

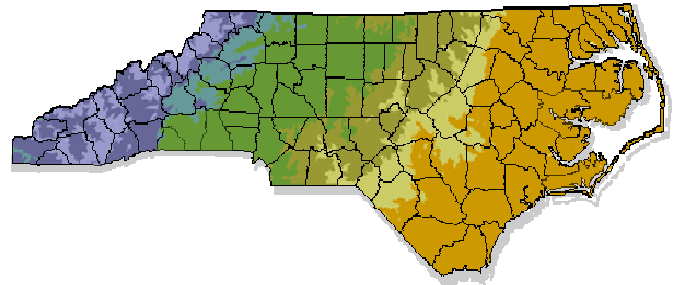
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# Newsletter

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## Our initial survey of all 100 counties is complete!



We are very pleased to announce that NC ECHO has completed the initial survey of all 100 counties! We have spent the past five years crisscrossing the state visiting North Carolina's institutions and learning about the state's rich cultural heritage. We've visited everything from large academic library special collections to genealogy vertical files at public library local history rooms. We've looked at government archives, corporate archives, academic archives, denominational archives, historical society archives, and even an archive of bluegrass music at Fiddler's Grove. We've been to farm museums, train depot museums, jailhouse museums, science museums, firehouse museums, military museums and even a Museum of the Alphabet. We've looked at million-year-old artifacts at the Aurora Fossil Museum, browsed the fascinating toilet and commode collection at the Brady C. Jefcoat Museum, and even used a magnifying glass to see two fleas dressed in tiny costumes at Belhaven Memorial Museum. We've seen historic sites that highlight the Civil War era, African American history, Native American life, and even the one-time largest herring fishery in the world in Colerain. We've met librarians, archivists, museologists, historic sites interpreters, and the most enthusiastic of volunteers. We got a flat tire taking a Kevin Cherry recommended "shortcut" from Raleigh to Lincolnton, lost hotel reservations in Charlotte, were a breath away from running out of gas near Petti-grew State Park, got lost in nearly every county and slid down a fire pole in Kings Mountain.

## Staff Notes



**Hilary Perez** has just joined the NC ECHO team as project archivist. Hilary comes to NC ECHO from the North Carolina State

Archives. Some of you will remember her as Hilary Kanupp from the two years she spent as our very capable NC ECHO project assistant from 2001-2003. We're happy to have her back with us again.

**Alma Woodard** is the new NC ECHO Project Assistant. Alma joined the staff in November and helps out in the office.



She comes to us from NC DOT's Fiscal Section. Alma enjoys history and is enthusiastic to work with NC ECHO. We are pleased to have her on board.

All in all, we had fun and learned a lot. But even though the initial survey is done, we will never be finished. New institutions are being created all the time. We've already heard tell of a telephone pioneers museum that will open in Lenoir this summer and we are making plans to visit a new children's museum that just opened in Durham. We also hear about existing institutions or collections that we have missed. We've recently learned of a religious art collection in Caldwell County and an artifact collection at an historic inn in Asheville. We welcome this information and encourage everyone to e-mail us at [ncecho@library.dcr.state.nc.us](mailto:ncecho@library.dcr.state.nc.us) with news of institutions that are not represented at [www.ncecho.org](http://www.ncecho.org).

With the completion of the initial survey, it is time to move on to the next phase of the project. We will begin compiling a report of the information we learned from our needs assessment surveys of NC ECHO institutions. After we have finished the report, we will travel around the state and share this information with our partner institutions.

## Mark Your Calendars

May 1–May 7, 2006

Online Collections and the K-12 Audience Seminar: “The Back of Beyond: Portals to our Mountain Past”  
NCCAT, Cullowhee, NC

June 5–June 9, 2006

Digitization Institute IX  
NCCAT, Cullowhee, NC

## Staff Notes



**Kim Cumber** has taken a new position as Non-Textual Materials Archivist at the North Carolina State Archives. Kim

joined NC ECHO at the program's beginning, becoming the original Project Archivist in February 2001. She has been a driving force for the past five years and her enthusiasm and dedication will be truly missed.

Project Librarian

**Jackie Dean** is also moving on. She has accepted a position as the Manuscripts Librarian at Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill.

Jackie has worked with NC ECHO as Project Librarian for the past year and was a great addition to the team. She will be missed but we wish her the best of luck in her new position.



