



# Global Resources

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## Director's Message

It has been a year of transformation for the Global Resources Network (GRN). Since the transition from the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) to the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), GRN's efforts have focused on planning and program development. Significant GRN activities during this time period include

1. Continuing to promote cross-fertilization, good governance, and economies among GRN projects through enhanced communications;
2. Exploring the interests of potential GRN funders and partner organizations;
3. Identifying the needs of the researchers, libraries, universities, and producers of knowledge that will shape and focus the next generation of Global Resources projects.

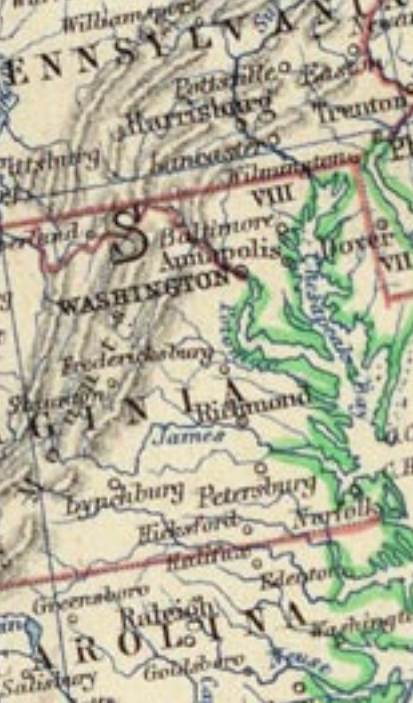
These activities, detailed in the [interim report](#) to the ARL Board of Directors (July 2006) demonstrate the ongoing transformation of the program into a long-term sustainable program of CRL.

Global Resources was also the subject of the CRL Council of Voting Members Annual Meeting on April 27–28, 2006, where Kathleen Morrison, Director of the Center for International Studies at the University of Chicago, spoke about her research needs in South Asian studies. Bernard Reilly, President of the Center, and I outlined and received feedback on activities and future strategies of the GRN.

Transitions within GRN administration have also enhanced the capabilities of the program. [Judy Eckoff](#) has been appointed the new Project Coordinator for the Global Resources and Area Studies projects of the Center for Research Libraries. She coordinates ongoing activities of the GRN projects, with the capable support of [James Hill](#), Project Assistant.

Transformation is the theme of this quarter's newsletter. The following articles discuss the progress and evolution of the GRN on every level of its activities. The first article presents a summation of the February 2006 workshop that lays the groundwork for future directions for CRL, GRN and its related projects. Two articles by the chairs of LARRP and GNARP, respectively, illustrate the progress of these veteran projects as they evolve in their collaborative activities. An update on the newest project, CIFNAL, outlines the progress of its development. And, two final articles introduce projects in development from communities seeking to develop projects along successful GRN models. They seek community input and indications of support for the activities that will assist scholars in areas not included in current GRN activities.

—James Simon  
Director, Global Resources Network



Maps from *Royal Atlas*, 1861, courtesy David Rumsey maps at [www.davidrumsey.org](http://www.davidrumsey.org).

## Developing Collections for International Studies: Challenges and Strategies in the Coming Decade

James Simon

Director of International Resources, Center for Research Libraries

The Center for Research Libraries (CRL) and the Library of Congress (LC) hosted a joint collaborative [workshop](#) on February 27–28, 2006 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. Participants met to assess and develop solutions to challenges that both CRL and LC face today in preserving, acquiring, and presenting source materials for international studies.

In the last three years, CRL and partner institutions have organized a series of gatherings to identify emerging needs of researchers engaged in international studies. These inquiries have enabled CRL to formulate effective strategies to meet those needs. Previous meetings have 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.

### *Principles for CRL International Resources Programs*

The information and strategies garnered from the workshop have led CRL to create a new blueprint for how best 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 will 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 support and management of international cooperative activities.

1. *Fair and equitable exchange of knowledge.* Kenneth Wilson (Executive Director, the Christensen Fund) 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 inaccessible to the communities that produced them. CRL must 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. This reaffirms CRL’s objective to facilitate sharing of expertise, equipment, technologies, and other resources for the preservation of critical source materials among region-based and discipline-based projects.

The [final report](#) of the CRL-LC workshop outline how CRL will modify its collecting and preservation programs in coming years on the basis of these recent studies and forums. This report and copies of speaker presentations can be found at: <http://www.crl.edu/grn/workshop.asp>. ❖

### *Global Activities Update*

❖ The Global Resources Network Advisory Committee will meet November 28, 2006, in Chicago, IL.

