



Alliance News

Western Waters Digital Library Receives Second Federal Grant; Project Attracts Partnership Opportunities

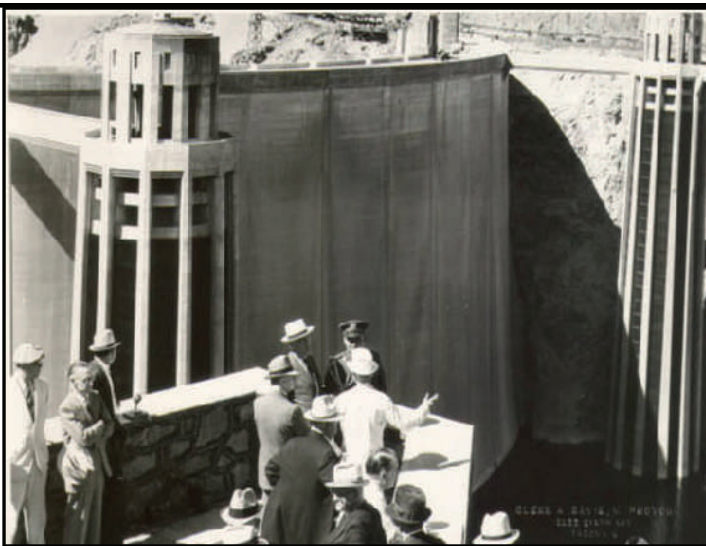
The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has funded a new Western Waters Digital Library (WWDL) project titled "Foundations of American Water Policy". This two-year project began in July 2007, with a focus on the Colorado and Columbia River Basins. The project was awarded \$338,000 from NEH; matching funds from participating institutions brings the grant's total funding to \$569,000. Participants include: Brigham Young University; Colorado State University; University of California at Berkeley; University of Utah; and Washington State University. This project's objectives include digitizing archival materials, creating an on-line repository of EAD finding aids with links to the digital files.

The WWDL, initiated and led by the University of Utah Libraries, has achieved significant support and recognition. The project's first grant was from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) with supporting contributions from the participating libraries. There are currently 12 GWLA members and one non-member contributing to the WWDL.

Continuing grant support and the expanding base of institutional participants are indicative of the project's wide-based appeal. The environmental conditions of the American West, as well as those worldwide, indicate that water resources will be of increasing concern in the future.

Partnering Projects & New Collections

The Western Waters Digital Library has added several new projects, each with its own story to tell. The goal of "Water Wise Utah" is to raise awareness of conservation issues in Utah and the surrounding region. It is funded by the Partnership for a Nation of Learners (a joint effort by IMLS and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting). The goal is to leverage resources of libraries, museums and public broadcasting. Participants include the Utah Education Network, NPR affiliates KUED and KUER, the Utah Museum of Natural History, and the Marriott Library of the



**President Roosevelt at the Hoover Dam dedication ceremony, 1935.
Image added by the University of Nevada-Las Vegas Special Collections.**

University of Utah.

Other locally-funded projects such as "The Water is for Fightin'" (a video sponsored by the University of Utah) and "The Law of the Colorado River" (a donor-funded project to digitize materials about the so-called Law of the River) are ready to be added to the WWDL site. Additionally, Iowa State University's "Missouri River Collection" is ready for harvesting.

Several non-GWLA organizations have expressed interest in adding water-related materials. For example, Northern State University is planning to digitize its Missouri River materials and would like to include them in the Western Waters project.

The Western Soundscapes' (www.lib.utah.edu/wss) goal is to provide clips of the "natural sounds of the western United States." The creators, who received an IMLS grant for \$353,000 (plus 50/50 matching funds), have also expressed an interest in aligning with the WWDL.



David Carlson, Dean of Library Affairs at SIU.

Photo by Daniel Patmore of the Chronicle.

"We understand a little better when a commercial, for-profit publisher makes a decision like this, guided by the bottom line," he says. "But when the AAAS, whose members are 98 percent our faculty members ... makes a decision that is inimical and in conflict with its stated role, it's puzzling."

David Carlson
Quote from the Chronicle

GWLA Dean Starts Nationwide Protest; Rallies GWLA and Other Consortia to Action

David Carlson, Dean of Library Affairs at SIU-Carbondale, might be a fashionable dresser but he's no fan of trends. Especially when the trend is scholarly society journals opting to remove their content from online database aggregators.

