

American Institute of Yemeni Studies Local Libraries and Archives

A significant category of unmet critical need for successful international research is access to local library and archival resources in target countries. To face this global need directly, we propose to conduct full-fledged, on-the-ground surveys in world areas important to American scholars and students, using teams of knowledgeable scholars and librarians, following formalized protocols and standardized methodologies. Obtaining access to foreign collections entails substantial work, and requires extensive knowledge of local cultural and political conditions, experience in working with local institutions and research resources, ready access to research clearance, and very broad networks and connections among academic institutions, libraries, museums, research institutes, education ministries, non-governmental organizations, and the local scholarly communities. In many countries of the world this kind of local access is available through the American Overseas Research Centers (AORCs).

The primary mission of all AORCs is a long-term commitment to the maintenance, improvement, and expansion of overseas research collections in all formats and media, and the augmentation of their capabilities to serve area studies.

The American Institute of Yemeni Studies, in conjunction with collaborating organizations in the various countries hosting AORCs, is proposing a four-year project to improve access to the most important of the critical and endangered local archival and special collections through a systematic program of surveys of local libraries and archives, a scaled and prioritized approach to item-level cataloging of unique materials, selective preservation, and, where the scholarly need for the newly discovered resources is found to be greatest, selective digitization and dissemination via the infrastructure of the Digital Library for International Research (DLIR).

Participating AORCs are located in West Africa; the Mediterranean basin; the Middle East and North Africa; South, Southeast, and Inner Asia; and Latin America.

Center For Research Libraries TICFIA South Asia Project

The Center for Research Libraries proposes a four-year collaborative project to improve access to vital resources on South Asia for scholars, public officials, business leaders and other citizens through the creation of digital resources delivered via the World Wide Web. The proposal encompasses all seven authorized activities enumerated in the statute authorizing the Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access (TICFIA) program.

Need and Significance

This project will address significant needs described by national foundations and associations to provide a wide variety of users with reliable bibliographic and holdings information for publications from South Asia. It will also address priorities for the Center for South Asia Libraries recommended unanimously by scholars and librarians at the Center's 2003 planning meeting. Along with holdings information, important periodical literature unavailable in this country will be identified, preserved and made accessible. In addition, this project will meet the need for resources for instruction in the less commonly taught languages of South Asia that both scholars and public officials have cited as a particular need.

Project Design and Activities

Building upon the foundation and experience of three previous digital initiatives, the proposed project, named TICFIA South Asia, will make new contributions to scholarship with four specific services: (1) reliable bibliographic and holdings information for South Asian materials not located within the United States by means of a South Asian Union Catalogue; (2) resources for instruction in less commonly taught languages by digital conversion and delivery via the Internet of records that comprise a hitherto under-used facet of the invaluable Linguistic Survey of India; (3) preservation through microfilm and bibliographic access through indexing for highly select periodicals published in South Asia; and (4) development of electronic article delivery on demand, from the South Asian subcontinent to readers in the United States.

Personnel, Resources, Management, and Evaluation

In order to implement the program outlined above, TICFIA South Asia will create an infrastructure that draws upon the experience and cooperative relationships established in other projects. The extensive experience of the Center for Research Libraries and the University of Chicago in the implementation of global projects will be made available to the project through the principal investigator, co-directors, and project manager. They have extensive experience in projects of this kind and have established close relationships with collaborating institutions in South Asia and Europe, including the British Library, the Roja Muthiah Research Library, the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences in Calcutta, and the American Institute of Pakistan Studies in Islamabad, among others. The project will continue to draw upon the technical expertise of the Project for American and French Research on the Treasury of the French Language (ARTFL) at the University of Chicago and the University of Chicago Library that has helped to make the Digital South Asia Library a prominent source of South Asian information on the Internet. In its evaluation, the project will meet and collaborate with other projects in an effort to improve and refine the production of digital resources.

Florida International University Digital Library of the Caribbean

In order to preserve and increase access to valuable resources for the study of the Caribbean and the advancement of Caribbean Studies, the Latin American and Caribbean Center at Florida International University, in consortium with the University of Central Florida, University of Florida, the University of Miami, and the University of the Virgin Islands, proposes a multifaceted and collaborative international digital library project. The Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) intends to cross borders and build collaboration among diverse institutions to share resources in a common space, thus expanding the range of Caribbean materials available to scholars, students and citizens through enhanced electronic access in multilingual interfaces.

