

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS SERVICE

TITLE VI
TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND
COOPERATION FOR FOREIGN INFORMATION
ACCESS (TICFIA) PROGRAM



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND PROJECT ABSTRACTS
FOR 2002-2005 FUNDING CYCLE

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND COOPERATION FOR FOREIGN INFORMATION ACCESS PROGRAM CFDA NUMBER 84.337

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access (TICFIA) Program is authorized under Title VI, Part A, of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended. The purpose of TICFIA is to support projects that will develop innovative techniques or programs using new electronic technologies to collect information from foreign sources. Grants will be made to access, collect, organize, preserve, and widely disseminate information on world regions and countries other than the United States that address our Nation's teaching and research needs in international education and foreign languages.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for assistance under this program, an applicant must be an institution of higher education, a public or nonprofit private library or a combination of these institutions or libraries.

AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES

Grants under this section may be used—

- (1) to facilitate access to or preserve foreign information resources in print or electronic forms;
- (2) to develop new means of immediate, full-text document delivery for information and scholarship from abroad;
- (3) to develop new means of shared electronic access to international data;
- (4) to support collaborative projects of indexing, cataloging, and other means of bibliographic access for scholars to important research materials published or distributed outside the United States;
- (5) to develop methods for the wide dissemination of resources

written in non-Roman language alphabets;

(6) to assist teachers of less commonly taught languages in acquiring, via electronic and other means, materials suitable for classroom use;

(7) to promote collaborative technology-based projects in foreign languages, area studies, and international studies among grant recipients under this title; and

(8) to support other eligible activities consistent with the purposes and intent of the legislation.

MATCH REQUIRED

The Federal share of the total cost of carrying out a program supported by a grant under this section shall not be more than 66 2/3 percent. The non-Federal share of such cost may be provided either in-kind or in cash, and may include contributions from private sector corporations or foundations.

PROGRAM FUNDING

In FY 1999, 8 projects were funded for 3 years. In FY 2001 10 new projects were funded for 3 years. The funding per project ranges from \$85,000 to \$195,000 per year. The next program competition is tentatively scheduled for September 22, 2004 for grant awards from October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2008. The official closing date notice will be published in the Federal Register. Abstracts of funded projects are posted on our web site.

If you wish further information, contact Susanna Easton or Gale Holdren, TICFIA Program, IEPS/OPE, U.S. Department of Education. 1990 K. St., N.W. Washington DC 20006-8521. Contact: Susanna_Easton@ed.gov , 202-502-7628 or Gale.Holdren@ed.gov, 202-502-7691.

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oep/iegps/index.html>

Please also check the following web site, which will link you to contact information and access to the funded projects: <http://www.crl.edu/areastudies/ticfia/index.html>

AUTHORIZATION

Section 606 of Title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Higher Education Amendments of 1998.

**TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND COOPERATION FOR FOREIGN
INFORMATION ACCESS (TICFIA) PROGRAM**

2002-2005 GRANTEES

APPLICANT UNIVERSITY AND PROJECT TITLE

Funding for Year I of Grant Cycle

Michigan State University S. African Collaborative Film and Video Project	\$150,000
Yale University "OACIS" for the Middle East: On-Line Access to Consolidated Information on Serials	\$145,000
University of California, Los Angeles Language Resource Program	\$175,000
University of California - Los Angeles Latin American Research Resources Project	\$195,000
University of Chicago South Asian Information Access	\$195,000
University of Kansas Access to Russian Archives	\$85,000
University of Southern California Access Indonesia	\$195,000
University of Southern California Website on Development in Japan in On-Line Journalism	\$195,000
University of Virginia Tibetan Digital Library Access	\$170,000
University of Wisconsin Portal to Asian Internet Resources	\$195,000

The program is funded at \$1,700,000 per year.

Project funding ranges from \$85,000 to \$195,000.

MICHIGAN STATE U

South African Collaborative Film and Video Project: Innovation for an Intercontinental Distributed Database and U.S. Academic Access

David Wiley, Director; Mark Kornbluh, Executive Director

The South Africa Film and Video Project (SAFVP) will provide access for American scholars, professionals, and the general public to the broad and deep heritage of the film and video that recorded the panoply of the world's most extraordinary political and racial transition of the twentieth century – from colonialism, to the apartheid state, to the coming of majority rule in South Africa and other countries of the Southern Africa region.

Three of the South African partners in SAFVP hold the premier collections of film and video in South Africa: the **National Film, Video and Sound Archive** (Pretoria), **UWC-Robben Island Museum Mayibuye Film and Video Archive** (Cape Town), and the **African National Congress (ANC) Archive** (Johannesburg). Using the new electronic technologies and the Internet, the project will build on the 10,000-item database that already has been created by the **MSU African Media Program** (East Lansing, MI) and the long history of film and video reviewing and indexing of the Program in **Cultural and Media Studies** (CMS) at the University of Natal (Durban). CMS is South Africa's most important cultural studies center focusing on media.

This project will establish a distributed system to allow simultaneous searching of the multiple databases maintained by the five collaborating partner institutions containing cataloging and descriptive data about their collections. The networked database will provide access to information about these rich collections of South African film and videotape for scholars and other users in the U.S., South Africa, and worldwide via the Internet. Copies of selected materials from these collections will be transferred to the MSU Library for access by U.S. scholars either at MSU or through Interlibrary loan.

The materials are immensely rich with historical and content, depth and breadth. The **National Film, Video and Sound Archives** (NFVSA) of the South African National Archives holds images and narrative on colonial South Africa, World War II, and the coming to power of the Nationalist State in 1948; the interpretation of apartheid by the State; academic and state-sponsored ethnographies of African peoples; presentations of popular culture of Afrikaner and English South Africans; and much more.

The **UWC-Robben Island Museum Mayibuye Film and Video Archive** contains the unique Afravision video archive of 5,000 videotapes of the mass struggles and the pro-democracy movement of the 1980s and early 1990s; largely unedited 8mm & 16mm amateur film of South African political history of the 1970s; videos of the liberation struggles in the Frontline States; and interviews with leaders of the ANC, South African

Communist Party (SACP), South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), Congress of South African Trade Unions, and United Democratic Forum.

The *African National Congress Archive* contains approximately 10,000 units of video and film materials, most not yet incorporated into finished productions. These materials focus on the activities in exile of the ANC, SACP, and SACTU with videos and films from Zambia, Angola, Lesotho, Botswana, Uganda, Tanzania (especially the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College at Mazimbu). Featured in this footage are most of the famous ANC leaders who were in exile and also the training activities of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the military wing of the ANC.

Yale University

OACIS for the Middle East: Online Access to Consolidated Information on Serials
Funded by TICFIA 2002-2005

Project URL: <http://www.library.yale.edu/oacis/>

First year award: \$145,000

Lead Personnel at Yale:

- Ann Okerson, Project PI, Associate University Librarian, ann.okerson@yale.edu, 203-432-1764
- Kimberly Parker, Project Co-PI, Head of Electronic Collections, kimberly.parker@yale.edu, 203-432-0067
- Simon Samoeil, Project Manager, Near East Curator, simon.samoeil@yale.edu, 203-432-1799
- Elizabeth Beaudin, OACIS Technical Administrator, elizabeth.beaudin@yale.edu, 203-432-0067

Address: Yale University Library, P. O. Box 208240, New Haven, CT 06520-8240

Collaborating Libraries in Initial Phase:

1. United States partners and advisors include:

- Ali Houissa, Middle East & Islamic Studies Bibliographer, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- Jonathan Rodgers, Head, Near East Division and Coordinator of Area Programs, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- Dona S. Straley, Middle East Studies Librarian, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- Dennis Hyde, Director, Collection Management & Development, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- Abazar Spehri, Middle East Studies Librarian, University of Texas, Austin, TX
- Mary St. Germain, Head, Near East Section, University of Washington Libraries, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

1. Europe:

- Lutz Wiederhold, Curator of the Oriental Books, Universitaets- und Landesbibliothek, Sachsen-Anhalt, Halle, Germany

2. Middle East:

- Abdel Basset Ben Hassen, Director, Arab Institute for Human Rights, Institut Arabe des Droits de l'Homme, Tunis, Tunisia

- Mrs. Shahirah al-Sawi, Director of the Library, American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt
- Ali Aydi, General Director, National Library of Syria, Damascus, Syria

Target Countries and Languages: Target countries are those of the Middle East, specifically: Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia (Republic), Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Comoros, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Georgia (Republic), Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian National Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Yemen. The range of languages will include Arabic, Kurdish, Persian, Turkish, among others.

