Reflecting on our history: Digitizing materials for hospital archives [poster]

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Reflecting on Our History: Digitizing Materials for Hospital Archives

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Objectives

The Ithaka Report 2006 investigated trends in the valuation of library functions by faculty. Faculty placed high values on library functions as purchaser and archive even as the valuation of information gateway declined. This poster demonstrates an effort toward expanding the archive function of a hospital library. We will describe our pilot program to digitize historical documents and photographs.

Methods

The Health Sciences Library at Baystate Medical Center launched our first digitizing project in 2009. We were offered a low-cost opportunity to professionally scan and digitally display 10-20 library items through our membership with Central/Western Massachusetts Regional Library System.

We chose ten items that were previously published by Baystate Health, Springfield Hospital, or Springfield Hospital School of Nursing. These items are now available to view as part of Digital Treasures (http://dlib.cwmars.org/). The rights to the items remain with Baystate Health.

Goals & Criteria

Goals:
- Facilitate institutional research, teaching and publishing.
- Enhance discovery of medical history archives.
- Provide a preferred and expected format of items.

Criteria:
- Item must have research, monetary, and/or cultural value.
- Baystate Health must hold the intellectual property rights, or must have permission to digitize, or the item must be in the public domain.
- Must digitize without damaging the original.

Consultation

Professional Consultation:
Tevis Kimball, Digital Amherst, The Jones Library
Kristi Chadwick, Digital Treasures, C/WMARS
Fran Becker, Library Director, Baystate Medical Center

Workplace Consultation:
Hal Jenson, MD, Senior Vice President, Chief Academic Officer, Academic Affairs
Anita Sarro, RN, MSN, JD, Risk Management
Jane Albert, Public Affairs & Community Relations

Promote & Evaluate

During an Open House, we displayed the digital items in an ongoing slideshow. We placed a web link to Digital Treasures under “Library News”. And, we notified the Marketing & Communications Department that digitized photographs are now available for institutional use.

We are measuring usage through website analytics. We are evaluating the institution’s needs for digitized historical items. And, we are discussing the value of these items with Public Affairs & Community Relations.

Bibliography