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The Recovery Hub

MAY 7, 2024 | ISSUE #1

For friends of the Recovery Hub for American Women Writers



The Recovery Hub for American Women Writers supports projects recovering the work of women writers of the Americas by providing open, digital access to their forgotten or neglected texts. This e-newsletter provides you with news and resources you can use to share in our mission of fostering collaboration, mentorship, and community-building as we disrupt the literary canon.

[Contact Us](#)

Calls for Submissions



Teaching Materials Update

Thank you to everyone who responded to our open call for teaching materials related to using or developing digital literary-recovery projects in the classroom. Our graduate fellows Alice Martin and Tracy Fernandez Rysavy are currently preparing them for our peer reviewers. Those who submitted should hear back from us in the next few weeks.



Once these teaching materials have been through peer review, Alice and Tracy will work with submitters to post them in the Resource Library on our website over the summer. We'll update you in a future issue of "The Hub" when these materials are available to the public.

The Recovery Hub plans to continue to grow the Resource Library on our website into a robust clearinghouse of peer-reviewed information and lesson plans for educators who want to bring neglected literature by American women into the classroom. If you have teaching materials to suggest, please email [Alice Martin](#) and/or [Tracy Fernandez Rysavy](#), and we'll ask our reviewers to consider them on a case-by-case basis.

Introducing Our Cultivation Projects

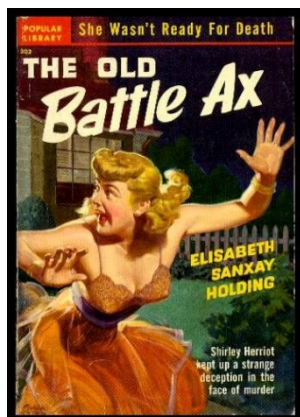
Each year The Recovery Hub for American Women Writers provides significant support for two digital projects in their early phases. Recovery practitioners who are awarded "project cultivation" will receive a \$2,000 stipend to support their work on a digital recovery project that fits the Hub's mission.

The Recovery Hub is pleased to announce that we've chosen the following projects for cultivation in 2024:

- The bell hooks Digital Archive:** In 2015, bell hooks, cultural critic, feminist, and insurgent Black intellectual, donated her papers to the Hutchins Library at Berea College. [The bell hooks print archive](#) includes correspondence, academic work, writings, and video recordings. The bell hooks Digital Archive will create an open-access, searchable platform that houses select artifacts from hooks' donated papers. Additionally, the archive will serve as a repository of information and resources about hooks. The methodologies informing the curation/creation of resources are grounded in the scholarship of digital and public humanities and Black feminist studies. Berea Teacher-Scholar in Residence Dr. Megan Feifer is leading the creation of this digital archive, with Berea College's Digital Librarian Abby Houston.



- Elizabeth Sanxay Holding Digital Edition:** Dr. Margaret Toth from Manhattan College is at the beginning stages of creating a digital edition of the short fiction of Elizabeth Sanxay Holding (1899-1955). Sanxay Holding was a prolific author, penning 23 novels and over 200 short stories in her lifetime. While she began her career as a writer of romance fiction, she shifted to suspense fiction after WWII and earned a high-profile reputation in that genre, along with praise from the likes of Raymond Chandler and Alfred Hitchcock. "Indeed, she is sometimes referred to as the Godmother of Noir,"



says Toth. Toth has been working to recover over 70 short stories by Sanxay Holding that were originally published in popular magazines, including *McCall's*, *Redbook*, *Street and Smith's Detective Fiction*, and others. She hopes her digital edition of Sanxay Holding's stories will reverse the longtime scholarly neglect of this prolific and influential author.

Learn more about the Hub's project cultivation on [our website](#).

