

Internet Technician Report XI

On The Stevens County Crossroads on the Columbia Digital Archive

For September 2012

By Joseph Barreca

This is the 11th report in this series and the 23rd month of archiving activity. (To read previous reports, visit <http://crossroadsarchive.org/about/documents/project-progress>.)

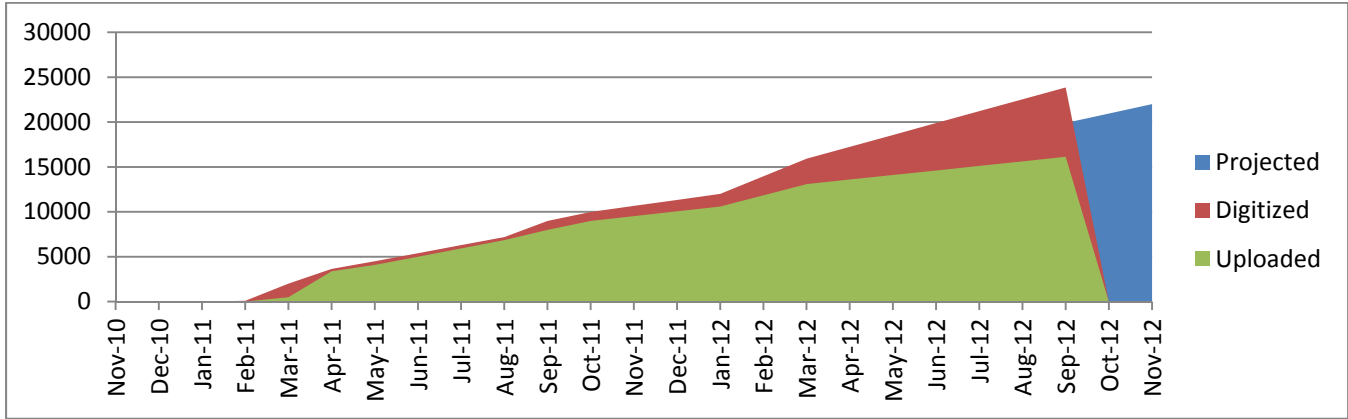
The following chart shows the status of organizations, images and dollars in the original grant.

| Agency or Organization | Agreement | Scanned | Posted | Paid | Owed |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Chewelah Historical Center | Yes | 5790 | 5765 | 7169.21 | |
| Clayton Historical Society | Yes | 609 | 609 | 834.33 | |
| US Forest Service | Yes | 382 | | NA | |
| City of Colville | Yes | 0 | | 0 | |
| City of Marcus | Yes | 146 | 146 | 0 | |
| Hunters Museum | Yes | 2128 | 2128 | 2498.88 | |
| City of Kettle Falls (Library) | Yes | 1152 | 1142 | NA | |
| Kettle Falls Historical Center | Yes | 301 | 301 | 437.03 | |
| Loon Lake Historical Society | Yes | 1205 | 832 | 1698.86 | |
| Little Pend Oreille Wildlife Refuge | No | 335 | | NA | |
| Northeast Wash. Genealogical Society | Yes | 1582 | 1582 | 1993.35 | |
| Northport Historical Society | No | 49 | | 0 | |
| Park Rapids (Private) | Yes | 448 | 448 | NA | |
| Panorama Gem and Mineral Club | Yes | 367 | 367 | NA | |
| Private Contributions | Yes | 1403 | 1403 | NA | |
| Stevens County Historical Society | No | 6128 | 3 | 0 | 8395.36 |
| Spokane Tribe | No | 0 | | 0 | |
| Springdale Pioneer Days Association | Yes | 56 | 16 | 76.2 | |
| Tiger Historical Center | Yes | 1533 | 252 | 0 | 2100.21 |
| Unaccounted | No | 195 | 195 | 0 | |
| US Park Service | No | 0 | 0 | NA | |
| Valley Historical Society | Yes | 51 | 14 | 69.87 | |
| Total | | 23860 | 16134 | | 10,495.57 |
| Goal | | 22,500 | 22,500 | 14,777.73 | |
| Remaining Count | | -1,360 | 6,366 | | 25,273.30 |
| Remaining Percentage | | -6% | 28% | | 4,726.70 |
| Images left to scan | | | | | 3450 |

This chart follows up on the initial list of museums we planned to backup with some minor substitutions. The numbers were assigned to individual museums based on the number of image files stored on one of our redundant 3 terabyte (3TB) drives. We also have a list of items that have been uploaded to the Omeka archive at CrossroadsArchive.net. We have 13,240 items on that list but it includes as single items a series of PDF files that have multiple pages in that figure totaling 1330. So the real number of uploaded items is 14,570, or 65% of the projected 22,500.

