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Creating Primary Sources with First-Generation Students

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Creating Primary Sources with First-Generation Students

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The James A. Michener Library
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Our Project

After a couple unsatisfying efforts to demonstrate the value and personal nature of the University Archives to students in Undergraduate Research courses.

Finally, we asked students to interview each another about their first year at UNC.

These videos are being added to the university's permanent online collection.

Slides, assignment, and videos available at
libguides.unco.edu/firstgen

The Purpose of Archives

• Identify records and papers of enduring value

• To preserve those materials

• To make those materials accessible to researchers

archives

What We Collect

- University Records

- Special Collections

- James A. Michener Papers and Collections

archives

University Publications. Bulletins, Catalogs and Newspapers, 1890-2016.

Student Clubs and Organizations. Fraternities to political activists, ca. 1890-2016

Scrapbooks and Albums, Lantern Slides, ca. 1890s-1920s

archives

The Administrative voice
is the primary voice
of the archives.

The Student voice is limited.

archives

The Goals of the Assignment

- Teach purpose and use of Primary Sources to LIB course students

- Increase use of the University Archives

- Increase student voice in UNC Archives

- Demonstrate value of lived experiences in academic setting

- Make materials accessible to future researchers

The Assignment

- Student-to-student interviews

- 4-mins of interview time ea.

- One 'required' question, others suggested, but open to student interest

- Phone-recorded formats welcomed or equipment provided

assignment

The assignment was given to students in two groups of one-credit library courses:

First-Generation students in LIB 150

Honors students in LIB 151

assignment

While the Honors students were engaged, and spoke often to pressures they felt in the program, the responses from **First Generation** students were considerably **more varied**.

First Generation students spoke to issues of **education**, **race**, **privilege**, **"fitting in**," family **expectation**, and the desire to **illuminate a path** for their peers.

assignment

UNC's TRIO program,
The **Center for Human Enrichment**, uses the assignment as an example of student achievement and promise in program assessments.

assignment

The Purpose of Digitization

• To increase access to materials

• To aid in preservation of original materials

• To provide "value-added" features

access

Selection for Digitization

- Copyright status

- Physical condition

- The item is unique/of wide interest

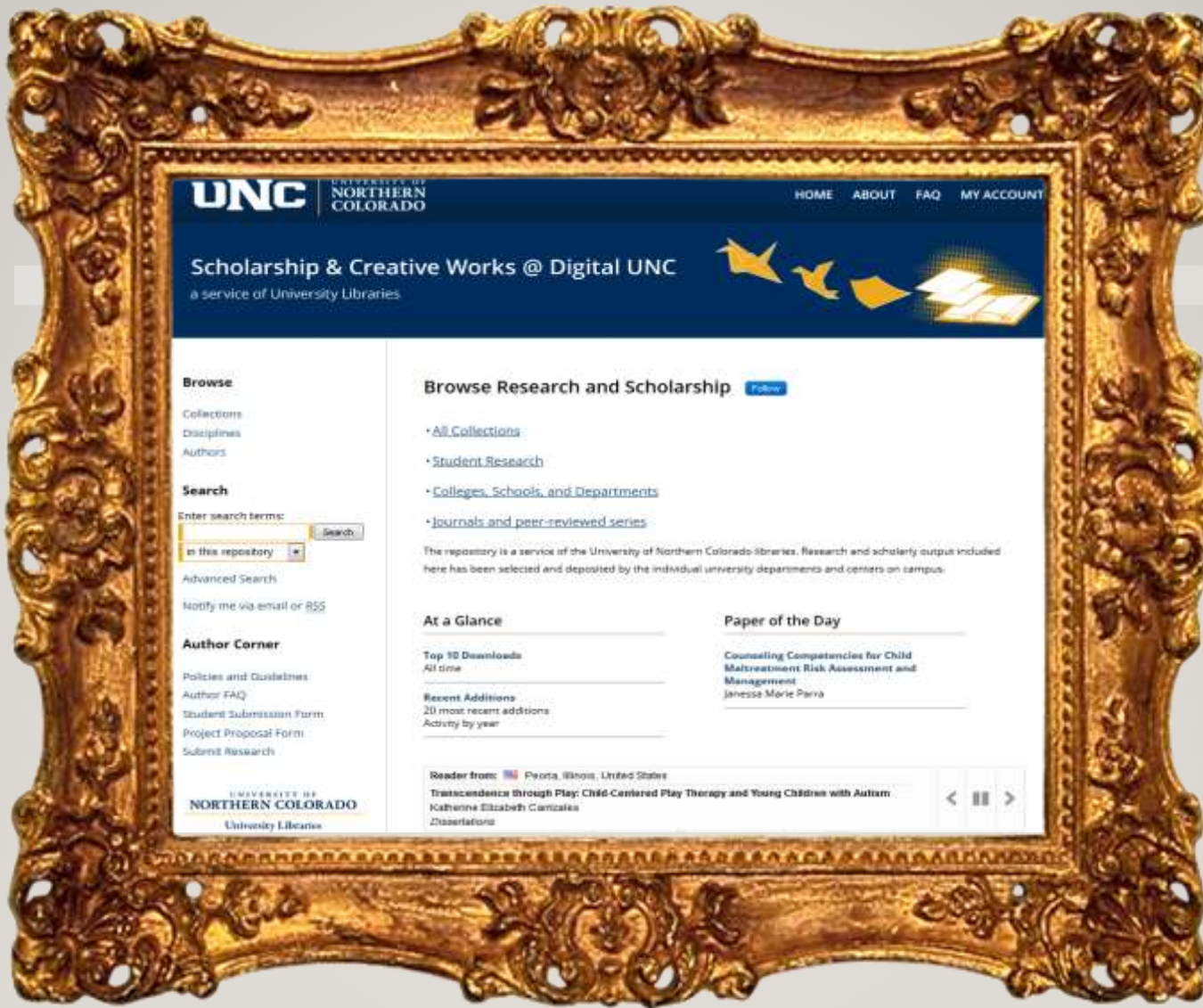access

Digital UNC

Archives & Special Collections @ Digital UNC

Scholarship & Creative Works @ Digital UNC

access

libguides.unco.edu/firstgen

access

libguides.unco.edu/firstgen

access

Putting Files in the Digital Repository

- Students submit files directly or we scrape from YouTube

- Scanned deed of gift uploaded

- 5-year embargo option

access

digscholarship.unco.edu/voices/

access

Thank you

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IFLA Information Literacy Section
Satellite Preconference
Chicago, Ill.

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