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From Street Gang to Special Collection: The Young Lords in Lincoln Park

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Check out the project website at <http://gvsu.edu/younglords/>

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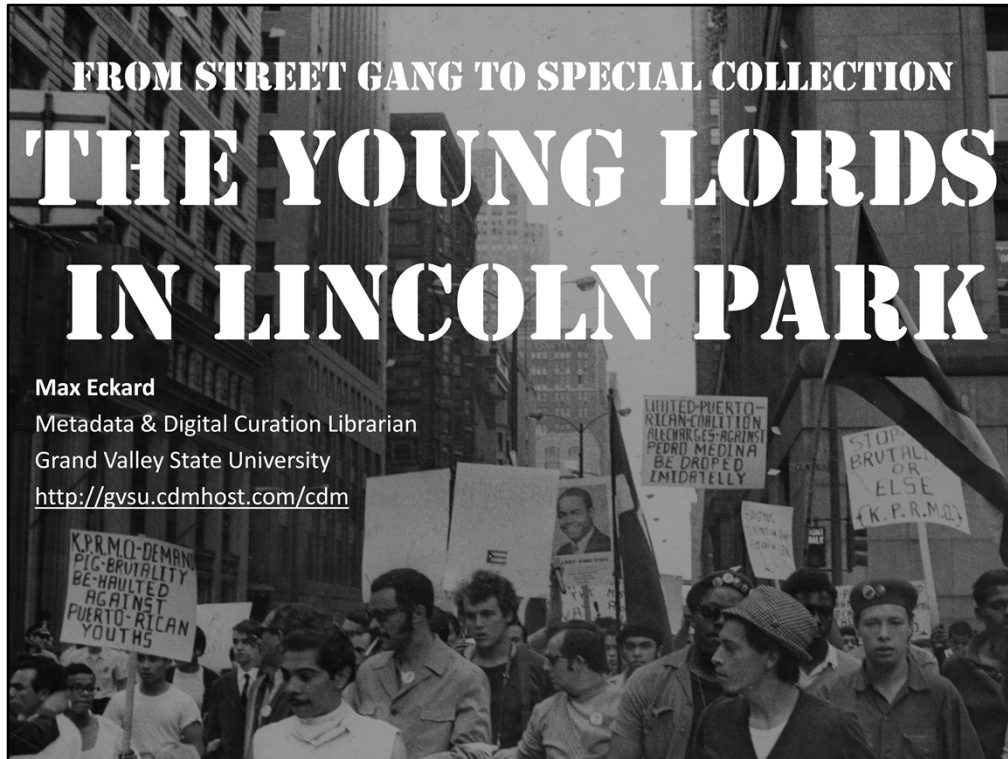


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Hello everyone!

My name is Max Eckard, and I'm the Metadata & Digital Curation Librarian at Grand Valley State University.

I will be talking to you all today briefly about an exciting new digital collection we have here entitled the "Young Lords in Lincoln Park."

BACKGROUND

Before I dive in, though, first, a little background.

The Young Lords

- Began as a primarily Puerto Rican movement in the 1960s in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago
- Founded by **José “Cha-Cha” Jiménez**
- Became a non-violent political organization in 1968 that fought for:
 - Fair housing
 - Self-determination
 - Human rights

If you haven't heard of them, the Young Lords began as a primarily Puerto Rican movement in the 1960s in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago.

Founded by a man named José “Cha-Cha” Jiménez, they became a formidable and non-violent political organization in 1968 that fought for fair housing, self-determination and human rights at a time when urban renewal was changing the face of the city and affecting poor people.

Who *was* Mr. Jiménez (1968)?



This is a photo of the Young Lords back in 1968 marching in Chicago.

I wanted to point Mr. Jiménez out to you all since he is the reason we have this collection in the first place.

Who was Mr. Jiménez (1968)?



That's him.

Who was Mr. Jiménez (1968)?



That's what he looked like in 1968.

Who *is* Mr. Jiménez (2012)?



- Non-traditional undergraduate at GVSU
- Original research documents the origins of the Young Lords
 - Yielded nearly 100 oral histories (born-digital video)
 - Historical photographs, papers and clippings from his own personal collection (analog)

And...

This what he looks like now.

These days he's a non-traditional undergraduate here at Grand Valley whose been doing some original research in order to document the origins of the Young Lords.

This research has yielded nearly 100 high-quality, professional oral histories of the founders and friends of the Young Lords (those are born-digital video), as well as a sizeable analog collection of historical photographs, papers and clippings from his own personal collection.

How we got involved

- Faculty advisor approached University Archives and Special Collections to find a home for the collection
- Work together to develop a resource useful for scholars AND the community
- Phase 1 up and running
- Phases 2 and 3 coming soon

We got involved when Mr. Jiménez' faculty advisor approached us in order to find a home for this collection.

Since then, we've been working together with them to develop a resource that is useful both for scholars and, importantly, for the community.

Phase 1 of the project, consisting of those nearly 100 born-digital video interviews, are now preservation-ready and available online through our CONTENTdm site.

During phases 2 and 3, we will be digitizing highlights from the rest of the collection, and that's coming soon.

