



Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the UPLINK newsletter! If you're here, you're likely already a friend of the consortium who is familiar with our aims. For those of you who aren't—thanks for checking us out! UPLINK, or the Upper Peninsula Digital Network, is a consortium of historical societies, libraries, museums, and archives across the Upper Peninsula that pool their resources to digitize historical collections and make them available online. On UPLINK, you can find oral histories, newspapers, photographs, correspondence, organizational records, and much, much more from twenty-three different repositories from all across the peninsula.

Whether you're a historian looking to do in-depth research on some facet of UP history, a genealogist tracking down your ancestors, a teacher looking for primary sources for your classroom, or just someone who enjoys perusing old documents, we hope this newsletter will inspire you to explore the wealth of digital archival resources available on our [website](#).

This new outreach effort is intended to keep our community of researchers and interested members of the public informed about new collections and initiatives and to spread the word about some of the wonderful research being conducted by academic researchers, genealogists, students, and general members of the public using our collections. Along the way, we hope to share interesting tidbits of UP history and take you behind the scenes to learn about the process of making collections accessible online and the people that make it happen.

In this issue, you'll learn about some of our new collections, how an NMU student partnered with UPLINK to get an oral history project online, and our involvement in an exciting new primary source literacy institute for K-12 educators.

Finally, you'll learn about how you can follow us on social media. Our social media presence will expand next year thanks to our new student outreach coordinator, Emma Roach. Many thanks to Emma for designing and compiling this semester's newsletter!

Are you using UPLINK for your own research? Have you run across a fun fact or fascinating story in our collections? We would love to share your finds in an upcoming newsletter! Contact us at uplink@nmu.edu.

By Annika Peterson, UPLINK Digital Project Manager

Empowering K-12 Learning: UPLINK & Primary Source Literacy

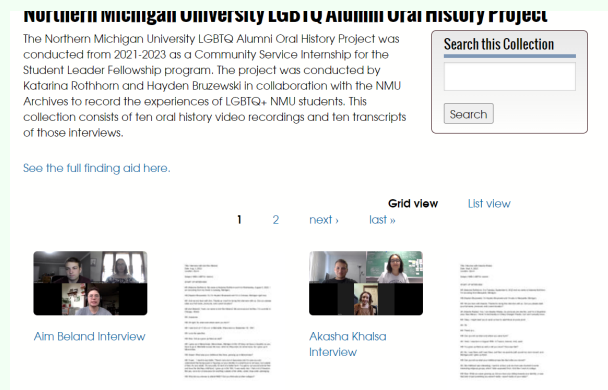
In recent years, the state history curriculum standards have increasingly emphasized the importance of using primary sources in the classroom and teaching students how to interpret a document's point of view, context, and bias. Although many teachers might want to use local archival materials in the classroom, they do not have the time to visit local historical societies and locate documents that are relevant to their lesson plans. Furthermore, many teachers want additional training in how to teach with primary sources, but professional development opportunities often require trips downstate.

To help meet this need, the Central UP & NMU Archives, NMU faculty, and the NMU branch of the National Writing Project applied for and received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the Library of Michigan. An initial webinar will cover general primary source literacy skills with educators of grades 4-12 across the Upper Peninsula. In addition, fifteen educators will receive financial support to come to a three-day institute at Northern Michigan

University in the summer of 2024. The topics for the first year will be the history of the Anishnabeg and the histories of resource extraction and environmental conservation in the UP and how teachers can teach these histories in the classroom using primary sources.

During the Institute, the participants will create lesson plans and other educational materials based around primary sources in UPLINK. We will create a website to house these lesson plans so that they can be used by teachers across Michigan. The participants will also suggest items and collections that they would like to see digitized for easier classroom use. UPLINK staff will also create a basic list of items that might be useful for teaching specific social studies standards. Over time, we hope the website will become a valuable resource for teachers to share educational materials on many facets of UP, Michigan, and American history. If you want to see a rough outline of the kinds of resources we intend to put together, a “proof of concept” draft is already [available](#), although it is based on the old Michigan social studies standards.

Exploring LGBTQ+ Histories: Oral Narratives at Northern Michigan University



Kata Rothhorn, a dedicated student at Northern Michigan University, made a groundbreaking debut with her research focused on the oral histories of LGBTQ+ students. Her compelling findings, [accessible via UPLINK](#), shed light on the experiences of LGBTQ+ alumni in rural communities like Marquette and its surroundings.

In an engaging discussion, Kata shared insights into her year-long endeavor, collaborating with two other students to conduct oral history interviews. Their goal was to capture the diverse experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals, recognizing the significance of documenting both positive and challenging narratives. Kata emphasized the importance of sharing these experiences within the LGBTQ+ community, highlighting the role of such stories as learning opportunities in the absence of direct influences. She highlighted the pivotal benefits of storing this research in a database like UPLINK.