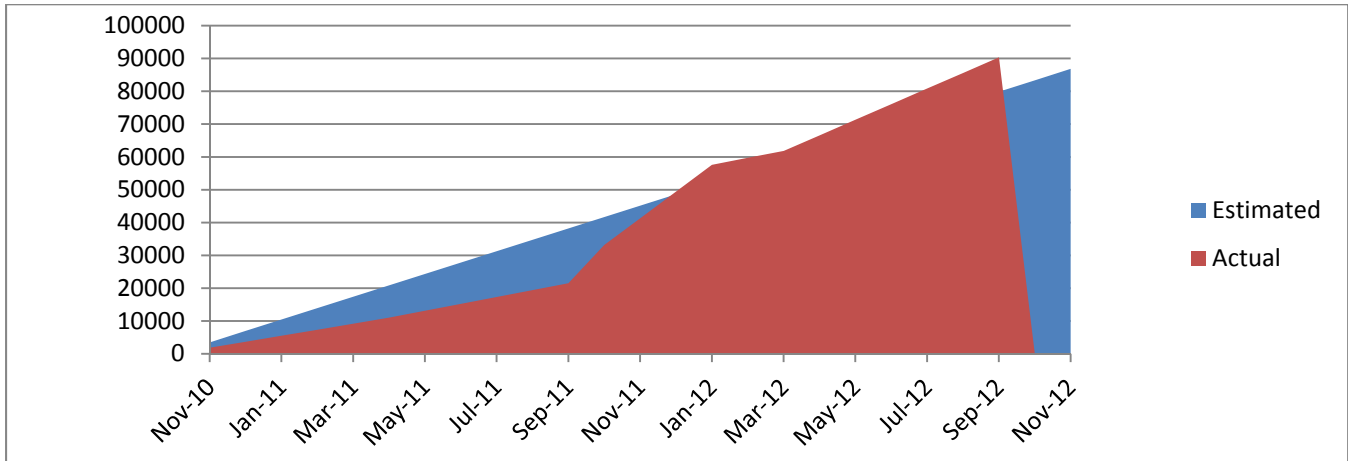
Progress Charts

Digitizing:



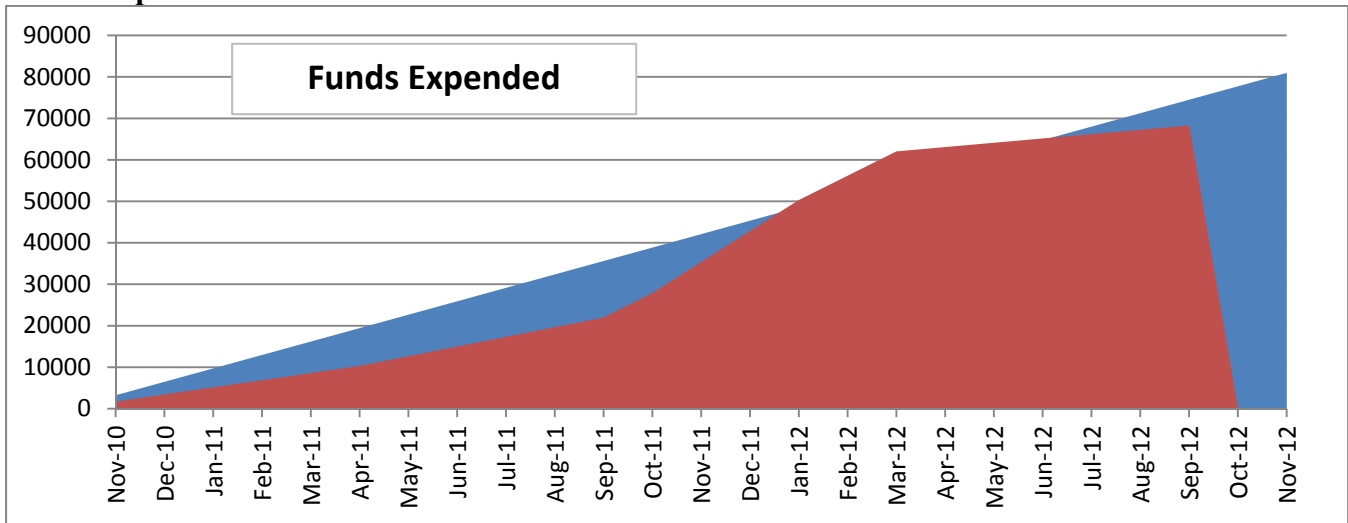
[Digitizing is ahead of schedule and uploading is behind]

Contributions:



