

Reveal Digital's Independent Voices collection now open to all

Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 23, 2018

Reveal Digital is delighted to announce its [Independent Voices](#) collection is now open to everyone.

Independent Voices brings together for the first time in digital form nearly 1,000 underground, alternative and literary newspapers, newsletters, and periodicals published during the 1950s, 60s, 70s, and 80s. The collection includes content published by 2nd wave feminists, civil rights activists, intellectuals from marginalized ethnic groups, anti-war activists, dissident GIs, and many more. Independent Voices makes it possible for people to explore the social movements of the late 20th century in isolation and within the context of sometimes complementary, sometimes competing ideologies. A full description of the collection may be found [here](#).

Independent Voices is published under an important new open access model that has received broad and enthusiastic support from academic libraries in North America and the United Kingdom. Through this model, [more than 120 libraries](#) each contributed a modest amount toward the \$1.8M publishing costs in exchange for early exclusive access to the collection and backend support tools including MARC records and usage statistics.

Beyond these tangible benefits, for many libraries the promise of making Independent Voices open access was the primary factor behind their support. Elizabeth Mengel, Associate Director, Collections and Academic Services at the Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins University and member of Reveal Digital's Executive Committee summarized the vision of these supporting libraries well. She said, "There is no other more powerful source of freedom and human growth than an open society with an educated populace, which is what open access is working to support."

Reveal Digital originally planned to open the collection in January 2019. With increasing requests for access from people unaffiliated with funding libraries, the timeline for opening access was moved up to May 2018. "Nearly every week we receive a request for full access to Independent Voices from someone doing research on a topic for which the content is incredibly relevant and important," said Peggy Glahn, Reveal Digital's Program Director. "With this building demand for access to Independent Voices this seemed like the right time to open up the collection. We brought the proposal to our Executive Committee who approved it unanimously. We are delighted to fulfill our commitment to everyone who has made Independent Voices possible, from the rights holders of the original publications to the source libraries who provided hardcopy for us to digitize to the funding libraries who made it all possible."

About Reveal Digital

Reveal Digital works in true partnership with libraries to bring rare-and untapped-content into the digital world. Reveal Digital's revolutionary publishing model allows libraries to collaborate to create and fund unique digital collections using a strict cost-recovery pricing model. Upon reaching a project's cost-recovery threshold, access to the resulting digital collection is open to all. Independent Voices is the first such collection. Reveal Digital is also developing a digital collection of [newspapers published by Ku Klux Klan organizations in the 1920s](#).

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