

Project Profile

Project title: Our Americas Archive Partnership
Target Start Date: November, 2007
Departments: Humanities Research Center, Fondren Library

Statement of need

Our Americas Archive Partnership (OAAP) aims to foster new research that examines American literatures from a hemispheric perspective, to develop curricular models and teaching materials that embody a hemispheric approach to the study of the early Americas, as well as to generate professional and intellectual exchanges among scholars from various fields.

Scope

Material selection will be primarily from the Woodson's Americas Collection, which specializes in materials dating from 1811 to 1920. It will span the full range multilingual "Americas" that includes Canada, the Caribbean, and Latin America from the beginning of colonization to the present. Primary sources include original letters, photographs, broadsides, pamphlets, and books. Text based materials include both printed and handwritten manuscripts. Many of the documents are original government publications such as constitutions, decrees, or presidential and congressional messages that serve as public statements on the political and social events of the time.

Goals

- Building a digital collection of scholarly source materials to serve the interdisciplinary field of American Studies, focusing on a hemispheric view of the Americas, and
- Development of a technical infrastructure to federate multiple repositories using Web 2.0 technologies, enabling scholars to find and share digital resources residing at different locations on the Web. (partner's role)

Deliverables

- Creation of digital archive of primary materials including image, text mark up and related metadata (approx. 25,000 scanned images)
- Creation of translations for selected works (approx 80 items)
- Creation of research modules (target 25 - 50 modules)

Stakeholders

- Geneva Henry, Executive Director, Digital Library Initiative and Principal Investigator
- Dr. Caroline Levander, Director of the Humanities Research Center, Co-Principal Investigator
- Neil Fraistat, Director, Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities and Partner-Principal Investigator

Funding \$2MM, requesting 50% funds from IMLS grant proposal

Key standards and or digital specifications

- Materials will be scanned so that they meet or exceed the benchmarks set forth by the Digital Library Federation (<http://www.diglib.org/standards/bmarkfin.htm>).
- Both printed and selected manuscript works will be converted to text and will meet a 99.95% accuracy standard. Text markup will adhere to the TEI in Libraries Level 4 Guidelines (<http://www.indiana.edu/~letrs/tei/>)
- Metadata will be structured according to the Dublin Core Metadata Best Practices, Version 2.1.2 Collaborative Digitization Program at the University of Denver. September 2006. (<http://www.cdpheritage.org/cdp/documents/CDPDCMBP.pdf>)
- Metadata content will be prepared using (DACS) Describing archives : a content standard (DACS) recommended by Society of American Archivists.