I’ve been the genealogist and local historian for the Crawford County Public Library for almost 4 years. Our library doesn’t have an established history for patrons to look at, so I’ve decided to create a website for my final project that tells them of the library’s history and gives them a little history of the county.

When we began our photograph digitization project a few years ago, we created posters advertising the project that featured a photograph of the library in one of its old locations. Many older patrons liked to talk about the memories they had of the old library when they saw the picture. Many library patrons seem to be interested in the library’s history. The library does not have an established history that is viewable by patrons. We have a few tidbits on our website, but no real history overall. The website that I have created for this project makes it more visible to our patrons as well as those who do not live in the area.

Performing the research for this project was one of my biggest challenges. I had to dig pretty deeply into microfilm and into our boxes of important papers in order to find the important dates and events for the library. Likewise I had to dig into our county history books in order to find information for the county history timeline. I also found that I had a learning curve with Weebly, I had a hard time getting the links for the “About” pages to work. I think that it did create a page that is easy to navigate even for those who are not terribly experienced with computers. I think that one of the disadvantages with this medium is that the county is located in
an area where many people are either technologically illiterate or don’t have easy access to the internet. They wouldn’t be able to view the website unless they came into the library.

To begin my project, I performed research on the library itself. I dug through newspaper microfilm in the major years for the library to find news about the library’s movement and creation. I worked with the library director to find paperwork related to the library’s creation as well as any major events that happened during its history. To obtain the photographs, I used scanned images of the library and worked with our technical services manager to find photographs of library programs. After I had compiled enough information, I began my work on the website through Weebly.