Abstract Submitted to TICFIA for Initial Grant:

The Yale University Library proposes to lead and coordinate a collaborative project to make important Middle Eastern language resources widely available. First, Project OACIS (Online Access to Consolidated Information on Serials) will create a publicly and freely accessible, continuously updated union list of Middle East journals and serials, including those available in print, microform, and online. Project OACIS will be available via the World Wide Web for readers anywhere in the world, provided they have access to networked computers. Designed to exploit electronic networked information technologies via the progressive plan described below, the union list will contain full bibliographical information and precise holdings (with owning libraries identified) for journals and serials related to the Middle East and published in numerous languages. Far more than a union list, Project OACIS will also serve as a gateway to several thousand (from well-known to rarely held) serial and journal titles published not only in traditional formats, but also increasingly electronically, for delivery via the World Wide Web. At the moment, perhaps 80 Middle Eastern full-text journal titles – including those in Arabic languages -- are available electronically, but the numbers are growing rapidly, offering significant improvement in access and convenience to readers.

Project OACIS will also lay the foundation for enhanced content delivery from Middle East-related journals and serials. For print or microform titles, the project will develop a pilot project for electronic delivery of Middle Eastern articles. For online electronic titles, Project OACIS will offer direct links either to the full content (where the titles are available for free) or to the site (if licenses or payments are required). Project OACIS will also begin to facilitate and coordinate selection of core journals in Middle Eastern languages for digitization, preservation, and easier access.

Project OACIS is international in scope. Because the first titles and holdings loaded into the union list will be contributed by U.S. partner libraries, the initial phases will be of greatest impact for scholars, teachers, and students in the United States. Soon, however, the project will expand to include titles and holdings not only of additional U.S. institutions, but also of targeted institutions in Europe and the Middle East. We will broaden the initial supporting and advisory group as the project expands.

To further its reach and effectiveness, Project OACIS will establish companion or mirror sites abroad, in order to facilitate information updating and access by users in Europe and the Middle East. This expansion will be accomplished through cooperation with partner institutions abroad, at the same time promoting long-term access to the contents of these foreign partners' resources. The partners' librarian interns will come to Yale to contribute to the project design, as well as to learn to input records from their own institutions. They will return home to carry on, within their own institutions and regions, the work they began in the U.S. While they are on site at Yale, we will enlist the interns' help in two additional ways: (1) assist in developing vernacular (non-Roman language) representation for their institutions' titles; and (2) serve as online information resource consultants to Yale's Center for Language Study.

The three-year period covered by the grant will be devoted to the following activities:

- Develop a MARC-compliant database for Middle East journals and serials records and load into it contributors' records and holdings. (MARC is the national and international library standard format for "machine-readable catalog" records.)
- Develop mechanisms and procedures for continuous updating of the resource, both titles and holdings.
- Make this database publicly available online for user viewing and testing via the World Wide Web, initially through a server at Yale University.
- Seek feedback via specific surveys, focus groups, and through measuring use of the resource; the information will be used to improve user interface and functionality.
- Identify several domestic and foreign institutional partners willing to lend materials to each other for the document delivery phase of this project. With that small group, identify economic, policy, and procedural issues surrounding such delivery.
- Implement a pilot electronic document delivery project for partners who do not have that capability already.
- Identify a core group of important and infrequently held serials for the study of the Middle East to be digitized by a subsequent phase of this project.
- Identify ongoing costs of the OACIS online union list and develop a funding strategy for supporting the project in the longer term.

In short, we will orchestrate initial loading or entering of the bulk of Middle East serials titles into a searchable database, with accurate holdings and location information being a key focus. Once these critical pieces of OACIS are in place and the impact of loaded records begins to reach a steady state, the emphasis will shift to planning for improved

access to the documents themselves. The database will enable Middle Eastern studies librarians to see what journals are most needed and/or least available and to plan digitization projects accordingly.

The primary technical goal of the OACIS project is the development of a MARC-compliant database for Middle East journals and serials records that includes the contributors' records and holdings. (MARC is the national and international library standard format for "machine-readable catalog" records.) This database will be publicly available online for user viewing and testing via the World Wide Web, initially through a server at Yale University. Open Source methodologies, incorporating UNICODE for Arabic script display, will offer a shareable solution at a reasonable cost by avoiding expensive licensing and software tools. OACIS will include object-oriented modularity based on a flexible database design to assure continuous updating of the resource.

In later phases, the project will implement a pilot electronic document delivery project, taking advantage of digitizing methodologies and XML as a transfer language, particularly targeting partners who do not have that capability already. The work done to populate the database will, in turn, identify a core group of important and infrequently held Middle Eastern serials to be digitized in a post-grant preservation stage of the project.

University of California, Los Angeles

**SOURCES OF AUTHENTIC MATERIALS FOR THE LESS COMMONLY TAUGHT
LANGUAGES**

Sponsoring Institution:

UCLA International Institute, UCLA Language Resource Center,
Kinsey Hall 360, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90095
Project website: <http://www.lmp.ucla.edu>

Project Directors:

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Project Management:

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Dr. Donna Brinton, Pedagogical Specialist
brinton@humnet.ucla.edu
Kaya Menteshoglu, Senior Web Developer
kaya@isop.ucla.edu

First year allocation: \$175,000

In cooperation with the Language Resource Center of the UCLA International Institute, and the National Council of Organizations of the Less Commonly Taught Languages, the UCLA Language Materials Project is developing an online tool for bringing Authentic Materials into the classroom for Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTLs). Over a three-year period, the project will accomplish the following goals.

1. IDENTIFY SOURCES OF AUTHENTIC MATERIALS IN AT LEAST 15 LCTL'S Languages will be selected from among those shown in the following table, depending on the potential for cooperative alliances in the target countries.

Croatian	Modern Arabic	Serbian
Czech	Modern Greek	Swahili
Hausa	Modern Hebrew	Swedish
Hindi	Norwegian	Tagalog
Indonesian	Pashto	Tajik
Japanese	Persian	Uzbek
Kazakh	Polish	Vietnamese
Korean	Portuguese	Yoruba
Mandarin	Russian	

Pilot languages for the first year will be Russian, Swahili, and Kazakh -- enabling us to establish criteria for non-Roman writing systems, set up cooperative agreements for data access in three countries and, in the case of Kazakh, to familiarize ourselves with the challenges in identifying and accessing permanent sources in a language with a limited quantity of published materials. We have established alliances at universities and other institutions in Russia, Kenya, and Kazakhstan for cooperation in data collection.

2. PROVIDE ACCESS TO DIGITIZED AUTHENTIC MATERIALS

Digitized materials that are not otherwise available will be housed on our host computer for teachers to download and incorporate into their lessons. Prominent among those materials will be such realia as brochures, schedules, programs, calendars, currency, stamps, posters, and maps, that can readily be put to use at any level of language instruction.

3. PROVIDE EFFECTIVE ABTRACTS OF THE MATERIALS IN AN ONLINE DATABASE

The database is modeled on the Language Materials Project's widely consulted database of citations to published second-language pedagogical materials, www.lmp.ucla.edu, adapted to the descriptive requirements of Authentic Materials. The database will be enhanced with a new web interface that offers a choice of classical Boolean searching or the more intuitive link browsing familiar to modern web users.

4. PRESENT AN ILLUSTRATED ONLINE GUIDE TO THE USE OF AUTHENTIC MATERIALS BY LCTL TEACHERS

The guide will delineate pedagogical principles and methodology for developing lessons around Authentic Materials. It will provide sample lessons based on digitized Authentic Materials (audio, still pictures, and video), and a point-by-point set of procedures for teachers to develop effective lessons as efficiently as possible.

Authorized Activities

The Authentic Materials project is implementing five goals of the *Title VI Program for Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access*, namely to facilitate access to or preserve foreign information resources in print or electronic forms; develop new means of shared electronic access to international data; support collaborative projects of indexing cataloging, and other means of bibliographic access for scholars to important research materials published or distributed outside the United States; develop methods for the wide dissemination of resources written in non-Roman language alphabets; assist teachers of less commonly taught languages in acquiring, via electronic and other means, materials suitable for classroom use; promote collaborative technology based projects in foreign language, area studies, and international studies.

Need and significance

Authentic materials are everyday items with language content developed for native speakers rather than second-language learners. The teaching profession has increasingly recognized the importance of such materials in foreign language pedagogy. The use of real language has become an integral part of programs that espouse a proficiency-oriented approach, which emphasizes learning to *use* a second language rather than learning *about* it.

A major problem facing teachers of LCTLs is the lack of systematic identification and access to Authentic Materials, and for some teachers a lack of methodology for their use. Authentic materials for the commonly taught languages are relatively abundant and easily obtainable in the United States. But for LCTLs, there is little opportunity to collect the materials needed to maintain this pedagogical approach.

The archive of online Authentic Materials, easily accessed through a bibliographic database with abstracts and descriptive citations, combined with the online guide to the use of Authentic Materials in the language classroom, will advance the standards for teaching LCTLs in the United States.

Evaluation

A permanent committee advises the Language Materials Project. The committee will meet twice during the course of the Authentic Materials Project to review product design and implementation. Current members of the National Advisory Committee are:

Dr. Richard Brecht, Director, National Foreign Language Center (NFLC), University of Maryland

Dr. Nina Garrett, Director, Center for Language Study, Yale University

Dr. Dora Johnson, Director of Less Commonly Taught Language Project, Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), Washington, DC.

