

FOCUS on Global Resources

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PRESERVING ELECTRONIC NEWS

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Grants



In This Issue

Many CRL research libraries have long borne the burden of preserving the retired files of newspaper publishers and broadcasters. As traditional newspapers crumble and electronic media ascend, how will news be preserved for future generations? This issue of *FOCUS on Global Resources* covers recent discussions at the Library of Congress on the challenges of preserving electronic news.

Preservation efforts recently received a major boost by the Department of Education, which awarded more than \$2 million in grant funds to research libraries and other higher education institutions through its Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access (TICFIA) program. The TICFIA grants support dissemination of information on regions and countries other than the United States, helping to make documents and records of many world regions available to researchers. We are proud to report that these new projects are all based at or affiliated with libraries that participate in CRL's Global Resources Network.

—Bernard F. Reilly, Jr.
President

Archiving Digital News: Planning at the Library of Congress



April 16, 1912 coverage of the *Titanic* disaster in *Dziennik Zwiazkowy*, Chicago's Polish American daily. From CRL eollections.

The decline of the newspaper industry combined with the ascent of digital media for news reporting and distribution means that a significant portion of the journalistic record is now at risk.

Recently, the Library of Congress (LC) National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP) held a workshop to explore possible strategies for collecting and preserving digital news on a national basis. For purposes of discussion, LC defined digital news to include, at minimum, “digital newspaper Web sites, television and radio broadcasts distributed via the Internet, blogs, pod casts, digital photographs, and videos that document current events and cultural trends.”

The workshop, held September 2 and 3, 2009, brought together about 30 invited specialists in the field: broadcasters, producers, distributors, and archivists, as well as researchers who depend upon digital news. The discussions focused on a set of questions created by LC prior to the meeting:

- What is the risk that we will fail to collect the historical record?
- What news topics and sources do we seek to preserve?
- What are the respective roles of content owners and for public archives in archiving news content?
- What shall we say about “local” as compared to “national” content and organizations?
- What are some strategies and possible models for addressing the issues?

Attendees heard presentations on existing LC programs that preserve television, radio, and newspapers. Presentations also featured a variety of archiving programs at individual universities, state and local institutions, and media organizations.

Some points of consensus emerged from the discussions:

1. A national effort should be mounted to preserve the full range of types of digital news. The full spectrum would encompass news Web sites; conventional cable and satellite television and radio broadcasts produced by large media organizations such as *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, CBS, CNN, WGBH, and The Associated Press; and news reported through podcasts, blogs, Twitter feeds, and other forms of social media.

Some expressed the view that the present precarious economic state of the news industry made preserving the digital archives of traditional media organizations a particularly urgent priority.

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2. The effort should address news content that is actually disseminated or “published” as well as the “raw materials” of news production. “Published” output includes broadcasts, Web sites, blog posts, newspapers, and so forth. The “raw materials” include files generated by the news media, such as unaired video and audio, assignment photography, unpublished text and data, etc.
3. The effort needs to engage members of many stakeholder groups. Producers, aggregators, and distributors of news, particularly the large media organizations, could contribute to the capabilities and assets that would supplement the relatively modest resources of archives and libraries.
4. The preservation effort must serve the needs and interests of clearly defined audiences and be tailored to the practices, means, and methodologies of users, while not infringing upon the intellectual property rights of the producers or the business interests of the media organizations. The target audiences identified included not only scholars in academia, but local and family historians, public policy researchers, and members of the broader general public.

