Make your local history a living history

We can help you bring your community collections alive with our range of online tools and services

ODW offers a range of digital solutions and services for small to large community heritage organizations, including archives, academic and public libraries, and museums, to make digital collections accessible and discoverable.

Talk to us about:

- Database migration for indexes and metadata records
- Custom databases & templates for special collections
- Transcription tools for image-only documents
- Custom search sites for regional, theme or content-based collections
- Large-scale digitization projects for newspapers and multimedia collections

Our tools and services…

- Build capacity
- Leverage existing resources
- Engage your community
- Optimize your collections for discovery
- Support collaboration
- Are cost-effective and sustainable

We are…

- a not-for-profit dedicated to providing an innovative and sustainable digital platform for community collections
- a friendly, responsible team working with more than 200 libraries, museums, historical societies, archives and more…

We are thrilled that our content exists in ODW because of the access this provides to the world, but also guarantees that the data is maintained, backed-up, etc. in more places than just our own infrastructure. ODW has been able to efficiently and cost effectively complete phases of our projects that otherwise would likely not be complete. And they are terrific to work with.

Lester Webb
Director Outreach & Technology
Kingston Frontenac Public Library

ourdigitalworld.org/services
New life for years of hard work

For years, the volunteers at Cook Memorial District Public Library diligently indexed their community newspapers into Word documents displayed on the library website. When the Library decided to digitize their local newspapers from microfilm, our team extracted 37,000 records, then migrated and linked them to the newly digitized newspapers for online display and discovery.

Crowdsourcing for better search & discovery

Our transcription tool allows users to add searchable text where OCR can’t do the job, such as with handwritten or heavily damaged materials. Users can transcribe the displayed page and add metadata such as dates and geography. This tool can be customized for any project.

The Great Lake Ships sails again…

The original GreatLakeShips.org database was a custom site on a locally managed server. When the server failed, the site went down. ODW created a custom display template for complex vessel data and history using the VITA Toolkit – linked maps, zoomable images, crowdsourced community knowledge.

Connecting collections and communities online

We create unique one-stop search sites for regional, content, and theme-based portals. Our regionally-based sites include the Illinois News Collections and the Gateway to Northern Ontario. We also aggregate content provincially via ourontario.ca and the Ontario Newspaper Collection. The 1812 History, Agnes MacPhail site and the Museums of Ontario portal are some examples of theme-based sites.