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MANAGING A DIGITIZATION PROJECT: ONE LIBRARY'S EXPERIENCE

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Association of Christian
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Nazarene University,
Bourbonnais, Illinois.*

The Jessie C. Eury Library of Lincoln Christian College and Seminary (Lincoln, IL) is proud of the "Hymnals of the Stone-Campbell Movement: Enos E. Dowling Hymnal Collection" on its website at www.lccs.edu/library/hymnals.

OUR PROJECT: FROM DREAM TO REALITY

This online collection of more than 9,000 hymns from rare 19th century hymnals features works by Alexander Campbell, J.T. Johnson, Walter Scott, and Illinois residents such as Barton W. Stone, Silas W. Leonard, and the Fillmore Brothers. These hymnals were selected from some 2,000 gathered by Mr. Dowling, former academic dean at Lincoln Christian Seminary, throughout his lifetime, including nearly 200 affiliated with the Restoration Movement that arose from the 19th century Stone-Campbell religious heritage on the American frontier. His collection is one of the largest-known compilations of hymnals representing this religious movement and serves to illustrate changing religious musical styles.

Online viewers may browse through the pages of nineteen selected hymnals, view a scanned image of the actual page from the hymnals, and access more than 300 tune-related audio files. The title, first line, lyrics, or composer of each hymn can be searched. Information such as the hymn's meter and tune is also available. The website also offers a background sketch of the

Stone-Campbell Movement in Illinois, a timeline of the Stone-Campbell Movement hymnals, and information about pivotal hymnals, writers, publishers, and compilers. The Office of the Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White funded this project with a \$34,000 digitalization grant.

DREAMING THE DREAM

This phase answers the questions of WHAT? And WHY? We knew WHAT we wanted digitized: our Stone-Campbell Movement hymnal collection, and we knew WHY we wanted it digitized: to provide a wider access to these rare texts as well as to help ensure their preservation. From the beginning one needs to know WHAT is being digitized, and just as important is WHY it is being digitized.

PLANNING THE DREAM

Now come the questions of WHEN? and HOW? While the exact WHEN was initiated when we discovered a grant to fund the project, we knew our administration was anxious for us to preserve this collection. We had already educated our administration concerning the resources of time and funding needed, the rationale for the project, and the potential return for the institution. Since the collection consisted of hymns we legally owned, we turned our efforts to clarifying copyright issues.

Armed with our grant, the support of our administration, and access to the

collection, we proceeded to plan HOW we could do this. We determined that we needed to start by appointing a project director. Our planning was based on the principle of begin with the end in mind. We sought out workshops and other local librarians to begin creating a network of contacts. This positioned us to be able to identify all the components of the project (e.g. equipment, outsourcing).

Before one can plan HOW to implement a project, one first must answer the question of WHEN this can be done by securing administrative buy-in, access to the collection, and funding.

REALITY ARRIVES

We needed to pull together a number of components to move our project from dream to reality, including:

- A website that creates a context for the digital collection.

- A collection of original documents that ensures the quality of the digital collection.

- A budget that accommodates the entire digitization project including hidden costs.

- A team that provides the expertise needed to complete the digitization project.

- A company that partners with us to provide digitization-related skills and expertise.

- A search engine that provides a variety of access points to the digital collection.

- Technology that enables the digitization, organization, and publication of the digital collection.

- An infrastructure that hosts the digital collection and accompanying website.

- An education that equips the people involved to accomplish the necessary tasks.

- An area that provides the space to work with the equipment and the collection.

