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History in the Making: Creating the Shenandoah Living Archive

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History in the Making: Creating the Shenandoah Living Archive (SLA)

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What is the Shenandoah Living Archive?

The Shenandoah Living Archive (SLA) is a Libraries and Educational Technologies initiative that engages students, the local community, and faculty in capturing, creating, and curating the real-time documentation of life in the Shenandoah Valley. During the Fall 2015 semester, JMU Professor Sean McCarthy's WRTC Digital Rhetoric class took on the exciting task of prototyping the Shenandoah Living Archive concept. Students used born-digital items (oral histories, images, video, geospatial data) and physical materials (flyers, pamphlets, diaries) along with modern technologies to remix and enhance archival resources.

The Living Archive concept anchors archival practice in undergraduate community engagement and research; it gives students the autonomy to harness technology in creative ways to discover vibrant methods of connecting with the cultures and environment of their region.

Libraries
- Collections
- Instructional Technologists
- Media Resources

Faculty/Staff
- WRTC
- Humanities
- Institute for Visual Studies
- Hospitality Management

Students
- Digital Rhetoric
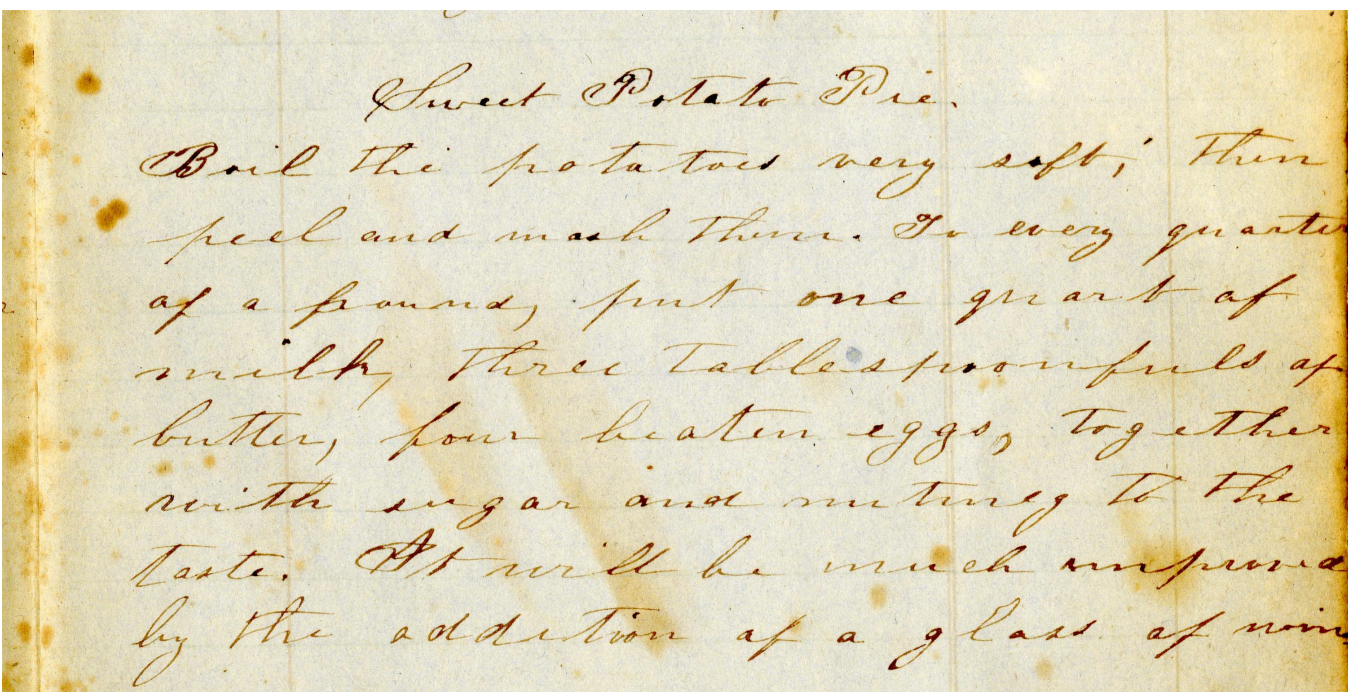- SLAP Intern
- Community liaison

Community Engagement

- **Massanutten Regional Library** –SLAP event held in public library space
- **Church World Service Harrisonburg** – Immigration and Refugee Program – students interviewed and worked with local refugees and professionals
- **Mennonite Community**

Student-Driven Research & Outcomes

- Website creation
- Interviews with communities/community members
- Interaction with primary source materials
  - 1855 cookbook
  - Shenandoah National Park Oral Histories
  - Urban Renewal Photograph Collection
- Experimenting with web-based technologies
  - Wordpress
  - Piktochart
  - Timeline JS

Future Possibilities

- Filipino immigrant oral histories
- History of local music culture
- Refugee experiences in the Shenandoah Valley