Dr. Louis Janus, Network Coordinator, LCTL Project, Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA), University of Minnesota.

Dr. Pauline Yu, Dean of Humanities, Professor, East Asian Languages and Cultures, UCLA

The Authentic Materials Project is subject to annual evaluation by the UCLA International Institute. We have arranged for additional evaluation by a committee of experts, who will report to the National Advisory Committee twice during the course of the project. The evaluation committee is headed by:

Dr. Scott McGinnis, Associate Professor and Academic Training Specialist, Defense Language Institute, Washington, DC

For the Authentic Materials project, we are initiating an additional level of evaluation by the end users. This will be accomplished using a version of the Language Materials Project's online survey instrument that was beta-tested in 2002. Two essential survey questions will be:

- (1) How well is the project identifying sources of Authentic Materials and related materials for the users' respective languages?
- (2) What other sources of Authentic Materials do they suggest we include in the bibliography?

Mining Hidden Gems: Building a Latin American Open Archives Portal for Scholars

University of California, Los Angeles Library
and
Other Participating Libraries

Terry Ryan, UCLA, Principal Investigator

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Project URL:
<http://www.lanic.utexas.edu/project/arl/>
Award Allocation Year 1: \$195,000

Description of the Project

Latin American studies encompass scholarly, strategic, instructional, commercial, cultural, and civic dimensions, each of which requires a solid information base to support research. Though traditional collections of Latin American trade books are by now quite strong, libraries have had only mixed success in capturing materials not controlled by commercial publishers. Students and scholars increasingly seek new kinds of resources, just as production of available materials from Latin America's informal organizations, often operating outside of established commercial channels, have mushroomed. New formats for information, most notably electronic publications, significantly complicate the tasks of

identifying, providing access to, and preserving information resources.

This proposal is aimed at addressing the need for improved control of and access to Latin America's "grey literature," the publications, working documents, and other materials produced by research institutes, non-governmental organizations, and peripheral agencies produced in print and electronic formats, but which are not controlled by commercial publishers. These publications are difficult to identify and acquire, are often only available in limited printings, and may appear in low quality photocopies. Even when these materials are digitized and mounted on the Web, they remain hidden away for unpredictable lengths of time on often-fragile institutional websites. The project will identify appropriate organizations in Latin America, focusing on groups that produce research materials in the social sciences, digitize the publications produced by them, and apply the Open Archives Initiative Protocol

Metadata Harvesting to these documents to ensure systematic and enhanced Web access to distributed resources. The Latin American Network Information Center (LANIC) will develop an Open Archives Protocol Metadata Harvesting portal service for harvesting the metadata from participating repositories. To support these activities, LANIC will develop a training program to train staff at the Latin American partner sites in file conversion and application of the Open Archives Protocol Metadata Harvesting. LANIC also will serve as a mirror site for the new electronic resources and host digital files for Latin American institutions whose server capacities are limited. Further, the proposal will conduct research on the economics of information delivery and develop a plan to address the financial implications of cost recovery for the project's services within a context of equitable, sustainable, open access among an international membership of institutions with widely varying financial resources.

The University of California, Los Angeles submits this application on behalf of the Latin Americanist Research Resources Project (LARRP), a consortium of forty-eight North American libraries with major Latin American collections, and seven Latin American partner libraries, under the sponsorship of the Global Resources Program, a joint initiative of the Association of American Universities and the Association of Research Libraries. The project will form a new partnership with the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales-Chile (FLACSO-Chile) and expand its collaboration with the Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica (CIRMA) in Guatemala, both highly respected, important research institutes that produce social sciences research materials. Both institutes are well positioned to assist the project in forming partnerships with additional organizations in the region. By the conclusion of the three-year collaborative effort, the project expects to significantly expand access to important,

but elusive, "grey literature" research materials, and to put in place the infrastructure for a Latin American Open Archives scholars portal at LANIC that will provide ever-expanding and sustainable Web access to Latin American resources.

Authorized Activities

This proposal responds to all seven of the authorized activities outlined in the TICFIA legislation. The project will digitize grey literature in accordance with current technical standards and "best practices" concerning file formats, resolution, and compression schemes, and apply the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAIPMH) to the digitized material. The OAI has taken a lead role in ensuring that digital data content providers utilize consistent metadata, descriptive elements, and searching protocols. By applying established norms for the creation of standardized metadata appropriate to the special characteristics of electronic products, sophisticated searches of the "Deep Web" are possible beyond what is supported by commercial browsers and search engines. This capability facilitates increased access to and allows the harvesting of digital resources in many different locations. LANIC will serve as a mirror site for the digital resources and host digital files of Latin American organizations that lack strong Internet capabilities. LANIC will create a multilingual PMH portal service to guide access to the related archives, explain search parameters, and facilitate file download. The project will promote national and international collaborations with FLACSO-Chile, CIRMA, and other Latin American organizations to identify, describe, and provide Web access to bibliographic description and full-text grey literature. The information will be organized and accessible through a new OAIPMH portal service at LANIC, the most important Latin American regional portal. The project's partnerships in Chile and in Guatemala will enable us to incorporate materials produced in association with each country's large and

active indigenous communities, in particular, with CIRMA whose research interests encompass linguistic studies. Though materials from Latin America, including those in the region's indigenous tongues, are represented in Roman script, many are in autochthonous dialects. Internet access to Latin America's grey literature will ensure that these materials will be easily accessible to students, teachers, and scholars. Materials suitable for classroom units on tribal identities, indigenous rights, or the hole in the ozone layer, as examples, will be readily accessible where they presently are difficult or impossible to consult. LANIC is a well-known portal for higher education as well as K-12, ensuring that the new targeted resources will be easy to locate. Finally, this project is founded upon collaboration among U.S. libraries, LANIC, and leading research libraries in Latin America. This proposal will add the dimension of collaboration with Latin American organizations that publish research information, the data content providers themselves. The training component ensures continuity and growth of the program in the region. The technological approach of introducing the use of OAI and the creation of a harvesting portal service will promote further collaboration in the region to bring new foreign language resources in Latin American area studies and in international comparative studies to a worldwide audience.

Selection Criteria

To improve access to the literature of non-governmental organizations was one of the primary goals in the establishment of LARRP in the mid-1990's. Early efforts to address the need fell short of expectations. Yet interest continues to grow because grey literature tends to convey viewpoints and analyses that fall outside the political and intellectual mainstream and to represent the most current research on emerging topics. Increasing demand for new resources from a rapidly expanding constituency of users studying Latin America and seeking

Spanish-language materials on current topics from this dynamic and strategic region intensifies the importance of addressing the gaps of this type of material in library collections. The proposed project is significant in developing a strategy to capture and provide enhanced access to elusive, but important, research materials in the social sciences through innovative use of technology. By establishing collaborative partnerships with data content-producing research institutions, the project will introduce state-of-the-art technology and "best practices" to the region to take advantage of the sophisticated features of OAIPMH. The development of an open archives PMH portal service at LANIC will add a new dimension to

the premiere scholars portal on the Latin American region.

The project design is based on three interrelated initiatives: to develop partnerships with Latin American institutions and organizations that produce grey literature; to develop the OAIPMH infrastructure at LANIC; and to research the economics of information delivery in order to form a model for sustainable cost recovery of Internet-based services. The design, work plan, and services emphasize technological innovation: the assignment of expert personnel; the collaboration of key groups and organizations; training to produce quality results and to ensure continuity and sustainability of the endeavor; the development of infrastructure capable of delivering the new services; and reasonable, achievable time frames in which to produce results. The commitment of key project personnel and adequate resources have been carefully planned and budgeted, ensuring successful completion of the proposed project. Ongoing review and evaluation of progress, adequate oversight by LARRP's Advisory Committee, and use of well-established organizational structures for communicating and achieving collaborative results are key features of the management and evaluation plans.

In summary, this project extends the knowledge, experience, and commitment of the Latin Americanist Research Resources Project to new areas of collaboration with Latin American institutions and with LANIC to achieve a long-held goal of improving access to elusive grey literature. The use of the Open Archives Initiative Protocol and the development of an PMH portal service will open new avenues to scholars and other users to achieve enhanced access to Latin American research materials.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY

1100 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

The University of Chicago

APPLICANT

The University of Chicago
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

TITLE OF PROJECT

South Asian Information Access: A
Federated Program to Expand the
Resources for Understanding the
Subcontinent

FUNDING AWARDED

\$195,000 per year

PROJECT DATES

Oct. 1, 2002 - Sept. 30, 2005

Personnel

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PROJECT MANAGER

Position to be filled after a national
search

PROJECT CO-MANAGER

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Overview

In order to maintain and improve access to vital resources for the study of South Asia, a federation of research institutions led by the University of Chicago proposes a three-year collaborative project to deliver digital research materials to users both in the United States and throughout the world via the Internet. It has become increasingly evident that in an era of static or decreasing budgets research libraries will need to develop innovative and collaborative strategies in order to acquire and maintain the resources necessary for research. In no area of study is this necessity more apparent than in the case of South Asia. Given the size and diversity of interest, both inside and outside of academia, it is clear that cooperative acquisition alone can not provide readers with the increasingly vital materials in South Asian regional languages or certain highly sought after resources in an effective or timely fashion. This new project builds upon the accomplishments of the Digital South Asia Library, funded by TICFIA at the same time that it forges a new approach to addressing the needs of scholars and other members of the public. As hallmarks, this unique collaboration will:

- forge a new library federation for sustainable and innovative digital projects in cooperation with foreign libraries focused on South Asian studies;
- create on-line information about contemporary and historical South Asia – across the social sciences, humanities, and sciences;
- use Federal funds for providing access to resources now only available overseas;
- stimulate the generation of substantial matching funds from federation members and foundations for improved electronic access to resources in the United States;
- develop a Web interface fostering easy discovery of resources in different formats and from different locations and make available the computer programs for manipulating those resources;
- use Unicode electronic character encoding for non-roman language data disseminated under the project; and
- face questions of cultural patrimony in South Asia with sensitivity while furthering a "new library movement" in the subcontinent.

