



## Video transcript

### Improving access to New England's Congregational history

Good day. I am Zachary Bodnar, an archivist at the Congregational Library and Archives. For more than a decade now, the CLA has been embarked on a journey to digitise and transcribe the records and papers of colonial and early American era congregational churches and Congregationalists as part of our New England's Hidden Histories project.

We have created a unique resource of digitized records that has become a treasure trove of information for genealogists, scholars, students and amateur historians. Through our digitisation project alone, we have created more than 170 digital collections which include more than 4,000 unique items. As the scope and size of our digital collections have grown over the last decade, so too have our needs for improved access to these important resources.

Fortunately, with the help of Quartex, we were able to launch our brand new digital archive this past spring which has allowed us to make our digital collections more accessible and easier to find than ever before.

Quartex provides so many avenues of discovery through different approaches to searching. Whether it be a simple keyword search, a complex advanced search, or a process of refining a search through the application of facets, users will be able to find exactly what it is they want.

That searches look across both metadata and transcriptions at present, forever ensures that each and every item is eminently findable within the system. Speaking of metadata, Quartex allowed us to create a custom and detailed metadata schema which ensures each digital item has more than sufficient descriptive administrative and technical information.

We've also made extensive use of controlled vocabulary terms to ensure that items related by geography, source, creator, genre or even the model of camera used to digitise an item, can easily be found at the click of a button.

With the launch of our new digital archive, the CLA also launched our first digital exhibit using Quartex's built-in functionality, 'We do give up ourselves to one another', exploring digitised congregational disciplinary records at the Congregational Library and Archives.

This exhibit uses documents from our digital collections to explore and elucidate the often misunderstood genre of Congregational Church records known as disciplinary records. With this new digital exhibit, we hope that people leave with a better understanding of the church disciplinary process employed by Congregationalists and a curiosity to explore the topic more deeply on one's own.

We are so very excited to have launched our new digital archive and the new digital exhibit alongside it. Thank you so very much.