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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)

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.

Further

research

on themes

& stories

TEXT HERE-->

inal stories

selected

with

content

resome quote

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

Brainstorm

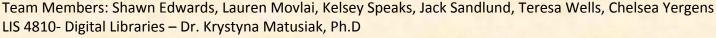
themes &

stories

based on

research

Poster Presenter & Team Leader: Hanna Schmillen, MLIS Graduate Student – University of Denver



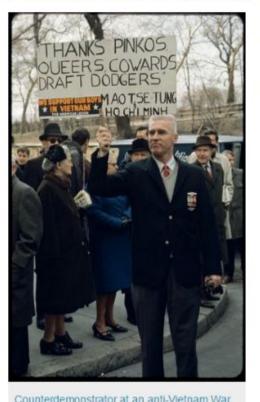
Preliminary

research

Topic

selected

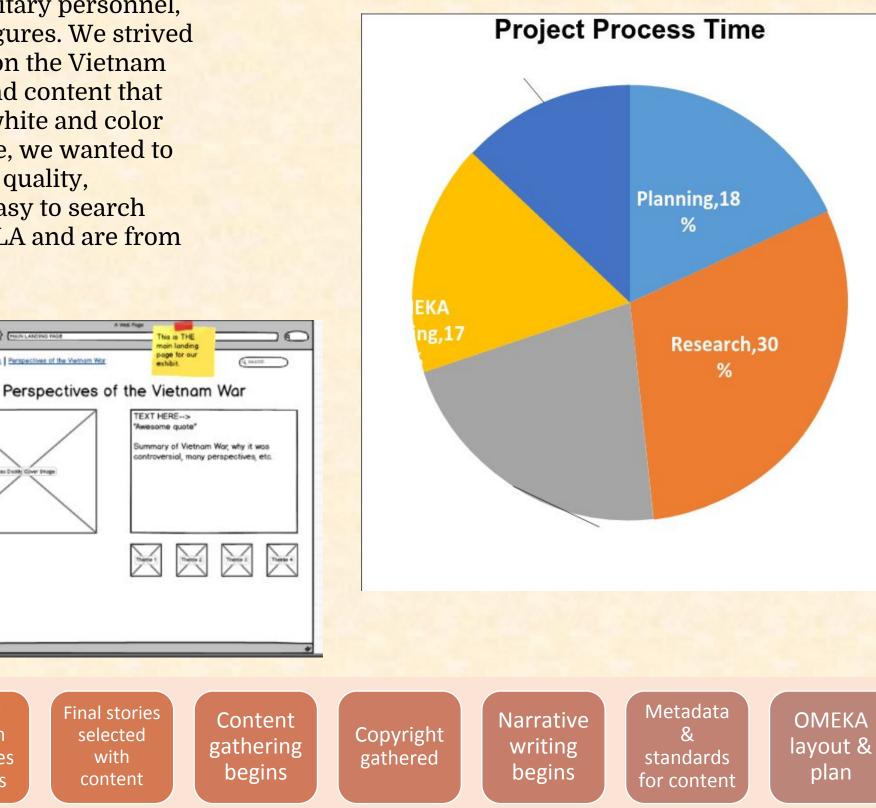




e Vietnam War was one of the most divisive conflicts in United States history. Some scholars argue that no conflict save the Civi War, created more strife among the American public and their government. Although the United States never officially declared war in the conflict. American involvement in Vietnam spanned three presidential administrations. It was the first conflict to be widely elevised by broadcast news agencies and other media organizations. The media played a role in reflecting the concerns of the American public and shaping distrust of the government's narrative about the conflict. Some factions of the American public found themselves in strong opposition to the conflict and the drafting of young Americans. Others sought to create a positive narrative of the war by seling it as a way to combat the spread of communism. A variety of complex perspectives about the war developed in ultiple arenas of American society and government



40 DPLA objects: motion pictures, still images, text, and photographs (black & white & color)



Perspectives on the Vietnam War

Shawn Edwards, Lauren Moviai, Hanna Schmillen, Kelsey Speaks, Jack Sandlund, Teresa Wells, and Chelsea Yergen

protest, Washington, D.C., 1965

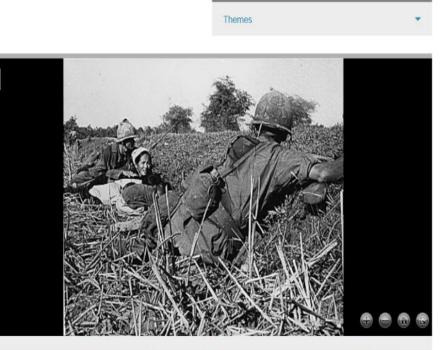
arch the Librar

Perspectives on the Vietnam War

Military Perspectives

bugh the United States never formally declared war during nent in Vietnam, American soldiers were tly involved in combat. At first, the United States provided advisers to train South Vietnamese forces in their figh nst communism. As time progressed and presidentia trations changed, the United States became more red in direct combat. More than half a million soldiers and staff served in Vietnam. North mese soldiers captured and brutally detained hundreds American soldiers in prisoner of war camps. In all. 58,000 nerican soldiers lost their lives in the conflict. Many more eturned home with physical and psychological scars from neir experiences

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nam....A soldier of the 1st Infantry Division motions to a woman refugee to keep her children heads down during a fight with Viet Cong who had attempted to ambush the unit during a move rough an area criss-crossed with bamboo hedgerows

Perspectives on the Vietnam War Soldiers

In total, the Vietnam War led to the death of 58,000 soldiers Many more soldiers returned home with severe physical and psychological wounds that made it difficult to resume life as it was before the war

At first the Kennedy administration did not deploy a large umber of soldiers to Vietnam. Instead, Kennedy sought to rain South Vietnamese forces to defend the country. He sen litary advisors and special forces soldiers to aid South nam. After Kennedy's assassination, Johnson invester rces to win the war. By 1968, he had increased op levels to 500,000. He also increased air bombardmen

r the war ended, many soldiers reported that they carried out orders that made them feel uncomfortable. As it became ess likely that the United States would achieve its aims. oldiers used more brute force. Soldiers sometimes carrie out operations against civilians, including interrogation and torture of civilians to obtain information about communist prces. Some soldiers also reported raping civilian womer Any soldiers reported that they were not reprimanded by their commanding officers. These kinds of activities left many soldiers with psychological scars that left them feeling dehumanized, which made it hard to reintegrate into America

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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.

Final section & quality analysis

Editing

OMEKA uploads & organizatior

Final reporting

Final edits

Final product