Looking through the rearview mirror:

Crowdsourced transcription of *The Louisville Leader* newspaper

Rachel Howard, University of Louisville

Midwest Archives Conference

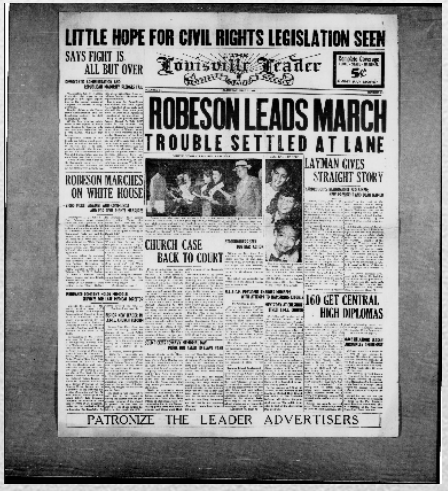
Crowdsourcing transcription: Putting users in the driver's seat

April 19, 2013

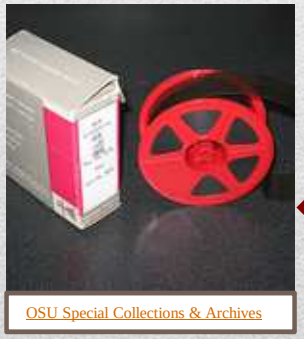
Roadmap

- Journey from newsprint to digital (http://uofl.me/lib-LouisvilleLeader)
- Building infrastructure for transcription
- Paving the way for online access
- Playing traffic cop
- Where do we go from here?

Published weekly 1917-1950



Digitized in 2011 (7,146 TIFFs)



OSU Special Collections & Archives

Microfilmed by UofL in 1978 (7 reels)