On July 20, JSTOR announced that their long-standing relationship with AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science), publishers of the renowned journal *Science*, would come to an end on December 31, 2007, and the AAAS would cease depositing *Science* in JSTOR.

Carlson was angered by what he saw as a profit-generating move on the part of AAAS, at the expense of libraries and the research communities they serve. He was particularly aggrieved because he viewed this act as being in conflict with AAAS' mission, "to advance science...to the benefit of all people" and its non-profit status.

Mr. Carlson put his energies toward writing a resolution denouncing the move, which he brought to the GWLA Deans & Directors membership meeting in Tucson in early September. The resolution (available at www.gwla.org) passed unanimously and was sent to the leadership of the AAAS.

Shortly after the GWLA Deans & Directors meeting, Carlson also presented the resolution at a CARLI

(Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois) meeting where the resolution was also unanimously endorsed.

At the suggestion of Anne McKee, GWLA's Program Officer for Resource Sharing, the resolution was posted on the ICOLC (International Coalition of Library Consortia) listserv, encouraging other consortia to adopt a similar stance.

Tom Sanville, Executive Director of OHIOLink, presented the idea at a recent ICOLC meeting where the resolution garnered much support. ICOLC drafted a similar resolution; approximately 65 library consortia worldwide have banded together as endorsers of the ICOLC statement.

A story about the resolution appeared on the *Chronicle of Higher Education's* website on October 11th (October 18th in print). That same day, Mr. Carlson, along with Shirley Baker, the Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and Dean of Libraries at Washington University in St. Louis, met with representatives of AAAS to express how this move hinders the work of libraries and researchers.

ICOLC plans to send their resolution to AAAS on October 30; we hope this additional action encourages conversation and a path toward a mutually agreeable solution between AAAS and JSTOR.

Federal Technical Reports Task Force in Negotiations with Open Content Alliance, Michigan, Stanford & Google; Will Meet in November

Following the successful completion of its first year charge, the Federal Technical Reports Task Force is now in the process of exploring partnerships that will offer long-term sustainability for the project. The GWLA Board of Directors authorized the task force to pursue scalable partnerships that would meet the needs of GWLA members.

In pursuit of these objectives, the task force will meet November 8-9 at the Linda Hall Library in Kansas City, with the aim of defining the negotiation points for potential partnerships, which may include the University of Michigan, Stanford University and the Google Corporation. Members of the task force have also met with representatives of the Open Content Alliance (OCA), both through phone conferencing and attendance at a recent OCA conference.

These two options offer the project and the Alliance a wide range of technical and resource support options. The Google vs. OCA issue is one that is hotly debated in academia right now (<http://www.freepress.net/news/27239>), so we eagerly await the task force's recommendations!



National Bureau of Standards Electronic Automatic Computer (SEAC)

Photo from the prototype TRAIL website hosted by the University of Hawaii
<http://digicoll.manoa.hawaii.edu/techreports/>

Digital Collections Committee Meets in Provo

The Digital Collections Committee (DCC) met on October 15th at Brigham Young University to discuss the future direction of GWLA digital projects. There were 25 total participants representing 22 GWLA member institutions. The participants presented samples of the current and future digital projects from their institution's respective online collections to help the group brainstorm for new topics for collaboration.

The committee endorsed expanding the geographic range of the WWDL project to include the entire Trans-Mississippi West, including Hawaii. Recommendations for specific subjects included the Ogallala Aquifer, the Arkansas River; the Spokane River, and the Central Valley of California. Other topics considered include: irrigation, legal issues, food control, dams, water rights, tribal fishing, fisheries, biology, recreation, power, invasive species, etc. The group committed themselves to a proactive, subject driven approach to future content building.

The committee endorsed an updated mission

statement, an expanded geographic scope statement, and a statement of commitment to the continued development of the WWDL.

It was agreed that the current WWDL website redesign project must accommodate future projects, reflecting the expanded geographical and topical focus. The committee agreed that the objective of the WWDL, and subsequent *Western* projects, is not simply to create a website where digitized content resides, but rather to create a resource center for researchers and other interested patrons where the widest possible range of materials related to water and other issues of the Trans-Mississippi region are made available. This will include historic materials, datasets, published works, bibliographies, audio and video, online exhibits, related web resources, RSS feeds, and any other resources that are deemed appropriate to the research community's needs and expressed interests.

