

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Whoever has undertaken the oath of medicine have first announced a hypothesis to their argument are all clearly mistaken by their words. But, as with all arts, practitioners will never be the same in dexterity and knowledge to their peers. So if anyone attempts these constitutions and tries to declare them, those listening will never discover whether any of it is true or false. For nothing can be referenced that will help one uncover the truth (Hippocrates, part 1).

Scholarly researchers of the distant past tended to be only masters of the fields for which they worked—and they rarely combined other sciences unless by virtue of requirement. However, this is no longer the case; with the ever-speeding pulse of technological revolution pushing humanity forward, necessity is guiding students to naturally bridge a wide variety of sciences together. The fusing of STEM interests assists the mind with focusing on resolving the future's problems by generating an accelerated mental toolset that allows critical and creative thinking to develop (Felder, p.245). Within this idea, projects like the *Great Plains History of Science and Medicine* are born and where ever these projects exist they always lead the way to advancing our species as a whole.

Last year I decided that the most supportive history course for the Psychology and Multimedia double major I am working towards was Dr. David Vail's *History of Science and Medicine*. In class we quickly adapted to and embraced the professor's distinct approach to teaching and testing—which meant no timed exams or quizzes. All of which renewed my confidence in finally finishing a college education. Between exhaustively researching every aspect of the required class discussion topics, my polished graphic design skills, and final course grade of one hundred percent, I had caught Vail's attention. Dr. Vail approached shortly after with the idea of starting this project. I agreed immediately with the notion of creating an online library dedicated to the past's medical achievements and mistakes and jumped at a chance to work directly under Dr. Vail's supervision. The icing on the cake was as simple as being involved in a student-created and student-maintained project that will benefit many future generations of students.

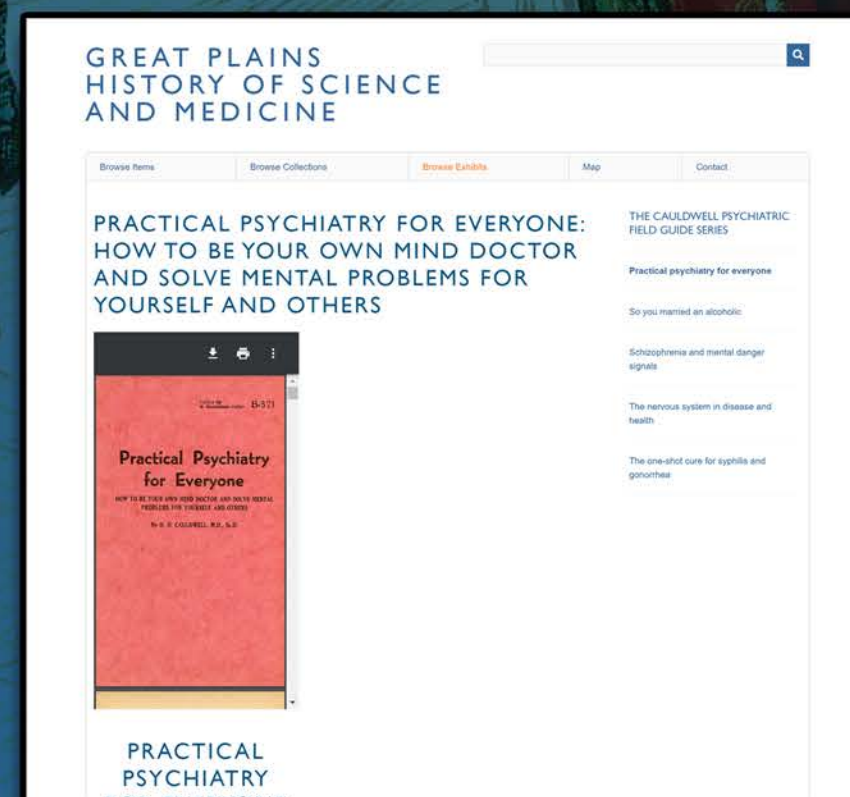
METHOD

We obtained a somber collection of 1940s medical studies published in 20-40 page booklets by Haldeman-Julius from Girard, Kansas. The topics broadly envelop psychiatry and other medical questions and concerns. All were written by David O. Cauldwell, who infamously coined the term *transsexual* and was not shy addressing uncomfortable subjects during his research (Stryker, p.40).

Five books from the ten-plus booklets were hand-selected at my discretion where my goal was to showcase both the variety and jaw-dropping subject matter. Utilizing the

library's Epson Expression 12000XL flatbed scanner in the library archives, each page of each booklet was digitized at a minimum of 600 d.p.i., oriented, and then exported to Adobe's digital PDF (Portable Document Format), [ISO 32000-1:2008, "application/pdf"]. Before the documents could be uploaded, the last step was creating metadata following the Dublin Core standard and then adding the said data to its respective document.

Omeka.net's digital scholarship content management software (CMS) and included web-hosting is made specifically for archival purposes and caters to universities. Thus, under the guidance of University Archivist and Digital Repository Manager Professor Laurinda Weisse, I applied the years of web-design experience to Omeka's CMS model and created the project's initial data infrastructure. Meanwhile, I kept very diligent records of my every step and process necessary to develop and maintain the project website to create a detailed entry-level guidebook so that the students who follow me—regardless of their computer or design skills—can confidently digitize new sets of sources and collections to national archival standards.



<https://unkhistscimed.omeka.net>

DISCUSSION

The *Great Plains History of Science and Medicine Project* is an ongoing functional local archive and a developing online community featuring the highest quality collections and exhibits for emboldened research in central Nebraska. The combination of history and medicine presents a crucial opportunity to enlighten modern medicine by the past's examples, advancements, wisdom, and misconceptions.

Because of the perpetual nature of the project, results are devised differently than what is traditionally found in research. In their place, milestones and goals similar to those used by software developers have been created to measure and dictate personal and professional success.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First, my gratitude goes to the Undergraduate Research Fellowship program for their funding and support; then to the Calvin T. Ryan Library archivist Professor Laurinda Weisse for her patience and endless knowledge of national standards, special collections, and digital repositories; then lastly—but most importantly—my most profound appreciation and acknowledgment goes to Dr. David Vail for his optimistic guidance, exhaustive knowledge of our world, his fortitude during a stressful and trying year, and his patience with my ceaseless talent for repeatedly asking questions with painfully obvious answers—without whom none of this would have been remotely possible, thank you.

the Great Plains History of SCIENCE & MEDICINE project



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