

As a senior History major minoring in Vermont Studies, I enrolled in the Service Learning Internship Class through the UVM Career Center with a service project already in mind. I formed a collaboration between the Bailey-Howe Library at UVM and the Bixby Memorial Free Library of Vergennes, Vermont, that resulted in the digital collection "Photographs of Vergennes, Vermont." Taken from nearly 750 35mm slides in the Bixby's Historical Collections, the digital collection I created represents 130 years of history in Vermont's oldest city. This resource will be available to the public online at anytime, from anywhere, for free at <http://cdi.uvm.edu>.

Many small public libraries lack the resources to provide researchers with online access to historical materials. Serving as mediator between the UVM Libraries and the locally funded Bixby, I submitted a proposal to the CDI Development Committee in October, 2010. My proposal was subject to the Committee's prioritization and selection, and my idea was enthusiastically supported. Since then I have worked to scan and create metadata for hundreds of images. To support this metadata I have conducted extensive historical research and drawn from my own knowledge of local history.

I have planned a number of outreach activities to promote this project and educate on the subject of Vergennes history: school visits, a public event at the Bixby Library, Historical Society lectures, and a presentation to school district faculty. By creating this collection and presenting it to the public, I will reach my goal of making historical information available to a wide variety of audiences. Vergennes' past epitomizes numerous phases and trends in national history. Making the past interesting, visual, and remotely accessible, "Photographs of Vergennes, Vermont" will empower people to do their own research and thinking in the context of one of the nation's oldest established cities.