

Bulletin Digitization Project

The Bulletin digitization project is moving forward quickly and I expect to have the scanning and optical character recognition work done by the end of 2017. Currently most issues from 1935 to 1981 have been scanned. The issues for the years 1982-1997 remain to be scanned and we have a few lingering issues to resolve with a handful of the early scans. For issues from 1998 to present, I will be generating the files directly from the Quark and InDesign files used to produce the magazine. I have completed roughly half of those conversions. I expect to have the remainder done by the end of the year.

The project took a bit of extra time to get off the ground because it took me two months of working with the vendor to get the quality scans that we need. I was finally able to get them to produce scans with the pages straight and the color reproduction consistent throughout. As a result of the extra time needed to get the consistency we were looking for, the price per page increased to 65 cents from 50 cents. Despite the increase, I am confident that the total cost of the project will come in under the \$15K that the Board authorized.

The files are currently stored in two locations for safe keeping. One location is the file server in my home (a RAID 5 NAS device that also stores all Bulletin production files). It is secured behind a firewall and password protected. Additionally, all the files have been uploaded to a Cloud storage service (business version of Dropbox) should anything happen to my house.

The next step in this process is to determine what the NRHS wants to do with the scans once they are complete. In a separate new business item, I will be asking the Board for a directional decision so that I can develop a specific proposal for the Board to consider in the spring.

If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to me at bulletin@nrhs.com.

Jeff Smith
Editor, NRHS Bulletin