❖ Upcoming conferences involving GRN projects:

[6th Scientific Symposium Frankfurt](#), October 5–7, 2006. “The World According to GNARP: Prospects for Transatlantic Library Partnership in the Digital Age.”

[Committee on South Asian Libraries and Documentation](#), October 19, 2006, at the 35th Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, WI.

[Africana Librarians Council](#), November 16–17, 2006, at the African Studies Association. San Francisco, CA.

[Latin Americanist Research Resources Project](#) Advisory Committee Meeting, December 8, 2006.



## Latin Americanist Research Resources Project: Fall Update 2006

Scott Van Jacob

University of Notre Dame

Chair, LARRP Advisory Committee

The Latin Americanist Research Resources Project (LARRP) has been active on several fronts since we last reported our activities in the [spring 2006 Global Resources Newsletter](#). While continuing to maintain current projects, LARRP has begun three new initiatives that we believe will benefit Latin American scholars and students.

### *Consortial Negotiating*

Most research libraries participate in buying clubs that negotiate with database and microform vendors to receive better terms and prices for information resources of interest to large numbers of faculty and students. LARRP has stepped forward as a negotiator for important products needed primarily by Latin American Studies (LAS) scholars. Following in the footsteps of GNARP's successful negotiating efforts, in spring 2006 LARRP asked commercial vendors to submit proposals for consortial purchase. The vendors have all responded enthusiastically to the call and offered significant discounts. At this point project participants are considering several of these proposals.

### *Responding to Scholarly Concerns*

LARRP employs a user-centered service model based on consultations with students and scholars to develop its programs. Over the past two years, Latin American bibliographers have collected the opinions of several active LAS scholars through forums, surveys, and panels regarding their resource needs. From the consultations, LARRP and its participants have identified specific areas of emerging scholarly interest (see sidebar) and we are now measuring our ability to support work on them. We will report our full findings to the scholarly community and use these findings to inform and adjust our collecting activities as needed.

As it addresses scholars' concerns, LARRP continues to maintain a presence in the LAS scholarly community. At the March 2006 Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Congress, which convened nearly 4,000 attendees, LARRP hosted a panel and manned an exhibit booth to promote the project. LARRP is working with LASA on the Technology, Scholarly Resources, and Pedagogy panel for the fall 2007 LASA International Congress.

### *[Latin American Government Documents Archive \(LAGDA\)](#)*

This project, produced by the Latin American Information Center (LANIC) and the University of Texas Libraries at Austin, regularly captures Latin American government Web sites to preserve their ever-changing content. The results are archived, organized and made freely available via LANIC. LARRP has been invited to review the content of the archived materials. A small group of members will work with LANIC to ensure that the archived content includes annual reports and other important documents issued by the executive and national ministries.

### *Other Activities*

There is new information to report regarding ongoing projects as well. The [Latin American Open Archives Project \(LAOAP\)](#) is in production mode. Project manager Kent Norsworthy reports that there are now over 4,500 documents in the portal. Two new institutes are now adding their materials:

- ❖ El Instituto de Estudios Peruanos (IEP), one the most important social science research centers in Peru.
- ❖ Centro Iberoamericano de Formación (Guatemala), which produces publications to promote citizen-focused development projects throughout Latin America.

The Latin American Periodicals Tables of Contents (LAPTOC) is close to becoming OpenURL compliant. Compliance will allow institutions to use linking software that connects

citations to digital versions of the article or to Inter-Library Loan forms to request the work. This is a key step forward as most databases available to North American libraries now employ OpenURL and users expect this service from libraries. Also, the Serials Working Group has begun to review the status of many of the journals within the database to insure that titles and entries are current.

As a new academic year begins, the project is well positioned with a committed membership and strong and growing projects. For reports on selected projects please visit past issues of GRN's online [Global Resources Newsletter](#), which contains numerous articles on LARRP projects. The [project Web site](#) provides greater detail on members and projects. ❖

### *Examples of Areas of Emerging LAS Study Identified by Scholars*

#### **Urban Studies**

The transformation of Latin America from a predominantly rural population to an urban population is one of the defining features of late twentieth-century Latin America. Traditionally collected material must be supplemented by primary resources that demonstrate the impact on everyday life and people, particularly "local materials" that stress neighborhoods, municipalities, and so on. These may include

