VALUING AND CONTINUING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY
Carl Maxey Center

WHITWORTH UNIVERSITY

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Project & Goals

This project was the product of an ongoing partnership with the Carl Maxey Center, a 501(c)(3) based in Spokane, Washington. The primary goal for this academic year was to create and launch an educational platform to inspire learning about African American history in a format that will be accessible to all members of the Spokane community. In order to successfully meet this goal, the original project needed to be completely revamped.

Background

Our partnership with the Carl Maxey Center began in November of 2020, and we began as African American History Specialists (which has since transitioned into becoming Community Engagement Advocates). Through the Dornsife Center for Community Engagement, we were partnered with this center with the primary goal of constructing a K-12 educational platform (containing age-appropriate and targeted historical content about African American history).

Partner Organization

The Carl Maxey Center is a Black community center and non-profit established in 2017, based in Spokane. The organization's goal is to improve the well-being of African-Americans in Spokane. The Center aims to do this by sustaining educational, economic, and cultural services for the Spokane African American population. Our partnership with the organization thus far has focused on the *education* aspect, as we have been working on building content for an educational platform for the Center.

Figure 1. The Carl Maxey Center building

What I Did

Over the past year, we have worked with the Carl Maxey Center to create a set of historically-based articles and guiding questions that help assist in teaching students of all ages about African American history. These articles were written for historical purposes and have been transcribed into age-appropriate articles for multiple grades. The guiding questions were created to not only check for understanding but also to create a more engaging learning platform.

Additionally, we have created an online web platform to host these articles and make them approachable to any K-12 students. This platform is with a story-quiz model, where students can learn about the history independently through the stories, or use the platform as part of the class activity to recall all the lessons interactively.

Our platform is designed with flexibility and accessibility in mind so that students and teachers can easily use the platform without learning to navigate.

What I Learned

Through working on this project, not only have we learned more about the history of the African American population here in Spokane, but also we have learned more about the back-end of the development of educational platforms. To create a more accurate picture of the history we sought to write about, we needed to engage in extensive research (through both primary and secondary sources). Additionally, we also learned just how many stakeholders need to be involved in the development and publishing of a resource that will be easily accessible to all members of the Spokane community.

When thinking about the significance of this project in the larger picture, we believe that the history of the African American population in Spokane is vital to not only the history of the city but also to the future of the city as well. African American history is not only the history of a group of historically marginalized people, but it is also a huge part of the history of the United States itself, so it needs to be recognized and given justice. The Carl Maxey Center wanted an educational platform that promotes the education of the Spokane community, and through publishing this source on the internet, we hoped to make this content more accessible as well as more easily incorporated into the teachings of others.

Grade 5 Module

Module 1: The Battle of Chancellorsville	Let's go! →
Module 2: The First Battle of Bull Run	Let's go! →
Module 3: The Battle of Gettysburg	Let's go! →

Figure 2. An example module on the platform

What is Next?

Our work with the Carl Maxey Center on this project will end following the end of this academic school year, as the content and educational platform will be turned over to the care and maintenance of the center itself. Writings, by both students and teachers, will be

While the publishing of this project signifies the end of this aspect of our partnership with the Carl Maxey Center, the Dornsife Center for Community Engagement will continue to be present in the workings of the center (whether through participation in events run by the center or through the creation of a new project).

Our continued goal is to reach and teach as many people in the Spokane community as possible, and we hope to do so by carrying forward the valuable knowledge that we have obtained through our lengthy partnership with the Carl Maxey Center.
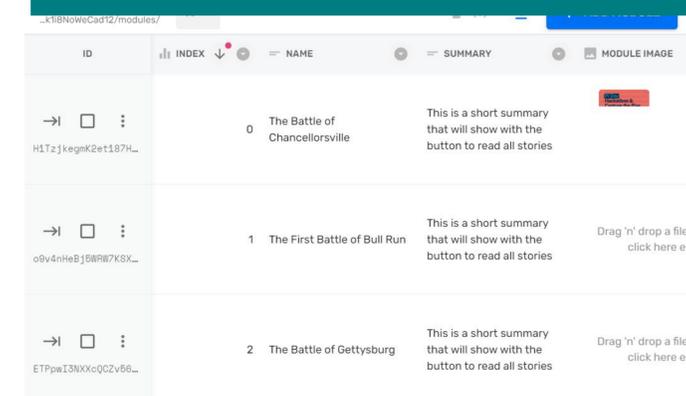
ID	INDEX	NAME	SUMMARY	MODULE IMAGE
H1TzjkegmK2et1B7H...	0	The Battle of Chancellorsville	This is a short summary that will show with the button to read all stories	
o9v4nHeBj5WR87KBX...	1	The First Battle of Bull Run	This is a short summary that will show with the button to read all stories	Drag 'n' drop a file click here ed
ETPpwI3NXXcoQCZv68...	2	The Battle of Gettysburg	This is a short summary that will show with the button to read all stories	Drag 'n' drop a file click here ed

Figure 3. Teacher's perspective for content management

Figure 4. Carl Maxey Center board members

Civic Perspective

This experience (in conjunction with the goals of the Carl Maxey Center) has helped us to learn the importance of social justice and equity, business and workforce developments, education and advocacy, and cultural enrichment. The experience with and understanding of social justice issues will be experiences and information that we carry forward through the lens of our future ideologies, interactions, and into our vocations.

Academic Perspective

We were able to apply our skills in both teaching and history to write articles and questions in a way that organizes the knowledge while also introducing new and interesting concepts to students.

We also applied our computer science skills in order to create a platform that is simple and easy to use, whilst still having all the required features for both students and teachers.

Personal Perspective

Through this experience, we found that while it is often easy for us to work in our own area of expertise, it becomes much more challenging to communicate our idea to people in different areas.

Additionally, we found that it is important for us to communicate our understandings and discuss our assumptions, as it was much easier for us to develop this platform together when we understand the other person's' perspective.