This project will encompass the subcontinent which lies south of the Himalayan range and comprises India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and the Maldives Islands. Language materials selected from among the twenty-seven modern literary languages of South Asia will be a special focus. Those languages include: Assamese, Baluchi, Bengali, Divehi, Dogri, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Newari, Oriya, Panjabi, Pashto, Persian, Rajasthani, Sindhi, Sinhala, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

Need and Significance

As a site of major civilization for more than four thousand years, South Asia continues to comprise an enormous geographical and intellectual domain representing more than twenty-two percent of world's population. More than forty years of sustained government support for language training and acquisitions has produced a sizeable body of informed scholars whose contributions to the study of South Asia have been unmatched outside the subcontinent itself. This **project's large target audience** will be well served by the digital resources provided. The Association for Asian Studies lists more than 760 of its members as having South Asian countries as a major focus of academic interest. In addition, many members of other scholarly associations have a primary interest in South Asia -- the American Academy of Religion, the American Political Science Association, the American Anthropological Association, and the American Oriental Society, to name a few. Looking to the larger body of citizens, the 2000 U.S. census shows that slightly more than one million Americans trace their heritage to the cultures of South Asia. This project's resources will serve "heritage learners" among this population. Finally, those outside the U.S. will be well served by the resources freely available over the Internet.

This project achieves significance through effectively addressing needs registered by national foundations and associations of scholars and librarians. Funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Association of Research Libraries published a review of problems in scholarly access as well as suggested remedies entitled *Scholarship, Research Libraries, and Global Publishing*. Building on that report, the Association of Research Libraries and the Association of American Universities inaugurated the Global Resources Program (GRP). Its principal goals are to improve access to international research resources and help libraries contain costs through the creation of cooperative structures, the use of new technologies, and the expansion of international document delivery. Funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the GRP promotes a distributed, interdependent approach to collecting scholarly materials from abroad. This approach ensures more focused collection development at individual institutions resulting in access to a broader array of these often difficult-to-acquire resources. The GRP coordinates its efforts with those of other libraries and organizations that share common interests with the Association of American Universities and the Association of Research Libraries. During the pilot project and first phase, the Digital South Asia Library has developed an Internet-based infrastructure for intercontinental electronic document delivery to and from selected **South Asian libraries**.

This project proposes to **meet the needs of these diverse readers by providing electronic access to seminal resources** from the subcontinent for the study of South Asia over the Internet. Examples of use by patrons of the South Asian Information Access resources substantiate the significance of this project. **Scholars in virtually all disciplines** of the social sciences and humanities will be able to consult the project's Web site for an array of

documents, statistics, images, and bibliographic data supporting their research, teaching, and planning efforts. Beyond the art historical and museological uses of photographs scanned from the British Library's collection, anthropologist and historians will consult the finding aids for photographs made accessible under this project to locate and view images. Language teachers will be able to direct their students to the pedagogical resources for instruction in less commonly taught languages, knowing that the best available materials created under U.S. Department of Education grants will have been converted for easy access. News reporters and others in the media will find it easy to consult background articles from full-text documents created from key reference books.

Project Design and Activities

The South Asian Information Access project includes all seven of the "authorized activities" outlined in the legislation providing for this grant. The project will facilitate access to resources for the study of South Asia from both the subcontinent and elsewhere. The project contains three units, each of which reinforces the others: 1) preservation and access for a highly select body of information, supported with Federal funds; 2) parallel activities undertaken by twelve federated institutions using their own funds and other non-Federal support; 3) creation of a sophisticated Web interface that will enable searching across the South Asia resources created under this project and earlier, related projects. This structure enables the federation to use Federal funds exclusively for access to resources that are not currently available in the United States. At the same time, members of the federation will use local support to digitize highly valued reference resources, making them more readily available to a broader audience of scholars and citizens.

In order to accomplish these goals this project proposes to use existing software and technology, such as Ariel for Windows and the Wicks and Wilson Microfilm Scanner system, that comport to existing international standards. Furthermore, the staff of this project will use the experience gained under the Digital South Asia Library and the Digital Dictionaries of South Asia projects to continue implementation of the Unicode encoding standard as means of displaying texts in the numerous scripts of the regional languages in South Asia. For all of its activities, **this project will build upon a network of established collaborative relationships with institutions in the U.S., the subcontinent, and Europe.**

Resources, Management, and Evaluation

The support requested for the project is modest relative to its benefits. Contributions of staff time and support from the participating institutions have reduced the labor costs. In addition computing facilities and material infrastructure are already in place in the U.S. Travel expenses will be modest and scheduled to coincide with national South Asia meetings. In the subcontinent, the project will benefit from the capable administration and

technically proficient staff of its partner institutions that are members of the Center for South Asia Libraries as well as considerably lower costs for labor and materials. This project will purchase a limited amount of special equipment needed by collaborators in South Asia. A grant from the U.S. Department of Education will enhance the likelihood that sister institutions in the subcontinent will also receive support from governments and foundations in the region. Along with the present grant, the project can expect to benefit from further increased contributions in kind from collaborating institutions, charitable matching funds and the proven-track record of its proposed directors in obtaining and managing grants.

Management and evaluation of the project will be the responsibility of the Principal Investigator, Co-Director, Project Advisor, Project Manager, Project Co-Manager, Advisory Board and Selection Panel selected under procedures outlined in the main body of this proposal. They will assess the progress and success of the program not only by soliciting evaluations from users but also by an empirical consideration of the costs per transaction as well as a highly specific computer record of resources actually used by patrons.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS ACCESS TO RUSSIAN ARCHIVES

Funding Dates: October 2002 through September 2005.

URL (Temporary): <http://www.ku.edu/~slavlib/2003TitleVISummary.htm>

First Year Award: \$85,000

Key Contact Information:

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<p style="text-align: center;">Technical Work – KU Digital Library</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Collaborating Partner</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Beth Warner, Director Digital Library Initiative Information Services/Libraries 1450 Jayhawk Blvd Lawrence, Kansas 66045-7535 (785) 864-4999 bwarner@ku.edu</p>	<p>Rosarkhiv: Federal'noi arkhivnoi sluzhby Rossii. http://www.rusarchives.ru</p>

Abstract:

The *Access to Russian Archives* project will create a digital database of regional and national guides to the Russian Archives. The project will digitize both the printed and handwritten guides to the approx. 270 central and regional archives in Russia. This digital database would provide the most comprehensive access to the holdings of the entire Russian archive system in one simple, user-friendly electronic format. Creation of this database will allow students and scholars from anywhere in the world to quickly and efficiently identify important archival holdings related to their research or areas of interest.

Since the fall of the Soviet government there has been a new era of open access to information in Russia. Since 1991, it has been much easier for Slavic scholars to gain access to archives. Unfortunately, even as access to the archives themselves has opened up, prospective researchers continue to face a lack of access to information about and indices of holdings of individual archives, or the ability to do comprehensive searches in all archives simultaneously. Information about the location of archival resources is essential for researchers in planning research trips to Russia. Russian archives, which were restricted during the Soviet period, may now be increasingly open for research, but without improved access to the key reference literature, they will effectively remain as inaccessible to the public as they were under Soviet rule.

Rosarkhiv, which administers the Russian archive system, holds guides to both the central and regional archives in Russia that provide a summary of the holdings of each archive. In total, about 270 guides have been created. Many of the regional guides were published in very limited runs of fewer than 20 copies and some were never published but created for in-house use only and are therefore inaccessible outside of Russia, or in some cases, even outside of the specific archive. In addition, the guides can be very difficult and time-consuming to use. For example, if a scholar were conducting research on the Russian poet Pushkin, he would have to search through all 270 guides, one at a time, to determine where in Russia the archival holdings pertaining to Pushkin are housed.

