



**Center for Research Libraries & Library of Congress Workshop
Developing Collections for International Studies: Challenges and Strategies in the Coming Decade
February 27 & 28, 2006**

The Center for Research Libraries (CRL) and the Library of Congress (LC) hosted a joint collaborative workshop focusing on the international collecting activities of both institutions and their various respective projects. CRL assembled the Chairs of the Area Studies and Global Resources projects based at the Center to meet with division directors and senior Area Studies acquisition specialists at the Library of Congress. The purpose of the event was to focus expertise on, and devise solutions to, challenges that both CRL and LC CRL face today in preserving, acquiring, and presenting “source materials” for international studies.

In the workshop discussions and presentations it became clear that four broad principles should govern the future development of CRL’s international resources:

1. The fair and equitable exchange of knowledge;
2. Technical and economic persistence;
3. Capacity-building in partner institutions; and
4. Cross-regional applicability of activities and models.

The principles and their implications are discussed in Section II of this report.

The workshop was one of a series of inquiries conducted over the past three years by CRL and partner institutions to identify the new and emerging needs of researchers engaged in international studies. The purpose of the inquiries was to assist CRL in formulating effective strategies to meet those needs. The inquiries included a study of the research use of political Web content; a forum of Latin Americanists convened at the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in February 2005; and a conference on international studies held at Yale University in April 2005 and supported by the Global Resources Network. Appended to this report is a document *New Directions for CRL International Resources Programs*, which outlines how CRL will modify its collecting and preservation programs in coming years on the basis of these recent studies and forums.

I. Workshop Presentations and Discussions

The workshop highlighted current and evolving models for acquiring, preserving and disseminating source materials from emerging regions of the world. Presentations featured a variety of perspectives and innovative approaches undertaken by the Library of Congress, CRL and its sponsored projects, and a number of affiliated or external efforts. Discussions following the presentations were targeted at identifying a set of recommendations for improvements and enhancements to the international resources programs of CRL and its partners, and for linkages between and among those programs.

Carolyn Brown, Director of the Office of Scholarly Programs at the John Kluge Center of the Library of Congress, presented a historical overview of the field of area studies, emphasizing the transition from the initial perception of needing to better understand "the other" to one of a more universal understanding of other cultures, histories, and values. It is now recognized that the "lens" of Western perception (and Western languages) is not sufficient to understand the motives and actions of other areas.

While international collecting has traditionally focused on areas deemed "of greatest importance," these targets are shifting in an era of increasing globalization and internationalization of scholarly disciplines. **The cross-border flow of people and information today has rendered a strictly region-based model for preserving cultural and historical materials obsolete.**

The "digital revolution" has made materials available that are impossible to collect in print. However, with new tools that provide unprecedented access, it is imperative for institutions to think more responsibly about ownership, copyright, and access to information.

Kenneth Wilson, Executive Director of the Christensen Fund, reflected on international collection as development activity. The Christensen fund endeavors to support indigenous people's interest throughout the world through partnerships with individuals and institutions. By building relationships with cultural institutions, the fund and its partners support the process of sustainable development.

Dr. Wilson urged participants to engage in **new models of partnership with source communities rather than "extractive" methods of collecting**. Projects should provide a return to those communities – while we are in what is known as an "information economy," it is also important to consider it an exchange economy.

Robert Worden, Chief of the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress, focused on the use of multidisciplinary materials by the policymaking community. He stressed that the community hungers for data across a broad range of topics and disciplines, and that institutions should **not underestimate the future value of obscure information and ephemera**, including grey literature.

Donald Panzera, Chief of the European and Latin American Acquisitions Division of the Library of Congress, and **Bernard Reilly**, President of the Center for Research Libraries, discussed LC and CRL efforts underway to engage commercial, governmental and non-profit electronic publishers in the dissemination of scholarly information resources. LC is exploring technological means to acquire resources it formerly acquired in print on exchange through purchase. The Library's International Exchange program has experienced a 52% drop in receipts in the past 12 years, as foreign partners move increasingly to electronic publication, requiring a new response in acquisitions.

The Center for Research Libraries is engaging in strategies to obtain digital rights to material previously or currently captured in traditional formats such as print or microfilm. This will entail **aggressive pursuit of specific, limited rights that will serve the research community's interests as well as satisfy the concerns of the producers** over the potential infringement on their market share.