Hub News



The Recovery Hub at the ALA Conference

If you're planning to attend the American Literature Association's annual conference on May 23-26 in Chicago, you can see the Hub in action! Here's what we have in store at ALA:

- Friday, May 24, 2:30 - 3:50 p.m. (Session 12-G): Melissa Homestead, Recovery Hub Content Specialist, will take part in a panel on **Recovery and Republication in the Digital Age** (Salon 12). Dr. Homestead will talk on "The Recovery Hub for American Women Writers as a Resource for Recovery and Republication." Organized by the Mary E. Wilkins Freeman Society.
- Saturday, May 25, 10:00-11:20 a.m. (Session 17-G): Hub Director Jessica DeSpain will discuss "The View from the Recovery Hub for American Women Writers" as part of **The Future of American Women's Literary Studies Panel** (Salon 12), convened by the Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW).
- Saturday, May 25, 2:30 - 3:50 p.m. (Session 20-C): Recovery Hub Graduate Fellows Alice Martin and Tracy Fernandez Rysavy will talk about building the Recovery Hub's Resource Library of peer-reviewed teaching materials as part of a **Roundtable: Building Community-Based Digital Projects** (Salon 5). They'll be joined by Director of Assessment and Teaching Materials Kristen Lillvis, who will speak on "Transforming the Authority of the Archive." This session is organized by



A Coalition of Societies Devoted to the
Study of American Authors
www.americanliteratureassociation.org

the Digital Americanists Society and the Recovery Hub for American Women Writers.

We invite you to attend these sessions and say hello to us afterward! For more information on the conference, visit the [ALA website](#).

"Digital Pedagogy" Recordings Available

If you missed our Spring Tech Hour Zoom panels on digital pedagogy, you're in luck! We've posted them to our new YouTube site.

- [**Using Digital Archives in the Classroom**](#): This panel from February 27th featured the following scholars:
 - Dr. Mary Chapman of the Winnifred Eaton Archive;
 - Sydney Lines of the Winnifred Eaton Archive;
 - Dr. Suzanne Edwards (Lehigh) of the Gloria Naylor Archive.
- [**Engaging Students in Recovery Work**](#): Our April 9th panel included the following scholars:
 - Dr. Tisha Brooks, author of *Spirit Deep: Recovering the Sacred in Black Women's Writing*;
 - Dr. Kate Adams, Jacquelyne Howard, and Julia Creson of This Beautiful Sisterhood of Books ([see below](#));
 - and Dr. Cindy Damon-Bach of the Catharine Maria Sedgwick Online Letters and Sedgwick Stories.

Tech Hours are a series of open-forum workshops and talks hosted by the Recovery Hub every spring. These discussions engage with topics related to digital recovery and ethics, offer project development tips, or share technical skills to increase interest in digital recovery projects broadly. Tech Hours expand access to the skills necessary to pursue digital recovery and create a continual opportunity for networking within our larger community.



The Recovery Hub in *Legacy Journal*

Read all about The Recovery Hub for American Women Writers and articles from our associated projects in the new issue of [*Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*](#).

Legacy Vol. 40 contains the following articles from Hub team members and allies:

- An introduction to our work by Hub Director Jessica DeSpain and several members of our project team and steering committee: Director of Editorial Environment Karin Dalziel, Content Specialist Melissa Homestead, Director of Assessment and Teaching Materials Kristen Lillvis, graduate student Kezia Miller, Steering Committee member Jina DuVernay, Director of Cultivated Projects Emily Rau, and Director of Consultation Margaret Smith.



- Hub Director of Consultation Margaret Smith has a piece on *"Creating Ethical and Sustainable Collaborations in Digital Recovery."*
- Etta Madden, whose work on Anne Hampton Brewster was one of the Hub's 2023 Cultivation projects, published her article *"Cultivation and Sustainability with Student Collaborators: Anne Hampton Brewster's Philadelphia Evening Bulletin Letters from Rome, 1869–1870"* with Alyssah Morrison in this issue.
- Sydney Lines, Project Manager, and Joey Takeda, Technical Director of The Winnifred Eaton Archive, one of the Hub's peer-reviewed Project Showcases, published *"Recovering a Future Artifact: The Winnifred Eaton Archive and a Genealogy of Care."*

View [Legacy, Vol. #40](#) free at Project MUSE.

