



February 13, 2007

Dear Library Director

On behalf of the Global Resources Network (GRN) and the Center for Research Libraries, we write to thank you for your past support of the GRN and to report on some of the year's activities and accomplishments.

On January 1, 2006, administrative responsibility for the Global Resources Network formally passed to the Center for Research Libraries. Nearly 60 member libraries of the Association of Research Libraries and CRL committed voluntary funding to support the GRN in 2006.

Since last January CRL has provided administrative and programmatic support for individual GRN projects and a useful forum for cross-fertilization and sharing among those projects. CRL handled meeting and conference logistics, communications and Web support, legal review, financial management, and resource management for those projects.

Under CRL auspices GRN also accomplished the following in 2006:

- Launched discussions with electronic publishers and aggregators toward the systematic digitization of world newspapers from the major newspaper library collections.
- Tested and evaluated the Internet Archive's Archive-It service for capturing and archiving Web sites, harvesting sites from Middle East political groups and on-line news sites from various regions. (A critical analysis of the service based on the harvest is on the CRL web site.)
- Planned and held an International Studies Collection Development Workshop at the Library of Congress, to resolve new challenges that we face today in preserving, acquiring and presenting "source materials" from the world's regions. For a report on the workshop please see: <http://www.crl.edu/grn/workshop.asp>
- Formed a new GRN Advisory Committee as a committee of the CRL Board. This places the initiative at the highest level of oversight within CRL. Peter Lange, provost at Duke University and member of the CRL Board of Directors, has agreed to chair the Board Committee on Global Resources.
- Represented GRN member libraries at a variety of national and international forums, including the American Library Association, Association of American Universities, Association of Research Libraries, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, and a host of scholarly and professional societies. The GRN program was presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> Scientific Symposium Frankfurt (October 2006), the "Modern Greek Resources Project" meeting in Athens (December 2006), and the aforementioned workshop at the Library of Congress;
- Incubated new cooperative projects, including the Collaborative Initiative for French and North American Libraries (CIFNAL), drawing upon models and the best practices of existing GRN and CRL programs.

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- Produced and disseminated the quarterly *Global Resources* newsletter as a forum for sharing information about GRN projects and programs;
- Supported the addition of thousands of new pages of primary source materials to the Digital South Asia Library, and digitized and mounted on the Web over 900 African and other international monographs from CRL collections.

The enclosed copy of the Fall 2006 issue of *Global Resources* gives further details on the other positive outcomes achieved and planned by the other GRN projects.

From these activities, particularly from the deliberations at the International Studies Collection Development workshop, we gained a surer sense of how to focus the GRN program. It is clear that to achieve the purposes of the GRN certain principles should govern all future projects and programs. Specifically, new GRN activities should promote:

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

The GRN will continue to be a key component of CRL's strategic agenda. *Global Resources* will be the theme of the CRL Forum at its Annual Council meeting on April 20, and we will hold a GRN breakfast at 8:00 AM on May 25 at the ARL meeting in St. Louis, to outline new and prospective GRN activities.

In the coming weeks we will issue a new GRN Prospectus, share information on future activities, and issue a formal call for CRL and non-CRL member institutions to participate in 2007-2008. We hope that you will stay closely involved with GRN activities as we move forward in 2007 and beyond.

With best regards,

Bernard F. Reilly  
President  
Center for Research Libraries

James T. Simon  
Director  
Global Resources Network