CHALLENGES

There are so many great things that we could say about this collection, but we thought you might be more interested to hear about some of the challenges we've encountered along the way.

Space and time and digital video files

- Space:
 - Digital video files are huge!
 - Originals take up 815 GB and counting of space (200+ thumb drives)
- Time:
 - Transferring, backing them up, and creating master and access copies takes a VERY long time
 - Lack of standards and best practices for digital video

By far the biggest challenge has been dealing with video files themselves.

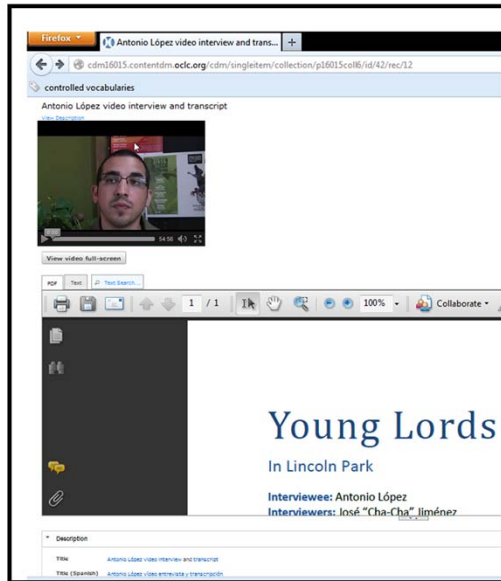
With regard to space--digital video files are huge! The original BluRay files alone already take up nearly a terabyte of space, and this is really pushing our storage capacity.

With regard to time--all aspects of processing digital video files, that is, transferring them over to the archives, backing them up, and creating preservation-ready master copies and useful access copies has taken a very long time--much longer than we expected.

I'd also like to point out that, due to what we found to be a real lack of consensus on standards and best practices for digital video, it really took us a lot of time to do our homework to even get prepared to process these files.

So "heads up" to any libraries or archives that are thinking about taking on digital video.

A little more on access



hasMedia?

- Tool developed by our Web Services Librarian to display streaming audio and video in CONTENTdm 6
- Displays video, PDF and metadata
- Javascript

<https://github.com/mreidsma/hasMedia->

Since we're talking about access, I did want to put in a quick plug for hasMedia?.

hasMedia? is a tool developed by our Web Services Librarian to display streaming audio and video in CONTENTdm 6.

Using it, we can, as you can sort of see over on the left, embed the video, display a PDF transcript and the metadata for an item all at the same time.

Now, it is Javascript, so we're aware that it's not the perfect solution. Even still we do like this better than CONTENTdm's out-of-the-box functionality.

There's the link to the code on GitHub in case your interested.

Bilingual metadata for a bilingual collection

- None of us speak Spanish
- Spanish metadata fields:
 - Title, author easy enough (except for diacritics)
 - Subject access/analysis: LCSH-es, Bilindex not always adequate
- Grant for student work to do transcription, translation
 - Eventually, we'll have full-text searchability
 - QC difficult

A second challenge has been creating metadata for a bilingual collection.

About 40% of these videos are in Spanish, which is great, but sort of a problem because none of us here on staff speak Spanish.

In addition, since some of the community members who want to use this resource only speak Spanish, we wanted to be sure incorporate some Spanish metadata.

It turns out that this is easy enough for title and author, but subject, however, was a little trickier. We use LCSH, and while there are a few good resources for Spanish translations of LCSH, these, we found, weren't always adequate.

For the longer term, we are very fortunate that the faculty member involved with the project was able to write a grant to pay for student help with translation and also transcription of the interviews.

This means that eventually our collection will be full-text searchable, and that people will be able to find items even when using more vernacular, common language.

So that's exciting, although we're a little concerned about how we're going to approach quality control on student work done in a language we don't speak.

Working with the “community” in a community-based project

- Online “unveiling” of this resource was a much anticipated event for the community
- Made promises that were difficult to keep
- Agreed to unrealistic deadlines and constantly pressed for time
- Made a few compromises
- Now retrospectively creating a workflow so that essential administrative and technical tasks are completed (in the right order)

Lastly, working with the “community” in a community-based project was also a bit of a challenge, but in a good way.

The community, while an invaluable source for contextual information, really wanted things up fast, and the online “unveiling” of this resource was a much anticipated event for them.

In our exuberance, we made may have made some promises to them that were difficult to keep, among them agreeing to a number of unrealistic deadlines.

We were constantly pressed for time, and as a result, we made a few compromises to make the collection available.

We’re now trying to retrospectively create a workflow for this project so that essential administrative and technical tasks are completed.

Next time we plan to take it a little more slowly.

Thanks!

Links

MLive article:

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/09/grand_valley_state_university_48.html

Project website (see the press release under "News"):

<http://www.gvsu.edu/cois/module-news-view.htm?newsid=E63FAE88-9E79-A78B-61748DOBA88B1110>

Our CONTENTdm collection:

<http://cdm16015.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16015coll6>

Me

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So that's it!

Links are over on the left and that's me over the right.

Thank you for your time, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.