Showcase Projects



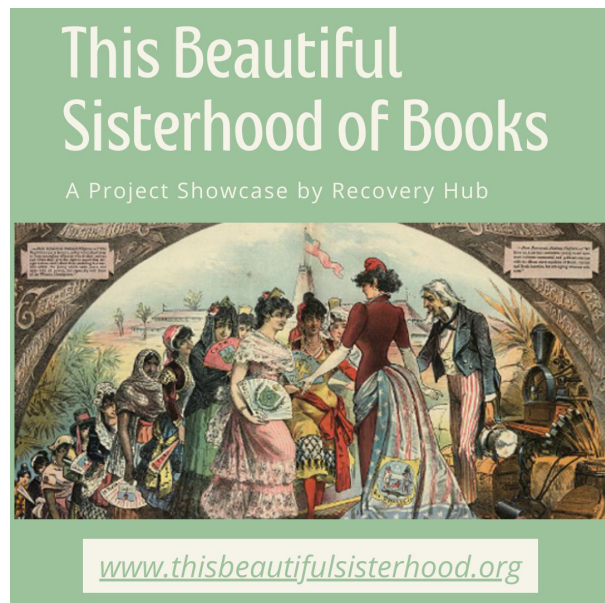
In every issue, we'll feature one of the Recovery Hub's Project Showcases. Each Showcase highlights a digital archive of neglected works by American woman writers. These archives have been peer reviewed by digital-humanities scholars affiliated with The Recovery Hub, and the Showcases also detail highlights from that review.

This Beautiful Sisterhood of Books

Recovery Hub's latest Project Showcase is [This Beautiful Sisterhood of Books](http://www.thisbeautifulsisterhoodofbooks.org), a digital recreation of the Women's Literary Department from the 1884 World's Fair in New Orleans. The original exhibit pulled together more than 1,400 books, journals, newspapers, and sheet music mostly written or edited by women. Though the original library was lost, the digital replica means you have the chance to browse the exhibit and search by genre, author, state, or keyword.

Original curator Maud Howe ignored requests to include works by Black women, but the digital archivists—Mary Chapman, Jean Lee Cole, Joey Takeda, Sydney Lines, and Serina Patterson—are engaging in “speculative recovery,” adding in texts by Black women of the time that could have been included, along with other relevant materials.

Recovery Hub Project Showcases are provided for all projects that go through the Hub's peer-review process for digital archives that fit our mission. To access the Hub's Project Showcases and get live links to this vibrant archive and others, visit [our website](http://www.recoveryhub.org).



Hub Services



Free Consultations for Mission-Related Digital Projects

Are you dreaming up a digital project centered around literary recovery? Do you have an author or text in mind for an open-access online edition, but you don't have all of the tech know-how you need? Are you mid-project but stuck on a particular aspect? Or maybe you're just about finished, but you don't know where to park your project? Good news! The

Recovery Hub for American Women Writers can help with these issues and more.

As part of our mission, The Recovery Hub offers free consultations for scholars at any stage of completion of a digital project related to recovering the works of women writers of the Americas. We provide one free consultation per year for non-members. With a [membership](#), scholars can request up to four additional consultations per year. Consultation will be available for scholars of any rank, with or without institutional affiliations.

To request a free consultation with our digital-humanities experts, complete [this form](#) on the Hub website.



RECOVERY HUB
for **AMERICAN**
WOMEN
Writers!

Planning a digital project that
recovers neglected literature by
women of the Americas?

We can help!

The image also features a vertical strip of book covers on the right side, including 'CATTLE' by Margaret Fuller, 'THE YELLOW WALLPAPER' by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 'WOMEN: BREWSTER PLACE' by Gloria Naylor, and 'Ghosts' by H. D. Coverley.

Recovery News



[A Recovered Harriet Beecher Stowe Ghost Story](#)

The October 2023 issue of *PMLA* featured a newly recovered anti-slavery ghost story by Harriet Beecher Stowe. "The Captain's Story" is available free online with an introduction by Ellen Gruber Garvey, who writes, "In 1882, what was possibly Harriet Beecher Stowe's last story appeared in the weekly *Our Continent*. 'The Captain's Story,' set in Florida, hinges on a ghost story told by a slave-trade-abetting skipper and finds Stowe revisiting the violences of slavery in ways she had not done since *Uncle Tom's Cabin* or her other abolitionist works."