Presentations by a variety of projects and collaborative efforts demonstrated that **there are many new and viable models for the preservation and dissemination of source materials, which differ in terms of their applicability to types of source materials, with great potential for implementation in multiple regions.**

Projects undertaken by LC, such as the Global Gateways and proposed World Digital Library initiative (presenter: **John Van Oudenaren**, Senior Advisor, World Digital Library, Library of Congress) or the Global Legal Information Network (presenter: **Donna Scheeder**, Director, Law Library Services, Law Library of Congress) feature high-level cooperation with national or premier organizations to gather and disseminate information. Other efforts, such as the Digital South Asia Library (presenter: **James Nye**, Bibliographer for Southern Asia, University of Chicago) and the Latin American Open Archives Portal (presenter: **Carolyn Palaima**, Project Director, Latin American Network Information Center, University of Texas at Austin) devote their efforts to developing capacity in smaller research institutions and nongovernmental bodies. Emerging programs, such as Aluka (presenter: **Thomas Nygren**, Executive Director, Aluka, Ithaka Harbors, Inc.) are exploiting regional and international networks to select and convert scholarly resources that will be supported through subscriptions and investment by the user community.

These projects (and other similar efforts) **not only preserve critical source materials, but promote the availability of materials preserved by North American organizations to source communities abroad.** Through extensive in-region participation, these efforts are also **building capacity for the management and exchange of cultural and historical evidence in the source communities.** While there remains great uncertainty about the persistence of digital storage and preservation platforms, and their appropriateness for certain kinds of source materials, projects like DSAL, LAOAP, and Aluka demonstrate marked advantages of this technology not only for access but for preservation as well.

The final session of the workshop highlighted different perspectives on capturing and harvesting Web based materials. The University of Texas' and LANIC's Latin American Government Documents Archive (presenter: **Carolyn Palaima**) utilizes open-source software through the Internet Archives to capture publicly available sites containing *memorias*, *informes*, and other governmental reports traditionally collected in print. CRL's own assessment (presenter: **James Simon**, Director of International Resources, Center for Research Libraries) of Archive-It, the Internet Archives' crawling service, demonstrated some shortfalls in the current capacity to capture and disseminate information, particularly in non-Roman scripts. The Library of Congress' efforts to select and capture content from the Web (presenter: **Abigail Grotke**, Digital Projects Coordinator, Office of Strategic Initiatives, Library of Congress) demonstrated the complexities of integrating large-scale harvesting efforts into current collecting workflows.

II. Principles for CRL International Resources Programs

The purpose of the workshop and the CRL meetings and studies preceding it was to help CRL create a new blueprint for its efforts to preserve and disseminate source materials for the study of major world regions (Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and South and Southeast Asia). This blueprint would inform CRL's support of the Area Microform Programs and Global Resources Network. In general, the discussions and comments at the workshop suggest that **four broad principles should govern CRL's work in this arena:**

1. *Fair and equitable exchange of knowledge.* Kenneth Wilson urged the institutions represented at the workshop not to "sit on" the historical and cultural legacies of developing regions, and to respect those communities' "ownership" in historical and cultural evidence. Indeed, while the Area Microform projects and the Center's microfilm programs preserve critical materials, most of these materials are effectively inaccessible to the communities that produced them. Hence CRL must make extraordinary efforts to make source materials widely available to scholars and researchers in the regions of origin, and to promote "South-to-South" sharing of information and knowledge.

2. *Technical and economic persistence.* CRL international resources must be economically and technologically sustainable. They must employ durable and stable technologies and methodologies for capture, storage, and presentation of source materials. Development of these resources must also be driven and informed by the priorities and needs of well-defined CRL communities of interest.
3. *Capacity-building in partner institutions.* CRL should use its network to provide information, training and best practices for in-region colleagues. This is essential to building local environments that will support the ongoing exchange of knowledge and informed stewardship of cultural and historical evidence.
4. *Cross-regional applicability of activities and models.* Because an increasing amount of advanced research spans multiple regions, CRL should favor activities that can be applied to preserving materials from multiple regions and that support interdisciplinary and cross-cultural research. CRL's role is to facilitate sharing of expertise, equipment, technologies, and other resources for the preservation of critical source materials among region-based and discipline-based projects.



New Directions for the Center for Research Libraries' International Resources Programs

To support the new and emerging demands of international studies, the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) must modify and expand its program of collecting and preserving resources for international studies in the three ways described below. These changes will enable CRL to better support the activities of the Area Microform Programs (AMPs) and the Global Resources Network, which are central to CRL's international resources program.

The changes stem from a series of inquiries conducted over the past three years by CRL and partner institutions to identify the new and emerging needs of researchers engaged in international studies. Those inquiries included a 2003 study of the research uses of political Web content and a 2005 Web harvest pilot conducted with the Internet Archive; a forum of Latin Americanists, convened at the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in February 2005; a conference on international studies, held at Yale University in April 2005 and supported by the Global Resources Network; and a joint collaborative workshop with the Library of Congress (LC) in February 2006 to devise solutions to challenges in preserving, acquiring, and presenting "source materials" for international studies.

