

Strategically aligning a mandala of competencies to advance a transformative vision

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APPENDIX C

Facilitating community history through a participatory online image archive

The Eskind Biomedical Library’s (EBL’s) Special Collections is a central repository for medical center documents, artifacts, and photographic images of historical interest to the institution. Dating back to 1875, the collection includes over 15,000 images depicting people, buildings, and events. EBL will establish innovative workflows, processes, and collaborative tools to archive and provide wider, electronic access to these medical center images. This model will leverage existing open-source technologies and develop new interfaces to allow and encourage Vanderbilt constituents and public community members to contribute their unique knowledge, experiences, and insights to the medical center historical photographic documentation. Contributed images and annotations will become part of the permanent archival record.

Deliverables

- Install and configure the Omeka application for maintenance of and access to digital object metadata.
- Solicit additional group and class pictures from medical center departments to complement EBL Special Collections’ existing photographic archive (e.g., Alumni Office, School of Nursing, Department of Pediatrics).
- Develop plan for selecting collections of images for priority uploading.
- Customize application to provide controlled name access to individuals depicted in photographs.
- Establish workflow for digitization and refinement of images and the establishment of metadata. Create best practices documentation for providing access to medical center images and moderating community-submitted comments.
- Design and implement custom plug-in module to enable the application of privacy settings.
- Work with Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) alumni departments to publicize and promote use of the archival image database through traditional as well as social media channels.
- Disseminate project outcomes by submitting results for professional publication or presentation.

Threshold	Target	Reach
Implement Omeka application and digitize and upload 1,000 images, with accompanying metadata.	Customize Omeka to enable indexing of individuals and upload an additional 1,000 images.	Complete 2 additional deliverables.