

GWLA Newsletter

Spring 2007

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Hot Off the Press: Announcing the New GWLA Executive Director!

The GWLA Board/Search Committee is very pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. Joni Blake as the new Executive Director. Joni hails from [Stephens College](#) in Columbia, Missouri, where she served as the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Library Director. She directed learning support services including the library, an academic assistance center, campus archives, and she served recently as the chair of Stephens' NCA/HLC re-accreditation self-study endeavor.



Joni brings a great deal of experience in consortia work. She has been involved in all aspects of the MOBIUS higher education library consortium in Missouri since its inception, and her duties have ranged from serving as a Site Coordinator during the implementation of the Arthur cluster, to serving on MOBIUS Access Advisory Committee, Directors' Council, and finally, multiple stints on the Executive Committee.

Joni earned her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Higher Education Administration from the [University of Nebraska-Lincoln](#) and her M.L.S. from the [University of Missouri-Columbia](#). Although Joni doesn't start until July 1, she will be coming to ALA specifically to attend the meetings of the GWLA committees so she can get to know everyone.

Please join us in welcoming Joni. She can be contacted by [email](#).

[Meet Randy Olsen, New GWLA Board of Directors' Chair](#)



Randy Olsen, University Librarian at [Brigham Young University](#), is the new Chair of the GWLA Board of Directors. His term as Board Chair runs from January to December 2007.

Randy became the head of the BYU Libraries in 2002, after serving as Deputy University Librarian. Randy has demonstrated his strong leadership skills in helping to lead GWLA during the interim period without a permanent GWLA executive director.

Did you know that Randy is completing a Ph.D. in anthropology from the [University of Utah](#)? This will add to his other subject specialties in political science, German, and public administration. Randy received his MLS from BYU.

Randy has been honored by his colleagues as the [Utah Library Association](#)'s Librarian of the Year, which recognized his leadership in establishing statewide cooperative agreements and advancing the availability of technology and electronic databases to libraries throughout the state.

If you asked Randy what makes him the happiest in his personal life, he would probably respond "making a difference in his grandchildren's lives."

Congratulations!

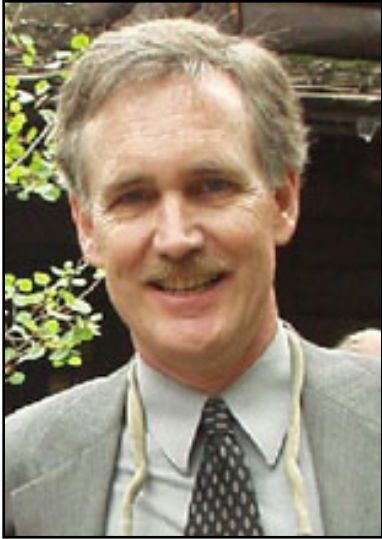
- Congratulations to Betsy Wilson! Betsy was honored at the 13th ACRL National Conference in Baltimore as the [Academic/Research Librarian of the Year](#), an award sponsored by Yankee Book Peddler Library Services. Betsy was recognized for her local, regional, and national accomplishments which strongly demonstrate her leadership abilities. Along with that leadership, Betsy is appropriately described a pioneer, visionary, diplomat, mentor, and much more. GWLA salutes Betsy: we are proud to have her in our ranks!



- Congratulations to the folks who persisted in their efforts to secure funding for the [Western Waters Digital Library](#) (WWDL). They succeeded!! The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded \$338,444 in grant funds to Colorado State University, the University of Utah, Brigham Young University, Washington State University, and the University of California at Berkeley to fund further development of the Western Waters Digital Library. This project will engage archivists, librarians, technical experts and faculty advisors to provide "integrated access to archival holdings related to water policy and environmental history for the Colorado and Columbia River basins." Approximately 20,000 images and 29 EAD finding aids will be added to the WWDL. Increasing access to these materials will support researchers who explore the historical, environmental, legal, and economic precedents that impact contemporary water issues. The grant period runs from July 1, 2007-June 30, 2009. For more about this project, see the interview [below](#).
- Congratulations to the library managers from two GWLA libraries for being selected as 2007-08 [ARL Research Libraries Leadership Fellows](#): Kenning Arlitsch, Head of Information Technology, University of Utah, and Nicole Bouché, Pacific Northwest Curator, Special Collections, University of Washington.
- Congratulations to the newest GWLA Library Dean – Martha Bedard. Martha was selected after a national search as the Dean of [University Libraries](#) at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. She currently serves as Associate Dean for Information and Collection

Services at Texas A&M University Libraries. Martha begins her new position on August 1, 2007. Welcome, Martha!

