

## Hogs and Harvesters in the Digital Age: The Farm, Field, and Fireside Collection at the UIUC Library

The Farm, Field, and Fireside collection is a newly created and extensive digital archive of farm newspapers published in the Midwest from the mid-nineteenth century through the 1940s and 1950s. The wide array of publications in the collection--ranging from the hog farmer's *Berkshire Stockman* to the women's publication *The Farmer's Wife*--are an invaluable source of primary research materials and they offer a fascinating perspective on historical issues during a pivotal period of economic, social, and political growth in the United States.

The Farm, Field, and Fireside Collection is a stellar example of a digital library created to preserve a library's archived materials, and it employed digital tools for information organization, such as metadata to organize the collection and make it user accessible. The Farm, Field, and Fireside collection also is deeply immersed in the technologies of remembrance and forgetting, as it seeks to unearth and preserve a core part of Midwestern history.

This poster will discuss the creation and maintenance of the Farm, Field, and Fireside digital newspaper archive, and examine the goals behind its creation for the research needs of University of Illinois faculty, students, and staff, as well as the scholarly community at-large. The poster will explore: What research and information needs are addressed by the Farm, Field, and Fireside Collection? What was determined to be the most effective way of organizing the resources for students and researchers to use?

The poster will also review the topical web research guides that were created to support research conducted with the Farm, Field, and Fireside collection. This part of the poster will examine questions such as: What was the most effective and efficient format for delivering the research guides? How could we utilize the guides to connect the digital newspaper archive to the Library's large circulating and special collections? What type of background content was needed in the research guides in order to present the collection's items as viable sources for research? How often have the research guides been referred to by users while using the collection?

The poster session will explore how we addressed these questions by examining the maintenance and enhancement of the digital newspaper archive with Olive Active Paper Librarian software, and explaining the process of creating and maintaining web research guides that promote the Collection's interdisciplinary connections to the Library's broad print and digital collections. This poster will offer an intriguing examination of a new and wholly unique digital archive that is a valuable resource for historians, digital humanists, students, information professionals, and all interested public citizens.