

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

CIVIL RIGHTS DIGITAL LIBRARY

AWARD NUMBER: LG-05-05-0244-05

SIX-MONTH REPORT

JUNE 2007 – NOVEMBER 2007

SUBMITTED TO

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

SUBMITTED BY

P. TOBY GRAHAM

JANUARY 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NARRATIVE REPORT

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

SECTION 2: PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL

SECTION 3: VIDEO ARCHIVE SUB-PROJECT

SECTION 4: PORTAL SUB-PROJECT

SECTION 5: LEARNING OBJECTS SUB-PROJECT

SECTION 6: NEXT STEPS

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 fourth six months, though a no-cost extension was requested (and awarded) to complete the project. Participants have completed the digital conversion phase of the project, having digitized the original 10 hours of 16mm news film required by IMLS, as well as an additional 20 hours of WSBN and WALB news footage beyond the original project scope. The total number of clips is 422. CRDL participants have completed generation of derivative video files for Web delivery (with some re-encoding in-process). Seventy-five institutions have agreed to share related collections via the CRDL portal; of these 55 have been loaded to the CRDL database. The Freedom on Film instructional site will launch in early March, and the CRDL portal will enter a public demo period during the same period. The online New Georgia Encyclopedia now contains 123 articles related to the Civil Rights Movement and African-American history in Georgia; this content also is accessible via the CRDL portal.

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 Dec. 10, 2007 to review the work of the three sub-project teams (Video, Portal, and Learning Objects) during the reporting period. The Committee indicated strong approval of the progress made over the past six months. Responses included phrases such as "I'm floored," "Phenomenal progress," and "A++++." The group verified that the questions and concerns collected at the May 2007 meeting had been resolved. In accordance with the Steering Committee's instruction in May to begin planning for the launch-related publicity, CRDL participants conducted a launch planning meeting on Oct. 9, 2007 to gather information from project stakeholders with experience promoting educational resources. The Steering Committee reviewed results of the launch planning meeting and provided additional suggestions, a process that was aided by the inclusion of several guest participants from the Georgia Department of Education. The minutes to the Steering Committee meeting are available at: <http://www.usg.edu/galileo/about/planning/projects/crdl/docs/CRDLsteer121007.pdf>

On Oct. 18, IMLS approved a one-year no-cost extension for CRDL. The extension was needed as a result of delays in hiring temporary personnel at the beginning of the project. Also, UGA will continue to provide cost share during the extension period in order to make up for the lost work caused by vacancies among permanent staff positions.

In September, the UGA Libraries moved James Benyshek (Video Conversion Specialist) from temporary IMLS funding to ongoing university funding. Making this position permanent contributes to the sustainability of CRDL, and it positions the university to undertake other innovative initiatives related to moving image digitization and Web-based delivery in the future.

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 for the project is complete. This includes the 10 hours of 16mm moving image content specified in the revised grant proposal, as well as additional content from other sources for a total of 30 hours (422 clips).

Creation of the derivatives (2,954 files) for the 30 hours of content is mostly complete with re-encoding of problem files in-process. 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.

During the quality review process, CRDL participants discovered encoding errors in some of the derivative clips. A list of problem derivatives has been generated, and re-encoding for these derivatives is in-process.

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 Voci backend database, which has been made available as an open-source system via Source Forge. See:

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/voci/>

CRDL participants have made substantial progress in generating metadata for WSB and WALB moving images, having completed metadata records for 284 clips. This represents metadata for about 25 of the 30 hours of video material. Work on video description will continue through May 2008.

In regard to content recruitment, 75 institutions hosting digital collections have agreed to participate in the CRDL portal. Currently, 55 of these are represented in the CRDL database. Addition of metadata for new collections will continue for the duration of the project. A complete list of content partners is available at:

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

CRDL technical staff members currently are working to resolve performance issues associated with running the CRDL (Voci) application on the same server being used to deliver streaming media. The CRDL application server may need to reside on a different machine, either an existing server or one acquired for the project.

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 team established a goal of completing sixty-five stories for the *Freedom on Film* site by December 2007. For eight weeks from June through July, Barbara McCaskill supervised two undergraduate students to develop content for the Macon portion of *Freedom on Film*. The students were Stacie L. Walker (English/English Education), who was enrolled in the 2007 Summer Undergraduate Research Program, and Delila Wilburn (English), who was enrolled in the 2007 Honors Program's Summer Research Apprentice Program. Stacie and Delila completed four stories, discussion questions, and activities for the site, along with the contribution of an additional story from Ebony O'Neal, a Spelman College computer science student who interned in the Digital Library during the summer. On July 23, Stacie displayed a conference poster, "Civil Rights in the 'Soul of the South': Macon, Georgia and the *Freedom on Film* Project," and gave a PowerPoint presentation also based on her Macon research, at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education and Student Learning Center. At the end of the summer Delila also drafted a research paper about education, the Civil Rights Movement, and rural communities, entitled "Civil Rights in the Rural South," which she revised in the fall and will present this spring at the April CURO Student Research Symposium.

