

David J. Walbert

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Expertise and interests

Research interests

- History of U.S. food and agriculture: cooking and agriculture as craft; intersections between agriculture and popular culture; sustainability; “progress” as a construct and as it relates to the above.
- Public memory and tourism: especially the impact of popular culture on local culture and memory.
- Digital humanities and public history: in particular how the web facilitates more productive interaction between professional historians, museums, educators, and the public.
- Visualization and visual literacy: teaching visual literacy; information visualization and design; photography and culture.

Technical and administrative

- Digital content strategy and management.
- Design and management of digital humanities and open education resource projects.
- Writing and editing for a variety of audiences including professionals, academics, college students, and K–12 students.
- Web application design and engineering, including user experience design, search design, usability testing, and metadata schema design.
- Multimedia and print design, including book design, instructional illustration, and data visualization.
- Standards-compliant, open-source web design and development, including HTML5, CSS, JavaScript, jQuery, XML, AJAX, object-oriented PHP, relational database design, and complex querying in MySQL.

Education

Ph.D. (history), The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2000.

M.A. (history), The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1994.

B.S. (physics), magna cum laude with departmental honors, University of Delaware, 1992.

Experience

Consultant, Online Module and Technical Development, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 2011–.

- Worked with teams of educators, editors, and web/media developers to develop and publish online professional development for K–12 teachers.

Editorial & Web Director, LEARN North Carolina (www.learnnc.org), School of Education, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2000–2011.

- Responsible for content development and management as well as architecture, design, and technical development of website reaching 30,000 K–12 teachers and students daily.
- Managed team of 3 to 4 full-time staff plus 10 to 15 students and contractors. Collaborated with and oversaw work of editors, librarians, programmers, teachers, university faculty, museum educators, media developers, and content developers.
- Designed information architecture and metadata schema (information design) of website making 40,000 learning objects available to educators.
- Developed curricula and curriculum materials in history; oversaw and assisted with curriculum development in science and mathematics.
- Edited, oversaw editing of, and developed editorial standards for publication of K-12 curriculum and student content.
- Designed and built a custom PHP/MySQL content management system to integrate web publication of text, images, audio, and video in an online library and in longer formats including e-books and e-textbooks.
- Wrote articles, delivered presentations, and designed workshops for teacher professional development.

Publications

Books

Garden Spot: Lancaster County, the Old Order Amish, and the Selling of Rural America. Oxford University Press, 2002.

Kristi Johnson Smith, *The First Year: Essays for New Teachers* (Editor). LEARN NC, 2006.

Digital projects

North Carolina: A Digital History (Editor). LEARN NC, 2008–2010. Online primary-source- and multimedia-driven textbook for grades 8–12 North Carolina history, in eleven parts. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/nchistory/>.

Scholarly articles and chapters

“The LEARN NC Model: Overcoming Obstacles to Technology Integration.” *TechTrends* 44:2 (March 2000), 15–19.

“LEARN NC: A Teacher-Directed Model of Technology Integration.” Chapter in *Professional Development Leadership and the Diverse Learner* (National Science Education Leadership Association/National Science Teachers Association, 2000), 77–86.

“LEARN NC: Using the Internet to Promote Collegiality and Teacher Retention.” In *Challenge of the Future: Teacher Preparation and Retention* (North Carolina Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, Spring 1999), 77–83.

Reviews

“Objects Out of Time: *A Country Auction* Thirty Years Later.” Review of Robert Stevel Aibel et al, *A Country Auction* (DVD). H-Pennsylvania, H-Net Reviews, September, 2014. Available online at <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=42258>

Essays (General Audience)

Occasional contributor to *Front Porch Republic* (<http://www.frontporchrepublic.com>), 2012–14.

For K–12 teachers (selected)

“Map Skills and Higher Order Thinking.” LEARN NC, 2010. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/mapping>.

“Higher Order Thinking with Venn Diagrams.” LEARN NC, 2008. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/2646>.

“Best Practices in School Library Website Design.” LEARN NC, 2006. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/librarywebdesign>.

“Evaluating Multimedia Presentations.” LEARN NC, 2005. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/powerpoint0701>.

“Does My Vote Count? Teaching the Electoral College.” LEARN NC, 2004 (revised 2008). Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/davidwalbert7232004-02>.

“Reading Photographs.” With Melissa Thibault. LEARN NC, 2003. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/vlphoto0602-1>.