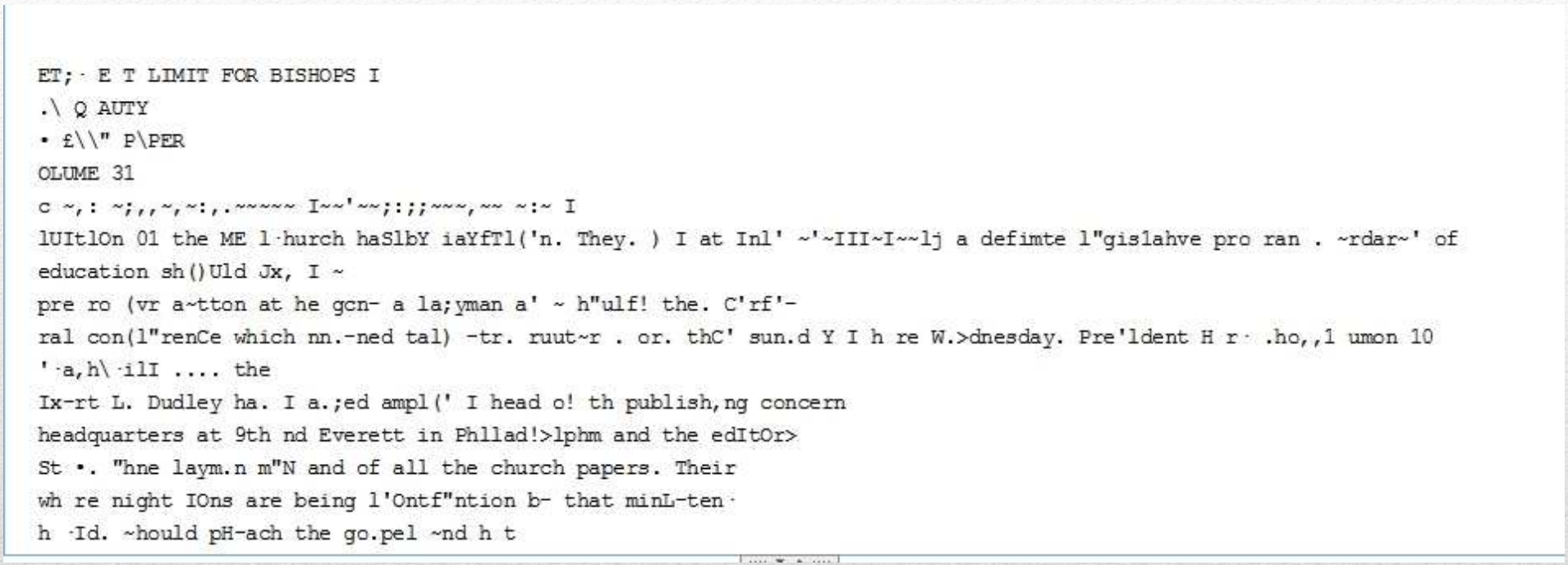
Damaged by fire in 1954

P 03250, R. G. Potter Collection, UofL Photographic Archives

Preserved by KSU (899 issues + fragments)

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

Archival journey



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Roadblock

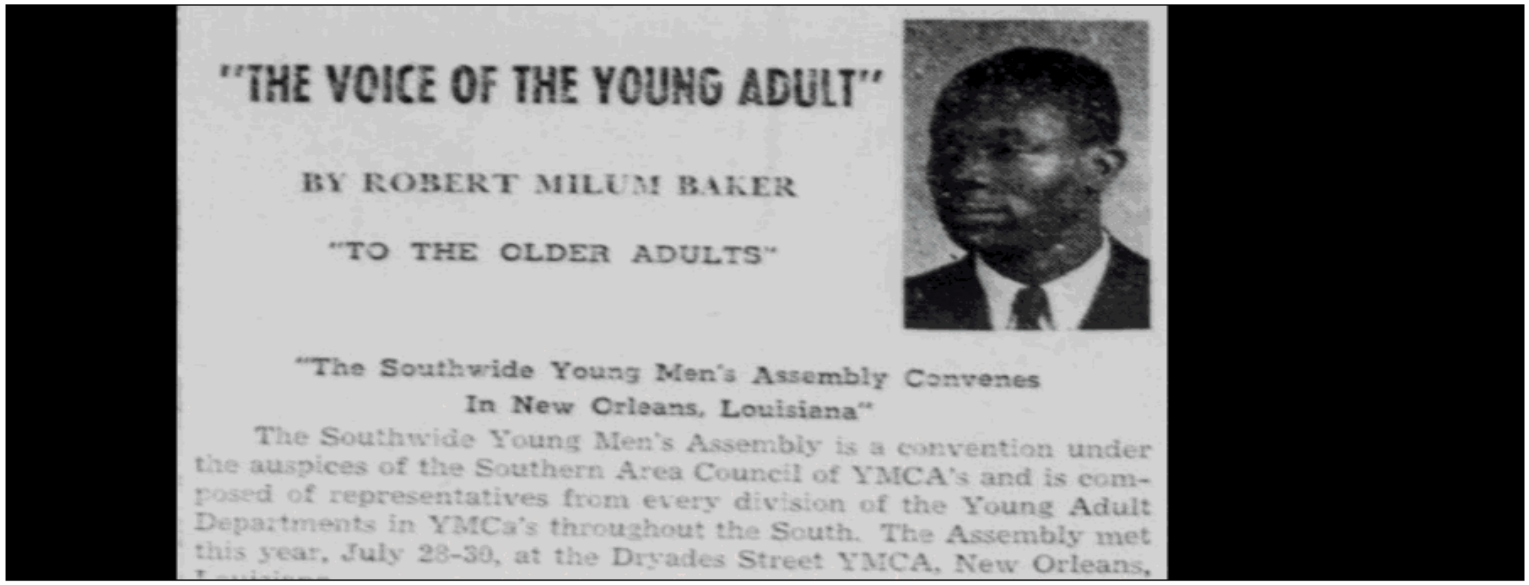
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

iTRANSCRIBE

LOUISVILLE LEADER TRANSCRIPTION PROJECT

"The Voice Of The Young Adult" - August 12, 1950

TRANSCRIBE ME!



