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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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Mentors: Evyn Kropf and Kate Hutchens
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