**Digitization Institute VIII**  
February 27–March 3, 2006

Back Row:

Mark McKone, Wake Forest University; Keith Engwall, Catawba College; Stephen Hawkins, Lenoir Community College; Alison Bradley, Johnson C. Smith University; Pat Rounds, Chatham County Public Libraries; Brian Sealy, Western Carolina University.  
Front Row: Kevin Gilbertson, Wake Forest University, Katie Nash, Elon University; Carolyn Shankle, UNC-Greensboro; Katie Mc Cormick, UNC-Charlotte; Debbie Hargett, Wingate University; Corki Jones, Hickory Public Library; Jamie Williams, Winston Salem State University. (Mike Adamo, Duke).

## Metadata Matters

Metadata really does matter! I attended the Institute for Museum and Library Services annual Web-Wise conference this February and found that NC ECHO was right on target with its metadata initiatives. Notably, one of the pre-conference workshops was on “Shareable Metadata.” Since the workshop pertains to the kinds of metadata work that we are all doing, I think it is fitting that I share with you what was discussed.

### “Shareable Metadata”

What is “shareable metadata”? The concept of shareable metadata is related to the creation of metadata that can be used outside of its local environment. In other words, it involves the creation of metadata that is useful within an individual institution's repository but also can be used in external systems. Shareable metadata is particularly focused on issues of metadata quality and identifies the fields of metadata where quality is expressed through characteristics that make it more able to be used in a shared environment.

Several components of shareable metadata were discussed, including the use of standards (including formats, controlled vocabularies, and content guidelines), context, coherence, consistency, technical conformance, and documentation. It was good to discuss these components and to compare them to the efforts in North Carolina, through the NC ECHO metadata working group initiatives. These include standards, technical conformance, consistency, and documentation. The NC Dublin Core Implementation Guidelines, NCEAD *Best Practice Guidelines*, and efforts with the museum community all attempt to outline the recommended best practice for the creation of metadata within a particular standard. There is an implicit assumption that institutions in the state using these guidelines will be creating shareable metadata. However, there are ways that we can do better, and these have to do with controlled vocabularies, one of the cornerstones of shareable metadata. Below are a few suggestions to check your own metadata creation models against:

### Using international standards:

there are a few international standards that are particularly useful in the shared environment. The chief among those are the ISO 8601 Date/Time format standard. This standard dictates writing dates in a format (YYYYMMDD) that is easy for computers to understand. Both the Dublin Core and EAD guidelines constructed by NC ECHO contain information on dating. Similarly, the ISO 639-2b standard creates a standard way to indicate languages. These include three letter abbreviations for languages such as “eng” for English. Again, the guidelines published by NC ECHO contain this standard. While there are values listed for common languages, do not duplicate all of the possible values. Values are available at Kyle Banerjee's website, The Cataloging Calculator, at <http://calculate.alptown.com/>.

### Using controlled vocabularies:

the use of controlled vocabularies is essential for shareable metadata, but that does not mean that NC ECHO wants only one vocabulary to be used. There are a whole variety of vocabularies available for specific purposes. The most common vocabularies include the *Library of Congress Subject Headings*, and *The Library of Congress Name Authority File*, but there are plenty of other specific vocabularies that were constructed for specific topics. The *Art and Architecture Thesaurus*, *Library of Congress' Thesaurus of Graphical Materials*, and even the *North Carolina Gazetteer* are all examples of vocabularies that are being used by institutions in NC ECHO. The most important thing to understand about controlled vocabularies is to use them appropriately and to indicate at all times which vocabulary you are using. This requirement becomes essential in the shared environment because the information needs to be collocated, or gathered together, from the same vocabularies.

The other aspects that are important in thinking about shareable metadata include context and coherence. Context refers to metadata fields that provide appropriate identification of an individual metadata instance outside of the local environment. You want to make sure that a metadata record contains the necessary information for understanding the resource it describes without external information or with explicit links to external information. Coherence refers to content completeness and is similar to context. Metadata records should be able to stand on their own, but coherence also encourages the exclusion of information that only makes sense in a local environment. In thinking about metadata in general, one might consider the construction of a “master record” that includes all the possible metadata that you might create for an information resource. Shareable metadata would consist of a subset of that master record metadata, including the information that is useful in a shared environment, but excluding information that is not necessary for that shared environment (such as preservation metadata).