The Caribbean comprises a diverse mix of cultures, histories and peoples that share a common space. This region illustrates trends in migration and nation-state building that are currently taking place on a world scale, and is thus a significant focus of study for scholars and students alike. Pan-Caribbean research will provide scholars, leaders, and citizens with the resources necessary to build an understanding of issues central to our lives today and to construct effective current policies and sound strategies for the future.

This digital library will comprise collections that examine the similarities and differences in histories, cultures, languages and governmental systems. The dLOC will be an umbrella for digital projects and collections from and about the Caribbean that might exist in isolation at a single institution, thus providing a critical mass of resources in a single space that will foster a fuller interdisciplinary understanding.

Building upon the success of a cooperative pilot project and the progress made at the first dLOC Planning Meeting in July 2004 at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, this project proposes to use federal funds to meet the following goals:

- Increase access to Caribbean research resources by digitizing and making available through centralized searching collections of note, in English, French, and Spanish, including from the Archives Nationales d'Haiti, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Fundación Global Desarrollo y Democracia (Dominican Republic), National Library of Jamaica, and Universidad de Oriente (Venezuela);
- Build capacity by developing a multi-layered and comprehensive digitization training program for international partners;
- Advance Caribbean studies by building an aggressive and engaging outreach program that delivers these collections to scholars, to the classroom, and to the general public;
- Cultivate the development of new research initiatives among Caribbean scholars by providing a supportive framework to disseminate this work; and
- Ensure sustainability of the dLOC by consolidating the organizational framework, both in governance and technical infrastructure.

Indiana University Central American and Mexican Video Archive

Since 1960, millions of rural people in Central America and Mexico have undergone radical transformations in their livelihoods and their culture. The spectacular growth of agroexport economies caused a significant ecological, social and cultural transformation of rural communities. Land loss and internal migration directly conditioned the development of social movements that, following a period of repression, led to civil wars that ripped apart the fabric of Central American rural societies, accelerating the pace of ecological and cultural change. Although many documents have been produced dealing with the conflicts in the 1980s, the crucially significant changes in peoples' lives have left relatively little documentary trace. Similarly, the linguistic and cultural transformations of the indigenous peoples of Mexico have not been documented adequately. Since millions of migrants from the Mesoamerican countryside moved recently to the United States, it is of vital national interest to achieve a high level of understanding of their cultural history. Before the rapidly deteriorating film and video archives of this vital region are irreversibly destroyed, Indiana University (IU) proposes to lead a collaborative project to create a digital record available to researchers, teachers, and students via the World Wide Web.

At Indiana University, the Central American and Mexican Video Archive (CAMVA) is sponsored by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), the Center for the Study of History and Memory (CSHM), and the Digital Library Project/University Libraries (DLP). Based at IU, Project CAMVA is a consortium of three leading research institutes in Central America and Mexico: the Institute of Nicaraguan and Central American History (IHNCA, Nicaragua), the Museum of Words and Images (MUPI, El Salvador), and the Center for Advanced Research and Studies in Social Anthropology (CIESAS, Mexico). The CAMVA project aims to accomplish the following:

- To create an audio-video digital archive from ethnographic and documentary recordings stored at physical archives in Mexico, El Salvador, and Nicaragua with other countries incorporated in subsequent phases;
- To make this archive fully searchable and available to networked libraries for research and instruction; and
- To contribute to methodological development in digitizing, coding, and accessing audiovisual data, including the provision of searchable and retrievable interface, available over the Web using bandwidth capability of Internet2.

In the first phase of CAMVA, physical archives will be assessed through analysis by researchers at IU and our partner institutions. The second phase will convert the deteriorating audiovisual materials into a sustainable digital format. Preparation for content delivery will take place at IU with the participation of archivists from the partner institutions. When these archivists return home, they will continue digitizing and cataloguing in their respective countries.

The final phase of Project CAMVA will focus on access to the digital video recordings and compiled bibliographic data created in earlier phases.

Michigan State University
Diversity and Tolerance in the Islam of West Africa

One of the most critical educational needs for national security and world peace in this era is almost unquestionably the need for cross-cultural co-existence, understanding, and democracy. We stand at a juncture of increasing polarization between some Muslim communities and “the West.” Acts of violence led by radical groups claiming to speak for all of Islam have magnified the worldwide perception of the size and following of these groups and their ideas. Models of religious co-existence, diversity, tolerance and non-violence in the world are essential to breaching this chasm, and educational resources must go beyond the conflict of Middle East politics to examine “the lived experiences of Muslim communities around the world.” The Islam of West Africa is one of these essential experiences to study and teach.

