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SESSION OBJECTIVES

• Introduction to the James Meredith Collection

• Overview of the "Dear Mr. Meredith" Project
  ○ Phase 1: Mapping the Letters
  ○ Phase 2: Transcribing the Letters

• Instructions for transcribing a letter

• Submit a transcription

• Host a transcribe-a-thon
IN OCTOBER OF 1962, JAMES MEREDITH BECAME THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENT ADMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
• The Meredith Collection was donated to the University of Mississippi on March 21, 1997.

• The Collection documents the family, education, and professional life of Mr. Meredith.

• It spans the years from 1950 -1997, with emphasis on the years 1960 -1990.

• It is housed in 146 archival boxes and is approximately 75 linear feet in extent.

• Some of the Meredith Collection is digitally available on eGrove, as part of the "Integration of the University Mississippi" digital collection.
Digitized collection includes letters received by Meredith during and after his attempt to integrate the university.

Housed on eGrove
- 1156 "pro" letters
- 262 "anti" letters

Includes correspondence from Rosa Parks, Josephine Baker, and others.

The finding aid is also available on eGrove.
LETTERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

(Toronto, 9, Canada)

(Cherry, South Carolina)

(Madrid, Spain)

Desert Hot Springs, Calif.

PD=Austin, Tex. 1
GIS, or Geographic Information System, is a technology that combines geographical data with various types of information to analyze, visualize, and interpret spatial relationships.

Geospatial data is data that includes information related to locations on the Earth's (or a fictional place's) surface.

- Specific address
- City - County - State - Country - Continent
- Latitude/Longitude
- Geographic coordinates
Phase 1: Mapping the Letters

Minimum Requirement:
- Return address of each letter

Mapping Project Overview
- Exported letters based on sentiment into two separate excel files (pro and anti)
- Entered all letters into mapping tools based on return address and sentiment
- Added demographic and other data to map for deeper analysis of spatial relationships
DEAR MR. MEREDITH

Mapping correspondence sent to James Meredith during the integration of the University of Mississippi
Phase 2: Transcribing the Letters

Transcription
• Reproducing the contents of an analog or scanned document in a digital format, making it computer searchable and screen readable.

Crowdsourcing
• 2023: Hosted 6 in-person Transcribe-a-Thons + online submissions + class visits and extra credit
• 1,032 letters transcribed to date
WHERE WILL THESE TRANSCRIPTIONS GO?

- They will be added to the corresponding letter on eGrove, the university's institutional repository.
- They will be used in the "Dear Mr. Meredith" GIS research project.
Submission Instructions: Click this link to find instructions on how to transcribe.
Submit a Transcription: Takes you to a Qualtrics form to submit your transcription when you're finished.

DO select a letter from the Google Doc.
DON'T scroll down the eGrove Crowdsourcing page and choose a letter at random.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Row</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Identifier</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Sentiment</th>
<th>Transcriber Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Key</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>James Bankole to &quot;Brother&quot; (3 October 1962)</td>
<td>b3f10_16</td>
<td><a href="https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mercrr_pro/103">https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mercrr_pro/103</a></td>
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<td>Transcription Finished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Madame Kungue-Ntoko-Andree to James Meredith (2 October 1962)</td>
<td>b3f9_22</td>
<td><a href="https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mercrr_pro/106">https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mercrr_pro/106</a></td>
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<td>Transcription Finished</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Unknown to &quot;James Meredith another Lincoln&quot; (4 October 1962)</td>
<td>meredith_b4fo1_01</td>
<td><a href="https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mercrr_pro/809">https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mercrr_pro/809</a></td>
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<td>Transcription Finished</td>
<td>Transcription in Process</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Marjorie Wright to Mr. James H. Meredith (4 October 1962)</td>
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<td><a href="https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mercrr_pro/800">https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mercrr_pro/800</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>A White mother of 4 to Mr. Meredith (4 October 1962)</td>
<td>meredith_b4fo1_03</td>
<td><a href="https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mercrr_pro/691">https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mercrr_pro/691</a></td>
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<td>Transcription in Process</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Mrs. Rosalie Mck. Shelton to Mr. James H. Meredith (30 September 1962)</td>
<td>meredith_b4fo1_04</td>
<td><a href="https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mercrr_pro/892">https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mercrr_pro/892</a></td>
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<td>Name Here</td>
<td>Transcription Finished</td>
<td>Transcription in Process</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Elizabeth Sargent to &quot;Mr. Meredith&quot; (4 October 1962)</td>
<td>meredith_b4fo1_05</td>
<td><a href="https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mercrr_pro/893">https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mercrr_pro/893</a></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Unknown to Mr. James Meredith (3 October 1962)</td>
<td>meredith_b4fo1_06</td>
<td><a href="https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mercrr_pro/894">https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mercrr_pro/894</a></td>
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<td>Transcription in Process</td>
<td>Transcription in Process</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Open a word processor (Microsoft Word, Google Docs, etc.) and save as a .docx/.doc
• Download the scanned letter to your computer
• Write the letter identifier and title on the top of the page
• Type every word you see on the letter
  • Keep misspellings
  • Mark page breaks
  • Note if something is written in red, underlined, a news clipping, illustration, postage marking, etc.
• If you can't read something, get a second opinion. If you still don't know, write [illegible]. If you have a good guess, write the word(?).
• If you see something weird, explain it as best as you can.
• Remember: the goal is to recreate the letter as faithfully as possible.
• Ask us if you have questions!

• Please note any demographic information (race, education, political leanings) included in the letter.
James Meredith:

Why don't you go where you are Welcome?

There are lots of other school[s] where colored people are welcome.

Why cause the Mississippi people go [underlined] much trouble?

I don't think you [underlined] really want to go anyway. I think it is some one pushing you, trying to cause trouble in the south - go away, do [underlined] not let that happen - go [underlined] to Indiana or somewhere in the north where you will be welcome - the south doesn't want you [underlined].

[Page #2]

I am from the south and will always be in sympathy with them where [underlined] you colored people are concerned - there is a place for you but not with the white people -

The best colored people do not push in where they are not wanted.

Why can't you be one of those?

Mrs. Sanders [signature]
WANT TO HOST A TRANSCRIBE-A-THON FOR YOUR STUDENTS?

Email Abbie and Adam about a collaboration!
THANK YOU!

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