After the approximately 270 guides are digitized, the text will be marked up utilizing standardized XML tagging—making the information fully searchable. The final steps to completing the project will involve the conversion of the text from Cyrillic into Library of Congress Russian transliterated text. The converted text, identical to the original Russian text, will also be available for use. Such a conversion makes the digital database completely searchable in Russian and in English transliteration and allows scholars who do not have Cyrillic capabilities on their computers to access the information through transliteration. The text will also be machine-translated into English making the vast majority of the text available to non-Russian speaking researchers. The database will be made available to any students, scholars and others free of charge via the World Wide Web. The end result will be the creation of a major research tool that will literally revolutionize the way we access materials in Russian archives.

Funding Dates: October 2002-Septmeber 2005.

URL: http://cippad.usc.edu/access_indonesia

World Area Covered: Indonesia

Foreign language: Bahasa Indonesia

Topics and Intended Audience

The Center for International Policy, Planning, and Development in the School of Policy, Planning, and Development, University of Southern California (CIPPAD, USC), and the Center for Urban and Regional Development Studies of the Institute of Technology Bandung, Indonesia (CURDS, ITB), jointly propose a three-year *Access Indonesia* project for disseminating information on Indonesia. Indonesia is the fourth populous nation in the world. It is one of the strong trading partners in Southeast Asia with a dynamic economy, and it has a pivotal role in the regional security and stability of the overall region. Further, since Indonesia is transitioning toward becoming the world's third largest democracy, the country is strategically important for the United States whose mission is to promote democratic institutions in the region. Most important of all, Indonesia is the largest Muslim country in the world and provides a fertile ground to understand the Muslim culture and society, which has become imperative following the September 11, 2001 tragedies. Yet, Indonesia is among the least known countries in the United States and sources of in-depth, scholarly information on the country are limited.

The main purpose of the *Access Indonesia* project is to foster a fuller interdisciplinary understanding of Indonesia by using recent advances in Internet technology (e.g., Web-GIS, Multimedia). To this end, the project has the following specific objectives:

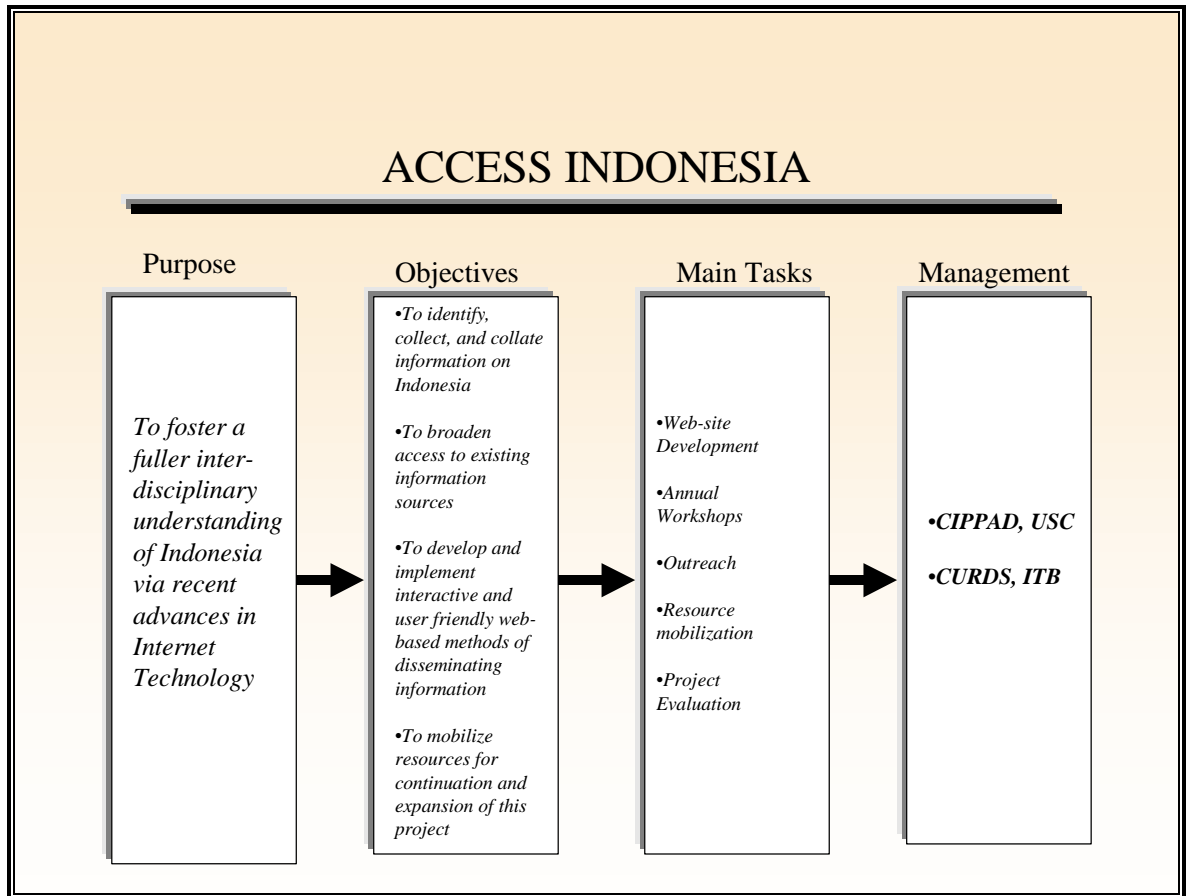
- To identify, collect, and collate information on Indonesia, with a focus on information that is not yet accessible in the United States
- To broaden access to existing information sources on Indonesia
To develop and implement interactive and user-friendly web-

based methods of disseminating up-to-date information on Indonesia

- To mobilize resources from international and domestic organizations for continuation and expansion of this project.

To achieve these objectives, CIPPAD, USC, and CURDS, ITB, will undertake a number of major tasks, including (a) *Web-site development* for broadening access to existing information sources and for disseminating up-to-date information on Indonesia, which is not yet accessible in the US; (b) *Annual workshops* for identifying information needs and sources and for receiving feedback on the website; (c) *Outreach* for establishing mutual contacts with our target audience and for receiving feedback on the website; (d) *Resource mobilization* for continuation and expansion of the project once the DOE funding is over; and (e) *Evaluation* for improvement of the project web-site (e.g. through peer reviews, reviews in reputable publications, mail survey and questionnaire, web-based survey form and questionnaire, and monitoring number of website visitors). The overall structure of the Access Indonesia project is summarized in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Summary structure of Access Indonesia Project



As we envisage, the *Access Indonesia* website will act as a virtual storehouse of interdisciplinary information on Indonesia both in English and in Bahasa Indonesia. The website will be organized around five major disciplinary themes: Economy, Politics, History, Culture, and Geography. One section will be devoted to each of these themes, under which the website will provide an in-depth overview of the theme with respect to Indonesia. It will also provide access to full-text scholarly articles (e.g. policy and research papers), audio and visual materials (e.g. multimedia streaming videos, maps, pictures), bibliographies, and annotated links to existing worldwide websites. The themes will be summarized in the *Indonesia at a Glance* section, and interactive Web-GIS maps based on each theme will be provided in *Map Indonesia* section.

The website will have three additional sections: *Learning Toolkits*, *Current News*, and *Dialogue Indonesia*. *Learning Toolkits* will include classroom instruction materials and interactive “fun” quizzes for teachers and students respectively. *Current News* section will provide links to news

sources on Indonesia. The *Dialogue Indonesia* section will facilitate online discussion through email and bulletin board. The sections will contain both general and customized information, which will fulfill both general and specific information needs of the target audience. The potential audience is sizeable, as it includes U.S. educators and students interested in Southeast Asia in general, and Indonesia in particular; U.S. policy makers and civic leaders; researchers and international development practitioners; and U.S. business executives interested in trade with Indonesia

The *Access Indonesia* project will build on the existing partnership between CIPPAD, USC and CURDS, ITB. Since January 2000, these two institutions have been collaborating on another project called “Capacity Building for Decentralization in Indonesia” (CBDI), which is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The two institutions complement each other and have demonstrated synergistic collaboration in terms of technical ability, country knowledge, and language capacity to implement the *Access Indonesia* project. CIPPAD, USC, will be responsible for the overall management and implementation of the website. CURDS, ITB, will provide strategic field support in collecting and collating information. ITB is a preeminent educational institute in Indonesia, often referred to as the “MIT of Indonesia.” USC has a Southeast Asia Regional office in Jakarta, Indonesia, which will coordinate activities between CIPPAD, USC, and CURDS, ITB.

The Principal Investigator of the CBDI project, Dr. Koichi Mera, will also serve as the Principal Investigator of *Access Indonesia* project. Dr. Mera is the Director of CIPPAD, USC and has joint appointment in the School of Policy, Planning, and Development, and the Marshall School of Business at USC. He is an expert on international regional and economic development and has worked extensively on Indonesia in particular and on the Pacific Rim in general. Dr. Benedictus Kombaitan, who is the Head of the Center for Urban and Regional Development Studies at ITB, will be leading the project from Indonesia.

