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