will also be sent as digitization is completed.

Staff
JoAnne Deeken, UTK, Principal Investigator and Project Director. Ms. Deeken hires staff, writes RFP to select the outsourcing partner, negotiates with outsourcing partner, sets and controls the budget, supervises the Project Manager, attends NEH Newspaper Digitization Conference, and has overall responsibility for meeting time targets and quality of project. She will commit 20% time the first year and 15% the second year. Ms Deeken is the Head of Technical Services and Digital Access at UT where she was the final Project Director of the USNP grant. She has been involved in technical services (acquisition and cataloging) in libraries for over 25 years.

Project Coordinator: This position will be 100% funded by the NEH grant. The position will be an exempt level staff and will be responsible for general day-to-day oversight, including, but not limited to, completing the tracking database, supervising student workers, establishing procedures for quality control, will validate all files at UTK, and hire/train all student library
assistants. We would expect this person to work full time for 9 months in the first year of the project and the complete 12 months of the second year. The person hired for this position will have a history (by experience or degree) with Tennessee history, microfilm, and managing projects.

Professors Dwight Teeter and Edward Caudill of UTK are newspaper historians. Each will dedicated 5% of their time the first year and 2% the second year of the grant. They will write all histories needed with the project and lead the Advisory Group. Their time is part of the match to the grant. Their expertise both of Tennessee publishing history and with technical writing and their extreme interest in partnering with TSLA and UTK libraries make them the best choices for this duty. Copies of their CVs are included in Attachment 7 with those of the other Advisory Council members.

Paul Cummins works at UTK Libraries. We will use 25% Mr. Cummins’ time first 3 months of the grant. Over the rest of the grant time span, we would expect him to donate 6% of his time. Paul’s main responsibility will be modifying and maintaining the tracking database to conform to the needs of the TDNP. Paul is a member of the Digital Library Initiatives department of the UTK libraries.

Bridger Dyson-Smith will assist Mr. Cummins in programming. He will also perform backups of digitized materials while it is going through quality control and in transit. Back-ups will be retained until LC has loaded Tennessee onto the Chronicling America site.

Melanie Feltner-Reichert is the Head of Digital Library Initiatives at UT Libraries. She will be responsible for supervising Mr. Cummins and Mr. Dyson-Smith and ensuring that their work on the Tennessee Digital Newspaper Project goes smoothly.

Jill Keally is the Executive Associate Dean of the University of Tennessee Libraries. She will handle administrative problems and will be the backup for the PI.

Two student library assistants (SLAs) will each work 20 hours per week from approximately January 2010 to September 2011. The SLAs will be funded through the grant. Their work will entail collation, quality control, validation, and mailing of drives. The students will be expected to be dependable, have a background in the history of Tennessee, be dependable and detail oriented.

Albert Sullivan, Micrographics Technician at TSLA, will prepare the negatives for duplication (connecting or "coring up" 100-ft rolls into 1000-ft rolls); test for any improvements in density or film condition; run the duplication equipment; process the duplicates, prepare the duplicate for boxing. This will take 35% of his hours beginning Fall 2010 through Spring 2011. Mr. Sullivan has over 25 years of experience in microfilming newspapers, evaluating the quality of microfilm, and reproducing it.

Larry Butler, Micrographics Manager at TSLA, will assist with preparing, testing for improvements of density or film condition, and prepare for boxing. He supervises Mr. Sullivan and will handle any problems Mr. Sullivan discovers. He will also supervise the boxing of the film. This will take 35% of his hours beginning Fall 2010 through Spring 2011. Mr. Butler has over 25 years of experience working with microfilm. His experience has ranged from actually running the cameras through evaluation and duplication to his current position as Manager of Micrographics.

Carol Roberts, Director, Preservation Services at TSLA, will supervise Mr. Butler. She will handle all accounting and time management issues and record time spent on the project by all TSLA staff to document the match. She will also attend meetings at LC. This will take 2% of her time for the life of the grant. Ms. Roberts has worked with TSLA since 1986, first as a documents conservator and now at her current role as Director of the Preservation Services. She is an expert in both paper and microfilm preservation.
Advisory Board members include:
Brenda Ables, MEd.: Director of Secondary Education, Division of Curriculum and Instruction, TN Dept. of Education
Bill Dockery: journalist and author
Taneya Koonce: Amateur Genealogist
Chuck Sherrill: Librarian at Brentwood Public Library and author and editor of 21 books on TN history and genealogy
Connie Miller : Amateur Genealogist
Daryl Phillips: Co-Hickman County Historian and genealogist
Dr. Carroll Van West, Director of the Center for Historic Preservation, Middle Tennessee State University.
The co-leaders of the group are:
Dr. Ed Caudill : Journalism Professor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Dr. Dwight Teeter: Journalism Professor, University of Tennessee Knoxville

Timeline
While the date is yet to be determined, the PI and at least one person from TSLA will attend the MetaMorphosis Conference to be lead by the University of Kentucky NDNP program. Errol Somay, of the Virginia portion of NDNP and Mary Molinaro, of the Kentucky portion, have agreed to be mentors. Accordingly, they are willing to respond to questions at any time during the life of the grant. Both have also agreed to visit the Tennessee program as we begin our project and at any time in the future that we need them.

Codes:
University of Tennessee
Knoxville
TSLA : Tennessee State Library and Archives
DV: Digitization Vendor

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