- ❖ Data on urban crime related to violence, gangs, corruption, and police brutality
- ❖ Government documents issued by city governments
- ❖ City planning documentation
- ❖ Access to media produced in metropolitan areas

#### **Law and Society**

Legal developments affecting domestic affairs as well as international agreements have produced increased interest in Latin American law, justice, and related phenomena on the part of Latin American specialists as well as others. Desirable materials include:

- ❖ Intraregional trade organization documentation
- ❖ Latin American criminal, civil, and commercial codes
- ❖ Historical legal documents
- ❖ State and subnational legal sources
- ❖ Court decisions

#### **Migration**

Increasing interest in studies on international migration (such as intra-Caribbean migration) population mobility, and immigration to the United States require access to data on multiple levels: individual, community, national and international, from all sectors.

For more information please visit the [LARRP Web site](#).





## Transitions at the German–North American Resources Partnership

Jim Niessen

World History Librarian, Rutgers University

Chair, German–North American Resources Partnership

The German–North American Resources Partnership held elections for a new chair in May 2006 as required by our bylaws. It is evidence of the diligence of the nominating committee and the engagement of our institutional representatives that we had a closely contested election. At-large member of the Steering Committee Dale Askey of Kansas State University was the other candidate for chair. We are indebted to him for running and for his continuing contributions to our work. He agreed, and the Steering Committee has consented, to his appointment as acting Vice Chair of GNARP.

We are even more indebted to outgoing chair Jeff Garrett of Northwestern University. Succeeding Tom Kilton as chair of what was then called the *German Resources Project*, he provided innovative leadership and energy during two pathbreaking terms in office. Tom and Jeff had been key participants along with project coordinator Roger Brisson at our seminal meeting in Göttingen, Germany in 1999 hosted by library directory and Steering Committee member Dr. Elmar Mittler. That meeting crystallized for many of us the desirability of achieving mutual benefits for partners on both sides of the ocean. Tom ushered our project bylaws into being, but it devolved upon Jeff to breathe life into them. The goal of fostering an open collaboration among our participants in North America and in Germany will continue to be a work in progress, but we have continued to make strides.

Second, Jeff shepherded the placement of GNARP under the auspices of the Center for Research Libraries that became official in 2006 and has eased all our ongoing transitions.

Jeff's third signal contribution was the crafting of advantageous agreements with vendors and institutions to bring electronic resources to our users. These agreements included database licenses for the German bibliographic database *BDSL*, the suite of German reference books [xipolis.net](http://xipolis.net), and the massive collection of authoritative literary editions distributed electronically by Chadwyck-Healey, [Digitale Bibliothek Deutscher Klassiker](http://DigitaleBibliothekDeutscherKlassiker). No less innovatively, Jeff made possible the conversion and discounted sale of MARC records for monographs in the microfiche set *Bibliothek der Deutschen Literatur*. The revenue generated for the project, by now renamed GNARP, helped fund American participation in the GNARP conference in Munich in 2003, where Tom presented [a history of the early years](#) of our project.

In recalling our conferences let us remember that the host of the first one and a key architect of our project, Dr. Elmar Mittler, will shortly retire at the end of a distinguished career in German libraries. Former Steering Committee member Helène Baumann of Duke University was the able organizer of our Munich conference. It saddens us all that she very recently passed away after a long illness. Finally, Tom Kilton is also retiring.

A vital part of the transition are Jeff's continuing efforts in organizing our third conference in Germany, this time at the City and University Library in Frankfurt am Main amidst the Frankfurt Book Fair. The [exciting program](#) includes partnership panels that pair German and American subject specialists for five fields, describing the outstanding collections in their respective libraries. [GNARP's contact partnerships](#) are intended to bring together two subject librarians on either side of the ocean for a large number of different disciplines in order to facilitate information sharing and access. We are hoping this program will serve this goal and help identify ways to invigorate the program.

All five partnership fields will be of special interest to the participants: African, Jewish, German, South Asian, and North American Studies. For the first three of these, the Frankfurt library hosts Germany's research collection of record and associated digital projects for [German](#), [African](#), and [Jewish Studies](#) that are of great value to our users. The long history of Jewish

culture in Germany and ongoing revival of German Jewish Studies add to the interest of the Jewish Studies panel. South Asian Studies is a natural for 2006 because India will be the [guest of honor](#) at this year's book fair. Consequently the fair will host many readings of Indian writers, Indian cultural events, and an unusually large number of publishers from the subcontinent. As we approach the centennial of Hermann Hesse's journey to India that gave birth to *Siddhartha*, the world's interest in India focuses not only on its classical religions and languages but also on its cinema, politics, and dynamic economy.

