Vote: The 19th Amendment and the Chippewa Valley
CURATING A VIRTUAL EXHIBIT

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ABSTRACT

The Chippewa Valley is filled with stories of women who fought for their right to vote in the early 1900s. Through diaries, newspapers, oral histories, and letters, our research team created a virtual exhibit. This exhibit explores these important stories by examining the local people and moments connected to this era in our history. This virtual exhibit broadened existing research on women’s studies and the 19th Amendment, with the focus being on the Chippewa Valley.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

While creating this virtual exhibit, our team relied heavily on online platforms for research, communicating with one another on a day-to-day basis, and delivering our research to the public. Through Microsoft Teams, our group met virtually to plan and collaborate ideas on our project on a weekly basis.

One of the challenges of this exhibit was shifting from our original plan of a physical exhibit to an online platform that could be accessed anywhere. This challenge encouraged creative solutions when it came to presenting our project in an organized and accessible way. When it came to creating and displaying the virtual exhibit, our team utilized the online platform, Omeka. This site was another way our group was able to work virtually, as it allowed us to combine our research and organize our thoughts.

The materials that were used within the exhibit came from sources such as newspaper databases, archival collections, photograph collections, and oral histories. The newspaper databases allowed us to find and piece together stories from one hundred years ago into a timeline of events leading up to the passing of the 19th Amendment and what occurred after. This timeline became the base of our research and allowed us to dive deeper into stories of different women and organizations in the early 1900s.

Along with the newspaper articles, photographs from the Chippewa Valley Museum and the Wisconsin Historical Society were utilized in our research as a visual aspect of our exhibit. Other photographs and stories came from physical collections housed within the Special Collections and Archives at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

The central panel of this poster features a highlight from the online exhibit's content.