

Project Update



Civil Rights Digital Library Steering Committee

Date: May 8, 2006

Prepared by: T. Graham and B. McCaskill

Steering Committee Members: Ruta Abolins, Derrick Alridge, Juanita Buddy, Kelly Caudle, Lauren Chambers, Maurice Daniels, Beth Day, Aggie Ebrahimi, Toby Graham, Francine Henderson, John Inscoc, Chana Kai Lee, Sheila McAlister, Laura McCarty, Barbara McCaskill, LaVerne McLaughlin, Karen Minton, Mike Nixon, Timothy Peacock, Timothy Powell, Courtney Thomas, Sheryl Vogt, William Weems, Kerry Williams

Summary of Progress:

Principal areas of activity since the February 6, 2006 update include hiring of grant personnel, portal design, database development, assembling 16mm news film reels for conversion, digital video delivery methods development, digital metadata for video content, and final selection of hardware and software, including streaming server and attached storage. Research for the learning objects component included a site visit to Albany, Georgia, funded by the UGA president's office and plans for additional needs assessment studies with Georgia educators. Derrick Alridge will replace Tim Powell as project co-director.

Personnel:

- ❑ **Derrick Alridge to co-direct Learning Objects Component:** Subject to IMLS approval, Dr. Alridge will replace Timothy Powell as project co-director, collaborating with Barbara McCaskill to complete the component of the CRDL concerned with development of contextual and curricular support materials to promote use of the CRDL in the learning process. Alridge is associate professor and historian in the Qualitative Research Program in the College of Education at the University of Georgia, and 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 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/>
- ❑ **Tim 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. Tim also will generate awareness of the CRDL by disseminating the results of our effort within the scholarly community.

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- ❑ **Charles King** has joined CRDL as a computer programmer working with the GALILEO and Database Support unit at the UGA Libraries. Charles is participating in the development of the CRDL portal and video archive, and he serves on the portal and video archive sub-project teams. His position is funded through our IMLS National Leadership Grant for Libraries.
- ❑ **James Benyshek** has joined CRDL as video conversion specialist working with the Walter J. Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection at the UGA Libraries. James is preparing 16mm film from the WSB archives for digital conversion, digitizing WSB and WALB content, generating derivatives for Web delivery, and other tasks related to video conversion and editing. He serves on the video archive sub-project team, and his position is funded through the IMLS grant.
- ❑ **Sarah Ricker** has joined CRDL as metadata librarian working with the Digital Library of Georgia at the UGA Libraries. Sarah is creating descriptive records to support online retrieval of the WSB and WALB news film. She also will create and edit records for collateral digital collections on a national scale that will be incorporated into the CRDL portal. Sarah serves on the portal sub-project team, and her position is funded through the IMLS grant.
- ❑ Joining Barbara McCaskill, Derrick Alridge, William Weems, Lauren Chambers, and Aggie Ebrahimi, on the learning objects component are UGA students **Vicki Black Bishop** and **Wendy Harris**, as well as UGA librarians **Deborah Stanley** and **Diane Trap**.
- ❑ **Aggie Ebrahimi** has been named a recipient of the English Department's Hugh Kenner Travel Award, which will support a research trip to New York City.

Civil Rights Digital Library Portal Sub-Project:

- ❑ **Site Mockups:** The portal team has developed a non-functional mockup 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.
- ❑ **Visual elements sub-group:** Has proposed a logo and color scheme for the site.
- ❑ **Metadata sub-group:** Is developing local practices for describing digital video. The group also will guide the metadata aggregation process for collateral material selected for integration into the portal.
- ❑ Mark Durant and Charles King are developing the **backend database** and **administrative interface** to support the portal.
- ❑ To view working documents associated with the CRDL Portal Sub-Project Team, visit:
<http://www.usg.edu/galileo/about/planning/projects/crdl/working.phtml?sub=1>
Login and password provided by email.

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Learning Objects Sub-Project:

- ❑ **Albany Research Trip:** Barbara McCaskill, Lauren Chambers, and Aggie Ebrahimi 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 Adams. Their objectives were: “to interview members of the Albany Movement and to photograph sites related to that important chapter in Civil Rights Movement history” and “to fact-check information and to fill in gaps in our knowledge as we construct an instructional web site on the Civil Rights Movement, 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>

Selected photographs from the trip are available at:

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

B. McCaskill and other members of the learning objects team are planning two additional trips to Albany. May 25-28, they'll follow up on the previous visit and interview more activists who have stepped forward. They also will visit Americus and Koininia Farm, the next communities they'll focus on. The group will return to Albany in the fall for a meeting with area teachers. LaVerne McLaughlin (director of the Albany State University Library and Steering Committee member) has volunteered to organize the fall meeting.

- ❑ The learning objects team is working on the “**Freedom on Film: Georgia Stories**” Web site to relate stories associated with the civil rights movement in Georgia. Albany is the first community that the group is addressing. William Weems is developing a template for the site. Elements in Albany pages will be: opening slide show with MLK voice-over, video clips, stills, scans of original newspaper articles, lesson plans (3rd, 8th, 11th grades), bibliography of print and online resources, links to online resources, left sidebar listing cities with drop-down menu of resources for each city, “Contact Us” dialogue box, and a guide to using pages.
- ❑ **Needs Assessment:** The team is planning a focus group of Atlanta-area educators in the fall to follow up on the February focus group organized by Steering Committee members Juanita Buddy and Beth Day. The team also is distributing an online survey to a North Georgia group of K-12 media specialists.
- ❑ An **instructional kit** is being designed for dissemination to Georgia educators.
- ❑ Elisabeth Hughes (NGE) and Barbara McCaskill participated in the **Outcomes-Based Evaluation Workshop**, sponsored by IMLS, March 1-3, 2006 in Washington, D.C. They learned techniques for developing targeted goals, assessing needs, and measuring the effectiveness of project outcomes.
- ❑ To view working documents associated with the CRDL Learning Objects Sub-Project Team, visit:
<http://www.usg.edu/galileo/about/planning/projects/crdl/working.phtml?sub=0>
Login and password provided by email.

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Video Archive Sub-Project:

- ❑ **Georgia Public Broadcasting visit:** Paul Nunn and James Benyshek visited CRDL partner institution Georgia Public Broadcasting on April 14 as part of their work on the Video Archive Sub-Project Team. Chip Eberhart shared information on GBP's extensive digital video storage and delivery systems. Discussion topics included delivery formats and GPB's process for automating the creation of derivatives for Web access. GPB delivers digital video in multiple file types, frame rates, and resolutions to serve as broad a user base as possible.
- ❑ Development of methods for **digital video delivery** via the Internet is in progress.
- ❑ **Selection:** Final determination of which WSB and WALB news film will be digitized is ongoing.
- ❑ **Metadata:** Description of WSB content selected for the project is underway.
- ❑ **Hardware and software:** Purchase of streaming video server, attached storage, related hardware components, Helix server license, Real Producer, and other essential software in process. Purchase of a Mac used for digital conversion and editing of video content is complete.
- ❑ **Conversion reels:** Preparation of 16mm master reels to be digitized is in process (approximately one-third complete).
- ❑ To view working documents associated with the CRDL Video Archive Sub-Project Team, visit:
<http://www.usg.edu/galileo/about/planning/projects/crdl/working.phtml?sub=2>
Login and password provided by email.

More information on the Civil Rights Digital Library is available via our project communications Web site at:
<http://www.usg.edu/galileo/about/planning/projects/crdl/>