The keynote address at the Frankfurt conference highlights the present and future status of German as a language of scholarship—a topic close to my historical research interest and, I am convinced, of crucial importance for German collections and for GNARP. German scholarship remains essential for specialists in selected disciplines; much of the older, pathbreaking scholarship is now available to GNARP members through licenses to [DigiZeitschriften](#), the retrospective interdisciplinary database of German journals. The same database reveals that German scholarship now increasingly appears in English. What does this, and the role of global English in the German research world, mean for the future cultural and economic impact of research funded and published by German institutes and universities? Is the legacy and impact of German scholarship shrinking in significance? These are questions pondered by many Germans like our keynote speaker, but also by North American libraries as they ponder the importance for their collections of German *and* English language German resources. What more fitting audience before which to raise them than a mixed German and American one convoked by GNARP?

GNARP has multiple organizational frameworks (AAU, ARL, and CRL) that help focus it on producing results for our constituencies. Clearly our achievements in licensing and cataloging have furthered GRN objectives of expanding the resources available to our users and making dispersed collections more interdependent and complementary. We are doing it in different ways than the German Demonstration Project envisioned ten years ago when we were thinking primarily of distributed physical collections. Now the essential collections for German studies are virtual as well as analog. The increased emphasis of CRL on digital delivery of the resources in Chicago complements nicely its undertaking of administrative support for our electronic licenses.

Meanwhile GNARP remains a beehive of entrepreneurial activity by its working group members who are seeking new ways to further our goals. Future issues of this newsletter will continue to feature reports from the working groups. Former Digital Libraries Working Group chair (now incoming Collection Development Working Group chair) Richard Hacken wrote suggestively in [a recent issue](#) of this newsletter about “*natural selection of specialized local treasures for dissemination to workstations worldwide*.” This formulation captures the decentralized way in which digital collections evolve and are validated, like scholarship itself, in a marketplace of ideas. We are all interested in knowing, and ensuring, that Darwinian pricing structures do not deselect our special resources. ❖



## From Bleu to Global: The French–North American Way to Create a Collaborative Project

Heleni Pedersoli

University of Maryland

Since its beginnings in 2005 as an idea generated by French Studies specialists in ACRL's Western European Studies Section (WESS), the Collaborative Initiative for French and North American Libraries (CIFNAL)—created along the models of other GRN collaboratives—has become a successful enterprise.

Following a resolution in 2004 recommending that WESS investigate the feasibility of initiating an international cooperative initiative, an ad hoc committee was established. This committee recommended the creation of an ongoing collaborative initiative, and a proposal submitted to the Global Resources Network was approved in spring of 2005. Details of these developments are reported in the [Fall 2005 Global Resources Newsletter](#).

Since joining GRN, a [CIFNAL Web page](#) was created, as well as a listserv for group working discussions. A mission statement was drafted and posted in the Web page as well as the by-laws, approved at the meeting of CIFNAL at the 2006 meeting of the American Library Association in New Orleans. The project has the support of twenty-five North American institutions and CIFNAL will be incorporated when twenty-five North American institutions officially join.

A steering committee was created in the fall of 2005 and tasked with setting out the agenda and development plan for the project. The committee consisted of Sarah Wenzel (chair), Tom Kilton (past chair), Jeffry Larson (French Partners Working Group coordinator), Sarah Sussman (Potential Sources of Funding Working Group coordinator), and Kati Radics (Goals Working Group coordinator).

Working Groups have been formed to assist with the development of CIFNAL's ongoing program by focusing on specific goals:

- ❖ **Funding.** This group explores models and sources of funding. Under the leadership of Sarah Sussman, members have discussed several possible revenue streams, and was successful in recruiting the participation and financial commitment of the Project for American and French Research on the Treasury of the French Language (ARTFL) to the Bibliothèque Bleue digitization project (see below).
- ❖ **Goals.** This working group was charged with clarifying, modifying, and prioritizing goals and activities of the project. A revised goals statement was produced, and a set of near-term activities were recommended.
- ❖ **Partnership Contacts.** Led by Jeffry Larson, this group presented an extensive report on site visits and prospective partners in France to achieve cooperation. Efforts are underway to make contacts with Québec and other francophone sites.
- ❖ **Digital Initiatives.** An offshoot of the funding working group, this committee worked with ARTFL to successfully make available a publicly accessible and searchable version of the digitized *Bibliothèque Bleue de Troyes*. Six texts are already available (see [CIFNAL's Web site](#) for information about this exciting development).