1. CRL will transition to digital capture, dissemination and, eventually, storage in its preservation of traditional source materials for international studies.

CRL will augment, and eventually replace, microform with digital media in its reformatting of traditional source materials, and will provide support and incentives for the Area Microform Projects and ICON to adopt digital capture. Transition to digital does not presuppose the abandonment of microfilm as a storage medium. CRL's goal in its adopting digital technology is rather to achieve more efficient capture and wider delivery of at-risk source materials. The individual AMPs' leadership will determine the extent to which each AMP program will adopt digital capture and storage, and the pace at which they will implement the appropriate technologies.

In addition, CRL will support digital reformatting through:

- *Cooperative digital conversion and delivery of source materials.* CRL will organize and undertake the systematic conversion to digital format of international source materials in paper and microform now maintained by CRL, member institutions, and partners. To achieve high technical and selection standards this activity will focus initially on legacy materials preserved under peer-reviewed microfilming programs, such as the NEH Preservation and Access, British Library Endangered Archives, and the Mellon Foundation-funded microfilming programs.

- *Mitigating legal and financial liability arising from adoption of digital capture and dissemination.* CRL will begin to secure from publishers and rights holders the necessary digital rights for scholarly uses of international source materials. The guidelines specified by the International Coalition on Newspapers (ICON) identify a set of progressively liberal rights that libraries might acquire from newspaper publishers whose works they microfilm. In order to minimize copyright and other intellectual property barriers to the dissemination of scholarly source materials CRL will, to the extent possible, acquire uniform Level 3 ICON rights in its reformatting and purchase agreements with publishers, archives, and other rights holders, and will encourage adoption of this practice by member universities, Area Microform Projects, Global Resources Network projects, and LC.
- *Providing for secure and reliable archiving of materials in digital formats.* Adoption of digital technologies by CRL programs will be combined with reliable digital archiving. While archiving will be provided initially through paper or microform backup, CRL will identify and implement archiving solutions suitable for the digital formats used to capture and disseminate source materials.

2. *CRL will begin to support acquisition, archiving and persistent access to “born-digital” source materials.*

CRL will facilitate and support the cooperative, strategic exploitation of reliable technologies for acquisition, archiving and dissemination of born-digital primary source materials. LANIC’s harvest of Web-based Latin American government documents and CRL’s harvest of the Web sites of news organizations and Middle East political groups through the Internet Archive’s Archive-It service demonstrated the feasibility of reliable electronic archiving within circumscribed fields. Pending the outcome of the Library of Congress NDIIPP-funded Web preservation projects, CRL will cautiously implement Web harvesting on a project basis.

- CRL will foster expanded participation in the LANIC effort by members of the Latin Americanist Research Resources Project (LARRP)
- CRL will evaluate and closely track the effectiveness and sustainability of the Archive-It and other technologies and systems for preserving Web-based political communications, news, and other international source materials on an ongoing basis.
- CRL will adopt reliable technologies and systems to preserve Web-based political communications, news, and other international source materials under its international programs to meet the immediate, identified needs of its member institutions and researchers.

3. *CRL will strengthen and expand its network of library and non-library partner organizations in the U.S. and abroad to increase sharing and exchange of source materials and resources.*

Initiatives like the South Asian Union Catalog and Digital South Asia Library, the Latin American Open Archives Portal, and the Pittsburgh Chinese Journals Gateway do more than preserve source materials from developing regions: they create new capabilities and channels for disseminating vital knowledge in regions where publishing infrastructure is underdeveloped or entirely lacking. CRL’s existing network of librarians, scholars and researchers possess expertise, capabilities, and resources that are potentially vital to the in-region organizations and activities. CRL will strengthen its network by:

- Employing “virtual forums,” workshops, and other means to promote knowledge and capabilities among in-region partner organizations. The forums will address such topics as fundraising and funding systems, intellectual property, preservation, survey and assessment of collections, and others. CRL will work to build capabilities that facilitate the sharing of knowledge and the sustainable preservation of historical and cultural evidence.
- Promoting document delivery and electronic collection-sharing between CRL and in-region partner institutions, using access to the wealth of materials for international studies maintained by CRL as an incentive for participation.
- Enhancing CRL’s on-line collaboration workspace, to increase participation by specialists and researchers in development of CRL collections and resources, and to achieve greater cross-fertilization among those participants. CRL will explore SAKAI, H-Net, and other means to build upon the synergies created between CRL international resource projects through its online collaborative workspace and e-newsletters.