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Digital Curation Program of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)

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Digital Curation Program of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)

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About the Exhibit Project

Creation of an online exhibit for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) as part of Digital Curation Program. The students in the Library and Information Science (LIS) class 4810: Digital Libraries were among five programs from around the country participating in this new initiative. Perspectives on Vietnam exhibit was created as a group project. The goal of the project was to create an exhibit on a topic of national interest to tell a story for the users. Students were to find 25-40 digital objects through the DPLA and other digital collections, address copyright issues, write a coherent narrative, and build records in Omeka, an open source content management system.

Topic: The Vietnam War

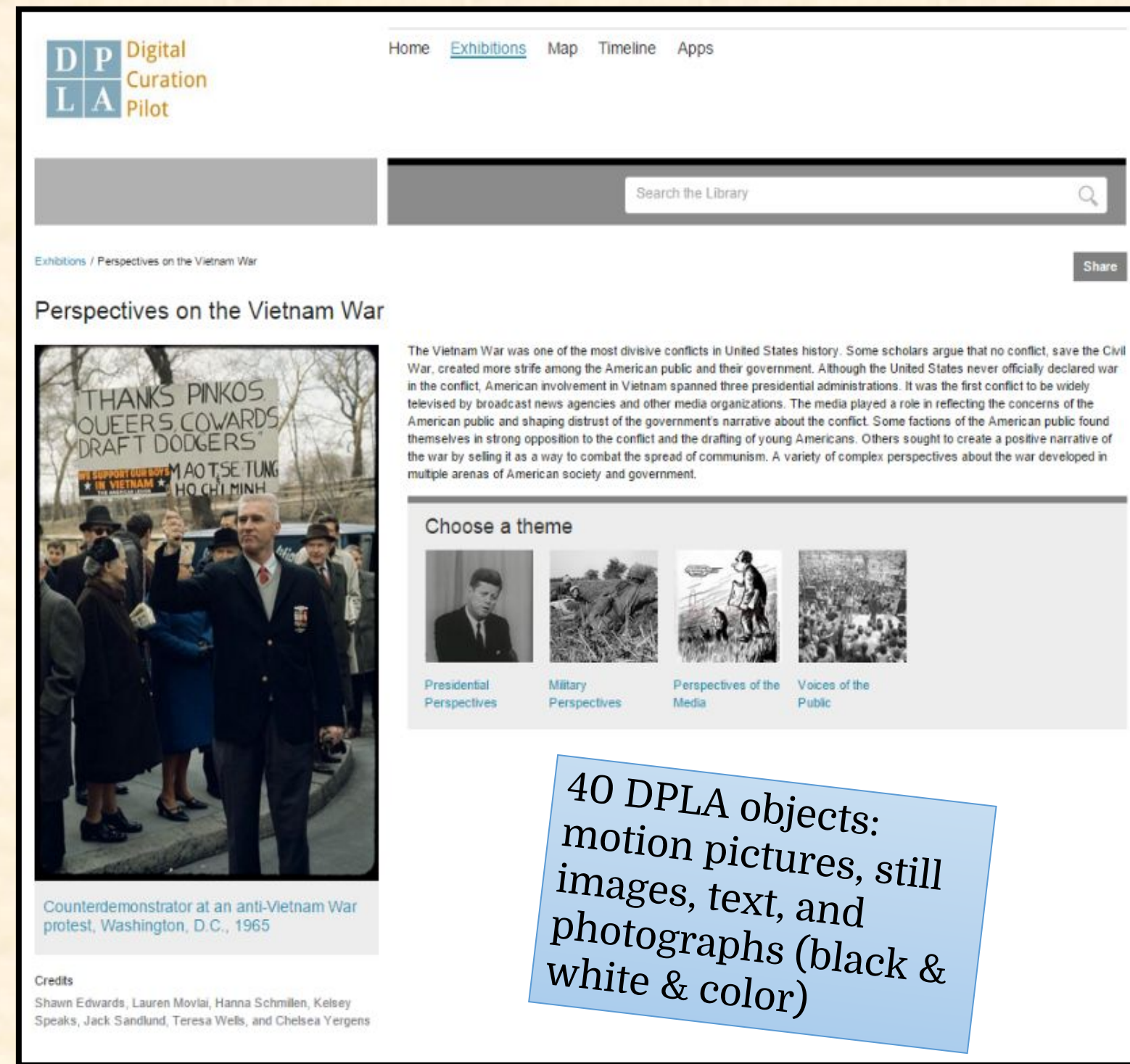
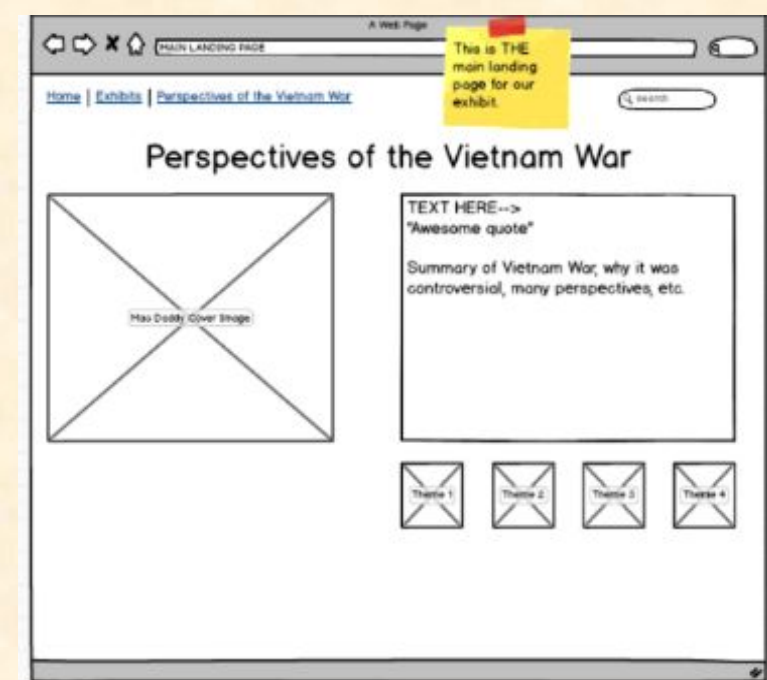
DPLA is a digital library that strives to serve the public through digital collections accumulated from a wide variety of partners. Our chosen topic for the DPLA exhibit project is Perspectives on the Vietnam War. The Vietnam War remains a controversial topic of national interest, making it a topic of depth and of many perspectives.