### Current Projects Underway

- ❖ **Microfilm Project.** The goal of this project is to identify, locate, and publicize the existence of major sets of microfilm pertaining to the history, culture, language and literature of France and francophone countries. Ceres Birkhead (University of Utah) is developing a list of microfilm titles with descriptions and OCLC numbers.
- ❖ **Regional and Local French Research Resources.** The goal of this project is to assess North American libraries' coverage of regional and local French research resources. Sue Rob-



erts (Yale University) is compiling a list of resources held in U.S. libraries, including those of learned societies and institutions.

- ❖ **Bibliothèque Bleue.** Beyond the pilot effort supported by ARTFL, this project's next tasks are to pursue negotiation of contracts for the continuation of digitizing projects and the drafting of expectations and agreements with minimum requirements, written in French and English.

### *Future Projects*

- ❖ Create a document outlining the benefits of joining CIFNAL to present to North American and French institutions.
- ❖ Approach institutions to register their interest by drafting a participation agreement.
- ❖ Continue the work of translating documents and Web site content.
- ❖ Continue the digitization efforts to include full-text materials such as Belser's Eighteenth-Century French Women Writers Project.
- ❖ Explore the possibility of creating a Wiki site to facilitate input from local, regional, and other sites for resources such as French theses and dissertations that have been inaccessible in the past.

CIFNAL is working to enlist the cooperation of our French colleagues and counterparts. With Tom Kilton in his "A French-American Resources Project: Needs and Potentials in a World of Migration," we believe that "increasingly interconnected cultures result in a demand for efficient access to print and electronic resources irrespective of borders. We would like to explore areas in which French and North American libraries will mutually benefit from sharing ideas, information and resources." CIFNAL is ready to realize Kilton's charge that "the successes of various projects of the North American Global Resources Network in promoting closer initiatives between individual librarians in separate countries suggest that the time for a French-American Resources Project to enhance library relations between France, the United States, and Canada, is ripe." ❖



## The Modern Greek Resources Project: A Collaborative Effort “In Process”

*Rhea Karabelas Lesage*

*Head and Bibliographer for Modern Greek*

*Widener Library, Harvard College Library*

A meeting for the Modern Greek Resources Project is planned for December 7–10, 2006, at the Gennadius Library of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece. The project is not yet an “official” GRN project but the organizers are hopeful that the meeting in Athens will bring this nascent project closer to becoming a reality.

Efforts to organize librarians responsible for building Modern Greek collections began in April 1999, when the Library of Congress hosted representatives from major U.S. research libraries and their Greek counterparts to discuss [opportunities for collaboration](#). Unfortunately, there was little progress made as a result of the 1999 conference. A combination of unreliable e-mail accessibility (from the Greek side) as well the subsequent retirements of several attendees (from both the United States and Greece) hindered any follow-up activity.

The need for cooperation and information sharing persisted, and in 2004 a group of American academic librarians met to form the [Consortium of Hellenic Studies Librarians \(CoHSL\)](#). The CoHSL is a group of librarians responsible for building and maintaining research collections in Hellenic Studies and is currently under the leadership of Rebecka Lindau of Princeton University. Lindau organized a panel discussion at the Modern Greek Studies Association Symposium held on November 5, 2005 in Chicago, Illinois, entitled “Research Collections in Hellenic Studies: Challenges and Possibilities.” Presenters focused on library collections in Modern Greek and Byzantine Studies and innovative methods for preserving and disseminating them.

Building on the work of the CoHSL and following up on the symposium, the Athens meeting represents an opportunity to explore the possibility of effective transnational cooperation among libraries in Greece and North America. The interest of Modern Greek librarians in the United States in collaborating with Greek partners is strong, and advancements in technology allow us to explore innovative techniques to facilitate resource sharing and cooperative action.

Participants at the Athens meeting will include representatives from the National Library of Greece, the Library of the Parliament, and several major academic institutions of Greece. Representatives from Oxford University and the University of Vienna will also be present. We hope to broaden the European participation as the project takes shape. American attendees will include subject bibliographers responsible for Modern Greek resources from the major Modern Greek collections in the United States, including: California State University (Sacramento), Columbia, Harvard, Library of Congress, New York University, Princeton, Yale, and the University of Cincinnati.