NC ECHO is beginning to explore the implementation of cross-institutional searching of metadata created for institutions' information resources. The consideration of shareable metadata is particularly important for this kind of project because it is an external environment that will seek to use metadata created by individual institutions. Following best practice guidelines is the first step. Documenting your own metadata creation practices will help to ensure consistency within your own institution and will also allow you to communicate your metadata creation model with the NC ECHO search solution. The conference confirmed that NC ECHO is on the right track in its metadata work, but we need to remain vigilant!

Questions, comments, problems, solutions about metadata? Contact me at: [katherine.wisser@duke.edu](mailto:katherine.wisser@duke.edu).

## Spotlight

### Hidden Gems of the North Carolina Coast: Beach Vacation Rain Day Alternatives to Shopping at Wings

When it rains during your vacation at a North Carolina beach, you don't have to resort to the same tired old pastimes of going to the movies you don't really want to see or buying fake Hawaiian shirts and flip-flops you don't really need. You have a myriad of choices awaiting you on the coast of North Carolina—places to go that are entertaining, educational, affordable, and fun for the whole family. How about trying one of these coastal gems?

**Currituck Lighthouse**  
[www.currituckbeachlight.com](http://www.currituckbeachlight.com)  
 (252) 453-8152  
 Corolla, Currituck County



The 1875 Currituck Beach Lighthouse, its restored Keepers Quarters, and several dependencies are open for the enjoyment and education of the public. Exhibits interpret the construction, significance, and social history of this lighthouse.



**Chicamacomico Life Saving Station**  
[www.chicamacomico.net](http://www.chicamacomico.net)  
 (252) 987-1552  
 Rodanthe, Dare County

With its original 1874 station, an original 1874 outbuilding, a larger 1911 station, and four other dependencies of various ages original to the site, Chicamacomico Life Saving Station is the most complete extant life saving station in the country. The site provides guided tours, collects and exhibits historical artifacts, and offers a variety of educational programs, lectures, and activities.



**David Williams House Museum**  
[www.ocracoke-nc.com/G-O-E/ocrapr1.htm](http://www.ocracoke-nc.com/G-O-E/ocrapr1.htm)  
 (252) 928-7375  
 Ocracoke, Hyde County

The David Williams House was built around the year 1900. Its first occupant David Williams was the first captain of the Coast Guard Life-Saving Station of Ocracoke. The ground floor rooms have been converted to a museum. The second floor contains a research library and administrative offices. In mid-summer, talks about local historic subjects are given on the back porch.



**Aurora Fossil Museum**  
<http://pamlico.com/aurora/>  
 (252) 322-4238  
 Aurora, Beaufort county

The museum's emphasis is on the preservation and display of numerous exhibits of fossil remains that come from the PCS Phosphate mining operation. Using these fossils, the museum tells the story of the formation of the Coastal Plain from the birth of the Atlantic Ocean to the present. The museum has an outdoor fossil bed where children can search for fossils, and the museum sponsors an annual Fossil Festival.

**Belhaven Memorial Museum**  
[www.beaufort-county.com/Belhaven/museum/Belhaven](http://www.beaufort-county.com/Belhaven/museum/Belhaven)  
 (252) 943-6817  
 Belhaven, Beaufort County



The museum builds upon the unique and eclectic original collection of Mrs. Eva Blount Way to preserve and educate on the history, art science and culture of the Belhaven area, Beaufort County and eastern North Carolina. The museum is housed on the second floor of the Belhaven Town Hall.



**New Bern Fireman's Museum**  
 (252) 636-4087  
 New Bern, Craven County

Preserves artifacts and records relating to firefighting and to the New Bern Fire Department, the first fire department in North Carolina. The most noted feature is the mount of Fred, the fire horse that died in route to a fire.

**Topsail Island Missiles and More Museum**  
<http://topsailmissiles.com>  
 (910) 328-1950  
 Topsail Beach, Pender County



This museum highlights the fascinating history of Topsail Island. Exhibits focus primarily on Operation Bumblebee, the secret US missiles testing project that operated on the island during the 1940's and on nearby Camp Davis where soldiers practiced antiaircraft firing. The museum is housed in the Assembly Building where many of the tested missiles were actually developed and built. Other exhibits interpret early Native American life on the island, the growth of the area as a vacation spot after government occupation, and the natural history of the island.

**Montford Point Marines Museum**  
[www.montfordpointmarinesmuseum.com/mpmmuseum](http://www.montfordpointmarinesmuseum.com/mpmmuseum)  
 (910) 450-1340  
 Jacksonville, Onslow County



This museum displays a collection of photographs, documents, papers and artifacts pertaining to the Montford Point Marines capturing the unique history of African American Marines from 1942 to 1949.

