



**Center for Research Libraries
Global Resources Network
Member Update
November 2008**

Since the last update, the Global Resources Network, under the auspices of the Center for Research Libraries, continues to aggressively pursue its aim of expanding access to information resources from all world regions. The Global Resources Network (GRN) has engaged in extensive community outreach to promote its activities and engage the member community in coordinated approaches to collection building and collaborative mechanisms for discovery, presentation, delivery, and preservation of international materials.

The following report highlights some of the major activities of the Global Resources Network and related projects.

1. Human Rights Archives and Documentation Program

<http://www.crl.edu/grn/hradp/index.asp>

In October 2007, the CRL Global Resources Network, with Columbia University's Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research and the University of Texas Libraries, held a two-day colloquium titled: "**Human Rights Archives and Documentation: Meeting the Needs of Research, Teaching, Advocacy and Justice.**" The event brought together representatives from the worlds of human rights advocacy, law, policy research, history, archives, and libraries to consider how human rights-related documentation and evidence have been preserved and maintained in the past, and to determine how best to meet the new challenges of protecting, preserving and making appropriately accessible evidence for teaching, scholarship, advocacy, and social justice.

A full report on this forum can be found in CRL's recent issue (v. 27, n. 2) of its newsletter *FOCUS on Global Resources*: <http://www.crl.edu/PDF/pdfFocus/Winter2007-08.pdf>

The forum provided a clear blueprint for immediate and long-term library action. Consensus of the attendees was that libraries must support the effective collecting, safekeeping, and appropriate accessibility of archives and documentation regarding violations of human rights and the prevention and prosecution of those abuses in all world regions.

A second symposium, held March 3-4, 2008, "**Human Rights Archives and Documentation: Transforming Ideas into Practice,**" organized by the University of Connecticut and co-sponsored by the Global Resources Network and Columbia University, focused on the aspects of collaboration among libraries, archives, and human rights organizations. A major recommendation was the creation of an online **Human Rights Archives Information Portal**, scheduled for implementation in 2009, to collect and disseminate information on such topics as:

- repositories collecting human rights materials;
- collection development policies, collection descriptions, and links to finding aids;
- information for organizations and activists looking to preserve or donate their own records;
- resources and best practices for non-governmental organizations to maintain their records, as well as adapted archival practices for organizations and institutions in the developing world;
- a calendar of human rights archives events and training opportunities.

To this aim, CRL has proposed the creation of a **Human Rights Archives and Documentation Program**. The program would bring together member institutions with significant human rights collections and other stakeholders to support the gathering, preservation and appropriate accessibility of archives and documentation relating to violations of human rights in all world regions.

A significant early outcome, announced October 2008, was receipt of a **grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation** to support a two-year project to study the use of technology by human rights organizations to document human rights abuses. Sponsored by the foundation's Human Rights and International Justice Program, the GRN project will analyze technologies used by human rights monitoring and activist groups in three world regions to identify ways in which documentation produced with those technologies can be maintained and protected for long-term use. GRN will work with Human Rights Watch, WITNESS, the International Center for Transitional Justice, and other human rights organizations on the project, as well as CRL/GRN member institutions. The study will help inform efforts by CRL libraries and archives to preserve and protect born-digital evidence and documentation.

2. News Preservation and Access

CRL and the New York Public Library held a Global Resources Forum on News Access & Preservation entitled "On the Record," on October 23-24, 2008. The Forum at the New York Public Library convened representatives of journalism and the news media; members of the scholarly, business and policy communities; and those who map library strategies for collecting and preservation to explore the new ways in which news content is created, distributed and consumed. Through presentations and focused discussions, Forum participants developed an action agenda for libraries to ensure that newspapers and digital news content from around the world remain accessible to researchers. A report on the Forum will appear in a forthcoming issue of *FOCUS on Global Resources*, at <http://www.crl.edu/focus/toc.asp>.

In 2008, the **International Coalition on Newspapers (ICON)** was brought under the aegis of the Global Resources Network, with support from major research libraries outside its membership. This will allow ICON to expand its efforts and its scope in the preservation of and access to international news resources. Prospective activities will include evaluation of electronic news collections, pursuit of access to digital news content, aggregation of data on news holdings, and ongoing fundraising for preservation and digitization work. ICON co-sponsored the GRN Forum in October 2008 (see above).

3. Collaborative Projects to Increase Resources in International Studies

The **Collaborative Initiative for French and North American Libraries (CIFNAL)** was a featured presenter at the first world congress of l'Association internationale francophone des bibliothécaires et documentalistes (AIFBD) in Montreal, August 3-6, 2008, a pre-conference to the IFLA World Library and Information Congress. CIFNAL members presented information about the group, its activities and role as a collaborative organization. This was followed by the annual business meeting of the group, to which all conference attendees were invited. The CIFNAL meeting increased the visibility of CIFNAL and sparked interest in potential collaborative projects with francophone partners in North America and other countries.