SEEING THE DREAM

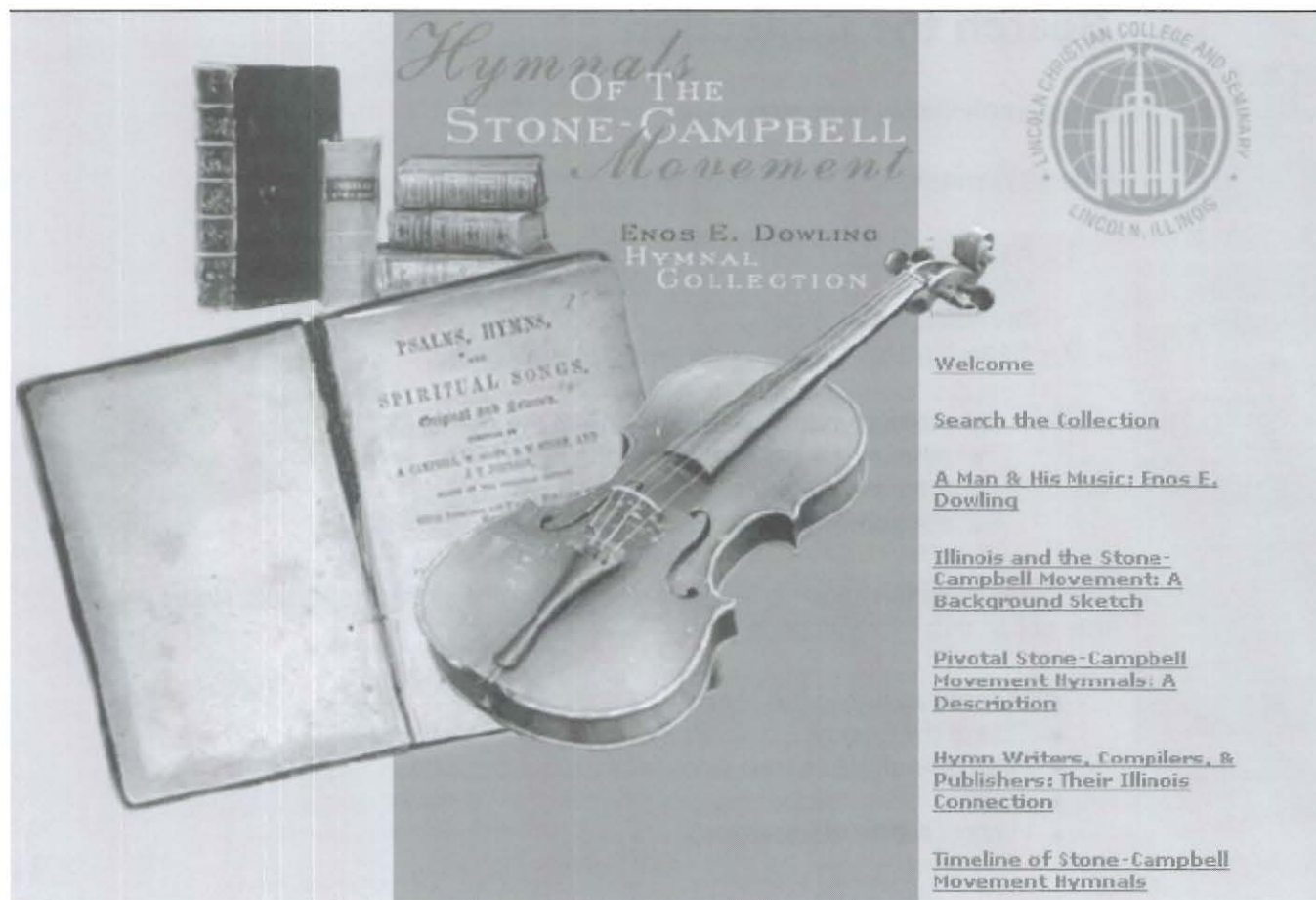
We invite you to visit our “Hymnals of the Stone-Campbell Movement: Enos E. Dowling Hymnal Collection” website to see how all these components came together.

<http://www.lccs.edu/library/hymnals>

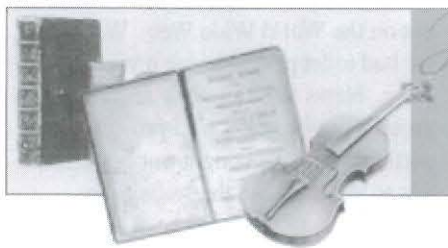
SHARING THE DREAM

It was not enough to put something out on the World Wide Web. We knew we had to let people know it was out there. News releases were sent to target groups, publications, and project participants. We sought out opportunities to demonstrate the website to various groups, from our own administration to professional gatherings such as this.

As a result, this project has received



praise from across the country for its part in the preservation of historical music and the history of the Stone-Campbell Movement. Prior to their Internet-availability, access to the rare hymnals was limited to patrons of the Jessie C. Eury Library, which owns the collection. Bonnie Travers, University of Arizona special collections librarian, says the site provides a way for Stone-Campbell Movement history to be accessible "worldwide through the Internet." "I was very impressed," she adds. Marsha Harper, Abilene Christian University library director, agrees: "I haven't seen anything to equal it." *



- [Welcome](#)
- [Search Collection](#)
- [Enos E. Dowling](#)
- [Background](#)
- [Pivotal Hymnals](#)
- [Writers, Compilers, & Publishers](#)
- [Timeline](#)
- [To Learn More](#)
- [Credits](#)
- [Copyright](#)
- [Main Page](#)
- [Library Web Site](#)

Search the Collection

[Jump](#) immediately to search.

The 19 hymnals and over 9,000 hymns can be viewed by:

1. Selecting a hymnal (by name search or from a list) to browse (introductory and concluding materials can also be accessed by browsing the hymnals).
2. Searching for a hymn, with search terms being:
 - word(s) in the title or first line of the hymn,
 - other text within the lyrics of a hymn
 - the name of the composer of hymn tune
 - the name of the writer of hymn lyrics

The following information is available for the hymns in this collection. Note that not all this information is available for each hymn.

- Hymnal including the Hymn
- Title of the Hymn
- First Line of the Hymn
- Topic
- Writer (author of the lyrics)