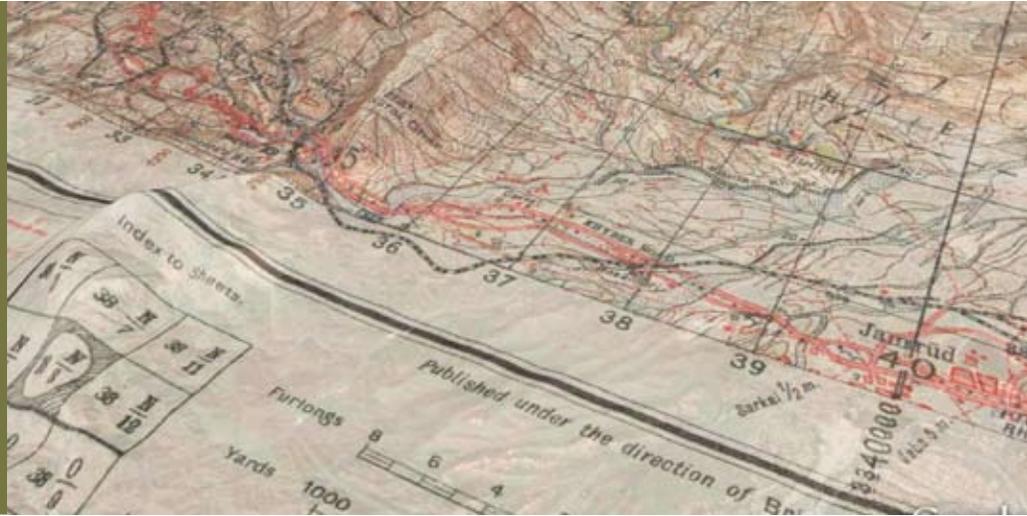
LC will take the discussions and presentations at the meeting into consideration in framing future funding activities of its NDIIPP digital preservation program.

In a related development, in July the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress issued a request for comment on a proposed amendment to the regulations regarding mandatory copyright deposit of serials published in online format only. If enacted, the proposed revision would enable the Register of Copyright to demand deposit in the Library of Congress of electronic copies of any “serial” published in the United States only on the Web. (Online-only publications are currently exempt from the mandatory deposit requirement.) The change may enable LC to begin to acquire and archive electronic journals and news publications, presumably including some form of online news content, on a systematic basis. The announcement noted that “The Library is currently developing technological systems that will allow it to electronically ingest electronic-only works and maintain them in formats suitable for long-term preservation.”

While the initial focus of the e-deposit effort is expected to be on journals, rather than news, the request for comment and the NDIIPP meeting together signal the Library’s intention to archive and make a broad array of serial digital content available to researchers. ❖

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Global Resources Network Projects Receive International Digitization Grants



Digitized version of a [topographical map](#) from the Survey of India of parts of Peshāwar district and Khyber agency and tribal territory in North West Frontier Province, No. 38N 8, in 1936. From the [Digital South Asia Library](#).

The U.S. Department of Education recently awarded more than \$2 million in grant funds through the Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access (TICFIA) program of the office of Postsecondary Education, International Education Programs Service.

The TICFIA program provides grants to develop innovative techniques or programs that access, collect, organize, preserve, and widely disseminate information on world regions and countries other than the United States. The program was developed in 1998 in consultation with higher education institutions interested in area studies and foreign resources. Global Resources Network participants played a significant role in the formation of the program through the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

In the most recent round of funding (four-year awards supporting projects running 2009–13), 13 awards were given. All of the grants were awarded to CRL/GRN libraries and affiliated programs. Two of the programs in particular involve CRL participation.

Digital South Asia Library

The University of Chicago received a grant to create digital versions of historical audio recordings, maps, and images of South Asia and deliver them via the [Digital South Asia Library](#). The Center for Research Libraries, the British Library, and the Roja Muthiah Research Library will collaborate on the project.

Building upon the foundation and experience of previous digital initiatives, the project *Audio, Maps, and Images from South Asia: Overseas Resources for Understanding the Subcontinent*, will make new contributions to scholarship with three specific services:

1. recovery and delivery of early audio recordings in the languages of South Asia;
2. creation and presentation of digital cartographic resources and geographic information system data for the entirety of South Asia; and
3. conversion and digital access to important photographic images of the subcontinent.