**Wrightsville Beach Museum**  
[www.wbmuseum.com](http://www.wbmuseum.com)  
 (910) 256-2569  
 Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover County



The museum is located in the Myers Cottage, the third oldest cottage on the island and one of twenty beach cottages built by the Tidewater Power Company in 1907. The museum, while not strictly a house museum, depicts life on Wrightsville Beach just after the turn of the century. Other exhibits interpret barrier island heritage, the Civil War, hurricanes, the Ocean View Railroad or trolley, Lumina Pavilion, and the lives of various individuals prominent in the history of Wrightsville Beach.



**Museum of Coastal Carolina**  
[www.museumofcc.org](http://www.museumofcc.org)  
 (910) 579-1016  
 Ocean Isle, Brunswick County

The museum is dedicated to presenting the natural history and cultural heritage of the coastal Carolinas, an area rich in wildlife and history. Exhibits depict the precious diversity of wildlife and habitat, providing an exciting and educational experience.

**Frisco Native American Museum and Natural History Center**  
[www.nativeamericanmuseum.org/](http://www.nativeamericanmuseum.org/)  
 (252) 995-4440  
 Frisco, Dare County



The Frisco Native American Museum seeks to increase understanding and appreciation of Native Americans from pre-history to the present through exhibits, programs, outreach activities, and special events. Collections include representative samples from a broad range of North American cultures and include one of the most significant collections of photographs and research on the Chirichua Apache, the tribe of Geronimo, in the world.

North Carolina ECHO, *Exploring Cultural Heritage Online*, is the World Wide Web's doorway to the special collections of North Carolina's libraries, archives, museums, and historic sites. Supported with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds made possible through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources, this innovative project seeks to build a state-wide framework for digitization in order to facilitate comprehensive access to the holdings of North Carolina's cultural institutions.

## Newsletter

NC ECHO

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### NC ECHO Staff

Hilary Perez, Project Archivist

Alma Woodard, Project Assistant

Katherine M. Wisser, Metadata Coordinator

NC ECHO Project Vision – All of North Carolina's cultural institutions work together to make the state's unique cultural and historical resources accessible for the education and enjoyment of people of all ages in the state, the nation, and the world.

NC ECHO Project Purpose – The NC ECHO portal provides a single point of entry for the citizens of North Carolina to the unique resources of North Carolina's cultural institutions in order to enhance education and learning.

Criteria for Inclusion in the NC ECHO project – Any cultural institution (library, archive, museum, historic site, or organization), which maintains a permanent, non-living collection of unique materials held for research and/or exhibit purposes and open for the use of the public will be surveyed. Denominational/associational collections will be surveyed, but individual church collections will not. Art museums will be surveyed but galleries will not. Zoos, arboreta, and parks will not be surveyed unless as a part of their mission they hold collections as described above.

Through a comprehensive needs assessment and opinion survey, site visits, consultations, workshops, and grant programs, NC ECHO encourages cooperation and collaboration among differing types of cultural institutions and among institutions of varying levels of technological and professional expertise. It is NC ECHO's belief that by working together North Carolina's cultural institutions can achieve greater successes and can do more good than they can by working alone.

[www.ncecho.org](http://www.ncecho.org)

## NC ECHO Advisory Committee

### Chair

Kevin Cherry, Visiting Lecturer, College of Education, Joyner Library, East Carolina University

### Members

Robert Busko, Director, Scotland County Memorial Library

Steve Hensen, Director, Planning and Project Development, Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University

Lynn Holdzkom, Assistant Curator, Head of Technical Services, Wilson Library, UNC-CH

Martha Battle Jackson, Curator, North Carolina State Historic Sites, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

Hal Keiner, University Archivist, Appalachian State University

Dick Lankford, State Archivist, Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

Druscie Simpson, Head of Information Technology, Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

Gerry Solomon, Assistant Section Chief, Evaluation Services, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Melissa Thibault, Director, Media Services, Learn North Carolina

Ann Tippet, Executive Director, Schiele Museum of Natural History

Jonathan Wade, Fellow, North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching

Helen Wykle, Special Collections Librarian, D. H. Ramsey Library, University of North Carolina – Asheville

### State Library Staff Members

Grant Pair, Assistant State Librarian for Information Technologies, State Library of North Carolina



Dick Lankford  
 State Archivist  
 North Carolina State Archives