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Professor Gray and the Secret Life of Books

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Professor Gray and the Secret Life of Books

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Project Overview

✧ Tracing the European voyage of Asa Gray—U-M’s first professor

✧ Examining his book purchases
  ✧ Where were they originally published?
  ✧ Where did they “live” at U-M?

✧ Dispelling myths AND vindicating Prof. Gray
Objectives

✧ Experience with historical research
✧ Create an interactive WordPress website
✧ Create two Story Maps depicting:
  1. Gray’s visits to European universities/libraries
  2. The movement of the Gray Collection
Challenges

✧ Platform
✧ Copyright
  ✧ Images
✧ WordPress plug-ins
✧ Story Maps
Solutions

✦ Meeting with library staff
  ✦ Justin Joque and Nicole Scholtz
  ✦ Breanna Hamm
✦ Meeting with LSA IT
  ✦ Jessica Darga
✦ Co-workers as resource
Lessons Learned

- Historical Research
  - Archival work
- Time Management
- Project Planning
- Professional Communication
- Creative Presentation
Enjoyable Experiences

- Working with historical materials
  - Gray’s actual purchases
- Creative expression
  - Web design
  - Photography
- Co-workers and mentors
Next Steps

✧ Analyze Gray Purchase for use
✧ Include a timeline tracing the U-M library
✧ Provide more accessible alternatives