

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

CIVIL RIGHTS DIGITAL LIBRARY

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SIX-MONTH REPORT

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SUBMITTED TO

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SUBMITTED BY

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Civil Rights Digital Library initiative is to promote an enhanced understanding of the Movement through its three principal components: 1) a digital video archive of historical news film allowing learners to be nearly eyewitnesses to key events of the Civil Rights Movement, 2) a civil rights portal providing a seamless virtual library on the Movement by aggregating metadata on a national scale, and 3) a learning objects component that will deliver secondary Web-based resources to facilitate the use of the video content in the learning process.

Project participants have made substantial gains during the first six months, addressing the requisite start-up activities, developing production processes and delivery mechanisms, digitizing and describing moving image content, and engaging in research to guide the development of learning objects. Highlights include implementation of the collaborative organizational structure that supports oversight and execution of the project plan; hiring of temporary personnel; launch of a project communication site; Web design for the CRDL portal and for the learning objects public interfaces; roll out of the administration model for the CRDL portal database; substantial progress in developing a mechanism for delivery of moving moving images that will support the broadest possible range of users; conversion vendor selection; digitization of 5 hours of 16mm news film; equipment and software purchases; metadata creation for historical newsfilm; focus group meetings with K-12 educators; and two research trips to Southwest Georgia to connect with participants of the Movement.

SECTION 2: PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL

Startup activities for the initiative included establishing the project management structure specified in the NLG proposal and hiring temporary personnel supported by IMLS funds. An organizational chart for CRDL is available as Appendix A and on the Web at: <http://www.usg.edu/galileo/about/planning/projects/crdl/organization.phtml>

The project receives general oversight from the CRDL Steering Committee and project sponsors. The Steering Committee held its initial meeting in October 2005, and is comprised of project partners and stakeholders, including representatives from Albany State University; Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education; Auburn Avenue Research Library for African American Culture and History; Board of Regents, University System of Georgia (through GALILEO); DeKalb County (Georgia) Public Schools; Digital Library of Georgia (UGA and GALILEO); Georgia Humanities Council; Georgia Public Broadcasting; Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies (UGA); UGA College of Education, UGA Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, UGA College of Social Work; University of Georgia Press; and the Walter Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection (UGA). A listing of CRDL Steering Committee

members is available as Appendix B and on the Web at:

<http://www.usg.edu/galileo/about/planning/projects/crdl/committee.phtml>

Daily oversight of the initiative is by the project co-directors. Initially this group was composed of Drs. P. Toby Graham, Barbara McCaskill, and Timothy Powell, though there was a personnel change among the project co-directors during the reporting period. Subject to IMLS approval (pending), Dr. Derrick Alridge will replace Timothy Powell as project co-director, collaborating with Barbara McCaskill to complete the learning objects component of the CRDL. Alridge is associate professor and historian in the Qualitative Research Program in the College of Education at the University of Georgia, and he serves on the editorial board of the national journal of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH). He was named one of the top ten outstanding young African-American scholars by *Black Issues in Higher Education*. Dr. Alridge also serves as the co-director of the Foot Soldier Project for Civil Rights Studies and Research (FSP), which “seeks to establish an archival and documentary research infrastructure for studying, disseminating, and preserving information and scholarship on the civil rights movement, social justice and reform, and policy-related issues.” Dr. Alridge’s involvement strengthens the partnership between CRDL and FSP, and promises to advance the objectives of both initiatives. Derrick Alridge will lead the development of Web-based biographical sketches and online lesson plans associated with the people and key events of the civil rights movement. For more information on FSP, see: <http://www.footsoldier.uga.edu>. Timothy Powell has accepted a position with the University of Pennsylvania Museum. As a result, his role in the initiative will shift from project co-director to serving as a liaison for the CRDL to related humanities-based initiatives. Dr. Powell also will generate awareness of the CRDL by disseminating the results of our effort within the scholarly community.

