

Volunteer Voices Report to the TennShare Board (Sept. 4, 2008)

Ken Middleton and Tiffani Conner

Tiffani has focused on getting ready for the Gala, which also includes getting the new website ready. At our last quarterly Volunteer Voices meeting, we discussed details of the new home page. The Digital Library Center at UT is in the process of adding the next big batch of records to the database.

There has been no progress on the sustainability front in terms of institutional support for management and administering hardware/software. It is important to emphasize that no new content can be added to the 10,000 item "Growth of Democracy" database in its present form.

In our last Volunteer Voices meeting, we explored the possibility of altering the Volunteer Voices mission slightly to include other digitization projects in Tennessee.

New collections in the past several months: three collections (900+ items) from the McClung Collection; Austin Peay is digitizing its campus newspaper; Rhodes College is adding more oral histories and other content; and MTSU is making steady progress in its MTSU Memory project that will include photographs, documents, artifacts, and oral histories. By offering a portal to such collections that are not part of the 10,000 item "Growth of Democracy" collection, Volunteer Voices can remain somewhat dynamic while we find a "one search" solution and explore grant and funding options. MTSU is developing a database that will link to these collections and be searchable by subject/time period/format.

The Southeast Contentdm Users Group Conference in Mississippi had reps from 4 Tennessee institutions. People from statewide digitization programs in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Tennessee discussed using multi-site server. Beth Nicol (Alabama Mosaic) noted that the maintenance of the multi-site server is very easy. So the technical bar for doing this is not very high.