

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

**CIVIL RIGHTS DIGITAL LIBRARY**

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**SIX-MONTH REPORT**

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**INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES**

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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 continued to make substantial gains in the second six months. Highlights include digital conversion of the 10 hours of video content specified in the revised grant proposal; finalization of a video delivery approach; generation of derivative video files for Web delivery; implementation of media server hardware and software; creation of metadata for 5.6 hours of content (87 clips) with metadata for 5.38 hours (83 clips) under review; ongoing progress in developing the interface layer of the CRDL portal; substantial gains in content recruitment with 25 institutions having agreed to share collections via the CRDL portal; draft "Freedom on Film" learning objects site; and an invitation to the learning objects team to speak at an international conference on race relations in Madrid, Spain.

## **SECTION 2: PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL**

The project management structure for CRDL is specified in the NLG proposal, and an organizational chart is available on the Web at:

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

A key oversight group for CRDL is the Steering Committee, which includes 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 on the Web at:

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

The Steering Committee met on December 1, 2006 to review the work of the three sub-project teams (Video, Portal, and Learning Objects). The Committee indicated approval of the extent of the progress made over the past 12 months, and, for the most part, it endorsed the decisions reached by the sub-project teams. The Committee identified a

need for tighter coordination among the three sub-project teams. It also provided helpful suggestions in regard to reaching teachers and media specialists, dissemination, and sustainability. The minutes to the Steering Committee meeting are attached as Appendix A and are available on the Web at:

[http://www.usg.edu/galileo/about/planning/projects/crdl/docs/crdlsteer\\_minutes\\_120106.pdf](http://www.usg.edu/galileo/about/planning/projects/crdl/docs/crdlsteer_minutes_120106.pdf)

The University of Georgia hired Edward Hatfield to fill the only temporary position left unfilled at the end of the last reporting period. Hatfield--who recently earned a masters degree in history at the University of Georgia--is contributing to the CRDL initiative as Project Editor for the New Georgia Encyclopedia (NGE). He is writing Web-based, multi-media encyclopedia articles on the Civil Rights Movement that will appear both in the CRDL and NGE. Hatfield also will enhance existing articles and author background information for the CRDL portal's "Events" browse feature.

Katie Gentilelo (Digital Library of Georgia), Paul Nunn (Walter J. Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection), and Mark Durant (GALILEO and Database Support) are former project participants who left the University of Georgia during the reporting period.

### **SECTION 3: VIDEO ARCHIVE SUB-PROJECT**

The Video Archive Sub-Project Team is concerned with the technical details of converting WSB and WALB news film 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 implementing the appropriate hardware and software to support storage and Internet-streaming of digitized moving images.

Participants installed and configured the hardware and software acquired during the previous reporting period. Hardware includes a Sun Fire T2000 (server), Sun StorEdge 6130 (2TB attached storage for derivatives), 2 StorEdge LTO3 LVD SCSI drives (for master data on LTO3 tape), and related accessories. Software includes the Helix server, which supports Internet streaming of multiple types of derivatives. The media server is in operation and functioning well. The only exception is that the current Helix version does not support the h.264 codec used for CRDL's QuickTime option. Real Networks has promised a fix for this problem.

Video conversion is complete for the 10 hours of 16mm moving image content specified in the revised grant proposal. This includes ultrasonic cleaning, digital conversion, and color/grayscale correction. Copying of the digital files (uncompressed AVI at 1440x1080 pixels) to LTO3 tape is partially complete. The vendor (Crawford Communications, Inc., in Atlanta, Georgia) also provided all 10 hours on digi-beta and HD tape as a

convenience measure. Project participants are continuing to add additional WSB and WALB content beyond the required 10 hours.

After a period of research and testing, the sub-project team established its process for online delivery of the digitized news film. 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 widely among users. The sub-project team's approach is to offer four different derivative file types to accommodate an audience that may use either the Real, Windows Media, QuickTime, or Flash media player. To accommodate multiple bandwidths, the Real file uses SureStream® technology, incorporating multiple bit-rate derivatives into a single file. Choosing the Real option delivers a 128, 150, or 256 kbps version of the desired clip depending on the user's bandwidth setting. Likewise, the QuickTime option incorporates a "reference movie" that delivers one of three possible derivatives depending on bandwidth availability. The Flash derivative is available via progressive download, providing access for even low-bandwidth users. To view sample media player pages, see Appendix B.

Creation of the derivatives for the required 10 hours of content is complete. The multiple-derivative approach requires that CRDL Video Conversion Specialist generate seven files for each clip. File types include Flash (.flv), Real (.rv), Windows Media (.wmv), and QuickTime reference movie (.mov), as well as three h.264 (.mov) versions to support the QuickTime reference movie.