The majority of the work product comes out of the three working groups, each assigned one of the three principal components of the effort. The Video Archive Sub-Project, Portal Sub-Project, and Learning Objects Sub-Project Teams convened for the first time between December 2005 and January 2006. More information on the efforts of these working groups is described in the subsequent sub-sections. The Board of Regents, University System of Georgia (through GALILEO) hosts a project communication site, which also provides documentation on CRDL, and in particular on the work of the sub-project teams. The meeting minutes, agendas, site mock-ups, and other works-in-progress may be found in the password-protected “Working Documents” area of the site (log-in: “civilrights”; password: “newsfilm”). The CRDL communication site is available at: <http://www.usg.edu/galileo/about/planning/projects/crdl/>

Project participants have hired five temporary staff members for the project. These include James Benyshek (Video Conversion Specialist), Lauren Chambers (Graduate Assistant), Aggie Ebrahimi (Graduate Assistant), Charles King (Application Developer),

and Sarah Ricker (Metadata Librarian). The University of Georgia has a search underway to fill the New Georgia Encyclopedia's Project Editor position.

A number of individuals not initially included in the project proposal have stepped forward to contribute their efforts. The UGA Franklin College of Arts and Sciences has agreed to fund 30 hours per semester for Web designer William Weems to guide construction of the Freedom on Film learning objects site and to load related video content. Two additional students served on the project during the first six months. Courtney Thomas, a first-year Speech Pathology major, worked twenty hours per week as a research apprentice with the support of the UGA Honors Program's Center for Undergraduate Research (CURO). Since her CURO apprenticeship is for a two-year period, she will continue to work on the project during AY 2006-07. Wendy Harris, a part-time Latin instructor and PhD student in the College of Education, volunteered as a researcher during the spring and summer semesters. Also, UGA librarians Deborah Stanley and Diane Trap are contributing as members of the Learning Objects Sub-Project Team.

SECTION 3: VIDEO ARCHIVE SUB-PROJECT

The Civil Rights Movement was the first major social movement of the television era. Americans watched in their living rooms as the major direct action protests of the 1960s unfolded. Their televisions showed them the marches and sit-ins, as well as the often violent tactics employed by police and state and local authorities. It was through the television news that the nation became acquainted with Martin Luther King, Jr.'s singular oratorical abilities, his message of non-violence, and his vision of racial justice. While Dr. King attained iconic status, the televised evening newscasts also conveyed the fact that the Movement's successes rested on the collective involvement of ordinary men, women, and children, "foot soldiers" who represented different races, classes, regions, and religious affiliations. The spotlight that the media turned on racial segregation created a change in national conscience, and it helped to produce the two key pieces of civil rights legislation of the decade, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965. Delivering unedited news footage from the WSB (Atlanta) and WALB (Albany, Ga.) archives, CRDL will reach a new generation of learners with the same compelling visual experience that motivated Americans 40 years ago.

The Video Archive Sub-Project Team convened in January 2006, and it has been concerned with the technical details of converting moving images to digital form, generating derivatives for Web delivery, developing effective delivery mechanisms that will support use of the video content by the widest possible audience, and acquiring the appropriate hardware and software to support storage and Internet-streaming of digitized moving images.

The storage and Web delivery of digitized moving images requires robust IT systems. For serving the multiple derivatives required for each video clip, the sub-project team acquired a Sun Fire T2000 (server), Sun StorEdge 6130 (2TB attached storage), and related accessories. The master data for the project (1440x1080 resolution video saved as uncompressed AVI) is voluminous. At 4.5 – 5MB per frame, 10 hours of content (and one copy) will amount to 8TB. The sub-project team acquired LTO3 tapes and 2 StorEdge LTO3 LVD SCSI drives to address master data storage. The team purchased a Helix server license, which supports Internet streaming of many types of derivatives. Team members also have acquired FinalCut Pro, Compressor, RealProducer, and Flash software for editing and generating derivative versions of the WSB and WALB clips.

Video conversion is well underway, with 5 of the 10 hours specified in the August 2005 proposal revision complete. The principal steps of the conversion process include: 1) final selection, 2) creation of conversion reels from the 16mm film for delivery to the vendor, 3) film cleaning, conversion, color/grayscale correction, and 4) copying to LTO3 tape. The vendor selected for the project is Crawford Communications, Inc., in Atlanta, Georgia (see: <http://www.crawford.com/>).

The sub-project team is developing a mechanism for delivering digital video designed to serve as broad of a range of users as is technically feasible. Connecting learners to Web-based moving image content can be problematic; there is no standard format for video delivery, and access to Internet bandwidth varies greatly among users. The sub-team will generate reference files to detect users' processor speed, default viewer, and bandwidth, delivering the appropriate derivative for each individual. High-bandwidth users will see a video file that is larger in terms of pixel dimensions and of higher quality in terms of frame rate. Low-bandwidth users will see a file of reduced size and frame rate. Offering multiple file types for each clip, CRDL will accommodate a range of platforms. Currently, the team is investigating QuickTime (H264 and MPEG4), Real, Windows Media, and Flash as derivative options. In developing the access mechanism, team members consult with CRDL partner, Georgia Public Broadcasting, an organization with extensive expertise in delivering digital video.

