Beyond the Grant: Cultivating Sustainable
Next Steps

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Sanborn Fire Insurance maps

- Large scale street plans that were produced by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company from 1867 - 1970
- Used by researchers for a number of projects
  - Local historians looking to locate & identify buildings and neighborhoods
  - Urban historians to study the growth of towns & cities
  - Environmentalists concerned about the impact of new developments

Screenshot of Columbus, Ohio, 1887.
https://oaks.kent.edu/sanborn/columbus-delaware-fairfield-and-franklin-counties-ohio-1887
Ohio Sanborn Fire Insurance maps

- KSU Libraries is the designated holding institution for the state of Ohio
- Our collection is the largest, and most complete, set of Ohio maps outside the LoC
- 2 grants supported the project
  - Ohio Local History Alliance, 2019, $2,500
  - Ohio History Fund, 2020, $13,646
- ~24,000 maps now freely available via Open Access Kent State (OAKS)-
  https://oaks.kent.edu/sanborn/
Beyond the grant

- Digital collection has increased access
  - Analog usage of Sanborns- ~12 requests/semester
  - Google Analytics usage stats from Dec 2020- April 2022
    - 8,108 pageviews
    - 6,745 Unique pageviews
    - 3:34 average time spent on page

- Researcher vignettes
  - Cleveland Architects office
  - Non-local usage for genealogy research
  - Students using for classes
  - Out of state usage

- Since March 2022, OPLIN has provided re-directs to overlapping content to OAKS collection
  - Uptick in re-directs from OPLIN and use of the digital collection
Looking ahead

- Connecting with KSU faculty to embed the digital collection into classes/workshops
- Dedicating hours to expand and promote digital project
- LSU Sanborn project- Crowdsourcing project to georeference Louisiana Sanborn maps https://oldinsurancemaps.net/
- Wikipedia/Wikimedia
  - Sanborn digital collection (Islandora) ➔ DPLA ➔ Wikimedia
    https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Media_contributed_by_Kent_State_University
Thank you!!

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