"THE VOICE OF THE YOUNG ADULT"

BY ROBERT MILUM BAKER

"TO THE OLDER ADULTS"

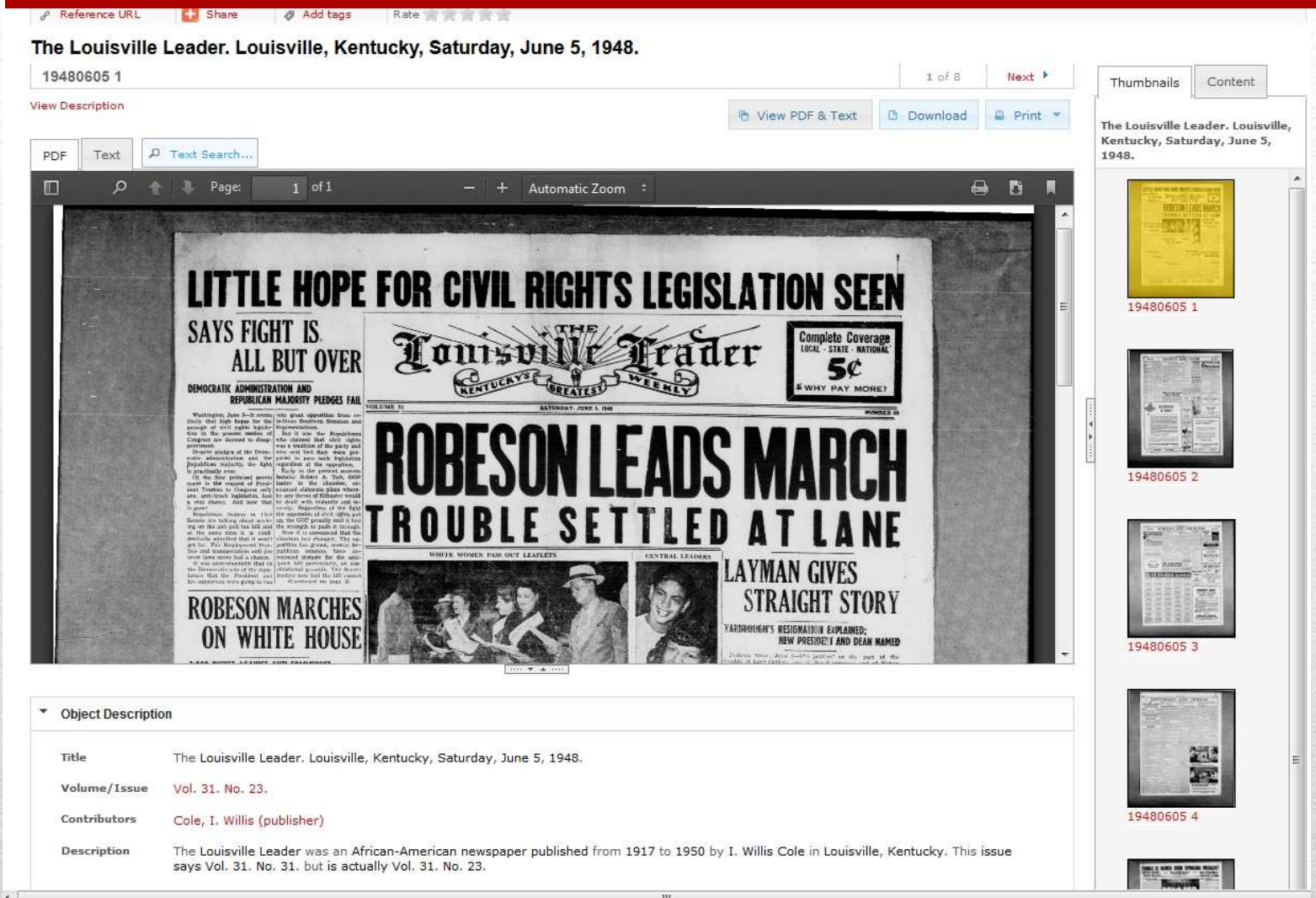
"The Southwide Young Men's Assembly Convenes In New Orleans, Louisiana"