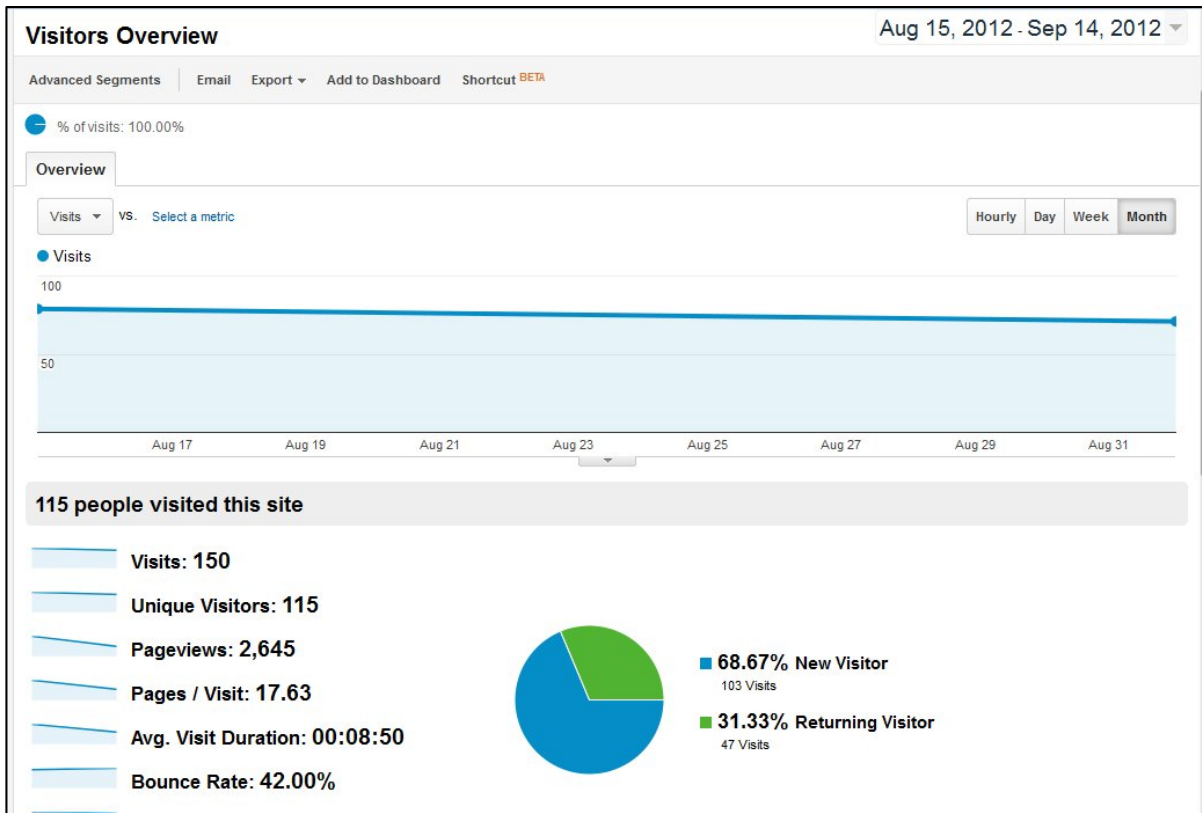
[Contributions are ahead of projections.]

Expenditures:



[Expenditures are below target.]