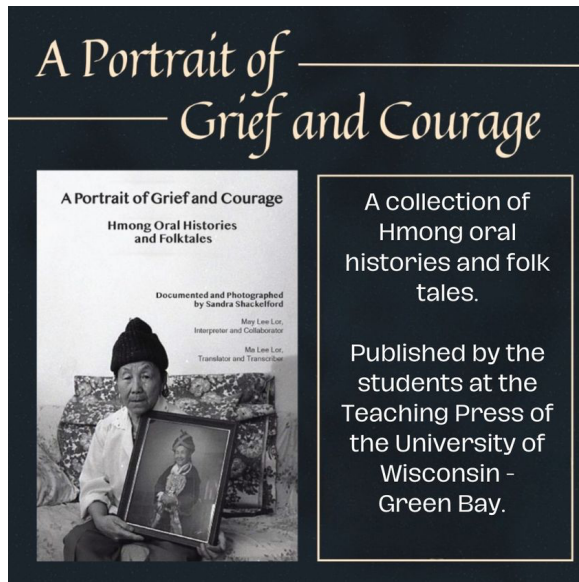
To read "The Captain's Story" and Garvey's introduction, visit the [PMLA website](#).



Hmong Oral Histories and Folktales Published by Students

Students at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (UWGB) Teaching Press, together with their professor, Dr. Rebecca Meacham, recently released *A Portrait of Grief and Courage: Hmong Oral Histories and Folktales*. Edited, designed, and printed by students, the book features oral histories and folktales from Hmong residents of Green Bay, WI, compiled by Sandra Shackelford and translated by May Lee Lor. While these emotional and riveting stories are kept alive by oral traditions, this book engages in recovery in the sense that it makes them available to a wider audience.

To learn more, visit the [UWGB Teaching Press blog](#).



About Us

This e-newsletter is published by the Recovery Hub for American Women Writers, a project of the IRIS Center at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, St. Catherine University, and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. The Recovery Hub is funded by a generous grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities. Our mission, in brief, is to support the digital recovery of neglected literature by women writers of the Americas. Learn more at: <https://recoveryhub.siu.edu/>

Membership: An [annual membership](#) to the Recovery Hub includes up to five yearly, hour-long appointments with the Hub's group of trained consultants.

Members help fund the development of digital content featuring the works, lives, and cultural contexts of American women. Your contribution helps diversify the field of literary study. We help early-stage projects find their footing, offer peer review, and make affiliated projects available for classrooms and communities. We also mentor practitioners in the field of digital recovery, including students, K-12 teachers, librarians, archivists, and scholars of all kinds.

We aim for at least 50% of our affiliated projects to recover Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian,

and LGBTQI+ stories, texts, experiences, and voices.

PROJECT TEAM:

- **Director and Primary Investigator:** Jessica DeSpain, *Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville (SIUE)*
- **Content Specialist and Co-Investigator:** Melissa Homestead, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*
- **Director of Cultivated Projects and Co-Investigator:** Emily Rau, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*
- **Director of Assessment and Teaching Materials and Co-Investigator:** Kristen Lillvis, *St. Catherine University*
- **Director of Editorial Environment and Co-Investigator:** Karen Dalziel, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*
- **Director of Consultation and Co-Investigator:** Margaret Smith, *SIUE*
- **Graduate Fellows:** Alice Martin, *Rutgers University*, and Tracy Fernandez Rysavy, *University of Wisconsin-Green Bay*

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Contact us:

- **The Recovery Hub website:** <https://recoveryhub.siue.edu/>
- **Facebook:** [@AWWrecoveryhub](#)
- **Instagram:** [@AWWrecoveryhub](#)
- **BlueSky:** [@recoveryhubAWW](#)

Sign up for our email newsletter! <https://bit.ly/recovery-hub-newsletter>