CRDL participants Sheila McAlister (Digital Library of Georgia) and Ruta Abolins (Walter J. Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection) helped to disseminate information on the initiative, and the video sub-project in particular, through a presentation at the Association of Moving Image Archivists Conference in Anchorage, Alaska in September. P. Toby Graham (project co-director) included previews of the WSB and WALB content at the Georgia Council for Social Studies, GOLD/GALILEO Users, Georgia Council of Media Organizations Conferences.

#### **SECTION 4: CIVIL RIGHTS DIGITAL LIBRARY PORTAL**

The CRDL Portal Sub-Project Team is building a seamless virtual library on the Civil Rights Movement. The portal aggregates metadata describing digital collections on a national scale, but with particular emphasis on civil rights resources created with IMLS support.

The current reporting period included work on the public interface, which will include 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 public interface is layered on top of the CRDL backend database delivered in the previous reporting period. A key accomplishment during the reporting period was establishing a process for using the Googlemaps API to support the “Places” geographical browsing that will connect users to moving images and other digital resources associated with specific towns and cities. Sample pages are provided as Appendix C.

CRDL participants have made substantial progress in generating metadata for WSB and WALB moving images, having completed metadata records for 5.6 hours of content (87 clips) and with 5.38 hours (83 clips) in the proofing stage. They also have established approximately 150 names in the Digital Library of Georgia’s name authority database.

In regard to content recruitment, participants have identified 58 institutions hosting digital collections that they would like to incorporate into the CRDL portal. Of these the Digital Library of Georgia staff have contacted and received agreement from 25 institutions. The California Digital Library, Emory University, Nashville Public Library, University of Texas, WGBH (Boston), University of Washington, and University of Southern Mississippi have provided at least sample metadata for the project. During the reporting period, two catalogers at the University of Georgia contributed five hours per week to enhance the Emory metadata, which describes images taken at the Highlander Folk School located near Monteagle, Tennessee.

The Metadata Sub-Group—including three members with Instructional Technology degrees--developed local practices for describing learning objects in a manner that is compatible with national standards such as IEEE LOM.

## **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.

The Learning Objects Sub-Project Team continued to develop the Freedom on Film Web site, which will deliver instructional content on the Movement in Georgia. The site focuses on nine Georgia cities: Albany, Americus, Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Macon, Rome, and Savannah. Freedom on Film will use narratives and moving images

to relate the stories of key civil rights events in those communities. The site also will offer lesson plans for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade and bibliographies to support related reading. Sample pages from the Freedom on Film site are provided as Appendix D.

In writing the instructional materials, the sub-project team receives guidance from former civil rights volunteers and other eye-witnesses to the Movement. Team members made two research trips to Southwest Georgia for site visits and in-person meetings during the previous reporting period. Subsequently they have expedited their data collection by conducting a series of telephone interviews with individuals who possess a firsthand perspective on the events covered in the Freedom on Film Web site.

Barbara McCaskill and the graduate student members of the Learning Objects Sub-Project Team, Aggie Ebrahimi and Lauren Chambers, continue to disseminate information on CRDL within the scholarly community. The group had a paper accepted for presentation at a conference to be held at the Universidad Nacional de Educacion a Distancia in Madrid in April 2007. The title of the conference is "Blackness and Modernities": The 7th Annual International Conference of The Collegium for African American Research. The presentation is entitled "Film As Social Activism: A Paper in Four Voices."

With the addition of Edward Hatfield to the initiative, CRDL has begun to make significant strides in regard to the deliverables related to the online New Georgia Encyclopedia. A list of new articles to appear both in CRDL and NGE and a timeline for their completion is provided as Appendix E.

## **SECTION 6: NEXT STEPS**

The Video Archive Sub-Project Team will: 1) load media player and menu pages onto the CRDL server, 2) continue to convert WSB and WALB content beyond the required 10 hours, 3) continue quality control of derivative files, 4) implement the h.264 fix for the Helix media server (pending receipt of software from Real Networks), 5) and usability testing among stakeholders.

The Portal Sub-Project Team has the following principal next steps: 1) continue development of the public interface, 2) continue description of the WSB and WALB content, 3) describe learning objects and collateral digital collections, 4) enhance and aggregate existing metadata provided by CRDL content partners, and 5) continue content recruitment.

The Learning Objects Sub-Project Team will: 1) continue to author instructional narratives (Albany, Americus, Athens, and Atlanta currently in progress), 2) continue to load completed narratives to the Freedom on Film Web site, 3) author lesson plans for the Freedom on Film site, 4) author bibliographies for the Freedom on Film site, 5)

continue interviews with participants in the Movement, and 6) continue to author new articles for the New Georgia Encyclopedia as specified in the article list and timeline (Appendix C).

For more information on the Civil Rights Digital Library, see the project communication site at: <http://www.usg.edu/galileo/about/planning/projects/crdl/> Log-in and password to access working files are available upon request.