Diversity and Tolerance in the Islam of West Africa will make accessible a wide array of currently unavailable materials from and about the countries of Senegal and Ghana, their Muslim communities, and the relations of those communities with the practitioners of other faiths. Building on the innovative, cutting-edge technology of the African Online Digital Library (AODL) developed through National Science Foundation funding, this project will create digital copies of unavailable or hard-to-access materials from archives and African researchers in Senegal and Ghana, preserve them in a digital repository in the United States, and develop Web-based public and educational resources in thematic galleries geared towards a broad range of international, historical and area studies. Resources and interactive galleries produced by this project will present the tolerance and diversity of religious practice in Senegal and Ghana, for students, teachers, and the general public throughout the United States, as well as West Africa and the world. The project will bring to light the dominant tradition of incorporation, pragmatism, and mutual respect that has marked many Islamic societies.

The overarching project goals are to:

- Increase availability of information about diversity of Muslim practices generally and Ghanaian and Senegalese societies in particular;
- Increase knowledge about Ghanaian and Senegalese religious, political, and cultural history; and
- Increase research in Ghanaian and Senegalese religious, political and cultural history.

This will be accomplished in part through a team of experts in the study of West Africa working together to identify the critical materials unavailable in the United States, copy them, preserve them in the AODL repository, and make them available and accessible to the public through curated and framed “galleries” of materials focused on important selected themes for Senegal and Ghana.

Northern Illinois University
The Southeast Asia Digital Library

Northern Illinois University Libraries, along with a consortium of United States institutions and international partners propose the creation of the Southeast Asia Digital Library. The digital library will provide access to research materials, bibliographic indexes, and support a wide range of research and teaching activities. To enhance interoperability between area studies digital libraries, the project is based on the model established by the Digital South Asia Library. It will employ standards developed and approved by American and international library organizations to provide free access to archives of textual, still image, sound, and video resources, covering both historical and current information from the region.

Nine constituent projects will create content and provide services for the digital library. Projects include providing access to bibliographic indexing; delivery of full-text articles in Thai; digitization of Thai manuscripts, early printing in the languages of the region, and photographs and archives in Cambodia and the Philippines; and digitally archiving television programming from Indonesia and videos of interviews from East Timor. Acting in concert with partners in the region, individuals representing leading Southeast Asian Studies programs at American universities will coordinate these projects. This effort will enable these programs to use available resources more efficiently by establishing a cooperative digital library rather than constructing unconnected pieces.

The digital library will amass substantial resources from Southeast Asia and provide free access for students, teachers, scholars, government officials, and others with interest in the region.

Yale University
An Arabic and Middle Eastern Electronic Library

Middle Eastern library content, particularly Arabic and other non-Roman language materials, poses special challenges to the creation of digital libraries. The Arabic and Middle Eastern Electronic Library (AMEEL) seeks to lay the foundations for future progress and to build a working library by a two-fold strategy:

1. To create a prototype Web-based portal for study of the Middle East, including its history, culture, development, and contemporary face, and to integrate existing scholarly digital content with this portal to make such material easier to find and use efficiently and freely.
2. To develop an environment for creating new digital resources, as well as integrating existing resources into a common structure. We will also tackle in particular the challenges of digitization and the opportunities for technologically assisted interlibrary borrowing and lending.

Project AMEEL will move rapidly on the underlying structural and integration component of the project, create a resource useful in its own right, and establish an architecture and standards for all scholars who wish to participate in this project, thus enabling others to add their resources and energy. The first stage of AMEEL will establish an 'integration infrastructure', both to create a useful resource rapidly and to put in place an architecture for future development. AMEEL will then work with partners to develop international standards for digitization of Arabic-language materials and to support digital information in Arabic. Finally, AMEEL will conduct a pilot Interlibrary Loan project with a small number of libraries in the United States, Europe, and particularly the Middle East, to prove the viability of the physical exchange of materials or technically facilitated representations of those materials (faxes, photocopies, photographs) where digitization has not yet occurred.

