

Beyond the Grant: Cultivating Sustainable Next Steps

**Virginia Dressler, Digital Projects Librarian
Michael Hawkins, Data Librarian
Kent State University**



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
 - Inspired by Toledo Public Library- Byrd-McDevitt, D., & Dewees, J. (2022). Using DPLA and the Wikimedia Foundation to Increase Usage of Digitized Resources. Information Technology and Libraries, 41(1). <https://doi.org/10.6017/ital.v41i1.13659>

Thank you!!

Virginia Dressler, MA, MLIS

vdressle@kent.edu

Michael Hawkins, (almost) PhD, MLIS

mhawki11@kent.edu