Making these narratives easily accessible provides essential representation and empowerment, serving as valuable resources for students, researchers, and interviewees alike. Kata emphasized the universal significance of these stories, irrespective of one's background or field of study.

Regarding the potential for further exploration, Kata expressed her hope for future researchers to build upon their work, expanding and enhancing the documented narratives. She highlighted the importance of continual additions, especially concerning older generations of students, emphasizing the value of ongoing research contributions.

In summary, Kata Rothhorn's groundbreaking research underscores the significance of documenting LGBTQ+ histories, and UPLINK stands as a pivotal platform for accessibility, representation, and the continuous expansion of knowledge.

By Emma Roach, Outreach Coordinator

NEWS and UPDATES

In the last several months, UPLINK has added many new collections. Here are just some of the new collections you can peruse on our website:

- The Peter White Public Library just completed a major new addition to the popular Marquette Mining Journal collection. In addition to the 1868-1955 papers that were previously available, you can now explore 1956-1966 [here](#).
- The Saint Ignace Public Library has digitized the diaries, correspondence, and memoirs of [Georgia “Juddie” Rhoades](#).
- The Ontonagon County Historical Society has contributed more [photographs](#), [oral histories](#), [maps](#), [newspapers](#), and [other sundry items](#).
- Painesdale Mine and Shaft added more payroll records to their [Copper Range Company collection](#) as well as a [video tour](#) of the Champion #4 Mine.
- The Negaunee Historical Society has shared the full run of the [Negaunee Iron Herald](#) newspaper (1973-1968) and is currently digitizing its [local history scrapbooks](#).



Georgia “Juddie” Rhoades was a woman from Saint Ignace who was bicycling across Europe when World War II broke out. Her diaries and correspondence record her cultural and political observations about the events unfolding around her. The collection also includes later memoirs that reflect on her experiences. Pictured here is the inside cover of one of Juddie’s travel diaries, featuring a sketch of her drawn by a street artist in Berlin. You can explore the diary [here](#).



A [view](#) of the Ontonagon Harbor in 1888—one of the many treasures you’ll find in the OCHS photo collections!

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- The Thompson Township Historical Advisory Committee has added to their collection of [government records](#).
- The Drummond Island Historical Museum has digitized [articles](#) about the history of early European settlement on the island.
- The Central Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan University Archives has digitized all of its student newspapers: the [Quill Magazine](#) (1914-1918), the [Midget Quill Magazine](#) (1916-1927), the [Northern News](#) (1919-1972), the [North Wind](#) (1972-2020), the [underground student newspapers](#) (circa 1967-1975), the [Campus Review/Northern News Review](#) (1972-1987), and the [Nishnawbe News](#) (1971-1983).
- The NMU Archives has also digitized the [Red Dust Oral History collection](#) as well as [several small collections of correspondence and other materials](#) from members of the military during the Civil War, World War I, and World War II.
- UPLINK now has a total of 23 member organizations thanks to the recent additions of the Chippewa County Historical Society and the Finnish American Heritage Center. CCHS is already working on digitizing the Sault Sainte Marie Evening News, and the FAHC's finding aids will soon be available on UPLINK. Look for them in the coming months!

- As of December 1, the UPLINK database has 82,595 items to explore in 159 collections!



A panorama of Teal Lake in Negaunee from June 1894 or 1895—one of many views you can peruse in the [Teal Lake Scrapbook](#).



[Muriel Bunker](#) was a native of Marquette who served as a medic in the Women's Army Corps during World War II and was stationed in the United States, England, France, and Germany between 1943 and 1945. You can explore her correspondence, photographs, and an oral history on UPLINK.

Help UPLINK Drive Research Forward!

We are currently strategizing a comprehensive social media revitalization campaign! Through our social media channels, we aim to spotlight the exceptional collections housed on our UPLINK website. Stay informed and connected by following us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for illuminating updates!

You can now [donate money to support UPLINK](#) via the NMU Foundation. If you donate to our general UPLINK fund, you will be helping to support theLL student labor necessary for new digitization projects, staff travel toLL heritage organizations, and more.

We also welcome donations for the digitization of specific collections from NMU or from our member organizations. However, please contact us at uplink@nmu.edu before giving an earmarked donation! Before committingLLto digitizing a collection, UPLINK staff need to consider copyright, whetherLLwe have the equipment to digitize the formats in a collection, and more.



Meet some of the UPLINK and NMU Archives staff! Left to right: Samantha Pynnonen (Collections Manager), Aura Wahl-Piotrowski (Archives Student Assistant), Annika Peterson (UPLINK Digital Project Manager), Elijah Croschere (UPLINK Student Assistant), Kaitlyn Spiegl (former UPLINK Student Assistant), Karen Kasper (former UPLINK Board Member), Marcus Robyns (University Archivist & UPLINK Board Member), and Leslie Warren (Dean of Library and Instructional Support). UPLINK Staff not pictured: Quille Ronning and Thaden Weeks. [Picture taken from [this NMU Archives blog post.](#)]