“Rethinking Reports: Breathing New Life into Tired Assignments.” Series of articles with Melissa Thibault. LEARN NC, 2001–2003. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/edition2/rethinking-reports>.

“Writing for the Web.” LEARN NC, 2002. Series of six articles. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/webwriting/>.

“Kinetic Connections: Bloom’s Taxonomy in Action.” LEARN NC, 2001. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/778>.

For K–12 students (selected)

“A Snapshot in Time: How to Study a Photo.” *Tar Heel Junior Historian* 48:2 (Spring 2009), 20–21.

“Advertising New Products.” LEARN NC, 2009. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-newsouth/4750>.

“Workers’ Pay and the Cost of Living” (activity) LEARN NC, 2009. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-newsouth/4716>.

“Industrialization in North Carolina.” LEARN NC, 2009. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-newsouth/4745>.

“The Third North Carolina Regiment.” LEARN NC, 2009. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-newsouth/4410>.

“A Railroad Timetable” (activity). LEARN NC, 2009. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-antebellum/4828>.

“Distribution of Land and Slaves” (activity). LEARN NC, 2009. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-antebellum/5347>.

“Whigs and Democrats.” LEARN NC, 2009. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-newnation/5205>.

“Spain and America: From Reconquest to Conquest.” LEARN NC, 2008. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-twoworlds/1677>.

“Where Am I? Mapping a New World.” LEARN NC, 2008. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-twoworlds/1688>.

- “The Value of Money in Colonial America.” LEARN NC, 2008. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-colonial/1646>.
- “Naval Stores and the Longleaf Pine.” LEARN NC, 2008. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-colonial/4069>.
- “Who Owns the Land?” LEARN NC, 2008. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-colonial/2027>.
- “Land and Work in [Colonial] Carolina.” LEARN NC, 2008. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-colonial/2705>.
- “Wills and Inventories: A Process Guide.” LEARN NC, 2007. Available online at <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-colonial/1634>.

Presentations (selected)

- Chair and commenter, “Competing Visions of Food, Farming, and Rural Life in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania: Photographing ‘Amish Country’ in the 1930s and 1940s,” panel at Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting, June 2011.
- “Adventures in Mapping.” North Carolina Technology in Education Society, March 2010.
- “Using ‘Digital History’ to Promote Inquiry and Higher-Order Thinking.” North Carolina Association for the Gifted & Talented, March 2009.
- “Seeing the World in a New Way.” North Carolina Middle School Association, March 2009.
- “Best Practices in School Library Website Design.” North Carolina School Library Media Association, October 2006.
- “Beyond the Double Bubble Chart: Venn Diagrams as a Thinking Tool.” North Carolina Association for Educational Communications and Technology, March 2006, and North Carolina Middle School Association, March 2006.
- “Visual Literacy: Reading Charts and Graphs.” North Carolina School Library Media Association, October 2004, and North Carolina Association for Educational Communications and Technology, March 2005.
- “Visual Literacy: Reading Photographs.” North Carolina School Library Media Association, October 2003, and North Carolina Association for Educational Communications and Technology, March 2004.
- “Rethinking Reports: Breathing New Life into Tired Assignments.” North Carolina School Library Media Association, September 2002.
- “Documents to Digitization: Finding and Using Primary Sources in the Secondary Classroom.” North Carolina School Library Media Association, September 2001.
- “The Craze for Pennsylvania Dutch Cooking.” Lancaster County Historical Association colloquium, March 2000.
- “Family Style: Pennsylvania Dutch Food and Domestic Idealism, 1945–1970.” Pennsylvania History Association, October 1998.

Teaching

- Designed and led 30+ workshops for K–12 teachers on technology integration and related topics, 1998–2010.
- Teaching Assistant in United States History, North Carolina History, and Western Civilization, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1993–1997.

See also publications for K–12 teachers, above.

Professional service

Member at-large, Advisory Board to Duke Homestead Education and History Corporation, 2014–.

LEARN NC Liaison to Board of Directors of the North Carolina School Library Media Association, 2010–11.

Served on Ackland Art Museum K12 Education Advisory Committee, 2008–10.

Representative to North Carolina Museum Educators Roundtable, 2008–11.

Participated in Web Hypertext Application Technology Working Group, 2006–2008.

Community Service

Volunteer interpreter, Duke Homestead State Historic Site, 2011–.

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, Board of Directors, 2004–2005.