A successful project will offer both a working library for United States and international scholars and at the same time will make a major contribution by encouraging multiple projects that create new resources or integrate existing ones into the Web-based architecture we develop.

**University Of New Mexico
Harvester for Creating Knowledge Streams in the Americas**

The University of New Mexico (UNM) Harvester for Creating Knowledge Streams in the Americas addresses the digital divide that currently marks a scientific barrier between North and South America by forming a knowledge community supported by multi-disciplinary Latin America content based on the Open Archives Initiative (OAI) protocol. The Latin American subcontinent is critical for the themes and technology methods addressed in this proposal. The UNM harvester will archive and disseminate Latin American collections in social medicine/ public health, current news reports, historical collections covering social history and political independence, K-12 teaching materials, PhD theses, and pre-print working paper scholarship.

The project supports and trains content providers to establish OAI repositories for open access to their collections. The UNM harvester software gathers indexed materials and abstracts and directs users to full-text repositories of previously unavailable content from collaborating institutions in Latin America in three major languages: English, Spanish and Portuguese. The harvester is supported by UNM University Libraries, the Latin American Social Medicine project of the Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center, the Consortium of the Americas for Interdisciplinary Sciences, and the Latin American & Iberian Institute and its Ibero-American Science and Technology Consortium, Latin America Data Base, and Resources for Teaching About the Americas. UNM Latin American partners in this project are three major universities: the Universidad de Guadalajara (Mexico); Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Brazil); and Universidad Simón Bolívar (Venezuela).

University Of Virginia
The Tibetan and Himalayan Digital Library

The Tibetan and Himalayan Digital Library (THDL) and Tibetan and Himalayan Information Community (THIC) together 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 online 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 that it seamlessly integrates with standard interfaces, tools, and classification systems. The information community initiative complements this by promoting communication, communal standards and tools, and interoperability among projects that are currently entirely distinct from each other. Together, they are in the process of creating 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. Our proposal's wide ranging objectives in fact meet all seven major requirements of the statutory provisions of Section 606, as detailed in the main narrative.

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.

University Of Wisconsin, Madison Digital Southeast Asia Library

Southeast Asia is a global crossroads of singular geopolitical importance: an astonishing 30 percent of the world's trade goods transit its central Malacca Straits. Unfortunately, we have little capacity for information access or language reference in nearly half of this tumultuous region. Data and dictionaries that use the Indic-derived scripts of Burma, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and the minority Mon, Karen, and Shan states, and Vietnam's Roman-derived, Chinese-influenced *Quốc Ngữ* script, are largely unavailable in the United States.

The Digital Southeast Asia Library (DSEAL) is a technically innovative plan to build core resources for all Southeast Asian languages, starting with the difficult scripts used by the five mainland countries. In preparing this proposal, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Southeast Asian Studies and co-sponsor Center for Research in Computational Linguistics have made concrete plans for cooperation with the Center for Khmer Studies, the Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient, the Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia, the Coalition of Teachers of Southeast Asian Languages, and 'open source' software providers in Burma, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. DSEAL will provide:

DICTIONARIES: We will prepare digital bilingual dictionaries, based on the best available print reference works for the national languages Burmese, Lao, Thai, Khmer, and Vietnamese, and the major ethnic minority languages Mon, Karen, and Shan. These will be supplemented by historical dictionaries. All DSEAL dictionaries will be accessible via search software that locates national orthography, transliteration, or phonetic transcription, and can be used both interactively, and as program-accessible Web resources.

SOFTWARE: We will build information access tools for Southeast Asian scripts, including tools for segmentation and transliteration, conversion between font encodings, text harvesting and indexing, and statistical analysis. 'Reader's Helper,' and the "SEA-See" text-as-image utility for scripts (like Khmer) that are difficult to render in Unicode, will be linked to dictionaries, texts, and transliteration engines to help fulfill the promise of regional information access.

The Digital Southeast Asia Library is a long-awaited addition to the national digital infrastructure being built with the support of a variety of U.S. Department of Education Title VI programs. It will enable:

- **pedagogy** and new teaching, learning, and translation tools for less-commonly taught languages;
- **scholarly inquiry** in linguistics, history, lexicography/etymology, and Southeast Asia area studies;
- **scientific research** in computational linguistics and cross-language information retrieval; and
- **language reference** all but unavailable to 1.8 million Americans of mainland Southeast Asian heritage who can typically speak – but not read, or consult reference materials in -- their heritage languages.