Our Goals

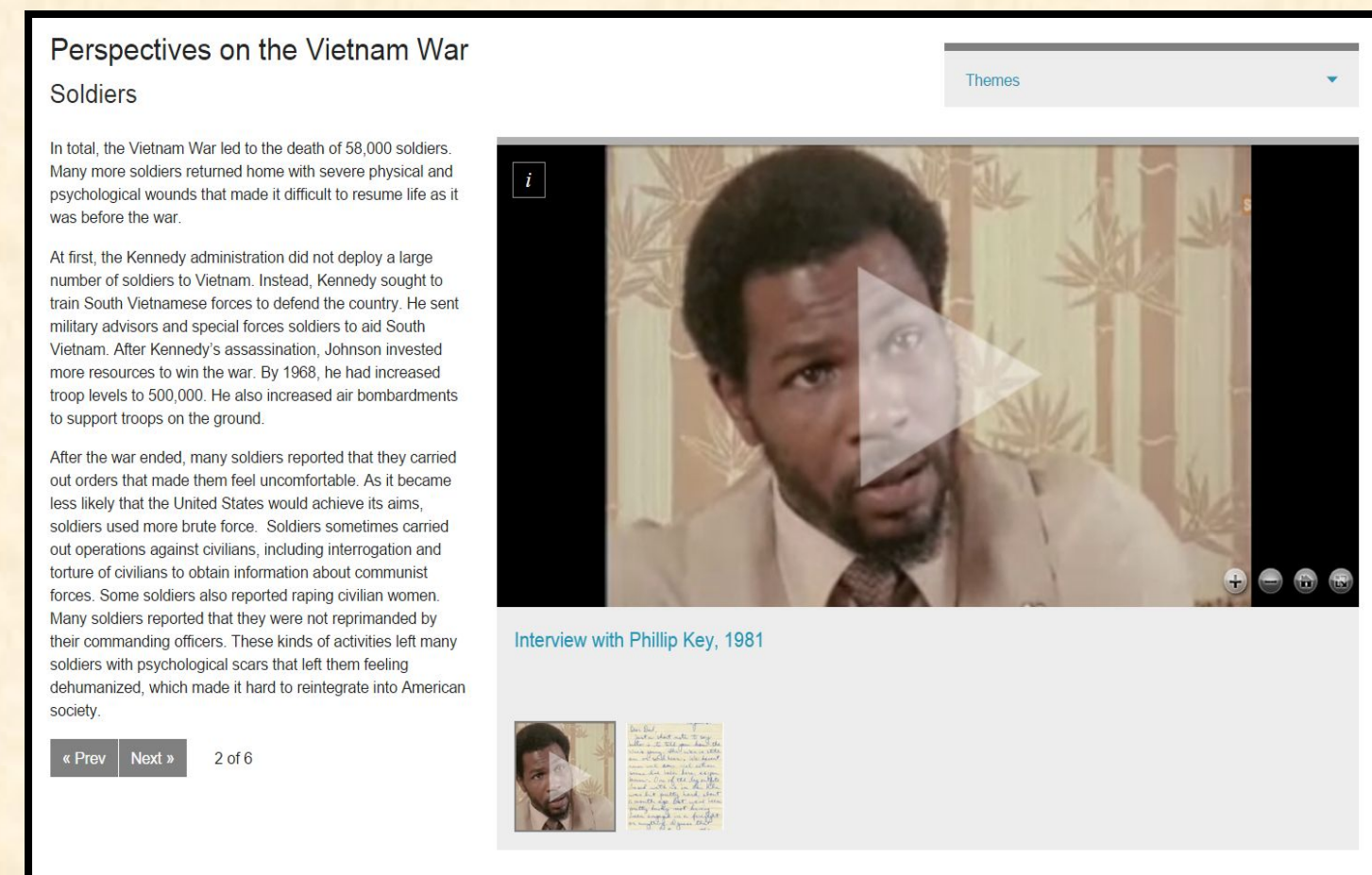
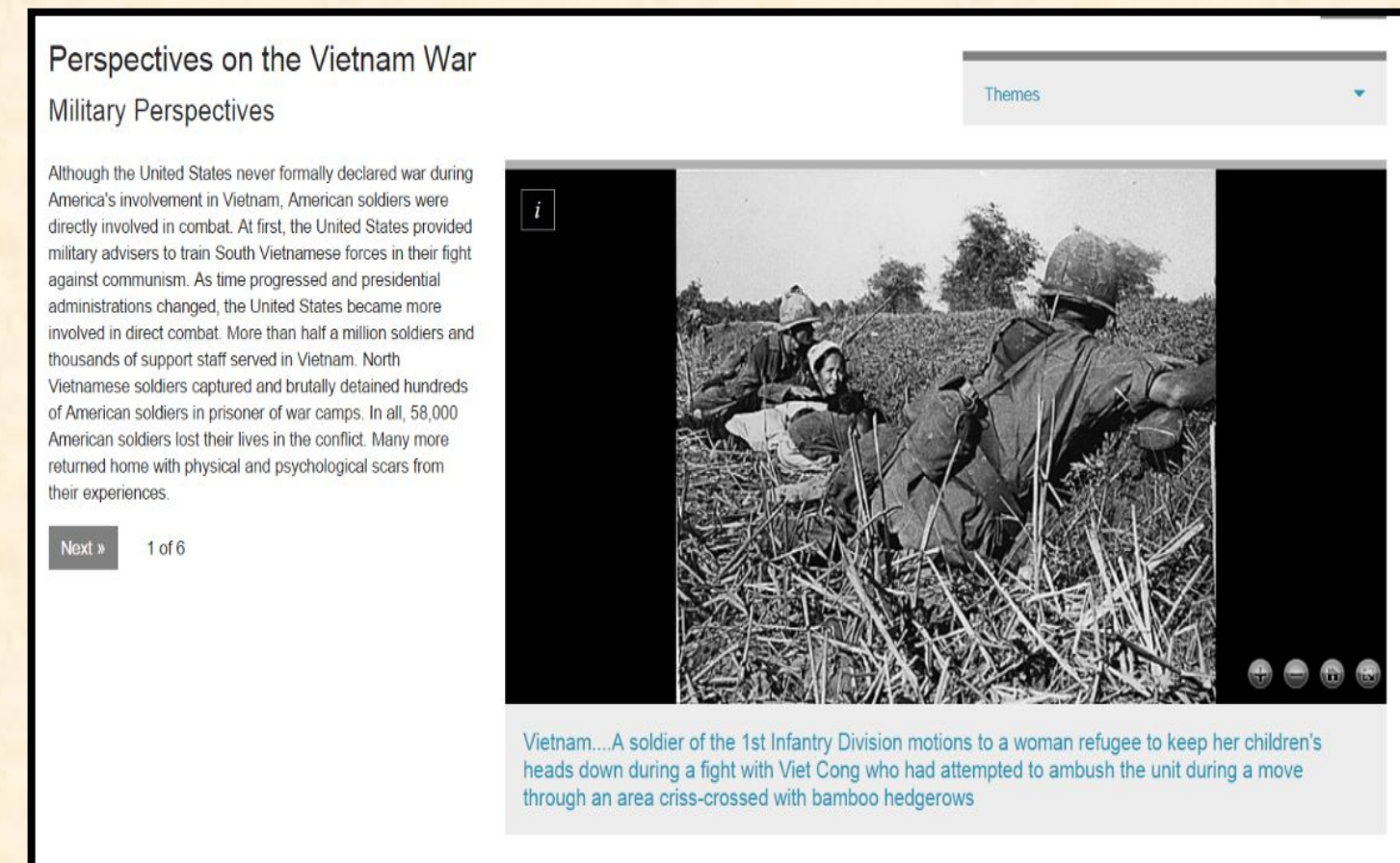
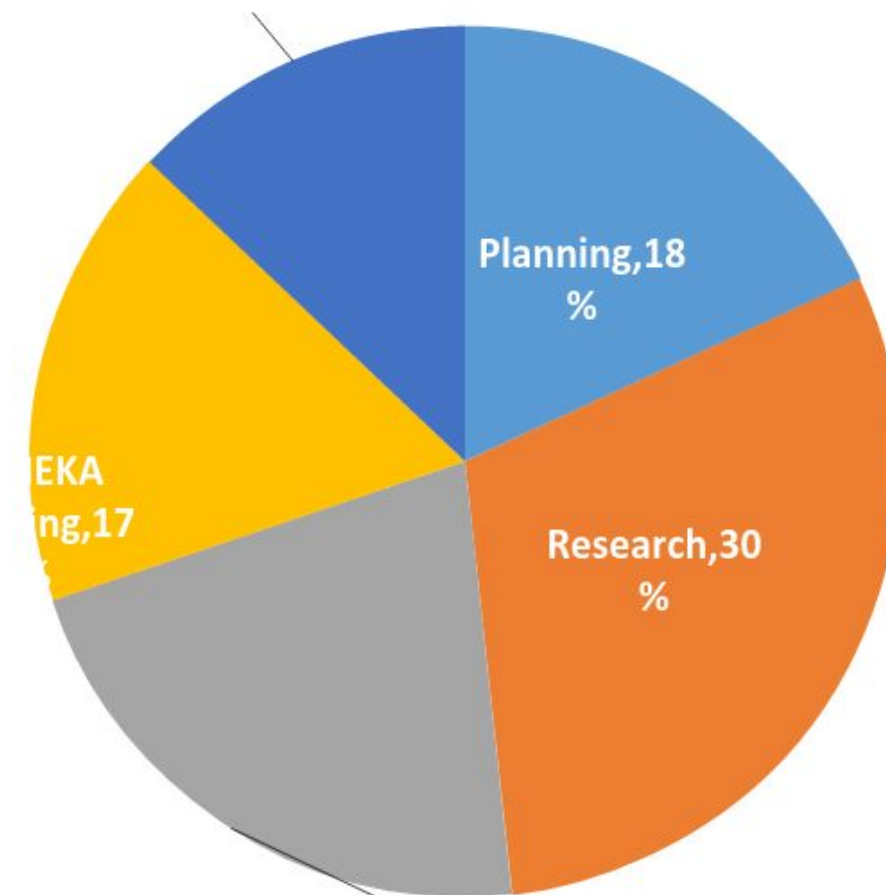
Our goals with this exhibit were to gather different perspectives of the war through personal stories, the media, presidential administrations of the war, military personnel, and the general public, including famous figures. We strived to demonstrate the variety of perspectives on the Vietnam War through a variation of digital objects and content that will be engaging for users: both black and white and color photos, videos, and audio files. Furthermore, we wanted to ensure that our digital materials are of high quality, properly documented with metadata, and easy to search and find thus all of our objects are from DPLA and are from usable original sources.

Object Selection Process:

- Researchers gathered DPLA objects within organized DPLA saved folders
- Group meeting to go through each of possible objects, together
- Gathered more objects to replace unusable
- All team member vote on extras
- Team leader made final selection



Project Process Time



Learning Experience

Throughout the project, there were both triumphs and low points. Restrictions in copyright for famous figures and media posed one of the major barriers in the selection process. With further searching, all of the other stories had wonderful objects. 100% of our varied 40 objects came from DPLA and their respected partners in a variety of high quality formats. For the metadata, finding the original source information for objects was difficult; we had to supplement the metadata records from DPLA to suit our expectations. Overall our team felt that we had succeeded in our original goals in addition to succeeding expectations. Our exhibit demonstrated many, different American perspectives of the Vietnam War that was woven together with awe-inspiring narratives to convey one, controversial story of American history.