The committee's next meeting is tentatively planned for February, 2008; the location is yet to be determined

New GWLA Contract Inked with Wiley

Anne McKee, Program Officer for Resource Sharing, recently renegotiated the GWLA contract with Wiley for two more years. Because of Wiley's recent merger with Blackwell, the new Wiley contract is shorter than usual to ensure it expires at the same time as the current Blackwell contract; all future talks will be with the merged company.

During the negotiation, GWLA won concessions on archiving rights and the ability to extend the contract terms to GWLA-member "sister campuses" such as the University of Missouri-Kansas City, or the University of Nebraska institutions in Omaha or Kearney. Wiley also agreed to allow GWLA institutions to trade canceled titles amongst themselves, but limits how many titles institutions can cancel through the life of the contract.

Despite many offers of alternative language, Wiley would not budge on their restrictive ILL terms; this was the most hotly-debated portion of the contract.

Susanne Clement, Gary Ives, and all of the members of the CD Committee should be recognized for their energies and input during this difficult negotiation.

Cooperative Access Task Force Surveys Open Access Journal Editors

The Cooperative Access Task Force surveyed the editors of open access (OA) journals on GWLA-member campuses.

Overall, the goal of the survey was to gain some insight into what the editors were really doing in their OA efforts. There was a belief among committee members that these efforts were driven by the commitment of the editor(s) and were published on shoe string budgets. Consequently, the committee was concerned these journals were facing real sustainability issues.

The survey results indicate archiving and systems administration were two of the top concerns of the journal editors. A full 85% of the respondents indicated they had no real processes for digital archiving and 75% indicated they did not have the budget for hardware upgrades and replacement.

Despite these challenges, most editors seemed committed to continuing with OA publishing.

The survey revealed that outside of a few journals on the large OA platforms such as BioMed Central, the production of most journals tends to be reliant on the efforts of the editors who are supporting the titles with minimal resources. These editors are focused on the journal's content and issues such as archiving and business plans for technology replacement and upgrades are secondary.

The task force will continue to review and consider reasonable alternatives for providing support for campus OA efforts. If you are interested in joining this task force to help GWLA-member institutions advance their open access efforts, please contact Steve Bosch at boschs@u.library.arizona.edu.

"The survey confirmed what we suspected...[most] editors are supporting the journals with minimal resources"
Steve Bosch,
University of Arizona



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**We're on
the Web!**
www.gwla.org

Message from the Executive Director

Dear GWLA Community—

As I become more familiar with the Alliance and its initiatives, I am astounded by how much of an impact a good idea and some effort by a single person can make for all of us. Some recent examples:

- *Anne McKee, our Program Officer for Resource Sharing, negotiated contracts which saved GWLA-member libraries in excess of \$2 Million in 2007.*
- *David Carlson, Dean of Library Affairs at SIU, wrote a resolution protesting AAAS's decision to remove **Science** from JSTOR. The outpouring of support from the academic library community nationwide was overwhelming and resulted in an article about the resolution in the **Chronicle**.*
- *Carla Stoffle, Dean of Libraries at the University of Arizona in conjunction with the GWLA Board, developed a plan to digitize pre-1975 federal technical reports. This effort has attracted partnership offers from the Open Content Alliance, the University of Michigan, Stanford University, and Google.*

All of you contribute to GWLA's success and help us move toward our strategic objectives to provide access, preserve content, enhance collections, and promote effective and innovative partnerships. We should all be proud of the strides that have been made in the past year to strengthen and enhance GWLA, including:

- *Launching the Digital Collections Committee and hiring of a Digital Collections Program Officer to coordinate projects with participating institutions.*
- *Raising Inter-Library Loan/Document Delivery benchmarks.*
- *Creation of a task force to examine Institutional Repository issues and best practices.*
- *Expanded focus of the Western Waters Digital Library to serve broader scholarly communities.*
- *The first-ever joint meeting of the Content Development and Resource Sharing/Document Delivery committees with the goal of improving collections and delivery services.*
- *Working in conjunction with our colleagues at ARL and SPARC to successfully lobby federal legislators in support of access to taxpayer-funded research.*

It is the work and ideas of individuals that help us advance our collective initiatives, and I appreciate your participation and dedication. There is no doubt that GWLA is an organization "on the move" and will continue to draw attention to its initiatives and activities. Good ideas help the Alliance's member libraries make a difference in their communities and on their campuses.

So if you have a good idea, speak up!

Warmly,



*Joni M. Blake, Ph.D.
Executive Director*