SECTION 4: CIVIL RIGHTS DIGITAL LIBRARY PORTAL

Through the portal component, project partners will create a seamless virtual library on the Civil Rights Movement. The portal will aggregate metadata describing digital collections on a national scale, but with particular emphasis on civil rights resources created with IMLS support. IMLS-funded collections include the Civil Rights in Mississippi Digital Archive, which will deliver oral histories, letters, diaries, photographs, and organizational records. The Civil Rights Special Collection—part of WGBH's Teachers Domain—provides dozens of video oral histories and news clips. Emory University is aggregating metadata on the sounds of the Civil Rights Movement.

Taken together, IMLS already has invested \$1.2 million in digitizing materials on the Civil Rights Movement through the NLG program, and the CRDL portal promises the opportunity to leverage this investment by promoting and adding value to these collections (and others) by connecting them in a subject-specific resource of a national scope.

During the reporting period, the Portal Sub-Project Team developed wireframe mockups of the site to reflect the proposed design and functionality of the portal. It includes the following features: 1) basic searching, 2) advanced searching, 3) browse by event (timeline), 4) browse by place (by town or city using an interactive map), 5) browse by topic, 6) browse by media type (e.g. news film, letters, photographs), 7) browse educator resources, 8) browse by contributing organization, and 9) browse collections A-Z. The site also will include information on partners and sponsors, help screens, and a right-side panel on the homepage that rotates representative images from the CRDL. See Appendix C for examples.

In May, application developers in the GALILEO and Database Support unit at the University of Georgia delivered the backend database and administrative interface that will support the CRDL portal. Their efforts are part of a related project to develop a new digital library system written in the Java programming language and using the PostgreSQL open-source relational database system. Named “Voci” (Italian for “voices”), it is intended to support the next generation of DLG/GALILEO databases, and GALILEO plans to make Voci freely available as an open-source digital library system once it is more fully developed.

The Voci system is particularly well suited for CRDL, because it delivers powerful metadata creation and workflow features, supports hierarchical arrangements of digital collections into sub-components, and allows project participants to connect digital collections to contextual, authority control, and interface-related data also held in Voci.

CRDL participants have made substantial progress in generating metadata for WSB and WALB moving images, having authored descriptions for approximately 5 hours of content. Effective description for the raw news film requires that records concisely convey what is occurring in each clip, identify the people portrayed, explain historical context, and communicate why the event is significant. The CRDL Metadata Librarian has focused, initially, on writing narrative descriptions and completing subject analysis for video segments from the historically significant but poorly understood Albany (Georgia) Movement of 1961 and 1962. See Appendix D for a sample WSB metadata record. Participants are establishing name authority records for people and organizations featured in the news film. See Appendix E for a sample name authority record.

Meanwhile, a Metadata Sub-Group is finalizing local practices for the more technical aspects of describing digital video. The sub-group also will guide the metadata aggregation process for collateral material selected for integration into the portal.

SECTION 5: LEARNING OBJECTS SUB-PROJECT

In the learning objects component, project participants are developing innovative secondary resources for the Web to provide context and support the use of the video content in the learning process. Faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduates in the UGA Franklin College of Arts and Sciences and UGA College of Education are building the learning objects in partnership with the New Georgia Encyclopedia and Digital Library of Georgia with the objective of promoting a greater understanding of the history of race relations in the South and of a social movement that changed America as a whole.

In February, Barbara McCaskill and other members of the Learning Objects Sub-Project Team convened a focus group of Atlanta-area K-12 educators with the assistance of Steering Committee members Juanita Buddy (DeKalb County Schools) and Beth Day (Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education). Project participants explained the objectives of CRDL and collected information on how the initiative can best serve the needs of educators. The group is developing an online survey to collect additional information from teachers and media specialists in Georgia's K-12 schools. Also, at the suggestion of the educators' focus group, the Learning Objects Team is developing an instructional kit to accompany the Freedom on Film web site. Among the materials the kit will include will be hard copies of selected lesson plans and stories, DVD copies of selected video clips, timelines, and information about project partners such as the New Georgia Encyclopedia and Digital Library of Georgia

Barbara McCaskill and Elizabeth Hughes (Assistant Editor, New Georgia Encyclopedia) attended the IMLS OBE workshop in Washington, March 27-28, reporting back with a more fully developed structure for measuring project outcomes.

