UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

CIVIL RIGHTS DIGITAL LIBRARY

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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 third six months. Progress includes digital conversion of 18 hours of video content (290 clips); generation of derivative video files for Web delivery; revision of video delivery approach; implementation of media server hardware and software; completion of 213 video metadata records; ongoing progress in developing the interface layer of the CRDL portal; substantial gains in content recruitment with 63 institutions having agreed to share collections via the CRDL portal; and substantial progress on writing content for the “Freedom on Film” site learning objects, and 18 new online encyclopedia articles authored or substantially enhanced for inclusion in both CRDL and the New Georgia Encyclopedia.

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; Georgia Southwestern University, 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 May 22, 2007 to review the work of the three sub-project teams (Video, Portal, and Learning Objects). The Committee indicated strong approval of the progress made over the past six months. The group verified that the questions and
concerns collected at the December 2006 meeting had been resolved. New questions and concerns include the need for launch planning, promotion, and outreach, as well as to shift our focus to describing external resources for the CRDL portal. Several committee members asked why many of the institutions contacted to that point had not signed on as CRDL content partners. This issue is largely resolved, as evidenced in the content recruitment report in Section 4 and in Appendix C. 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/ActnMntsCRDL_052207.pdf

Amber Moore joined the Digital Library of Georgia as a summer intern working on metadata creation, enhancement, and aggregation for external resources associated with the CRDL portal. Moore is a Simmons MLIS student and a Spellman graduate.

In the Learning Objects Sub-Project Team, new graduate assistants Kamille Bostick (M.A. Program, English) and Christina Davis (PhD Program, History) will replace Lauren Chambers and Aggie Ebrahimi, effective July 1. Stacie Walker (Summer Undergraduate Research Program/SURP) and Delila Wilburn (Honors Program Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities/CURO) will work on the sub-project this summer. Courtney Thomas (CURO) also rotated off the sub-project team at the end of spring semester, but will continue involvement in CRDL research as a preceptor with J.D. Brandon in Dr. McCaskill’s fall semester ENGL 1060H Honors class entitled The Civil Rights Movement in American Literature.

P. Toby Graham was named to the Archives Committee in support of the planning process for the Atlanta Center for Human and Civil Rights.

On February 14, Learning Objects Sub-Project Team members Professor Barbara McCaskill, Lauren Chambers, Aggie Ebrahimi, and Courtney Thomas delivered a presentation on the Freedom on film site at the APERO Africana Lecture Series, sponsored by The University of Georgia’s Institute for African American Studies. On February 15, they delivered another Freedom on Film presentation a University of Georgia sponsored event in conjunction with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers exhibition at the Atlanta History Center.

Professor McCaskill, Lauren Chambers, and Aggie Ebrahimi also co-wrote and submitted an essay on The Great Society for a book project entitled The Long Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1973, edited by Zoe Trodd (Dept. of History and Literature, Harvard University) and Brian L. Johnson (Director, Jonathan Jasper Wright Institute for the Study of Southern African American History, Culture, and Policy, Claflin University).
In January, Chambers, Ebrahimi, and Graham presented on CRDL to University of Georgia students and faculty as part of a MLK Week sponsored by the University.

Sheila McAlister (Digital Library of Georgia) attended the American Library Association’s pre-conference on PREMIS, as a part of her work leading the technical metadata component of CRDL.

**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.

Video conversion is complete for the 10 hours of 16mm moving image content specified in the revised grant proposal. Participants continue to convert content from other sources with a total of 18 hours (290 clips) complete and an additional 100 clips selected for conversion as time allows.

Creation of the derivatives (1,160 files) for the 18 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.

The Video Sub-Project Team has made substantial improvements to the media player interface during the reporting period. Changes include: 1) “sticky video format” (users select preferred media player once per session); 2) multi-part clip navigation for clips with b-roll or other logical divisions; 3) enhanced metadata display, including title, clip number, part number, and duration; and 4) enhanced visual design. See Appendix B for a print sample of the revised media player pages. For the working Web version, see: [http://dlgmedia1-www.galib.uga.edu/wsbn/playermenu/wsbn34922.html](http://dlgmedia1-www.galib.uga.edu/wsbn/playermenu/wsbn34922.html)

**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. The basic Java programming required for the public interface is complete, though additional work is required to populate, as well as to test and revise the application.

CRDL participants have made substantial progress in generating metadata for WSB and WALB moving images, having completed metadata records for 213 clips. They also have established approximately 59 names in the Digital Library of Georgia’s name authority database and 35 new records in the Library of Congress Name Authority File (NAF).

In regard to content recruitment, participants have identified 66 institutions hosting digital collections that they would like to incorporate into the CRDL portal, initially. Of these the Digital Library of Georgia staff have contacted and received agreement from 63 institutions. A complete list of content partners is available as Appendix C.

The Portal Sub-Project Team has completed metadata creation or enhancement for collections from 30 institutions, with metadata work for 8 institutions currently in-process.

**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 3rd, 8th, and 11th grade and bibliographies to support related
reading. Sample pages from the Freedom on Film site were provided in the previous report.

The team completed selection of audio-visual content for all nine city pages this spring semester. Lesson plan development for the Albany, Americus, and Athens pages is in process. The team completed and forwarded URL’s for the Albany stories to the Portal Committee. Final review of the Americus and Athens stories is in process and the team will forward URL’s to the Portal Committee this month. The four student team members are working with Professor McCaskill to complete Atlanta, Rome, Macon, and Savannah pages and bibliographies by the beginning of fall semester.

In the spring semester, Professor McCaskill provided new opportunities for undergraduate researchers to participate in the CRDL. She led two courses, ENGL 2400 and ENGL/AFAM 3300, in which students worked collaboratively to write stories for the Atlanta and Athens pages in the Freedom on Film site. She has commissioned the following educators at other state institutions to write overview essays for the remaining pages: Prof. Clarissa Myrick, One World Archives (Atlanta); Prof. Charles Elsmore, Savannah State University (Savannah); Prof. LeeAnn Lands, Kennesaw State University (Rome); and Prof. Catherine Meeks, Wesleyan College (Macon). Professors McCaskill and Alridge are co-authoring the overview essay for the Athens pages; and Kamille Bostick, who is an Augusta, Georgia, native and a former features reporter for the Augusta-Chronicle- newspaper, is writing the overview essay for that city.

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 was provided in the previous report. Completed articles include: Columbians, Mills B. Lane, Segregation, Bus Desegregation in Atlanta, William Holmes Borders, Rabbi Jacob M. Rothschild, Ministers’ Manifesto, C.M.E. Church, King Family, King Papers Project, William Anderson, Freedom Singers, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Atlanta Sit-In Movement, and Donald Hollowell. Substantial additions to existing articles include: MARTA, Slave Narratives, and King Center.

**SECTION 6: NEXT STEPS**

The Video Archive Sub-Project Team will: 1) continue to test and improve the media player interface, 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, 5) and usability testing among stakeholders.

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

The Learning Objects Sub-Project Team will: 1) continue to author instructional narratives and bibliographies, 2) continue to load completed narratives and bibliographies to the Freedom on Film Web site, 3) author lesson plans for the Freedom on Film site, 4) continue interviews with participants in the Movement and other background research, and 5) continue to author new articles for the New Georgia Encyclopedia.

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.