

Description Text

For use in project narratives that include Historypin as a partner. Feel free to revise as necessary.

Platform Background

The [Historypin](#) platform is free to use (though funded projects have advanced functionality), user friendly, accessible online and open to scholars, community groups, digital humanities classrooms, and the general public. It was established in 2009 with a specific focus to “support libraries, archives, museums and state and local cultural heritage organizations in efforts to increase access to and discovery of photographic, sound, and video collections.” As a digital library of historical content, the platform works closely with cultural heritage partners and aggregators to help libraries and special collections bring archival content to life. The Historypin project has generated over \$7 million in investments to humanities research and community history projects globally. Major funded partnerships have included Stanford University, the BBC, American Experience, the US National Archives and Records Administration, the National Library of Colombia, and many more.

The site is used extensively by scholars, cultural heritage organizations and history enthusiasts for research and documentation of historical sites, cultural geography, urban planning, geographical study of literature, and many more topics. In 2018 alone, Historypin provided services to 1,368 of those US users, and 3,713 users worldwide. While the site is used globally, about a third of users are in the United States. To date, the website has attracted over [98,000 registered users](#) around the world, over 4,000 of which are cultural heritage organizations, and over [34,000 unique community collections](#) have been created.

The platform is routinely listed as a free resource in guides of digital humanities tools published by university libraries, and is used widely in university classes, library and information studies programs, and by individual scholars. Recent examples of projects on Historypin include Dr. Richard Chabran’s [Latino Food Establishments](#) project at Arizona State University, Archivist Brandon Lundsford’s [Charlotte’s Historic West End](#) map at Johnson C. Smith University, and the [Green Book Project](#) led by Mike Mcusic.

Historypin Digital Products

Intellectual Property Rights and Permissions

Historypin does not take any ownership of user contributed content. Users may independently assign a selection of rights to materials uploaded to the site, using any of the Creative Commons licenses, retaining full copyright, or a number of other options. Short descriptions of the copyright licenses and a free webinar are available to users to better understand these options. All media uploaded to Historypin is freely available for public access and use on the site. Contributors to the Historypin site are presented with terms and conditions upon account registration.

Creating or Collecting Digital Content, Resources, or Assets

Historypin can hold information on image (jpg,png), and embed audio (wav, mp3), and video (mov, mp4) files from SoundCloud, Vimeo or YouTube. Historypin will provide the platform for aggregating and displaying the project's digital collection. Historypin can hold image (jpg,png) files of 5MB per image online.

Workflow and Asset Maintenance/Preservation

Media content and metadata will be available on HistoryPin regardless of using a free or advanced account. (if using an advanced account, it's advisable that you plan to download all metadata and media content at the completion of your project for long term preservation at your institution)

Metadata

Historypin uses a revised Dublin Core standard for metadata. Users with advanced accounts may request a data pull of their information. This metadata download service is available to users for the duration of their advanced account subscription. Historypin is fully searchable, and can be used to access and cross reference data, as well as offering a full embed into other sites. There is also an Application Programming Interface available.

Access and Use

The Historypin platform can make information accessible to the public, via website and mobile browsing.