The meeting in Athens will focus on five broad categories:

1. collection development and acquisitions
2. bibliographic control (including cataloging, adherence to standards, transliteration issues and Unicode)
3. reformatting (microfilming and digitization)
4. indexing contents of periodicals, and
5. resource sharing and document delivery.

Our goal for the Athens meeting is to ascertain interest from the Greek side, assess ability and feasibility of participation from both sides, and finally, to determine the project’s priorities. Stay tuned! ♦

*For more information, or to express interest in attending, contact:*

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## Archiving Slavic Digital Files: Needs and Possibilities

Miranda Remnek

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In recent months the movement to create repositories for the preservation of at-risk digital files has seen major developments. They include the formation of institutional and disciplinary repositories using software like DSpace or Fedora. The official [Dspace Web site](#) currently lists 145 repositories worldwide, 62 of which represent U.S. or U.K. repositories. Second, most repositories are also OAI data providers<sup>1</sup> (which promote interoperability by exposing their metadata for harvesting by aggregated search services like the University of Michigan's [OAster](#)). The total number worldwide is currently listed at 1,284; of these providers, 690 are from the United States or Britain.<sup>2</sup>

In Russia, East Europe, and Eurasia, by contrast, little has been achieved in terms of international interoperability and digital archiving. The number of OAI data providers in the area is still very small. In October 2005 the figures were as follows: Poland 5, Hungary 4, Russia 3, Czech Republic 2, Slovenia 2. In September 2006—except for Poland, which now boasts 17 OAI data providers—the figures are the same. Furthermore, DSpace figures for Eastern Europe are also discouraging, with only 2 in Russia and 1 in Greece.

Yet with the worsening political situation in Eurasia—coupled with the presence of large oil reserves that make these areas of the world a vital focus of study—the need for systematic access to important digital information is ever more urgent. To combat this situation, the [Digital Projects Subcommittee](#) of the AAASS Bibliography and Documentation Committee has been pursuing several initiatives, beginning with the creation of an [Inventory of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Digital Projects](#).<sup>3</sup> This inventory contains detailed records for over 110 substantive digital projects and 370 collections, and its use has increased dramatically in recent months. The number of accesses has risen from 14,768 in 2004–5 to 35,409 in 2005–6.

The next step is to assist in the establishment of a national digital repository for Slavic files. The need for a national Slavic digital repository was recognized in the original charge to the AAASS Digital Projects Subcommittee. Drafted in January 2003 by cochairs Miranda Remnek (Illinois) and Andrew Spencer (Wisconsin), point 5 reads as follows:

*Complement national efforts to establish digital repositories by*

- *investigating and supporting the creation of Slavic digital archives on the national level (at general repositories, or at major Slavic institutions)*
- *investigating models of data storage and data sharing at individual institutions.*

Earlier this year the AAASS Bibliography and Documentation Committee drafted a proposal that outlines the establishment of a national task force to review possibilities for a Slavic repository. It is hoped that this will promote creation of a Slavic component of the Global Resources Network in connection with CRL's Slavic and East European Microform Project.

<sup>1</sup> Digital sites that share their metadata by means of the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH); see <http://www.openarchives.org/OAI/openarchivesprotocol.html>.

<sup>2</sup> According to the OAI Registry at UIUC (<http://gita.grainger.uiuc.edu/registry>), accessed Sept 5, 2006. This registry is one of several non-identical OAI registries which complement each other.

<sup>3</sup> The Bibliography & Documentation Committee (<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/spx/BandD/index.htm>) of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~aaass/>) is the leading U.S. group of Slavic librarians.

The Bibliography and Documentation Committee has been working on a proposal to develop a prototype for such a repository, and an initial draft is under consideration for National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP) funding. The proposal involves a three-year pilot project to explore the optimum dimensions and requirements for a collaborative OAI-compliant digital repository for Slavic files, and to establish a functioning prototype.

The elaboration of a successful pilot project will contribute immeasurably to the maturation of Slavic digital coordination in the United States. It will concentrate national Slavic digital efforts in the repository realm, and help promote interinstitutional collaboration in the digital age.

Additional details of the proposal will soon be posted on the CRL Web site. We welcome comments and input from interested participants. The proposal will be the subject of discussion at the upcoming fall meeting of the AAASS Bibliography and Documentation Committee (November 2006). ♦





# Global Resources Network

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