The Southwide Young Men's Assembly is a convention under the auspices of the Southern Area Council of YMCA's and is composed of representatives from every division of the Young Adult Departments in YMCa's throughout the South. The Assembly met this year, July 28-30, at the Dryades Street YMCA, New Orleans,

Type the article in this box:

Instructions

1. Type what you see - even if it's misspelled or factually/grammatically incorrect.
   a. Do not use indents, tabs, or extra spaces.
   b. Line breaks are optional, but will not be saved in final version.
   c. End of line hyphenation should be



Access route

- Select articles to be transcribed
- Clip using Photoshop
- Upload JPEGs to Omeka with minimal metadata
- Transcribers select articles of interest
  - Often, first available
  - OR targeting all in one issue
- Upon clicking “Send Transcript,” articles are emailed to service account maintained by Digital Initiatives Librarian

Circuitous path

The Louisville Leader. Louisville, Kentucky, Saturday, August 12, 1950.

"THE VOICE OF THE YOUNG ADULT"
BY ROBERT MILUM BAKER [Photo]
"TO THE OLDER ADULTS"
"The Southwide Young Men's Assembly Convenes In New Orleans, Louisiana"
The Southwide Young Men's Assembly is a convention under the auspices of the Southern Area Council of YMCA's and is composed of representatives from every division of the Young Adult Departments in YMCa's throughout the South. The Assembly met this year, July 28-30, at the Dryades Street YMCA, New Orleans, Louisiana.
Organizations of the Young Adult Departments that were represented were Phalanx Fraternity, Gradale Sorority, and the Y's Men's Club.
Phalanx Fraternity is a YMCA fraternity bearing the motto: "Friendship, Understanding and Service". Its purpose is to instill in young men the ideals of Christianity, respect for womanhood, love of country and community and the idea of making the most of themselves.
Gradale Sorority is a YMCA organization of young ladies with ideals similar to those of Phalanxmen. The Gradale Sorority is the sister organization of the Phalanx and provides a chance for young people to work, play, learn, and reason with one another in order that a better, wholesome understanding of the opposite sexes might be created among them.
The Y's Men's Club is another young men's organization of the YMCA. It is usually composed of men who are older than those

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Object Description

Title	The Louisville Leader. Louisville, Kentucky, Saturday, August 12, 1950.
Volume/Issue	Vol. 33. No. 32.
Contributors	Cole, I. Willis (publisher)
Description	The Louisville Leader was an African-American newspaper published from 1917 to 1950 by I. Willis Cole in Louisville, Kentucky. This issue says Vol. 32. No. 25. but is actually Vol. 33. No.32. There are small holes in the center of each page of this issue.
Subject	Newspapers African American newspapers
Date Original	1950-08-12
Object Type	Newspapers
Source	Issue on Reel 6 of microfilmed Louisville Leader Collection. Item Number ULUA Leader 19500812 in the Louisville Leader Collection, University of Louisville Archives and Records Center.

Benefits

- Excellent outreach opportunity
  - Local media coverage
  - “Super-user”
- Level of internal interest indicates morale-boosting properties of exciting projects
- Improved access to important historical materials

Challenges

- Overwhelming
  - Labor-intensive manual workflow
  - Results of keyword searches now dominate digital collections
  - Software, server crashes
- Neverending
  - Students' selectivity differed
  - When can original OCR be deleted?
  - Transcribers skip continuation pages; fail to submit
  - PR efforts need to be ongoing

The road ahead

- Improve workflow for internal and external users
- Add forum for users to engage with one another about the content
- Add fragments

Contact

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