University of Southern California

Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access
2002-2005

Funding Level (2002-2003) \$195,000

Japan Media Review (www.japanmediareview.org)
An English-Language Web site on Developments in Japan in Online
Journalism and Information/Communications Technologies

University of Southern California, Annenberg School for Communication
Online Journalism and Communication Program
3502 Watt Way, Los Angeles, Calif. 90089-0281
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The Project

The University of Southern California's Online Journalism Program (OJR), in partnership with USC's East Asian Studies Center and the Center for Global Communication at the International University of Japan, has developed and launched an English-language Website that examines developments in Japan in Online Journalism and Information/ Communications technologies. *Japan Media Review* [www.japanmediareview.com] monitors and collects relevant data from Japan relating to electronic media and broadband, wireless and Internet communications technology. This site's most unique feature is its ongoing publication of up-to-date, in-depth articles written by freelance writers -- both Japanese journalists and Western journalists who cover these topics. *Japan Media Review* also provides a regularly updated Web Log linking to publications on the Internet; serves as a venue for scholars to publish -- or republish -- articles about Japan's media; and includes online discussion forums, archives, and collections of data and background material on the subject matter.

Japan Media Review builds on and extends the Online Journalism Review [www.ojr.org], which was started by USC's Annenberg School for Communication in March, 1998. Since then, OJR, with the help of the Ford Foundation, has grown steadily as a specialized Web site with a global focus on online journalism and electronic publishing. It now has about 50,000 unique visitors per week, as well as an e-mail list of more than 5,000 subscribers. *Japan*

Media Review is closely linked to OJR, and OJR readers -- including journalism students, educators and communications scholars -- have provided and enthusiastic base of readers for the new Web site. The Center for Global Communications also runs a substantial Web site in Japan, the *Global Communications (GLOCOM) Platform for Japan* [www.glocom.org], which provides a forum for Japan's opinion leaders to communicate in English with their counterparts in the international community. *Japan Media Review* is also prominently tied to the GLOCOM Platform.

Need and Significance

Many factors once worked against the growth of online infrastructure and services in Japan. But starting in the mid-1990s, the Japanese government and communications industry tore down regulatory barriers and promoted the growth of fiber, DSL, CATV, wireless, next-generation mobile networks, satellites and other delivery paths. As a result, personal computer sales soared. By 2000, Japan had become a digitized nation with Internet penetration rates equivalent to the United Kingdom and greater than Europe. This surge in Internet traffic, both online and wireless, led to rapid changes in the media environment in Japan. All of the major media outlets now produce some form of electronic information, news and services, and many of these products are also in English. Much of this rapid development has occurred with relatively little scrutiny by Western scholars and journalists. Filling that void is the goal of *Japan Media Review*.

Understanding the media in Japan leads to understanding an important part of Japanese society. This Website is setting out to help build a body of content on this topic from which scholars, students, media analysts and others can draw. Globalization makes it imperative that areas of rapid economic growth and innovation, such as the information/communications scene in Japan, receive close attention. What happens in the Japanese media environment could affect U.S. technology and the U.S. domestic economy, as well as the future of news and information delivery systems worldwide. The experience in Japan could lead to great innovation; it could also introduce intense competition. Similarly, Japanese information technology and media markets represent a great opportunity for U.S. trade.

Audience

More information on this topic needs to be shared between the two countries. The U.S. audience needs greater access to information/communications developments in Japan. Much of the information that now exists is in Japanese or is not widely published at all. Western and Japanese publications cover the media environment and electronic publishing developments in Japan, as do several Web sites, but much of this coverage is delayed and written for U.S. or U.K. business readers. It can also be expensive to acquire. *Japan Media Review* addresses this problem with immediately accessible and constantly updated

material that is also authoritative and comprehensive; it thus functions as a “niche” Web site with significant depth in coverage of its subject. Moreover, it is freely accessible to its users with no fees, subscription or other charges.

The content developed for *Japan Media Review* is designed to serve a broad audience within the United States. Not only professionals in the information technology industry, electronic publishers and journalists, but also educators and researchers who study East Asia and Japan, Communications and Computer Science scholars, and the academic community in general. *Japan Media Review* will be valuable to anyone who follows the latest developments in Japan, including economists, people in government and members of professional and trade organizations.

Project Design

The three-year *Japan Media Review* project is led by USC faculty Lawrence Pryor (director of the Online Journalism Program and assistant professor of journalism in the Annenberg School) and Gordon M. Berger (director of the East Asian Studies Center and professor of Japanese History in USC College), joined by Takahiro Miyao in Japan (senior research fellow at the Center for Global Communications with faculty appointments at both the International University of Japan and USC). The editor of *Japan Media Review* is USC lecturer and veteran journalist Michelle Nicolosi.

Japan Media Review also draws from a pool of Japanese-speaking graduate students in the Annenberg School and from across the university, who work as Web log writers and sub-editors. Two student editor/writers have been trained to survey the Japanese media, professional literature and government materials to write the Web logs and make relevant links.

In addition to providing day-to-day supervision of *Japan Media Review* operations, Annenberg’s Online Journalism Program staff – in consultation with the East Asian Studies Center and the Center for Global Communications – contribute story ideas and review proposals for original articles, with the aim of publishing at least one substantive story each week. *Japan Media Review* editor Michelle Nicolosi and lead project director Larry Pryor, together with the other senior editors of the Annenberg School’s Online Journalism Program, are responsible for day-to-day editorial content. But as project partners, USC’s East Asian Studies Center and the Center for Global Communications in Japan contribute to oversight, evaluation and by providing feedback to *Japan Media Review* editorial staff.

As traffic expands and interest grows, other sources of revenue from foundations and other non-profit organizations will be found to expand the site. The Annenberg development staff will assist in finding these sources. The goal is to make the site financially self-sufficient after the third year.

Conclusion:

Japan Media Review provides a valuable source of information that cannot be found elsewhere and benefits many constituencies in the United States and elsewhere. Japan is a major source of innovation in electronic journalism and information/communications technology. The body of knowledge on this topic deserves to be expanded and made widely available in English.

University of Virginia

The Tibetan and Himalayan Digital Library and Information Community: A Technological Model for the Nexus of Information and Community in the Academic Study of Other Cultures

Applicant: The University of Virginia, PO 400126; Charlottesville, Virginia 22904.

Key Contact Information

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Co-Directors: Kathryn March <ksm8@cornell.edu> 607-255-6779.

Project Management: David Newman; University of Virginia <dl4n@virginia.edu> 434-243-5579; Mark Turin; Cornell University <mt272@cornell.edu> 607 273 0202 .

Computer Implementation: Nathaniel Garson <ndg8f@virginia.edu> 434-924-6011.

Project Web Site: <www.thdl.org>

Project Dates: October 1, 2002 - September 30, 2005

Award amount: \$170,000 for year 1.

Collaborators: Universities of Virginia and Cornell are the grant partners, but the project involves a wide range of collaborating entities around the world, including University of Chicago, University of California at Santa Barbara, UCLA, Rice University, Colombia University, University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, CNRS-Lacito, Paris 8 University, Tibet Academy of Social Sciences, Tibet University, and others.

Countries and Languages: languages – Tibetan, Nepali; countries/cultures - Tibet, China, Nepal, Bhutan, India, Pakistan.

The Tibetan and Himalayan Digital Library (THDL) and its sister project, the Tibetan and Himalayan Information Community (THIC), constitute an innovative initiative utilizing technology to transform how scholars and educational institutions cooperate in the generation, processing, organization, and dissemination of knowledge about cultural regions of the world. It is building the world's preeminent on-line archive and communication hub for research and documentation in Tibetan and Himalayan Studies. Using the most recent in Web-based technology, much of which is being specifically designed for these purposes at the University of Virginia (UVA) and Cornell University, we are building a collaborative infrastructure for the remote networked management of a wide array of projects to generate and disseminate knowledge about the Tibetan and Himalayan cultural region from multiple disciplinary perspectives. The Digital Library initiative provides an overarching publishing and archiving arena for

multiple institutions and projects which it seamlessly integrates with standard interfaces, tools, and classification systems. In its "Information Community" dimension, the library also promotes communication, communal standards and tools, and interoperability among projects that are currently entirely distinct from each other. The end result will be the technical, intellectual and political basis for an impressive synergy of scholarly activity around the world in relationship to this massive and crucially important region of Asia.

To date, THDL has been built upon relatively narrow content-specific initiatives rather than funding designed for the full infrastructure. Thus many pieces require further development, and the broader integration of these diverse components has become an urgent priority. In addition, the Tibetan and Himalayan portions of the project have distinct developmental pedigrees that have not been yet integrated. Our *Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access* grant is providing crucial support to complete the model and begin to accept submissions from around the world. It will result in three major contributions of national significance: (i) the world's premier Web-based archive of interdisciplinary knowledge about Cultural Tibet and the Himalayas, (ii) international partnerships across North America, Europe and Asia for scholarly research into Cultural Tibet and the Himalayas, and (iii) an innovative open source, generalized and well-documented model for Web-based collaborative and interdisciplinary research, dissemination, and education focused on a particular region of the world.