All of these resources will be of wide-ranging use across the social sciences, humanities, and sciences. The project is designed to create resources for instruction in less commonly taught languages and other uses by collecting, digital conversion, and delivery via the Internet of gramophone records in South Asian languages.

The University of Chicago and the Center for Research Libraries have been awarded four TICFIA grants for development of the Digital South Asia Library. This is the largest number of awards under the TICFIA category of federal funding.

Digital Library for International Research

The American Institute of Yemeni Studies (AIYS) and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) received an award for the Digital Library for International Research (DLIR) to catalog and digitize photographic, ethnographic, archaeological, cartographic, and other scholarly research support materials from a variety of international locations.

The current project, the Cooperative Digitization of International Research Materials ([CDIRM](#)), will use participating American overseas research centers' connections to collaborate with foreign archives and special collections that hold unique and rare research materials. Selected materials from Guatemala, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Israel, Palestine, Yemen, and Mongolia will be made easily and freely available over the Internet to American and international scholars and students. Not only are most of these materials uncataloged, unavailable, or unknown to scholars, most are extremely difficult to access (because of location, unsettled political conditions, privacy issues, or bureaucratic procedures).

DLIR collaborates with CRL on project implementation and infrastructure, including the 50,000-record union catalog of the project. The Coordinator of DLIR, located at the Center for Research Libraries, will act as program manager for the new grant award.

This is the third TICFIA grant AIYS and CAORC have received: the first, in 1999, helped establish the union catalog (CAORC's [Digital Library for International Research](#)); the second, in 2005, helped American overseas research centers in several countries partner with local archival and library collections to provide access to a rich vein of [previously inaccessible scholarly material](#).

Other Awards

The breadth of coverage of this award period is impressive, and the programs are as diverse as they are ambitious. More details about each program can be found on [CRL's TICFIA project page](#), hosted on behalf of the Department of Education.

Africa

African Sources Digital Library

Harvard University

Construct a digital library of African language documents (booklets, poetry, essays, treatises, travelogues, private) in indigenous languages of West and East Africa.

Oral African Languages Library

Michigan State University

Digitize and make accessible a substantial repository of oral narrative collections from West, Northeast, East, and Southern Africa.

Asia

Digital Archives of Thailand

University of Washington

Create a digital archive comprising ethnographic, socioeconomic, and visual materials, including texts, photographs, maps, and GIS-supported visualizations.

Digitization of Southeast Asian Materials

Northern Illinois University

Digitize texts, images (including photographs and murals), sound, and video materials featuring Southeast Asian scholars, writers, artists, public figures, and citizens discussing their work and experiences.

Southeast Asian Languages Library

University of Wisconsin

Create digital resources (including dictionaries and text corpora) for national and minority Southeast Asian languages, and tools to support pedagogy, research, computational linguistics, and reference.

Tibetan and Himalayan Library

University of Virginia

Produce reference repositories for contemporary and historical coverage of Tibet and the Himalayas, building interconnections between collections of audio-video, images, maps, scholarship, and classical literature.

Latin America & Caribbean

Caribbean Newspaper Digital Library

Florida International University

Digitize and archive Caribbean newspapers in all languages and build capacity for newspaper preservation and access in the region.

Energy Policy in Latin America

University of New Mexico

Collect, translate, analyze, and disseminate information about energy policy, regulation, and dialogue in Latin America.

Latin American Electronic Data Archives

University of Texas at Austin

Acquire and preserve data sets relevant to Latin American research and policy development, making files available via a user-friendly Web interface for data extraction and analysis.

Linguistic Archives of Mesoamerica

Indiana University

Create a digital archive of video, research notes, audio interviews, photographs, and other digital sources related to minority languages and cultures of Central America and Mexico.

Middle East

Middle Eastern Gazettes

Yale University

Create a digital representation of the gazettes of independent Syria and British Mandate Palestine for the period 1919–48, and develop tools for full-text searching and creation of multilingual finding aids. ❖

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