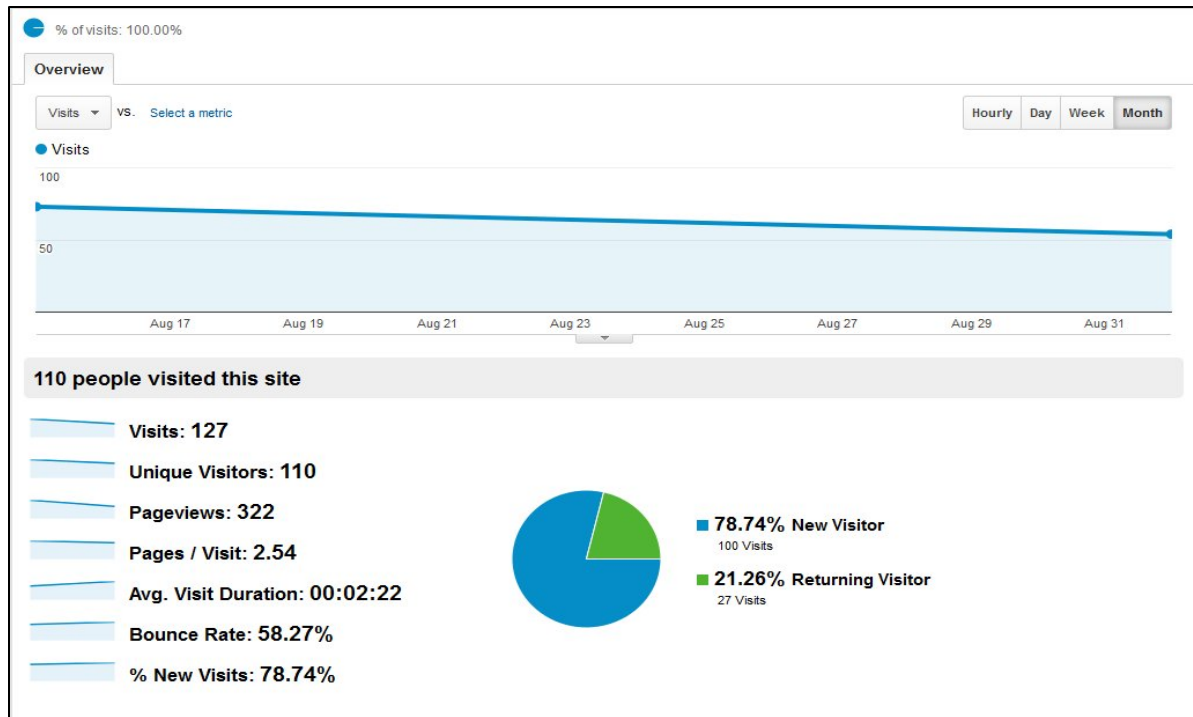
Website Activity on CrossroadsArchive.net



[The CrossroadsArchive.net site has been getting 5 to 7 times the number of visits/day as in March. The pages per visit has gone up as well as the time and percentage of new visitors.]

Website Activity on CrossroadsArchive.org

[The



CrossroadsArchive.org site also has 5-7 times the traffic as in March but pages per visit is down and returning visit percentage is up.]

Activities:

- **Website activity** has been escalating. Our team has done more to promote the websites.
- **Volunteer Recognition** was improved with a volunteer dinner on April 27th. Volunteers were given rewards and certificates. We demonstrated how the project worked. The press came and printed an article in the Statesman Examiner about the dinner and the project.
- **Popular pages** on the interpretive site include mining, old towns, the fur trade, genealogical links and the Walla Walla to Colville Military Road.
- Sue Richart and Joseph Barreca presented a **workshop** on embedding metadata in images at the annual convention of the Washington Museum Association this June in Seattle.

Challenges:

Our biggest challenge right now is overcoming the bottleneck on adding metadata to each image and posting them on the Omeka archive site. We have enlisted more volunteers to work on processing the images and some audio recordings to meet this challenge. Now that we have enough images scanned, we could technically apply some metadata rapidly to the postings and put them up without the most tedious attributes of three keywords per image and people's names in a surname-first format. This would allow us to finish by October 31st. We would prefer to have all the metadata embedded in each image and ready to be incorporated in the page for each item before we upload the images.

Another ramification of the surplus of images is that our original payout per image, \$1.37 each, was based on all of the images coming from non-profit museums. A great number of images have come from government and private sources, who are not given a curator's fee. So we have surplus of money in the curator fee budget line. We could pro-rate the left-over money back to the museums we have already paid based on their image counts. What we would prefer to do is to continue scanning, photographing and recording from the Stevens County Historical Society (SCHS), the largest in the county, and continue to pay them the original curator fee until that money is exhausted. We many end up using both of these methods but if the period of the grant is extended, we intend to add more images from SCHS until the funds are exhausted. We have moved the photography equipment to that museum and are imaging assessor's personal property records and other ledgers. Because the content of these images is largely repetitive, the metadata can be added quickly.

We also had an issue with SCHS determining an online image quality that would spark interest in their holdings but still increase sales of copies and high-resolution images. We have settled on 100 dots per inch as a working ratio and can now proceed to upload the 6000+ images we have from them more readily.

Our work in building this archive gave us a tangible resource to demonstrate in a recent grant application for projects interpreting roads in Washington State. The SCHS has landed a grant that includes money to build an archive using the same websites and resources as the Preserve America grant for interpretation of the Walla Walla to Colville Military Road, the first wagon road in Washington Territory and an offshoot of the Oregon Trail. This is an exciting opportunity to increase heritage tourism not only Northeast Washington but in a string of counties from here to Walla Walla through which the road passed.

As the project winds down, we are concerned with getting the best possible result and making sure the numbers agree with the contract. We have found some money left in other categories that might supplement the consultant fees. We have already exceeded specifications on the images scanned and donations accumulated lines. We are prepared to wrap up the contract on the first extended date, October 31st, 2012, but if we can extend the timeline a little and adjust the budget, we feel the result will be a better product in the end.