We define "Tibet" on linguistic and cultural criteria, rather than political ones, as a zone that embraces a large part of the Himalayan region, but also extends far north to include a huge region beyond the Himalayas proper. By "Himalayas", then, we mean an overlapping region which includes much of the southern areas of Cultural Tibet, as well as many other cultural regions, most notably the modern areas of Kashmir and Nepal. While there are strong linguistic and cultural reasons behind the separate evolution of Tibetan and Himalayan/Nepal Studies, there are equally strong reasons to consider this world area as an integrated region across these boundaries. Too often this massive region of Asia has been squeezed between the dominating political forces of South and East Asia, represented primarily by the contemporary nation-states of India and China, and research and resources have been fragmented across various domains.

THDL is the primary initial implementation of the powerful FEDORA (Flexible Extensible Digital Object Repository Architecture) technological initiative to create a comprehensive digital library system for academic institutions. Virginia and Cornell are the primary architects of FEDORA with Mellon funding, and THDL/THIC constitutes one of its most important testbeds. The happy coincidence that Cornell and Virginia are both the primary partners in building the FEDORA digital library system, and internationally renowned centers for Himalayan and Tibetan Studies respectively, provides the basis for this powerful collaboration. Our work lies in adapting the evolving digital library system to suit

the needs of area studies, as well as building the associated model for exploiting international collaboration to the fullest extent:

- Bringing the full integrated technical and intellectual infrastructure to completion with a special focus on Web-based collaborative input mechanisms and processes, which will be the common foundation for all individual projects initiated and run internationally in the future, as well as the generalized model for other area studies initiatives to draw upon and adapt for their own purposes
- Fully processing extant multimedia and textual resources as well as developing systematic reference resources and cataloging indices needed across all projects, and generating supplementary materials as necessary from collaborating scholars in Tibet, Nepal, and potentially other Himalayan regions
- Opening up Web-based partnerships on multiple fronts to finalize the intellectual, technological and organizational issues involved with such collaboration, developing basic foundational content across the Library's various domains, and building the communal scholarly network that will provide the basis for the Library's endurance as a premier international resource

This threefold process will go hand in hand with the expansion of the model to be systematically implemented for Nepal and the broader southern Himalayan zone as well with Cornell and other scholars and librarians whose work pertains to the Himalayan region.

The content basis: Collections, Reference, Community,

Tools and Education

The digital library in our model is divided into five domains of resources termed Collections, Reference, Community, Tools and Education upon the model of the traditional library, but each redesigned to reflect the transformative possibilities of a fully digital library.

"**Collections**" are the equivalent of the "stacks" in a traditional library, and constitute its major holdings of texts, videos, images, maps and other data that are at the heart of the library. Unlike traditional libraries, however, these different forms of collections can be accessed independently, as well as through a variety of integrated presentations. Users of the library can thus search across all videos, texts, images and so forth in the entire library according to various criteria (place, theme, date, etc.), or they can consult specific organizations of these resources constituting collections based on thematic, spatial or temporal criteria.

There are four overarching types of such collections:

- Environment and Cultural Geography Collections
- Thematic Collections

- Special Collections
- Resources

All of these draw from the library's underlying full array of holdings of texts, videos, images, maps and other form of data, but they emphasize different structures and perspectives. In summary, the "resources" are searchable databases of all the texts, videos, images, maps and other objects within the library. These are then organized according to theme or subject in the Thematic Collections - such as Art, Music, etc. - which accords more or less with current academic disciplines. The same materials are organized in an interdisciplinary manner according to attributes of space and time within the Environment and Cultural Geography Collections. Finally, there are also Special Collections which present materials cohering by virtue of the creator, such as a collection by a photographer or explorer.

Collections include the peer-reviewed and refereed *Journal of Tibetan and Himalayan Studies*, which provides academic credit and a high profile for major pieces of scholarship, as well as the facility for them to reference and incorporate items from the library's multimedia content and other databases. Articles are archived within relevant areas of Collections for permanent access in conjunction with like resources. Journal editions can be thematic in character, as well as broadly based. Guest editors can take on responsibility for single editions, while institutions can also host individual editions or even series of editions.

"Reference" is the equivalent of a reference room in a traditional library, where users can find bibliographical references, consult dictionaries and so forth. It contains standard reference resources, including a bibliography, encyclopedia, gazetteer, dictionary, web links to other digital resources, and rosters of contemporary people and organizations involved in the field. The reference resources will be fully integrated with the collections, so that users at any point within the Library can look up a term, person, place or movement. All reference resources incorporate diverse media, and allow for extremely granular contributions as well as extremely detailed contributions. In addition, each is searchable by multiple criteria. The resources are all collaboratively built by international teams of scholars over the Web, and enhanced in an ongoing and daily fashion. Thus each area - dictionary, bibliography, etc. - consists of multiple components and projects managed by different scholars and librarians. For example, the bibliography has a series of thematic bibliographies that can be viewed separately or in an integrated fashion.

Bibliographical resources are provided in an online system that allows various scholars and librarians to manage particular subjects. The Encyclopedia project facilitates essay length studies of subjects grouped into different classes, such as terms, individuals, places, movements, and organizations. The places and times section provides more direct access to place names and descriptive information about those places, as well as chronologies and periodizations of Tibetan history. The dictionary is an online lexical resource for colloquial and literary Tibetan language. It aims to provide detailed documentation of the historical occurrence of terms in diverse texts along the lines of the Oxford English Dictionary. Community provides users with an interactive roster of the

community of scholars, students, librarians and archivists in the field. These rosters include information about the scholarly activities and publications of these figures for public searching and consultation. Resource Links organizes information and access to other projects and resources outside of the Library with a particular focus on digital and Internet based initiatives, thus representing a type of bibliography of digital projects. All resources are grouped together under the broad rubrics of Community, Collections, Reference, Tools and Education, as well as into subareas within each rubric.

"Tools" in the traditional library include interactive catalogs on computer work stations, microfilm readers, photocopiers and so forth to allow users to search and access its collections, as well as in limited ways also compile their own collections of information. Similarly, the digital library provides integrated software systems, tools and fonts in general to enable users to work with the collections with search and access procedures considerably more powerful than the traditional library. In particular, though, the digital library goes far beyond the limited traditional tools of a library in its enabling of users to creatively interact with the digital collections and reference materials, as well as generate new user-defined collections for their own private purposes. The simplest level of functionality includes extraction of images and composing sequenced slide shows on line, while more advanced features are, for example, the ability to make HTML pages drawing upon library resources, compile private dictionaries, create new videos from segments of existing videos and so forth. This site also provides a suite of Tibetan fonts along with software developed by the THDL that enhances the use of these fonts both in word processors and on the Web. Together these tools aim to help other projects and individuals take advantage of technical work done by the Library, as well as provide a way to facilitate communication, exchange, interoperability and project building among all scholars, students and others interested in Tibet and the Himalayan regions. In particular, the Library is committed to developing digital tools to assist the teaching of Tibetan and Himalayan languages, literatures, environments and cultures. The evolving multilingual capacity of the digital library system also offers the promise of a single integrated library that serves different communities with distinct language bases, as well as promote communication between them.

"Education" represents an innovative extension of the library into a non-traditional space, namely the dynamic center of the classroom. The Education area primarily publishes modules for instructional programs in different areas of Tibetan studies, with a particular but not exclusive emphasis on creative programs directly drawing upon the resources of digital technology and the Web. These modules ultimately aim not only to serve higher education, but also extend into the K-12 educational levels. In addition, they aim to serve remote education needs of the populace as a whole interested to further their knowledge for either professional or personal reasons. The Education area also highlights specific case studies and examples of student work in Tibetan studies using technology. Finally, this area of the library also disseminates elements of the Tools area that facilitate the incorporation of technology, digital content, and Web resources into the classroom on the part of teachers and students alike.

"**Community**" is the very center of the digital library. We thus see the digital library as servicing a broadly conceived "information community", and using knowledge to help create and sustain communities that help bridge the various divides that characterize the world. We believe one of the most central virtues of the use of digital technology is its ability not only to transform creation of, and access to, knowledge, but also in its extraordinary ability to transform the communal basis and use of knowledge. Practically this involves the creation of online community rosters allowing organizations and individuals to maintain their own entries documenting their activities and resources, the provision of discussion forum to promote conversation, and an interoperability initiative aiming to facilitate exchange between the major Web-based projects in Tibetan and Himalayan Studies. Finally, we have built the project to be an international network of institutions, and not simply the work of one or two universities. This includes a wide range of Asian universities, including Tibet University, the Tibet Academy of Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University and others.