Members of the Learning Objects Sub-Project Team visited Albany, Georgia, over spring break (March 14-16, 2006) with the support of a Venture Fund grant provided by the office of UGA president Michael F. Adams. The Albany Movement was the scene of America's first city-wide desegregation campaign in 1961-1962, and project participants visited in order to interview members of the Albany Movement. They talked to former civil rights volunteers to fact-check information and to fill in gaps in their knowledge as well as to gain input and guidance on content and themes from those who participated. A complete report on the trip is available on the project communication site:

<http://www.usg.edu/galileo/about/planning/projects/crdl/docs/AlbanyVentureFundTripReport.pdf>

May 25-28, the group made a second trip to Southwest Georgia, making stops at Albany, Americus, and Koinonia Farm, an interracial Christian community that served as a safe haven for civil rights workers in the 1960s. This visit was supported by travel funds from Dr. McCaskill's General Sandy Beaver Teaching Professorship. One of the civil rights volunteers they spoke with, Sandra Mansfield, explained how for six weeks in the summer of 1963, she was imprisoned with over thirty marchers (all teen and pre-teen girls) in the Leesburg Stockade, a former Confederate jail near Americus. They languished in one roach-infested room in the concrete building, where they were deprived of air conditioning or fans, lights, toilet facilities (they used a shower drain), running water, beds, bedding, clean clothing, outdoor privileges, and adequate food. The group visited the Stockade, which still stands outside of Americus, with Mrs. Mansfield. The Learning Objects Team members have developed a questionnaire, which they left for the activists they met during this trip to complete. There is room on the questionnaire for the activists to write firsthand accounts of memorable moments during the Movement, which will be posted with their permission on the front page of the Freedom on Film web site. Additionally, Team members have mailed questionnaires for completion by activists from Georgia who now live out of state or out of the country. A complete report on the May research trip is available at: <http://www.usg.edu/galileo/about/planning/projects/crdl/docs/AlbanyMovementTrip2Report.pdf>

The Learning Objects Sub-Project Team also has generated an initial draft of the Freedom on Film web site, which will deliver instructional content on the Movement in Georgia. The second trip to Southwest Georgia provided an opportunity to give former civil rights volunteers a preview of the site, which was well received.

The graduate student members of the Learning Objects Sub-Project Team, Aggie Ebrahimi and Lauren Chambers, have pursued additional research projects on Civil Rights as a result of their work on this project. They completed a long reference essay with Dr. McCaskill on southern organizations during the Movement, which has been accepted by ABC-CLIO Press for publication in 2008, in a volume on the Civil Rights Movement edited by Dr. Michael Ezra of Sonoma State University. The students have also been invited with Dr. McCaskill to present a panel discussion of the activist nature of Civil Rights Songs at the annual South Carolina Folk Music Festival in May 2008.

SECTION 6: NEXT STEPS

The Video Archive Sub-Project Team will: 1) install and configure the video server, attached storage, and other equipment, 2) continue development of the access mechanism for delivering digital video to a broad range of Internet users, 3) continue the digital conversion of WSB and WALB news film, and 4) generate the necessary derivative files for Web delivery.

The Portal Sub-Project Team has the following principal next steps: 1) develop working interface by integrating HTML/CSS template with Voci content, 2) continue metadata creation for WSB and WALB segments, and 3) begin incorporating metadata from other institutions into the CRDL database.

The Learning Objects Sub-Project Team will focus on: 1) the continued development of the Freedom on Film site, particularly authoring new sections on Atlanta, Athens, Columbus, Macon, Rome, and Savannah; 2) conducting a Web-based survey of Georgia K-12 educators to guide the development of curricular materials; 3) distributing a questionnaire to Georgia civil rights veterans to collect their stories of the Movement; 4) continuing to visit civil rights sites and meet with individuals to guide the development of the learning objects component; and 5) meeting in the Fall Semester with K-12 and college educators in the Albany area to get feedback on their progress on the Freedom on Film site.