During Fall Semester (August through December) the team accomplished four tasks: 1) completing stories, discussion questions, and activities for the Savannah, Columbus, and Augusta pages; 2) researching and writing overview stories for the Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, and Savannah pages; 3) continuing to revise and refine individual stories on the Athens and Atlanta pages; and 4) linking stories to project partners throughout the site. The students who worked several times a week with Dr. McCaskill on the web site were R.A.'s Kamille Bostick (M.A. English) and Christina Davis (PhD History), and undergraduate Honors student Mary Boyce Hicks, a double major in History and Journalism. Dr. McCaskill also assigned stories to research and complete to the 35 undergraduates enrolled in her ENGL 4860 course (The Civil Rights Movement in American Literature). The librarians Diane Trap and Deborah Stanley conducted two-day workshops for the students to prepare them to use the library's resources to research stories. Working with William Weems, Dr. McCaskill added buttons on the homepage banner stills, so that users can click for source information and metadata descriptions about the images. She added thumbnails to all remaining city pages, corrected navigational problems in the site, inserted links and graphics for stories with accompanying videos, and prepared to convert the opening homepage slideshow to rotating images in order to include source information and metadata descriptions for those stills.

Anthony Omerikwa (PhD Education) joined the student team this fall especially to assist Dr. McCaskill in developing lesson plans keyed to Georgia Performance Standards for the site. He developed two plans on nonviolence keyed to eighth-grade social science classes. Learning Objects co-director Derrick Alridge co-wrote the Athens overview

story with Dr. McCaskill, and Dr. Clarissa Myrick generously allowed us to excerpt her previously published discussion of Atlanta and the Civil Rights Movement for the overview story on that page.

The graduate student members continued to pursue additional research projects and presentations as a result of their work on this project. From July through September, Christina, former R.A. Lauren Chambers, and Dr. McCaskill submitted essays on such subjects as “W.E.B. Du Bois,” “Anna Julia Cooper,” “Georgia during the Jim Crow Era,” and “Civil Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean” for *The Jim Crow Encyclopedia*, edited by Nikki L. Brown and Barry M. Stentiford Narvaez (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, forthcoming 2008). On October 6, Christina, Lauren, and Dr. McCaskill gave a presentation entitled “Film as Social Activism in the Civil Rights Movement” for the 92nd Annual Convention of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The *Freedom on Film* project has inspired former student team members to stay involved in Civil Rights research and pedagogy. On Aug. 2, Lauren, Christina, Kamille, and former R.A. Aghigh Ebrahimi interviewed Mr. Joe Wyms, a custodian in the University’s History Department, about his impressions of the University during the Civil Rights years. Former student team member Courtney Thomas spent six weeks in October and November assisting her in launching a *ReActing to the Past* role-playing game with her ENGL 1060H Honors students, entitled *The Struggle for Civil Rights: Birmingham to Memphis, 1963-1966*.

In regard to the partnership with the online New Georgia Encyclopedia, Ed Hatfield continues to author new articles related to the Civil Rights Movement in Georgia, as well as on related topics on African-American history and life. Hatfield also is enhancing existing articles, which includes adding to textual content and selecting WSBN and WALB news film to accompany NGE articles. A complete listing of NGE articles covered by the project is available at:

<http://www.usg.edu/galileo/about/planning/projects/crdl/docs/ngeentries011808.pdf>

SECTION 6: NEXT STEPS

The Video Archive Sub-Project Team will continue to quality control derivative files and re-encode problem files.

The Portal Sub-Project Team has the following principal next steps: 1) continue to populate, test, and revise the public interface, 2) complete description of the WSB and WALB content, 3) continue to describe learning objects and collateral digital collections, and 4) continue to enhance and aggregate existing metadata provided by CRDL content partners. The team also will resolve performance issues with the CRDL application and move CRDL into a public demo, and subsequently production phase.

The Learning Objects Sub-Project Team will launch the Freedom on Film instructional site and continue to author or enhance related New Georgia Encyclopedia articles.

The Steering Committee will review and provide comment on CRDL during the demo phase, and it will prioritize changes required for CRDL prior to launch.

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.