THDL thus embraces a wide variety of projects, each with independent administration and institutional bases, but all agreeing to the basic protocols and standards of THDL. The following is a highly edited list of a few of the most important:

- Immersive study of the **neighborhoods of Lhasa** using high resolution satellite imagery, architectural databases, videotaped neighborhood interviews, three dimensional reconstructions of buildings, ethno-historical documentation, and visual images
- **Thematic research collection on scriptural canons** in Tibet using deep cataloging as an integrated front end to access scholarship, translations, editions and summaries of the texts in question
- **Historical video and image collections** ranging throughout the Himalayan areas
- New generations of **language learning materials** for literary and spoken Tibetan utilizing natural speech video shot in Tibet and delivered with software synchronizing video and transcripts
- **Rich historical dictionary** of Tibetan language, itself integrating many diverse lexical projects
- Documentation of Tibetan **medical, music and other cultural traditions** using video, images and text
- Building a **Gazetteer** of Tibetan and Himalayan places
- Extensive studies of **Nepali culture** with images, videos and ethnography
- Online, interactive **community roster** allowing scholars and organizations to manage their own entries
- **Discussion forum** with various target audiences
- **Video, audio and image repositories** with powerful collection management tools
- **GIS model** of the region integrating census data, environmental land use and other datasets
- **Historical GIS** project
- **Ethno-historical studies** of many other specific places using multimedia resources and textual documentation, including comprehensive study of one of Tibet's largest monasteries (Sera)

Our project involves **a number of different technical initiatives**. The following lists some of the major ones – please consult the Web site or us directly for details on any of them:

- Building support for use of **Tibetan fonts** in various digital contexts, including Java, HTML, XML, Word
- Currently working on building Open Type **Unicode** Tibetan font
- **XML DTD for Cataloging** Tibetan Literature
- **XML DTD for Gazetteers**
- Video-Audio **Workflow** and Presentation System for video-audio media and transcripts (currently in Cold Fusion, but being migrated in part to other technologies)
- Java software named "QuillDriver" for creating **timecoded XML transcripts** of audio-video media
- Java-Java script system for **playing video-audio with synchronized** with multilingual XML transcripts
- **Flash-XML system** for dynamically displaying GIS data
- Rich historical **collaborative dictionary infrastructure** based on MYSQL, Java and other technologies
- Web-based XML system for **managing collaborative bibliographies** over the Web
- **FEDORA** – Flexible Extensible Digital Object Repository Architecture – digital library system
- **XML "GDMS" DTD** (General Descriptive Modeling System) for use in managing collections

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

The Portal to Asian Internet Resources

Applicants

The General Library System of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Minnesota Library System and The Ohio State University

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Project Funding Cycle: October 1, 2002 – September 30, 2005

Target Areas:

Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

East Asia: China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea (North), Korea (South), Macau, Taiwan

South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, The Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tibet

Southeast Asia: Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore

Project Overview

Growing in strategic significance almost every day since the attacks of September 11th, 2001, Asian information is essential to America, its citizens and their vital interests. Indeed, at no other time in the history of the United States

has it stood in such dire need of information – and education – on an area so misunderstood and routinely ignored as Asia. A massive continent, with vastly divergent peoples, cultures, histories and agendas, Asia has ever been a mystery to the West. At the same time, however, it has also been an object of curiosity and even wonder. With interest in all of Asia on the rise across many sectors of American society, from business and industry to the academy and the general population, the Internet has an unparalleled role to play in informing a country and a people in need of accurate, up-to-date and authoritative Asian area information. However available and even prolific Asian information may be at this point in time, much, if not most of it is in languages Americans don't comprehend. And even when they can and do, there quickly arises a saturation point when it comes to the laborious process of sorting through the dross to find hidden online gems. To aid America in its efforts to better understand and appreciate Asia, the PAIR Project has assembled an internationally- recognized collection of annotated Web sites on Asian area subjects and fields of interest.

To address America's immediate need for more profound and useful Asian information, the General Library System of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, together with The Ohio State University Libraries and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Libraries, proposed to develop a Portal to Asian Internet Resources (PAIR). Since its inception and before, as a first-round TICFIA grantee, PAIR has offered users a solid set of value-added records and services to improve access to Internet resources from Asia – in its vernacular languages. To support and extend the Asian information needs of various user communities -- faculty and students at the secondary and university levels, instructors and students of less commonly taught Asian languages, business professionals, and government officials, for example -- PAIR employs a three-pronged approach encompassing teaching, outreach and preservation strategies.

Teaching: By organizing Asian Internet resources in easy-to-use subject categories and regional access points. Equally critical, however, the project helps educate through online tutorials and workshops. The project also promotes the use and integration of language learning resources in teaching at secondary schools, colleges, and universities by providing access to online pedagogical resources across a broad spectrum of proficiency levels and topic interests.

Outreach: Through current awareness modules, mediated online reference services, and area expert guest presentations, the project provides Asian studies outreach to various user communities, such as faculty and students lacking ready access to significant Asian library collections and Asian studies librarians, distance education instructors and learners, teachers and students of less commonly taught Asian languages, business professionals, and government officials.

Preservation: By rigorously investigating preservation models and technologies and applying them to Asian Web site content, the project, in collaboration with

peer research projects and institutions, hopes to provide long-term access to information frequently lost in a matter of months in the rapidly changing topography of the Internet.

PAIR's strategies to facilitate and improve access to Asian Internet resources builds on the accomplishments of the Digital Asia Library (DAL), which created an award-winning catalog of quality Asian Internet resources evaluated and selected by Asian studies librarians, bibliographers and area experts. As informed users quickly discovered as they interacted with the DAL database, its catalog offered distinct advantages over existing finding aids such as Internet search engines and static collections of Internet links; however, additional methods and services were needed to facilitate better and greater access to Internet resources and meet the needs of specific user communities. The professionally maintained PAIR catalog provides superior quality control and deft, sophisticated search capabilities, something even the best Internet search engines simply cannot do as they retrieve far too many irrelevant, false or look-alike resources. Managed collections such as PAIR's also provide access to resources of greater informational depth – such as journal titles, annual reports, working papers, and Web sites of non-governmental and community organizations – that are extremely difficult to access without direct knowledge of their existence. Further, the PAIR catalog and its suite of user services allows for scholarly and intellectual collaboration, minimizing redundancy of content and effort. Committed to maximizing user efficiency, PAIR strives to render Asian information yet more accessible through implementation of the following set of value-added enhancements to its existing online presence:

- 1) A browse interface offering geographically arranged subject terms based on a standardized classification system;
- 2) Subject bibliographies on general subjects and particular topics;
- 3) Instructional support through an online tutorials and workshops for faculty, students, and librarians providing assistance in using the Web site and introducing project practices to libraries and librarians;
- 4) "Current awareness services" (electronic mailing lists) customized for specific user communities;
- 5) Online reference service; and
- 6) Archiving of Web sites to preserve their content, especially because of their often timely and transient nature

PAIR not only supports but positively affirms the call of the Association for Research Libraries for a "scholars portal" providing "highly functional, dependable, and academically credible access" ¹ to Asian Internet resources for teaching and research. Unlike the information.coms, PAIR not only provides access to quality resources with informational depth but also services designed with consideration of the particular needs of a broad range of potential user communities.

A well-developed plan and the considerable experience and expertise of key personnel and participating institutions ensure that PAIR's objectives are being met. Kenneth Frazier, the project's principal investigator, is a leading figure in American

¹ Jerry D. Campbell, "The Case for Creating a Scholars Portal to the Web: A White Paper," *A Bi-Monthly Report on Research Library Issues and Actions from the ARL, CNI, and SPARC*, 211 (August 2000): <http://www.arl.org/newsltr/211/portal.htm>

research libraries, as well as an internationally recognized leader in the application of information technologies within major research libraries. The Coordinators for Public Services and Information Technology have extensive experience in administering, planning, implementing, and evaluating public services and information technologies. PAIR's area and bibliographic specialists are leaders in the Asian studies library community and have been involved in administering national and local Web-based information projects. Wayne Hayes, the Project Manager, brings to PAIR a dynamic blend of experience and expertise in the provision of online language learning resources. PAIR's Advisory Board includes experts with ties to vast and highly varied user communities. Project resource selectors draw on these connections as well as their own relationships within the Asian studies and library communities to develop services that dovetail with the needs of these groups.

To ensure that the project is aware of the needs of rapidly growing user communities and is working towards serving them, PAIR conducts an array of on-going assessment activities that provide both formative and summative measurements of the effectiveness of its services. For example, these activities include the compilation and interpretation of statistics and transaction data on selection and cataloging of more than 7500 assiduously annotated Web sites, maintenance of information in the PAIR database, and Web site usage; evaluations of project activities through surveys and focus groups of user communities and of overall dissemination, including surveys of users and non-users; and development of a decision tree for determining Web sites for preservation as well as evaluations of archived Web sites.

Finally, PAIR's implementation strategy includes multiple means for disseminating information about the project, its collection, area experts and user services. PAIR actively distributes information through its Web site, current awareness and reference services, workshops, and participation in panels at Asian area studies and library conferences. Also, it notifies user communities by means of coverage in relevant trade and professional publications, postings to appropriate listservs, and press releases. Additionally, PAIR communicates and partners with organizations such as the Center for Research Libraries, the Library of Congress, the Association of College and Research Libraries, as well as groups for Asian libraries and librarians, and other digital library and online reference projects.