CRL negotiated a licensing agreement for the dictionary *Le Grand Robert Online*, the seminal French-language dictionary, on behalf of CIFNAL. In addition, trials and negotiations were established for *CAIRN*, a partnership of publishers and research institutions to produce a comprehensive collection of French and Belgian journals in the social sciences, and Oxford University Press' *Electronic Enlightenment*, a full-text database of 18th-century primary sources.

The **Digital South Asia Library (DSAL)** continued its activities under the current TICFIA grant from the Department of Education. The project has completed the digitization of 262 rare recordings from the Linguistic Survey of India and has constructed a prototype Web site for the delivery of those recordings as a rich internet application combining updated internet navigational techniques, flash, audio, and cartographic images derived from digitized historical maps.

Other new resources added to the site include nineteen catalogues of books in South Asian languages acquired by the British Museum during 19th and 20th centuries, British Museum catalogues in PDF form, and several dictionaries (in conjunction with its sister project from the University of Chicago, the Digital Dictionaries of South Asia).

DSAL was the host of the 2008 conference of TICFIA awardees, held in Chicago. Presentations included information on project evaluation and sustainability, and also featured several innovative technical projects utilizing GIS data, text mining, and technological collaboration.

The **German-North American Resources Partnership (GNARP)** has reinvigorated its efforts to promote cooperation among German and North American institutions through a reorganization and membership drive. GNARP has focused its efforts on two main areas of activity: **collection development** and **increased professional exchanges** among North American and German libraries.

GNARP recently concluded a consortium arrangement with Walter de Gruyter Inc. for electronic access to the *World Biographical Information System (WBIS)* online. Based on the microfiche collection, this resource consists of full-text, nation-specific, biographical entries compiled from encyclopedias. It is available to all GRN members who choose to purchase individual collections or supplements. Based on this success, and due to its widespread subject coverage, de Gruyter has agreed to extend its pricing discount to all CRL members.

The **Latin Americanist Research Resources Project (LARRP)** met in New Orleans in June at the SALALM conference. At the business meeting, members continued to recommend strategic directions for the program. LARRP has also recently revised its mission statement to better reflect its activities over the past thirteen years and its future direction.

LARRP will emphasize its open access projects, including the Latin American Open Archives Portal (LAOAP) which is improving access to social sciences grey literature produced in Latin America. The membership supported the expansion LAOAP by funding equipment purchases for two new participants, DESCO Peru and FLACSO Ecuador, to scan additional materials for the Open Archives Portal.

Finally, LARRP has engaged in limited consortium negotiations, arranging a membership discount to subscribe to ProQuest's product Latin American Newsstand (LAN), providing daily digital access to major Latin American newspapers.

After five years as chair of the project, Scott Van Jacob stepped down in October 2008 due to health issues. David Block (Cornell University) and Gayle Williams (Florida International University) served as the transition team, and Williams will continue to serve as chair through the next meeting.

4. Other GRN Activities

A number of CRL/GRN projects have established a presence on **CRL's Collaboration Space**, an enterprise Wiki powered by the Confluence software, to facilitate effective communication, collaboration, and teamwork. Public access will be offered soon on selected content.

The **Center for Research Libraries and the editors of *The Charleston Advisor (TCA)*** have begun to work together to enhance the usefulness of the on-line review of electronic resources as a tool for collection development. Beginning with its January 2008 issue *TCA* expanded its coverage of electronic resources for international studies and in-depth analysis of the archiving provisions that stand behind those resources. In cooperation with *The Charleston Advisor*, CRL held a collection development forum on electronic news collections for academic libraries at the Charleston Conference on November 5, 2008.

CRL/GRN now has in place several channels and venues for gathering information about collections, preservation and digital resources, and facilitating the exchange of such information between CRL and its member community. In addition to the information disseminated via the public Web sites and the members-only Collaboration Space, CRL engages in online Webinars with current and prospective members, and conducts collection development workshops, such as the aforementioned Charleston pre-conference, and intensive strategic planning events such as the GRN Forums.

CRL is in the planning stages for its **next GRN Forum** to be held in 2009 on the subject of "Fair Dealing with Source Communities." Research in the global north depends more and more on resources acquired from various world regions. As our collective institutions acquire, preserve and/or digitize content, very little is being done to ensure access to these resources from the source communities. This inequity has generated considerable resistance among libraries and archives in the south to the sharing and even disclosure of their cultural and historical materials. The GRN proposes to host a virtual summit to focus the thinking and expertise of its cooperative program participants on this problem. Beginning in Winter/Spring 2009 CRL will conduct a series of online discussions with all AMP and GRN project members as well as other select members of the CRL/GRN community to determine how the CRL might tailor its digital conversion and electronic access activities to promote fair dealing with source communities.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or comments.

James Simon
Director, Global Resources Network
simon@crl.edu

Center for Research Libraries
6050 South Kenwood Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637
<http://www.crl.edu/grn/index.asp>