New People in GWLA



1. Welcome, Jim Dildine! Jim was hired as the Program Officer for Digital Collections and started April 1. Jim hails from Minnesota where he served as the project manager for the [Minnesota Digital Library Coalition](#) (MDLC). He directed all aspects of that statewide digital initiative, which included participants from every type of cultural heritage institutions from around the state. He participated in all committee- and project-related activities including the steering committee, technology committee (metadata and scanning standards), web interface and design committee, selection committee, grant development committee (providing quarterly reports for LSTA), and management committee.

Jim presented the MDLC project story at public forums throughout the Midwest and before a wide range of interest groups including librarians, educators, researchers, and archives professionals.

In an interview, Jim said that he was very pleased to "serve as the Digital Collections Program Officer for the GWLA. The opportunity to work in such a leading edge organization, one dedicated to the principles of scholarly communication and addressing some of the most compelling contemporary issues facing modern culture, is both exciting and challenging. The standards of excellence already exhibited by the GWLA projects are being rewarded through ongoing institutional support; I look forward to assisting the Alliance in maintaining and enhancing this evolving legacy of high-quality, well designed online projects."

2. Kim Leeder has graciously agreed to serve as the co-Webmaster for GWLA on a contract basis.

For that, GWLA is forever grateful! In July 2007 Kim will begin as Reference Librarian at [Boise State University](#) in Boise, Idaho. She has previously worked as a librarian at [Albertson College](#) in Caldwell, Idaho, Library Assistant at the Star Branch of the [Ada Community Library](#), and as Special Assistant to the Dean at the [University of Arizona Libraries](#) (2004-2006). Kim completed her MA in Information Resources and Library Science at the University of Arizona in 2006. In addition to her current work on GWLA's website, Kim is co-chair of the ACRL ULS Program Planning 2008 Committee, incoming chair of the ULS Communications Committee, and editor of the *ULS Universe*. Kim can be reached by [email](#).

GWLA Membership Meeting Program in Kansas City

One of the highlights of the Spring Membership meeting was the program held for GWLA deans and directors titled, "Open Access in GWLA: What Can the Future Be?"

The program concentrated on what GWLA could do support open access efforts on member campuses. Four open access journal editors were invited to speak on a panel: Dr. Mark Belk, Brigham Young University, *Western North American Naturalist*; Prof. Mary K Bolin, University of Nebraska, *Library Philosophy and Practice*; Dr. Nicholas Kalaitzandonakes, University of Missouri, *AgBioforum*; and Dr. A. Townsend Peterson, University of Kansas, *Biodiversity Informatics*. Steve Bosch from the University of Arizona served as moderator and took the lead in putting the program together.

Historic Joint Meeting of the Resource Sharing/Document Delivery & Collection Development Committees, Kansas City

By Anne McKee, Program Officer for Resource Sharing

April 17-19th, 2007

Kansas City, MO

The two resource sharing committees, Collection Development (CD) and Resource Sharing/Document Delivery (RSDD), met for the first time on April 18th, 2007, in an historic joint meeting. This meeting was approved by the Deans and Directors in the September 2006 Fall Membership Meeting with the caveat that the meeting would be centered on scholarly communication. Representation at the meeting was very high: all 31 members had a representative from the RSDD side and 28 members were represented from the CD side.

Anne McKee, GWLA staff liaison to both of these committees, appointed a planning group for the meeting. This planning group consisted of 3 representatives from each committee as well as each committee chair and the program officer for resource sharing. Working via [Basecamp](#), the planning group developed the program and agenda for the joint meeting. A conscious attempt was made to try and incorporate members from both committees for each presentation.

An interesting presentation that "kicked off" the meeting and elicited much discussion was on collection development reports, which are routinely prepared by ILL/document delivery librarians. A survey was routed to each GWLA member inquiring as to what reports are done by the ILL librarian for their CD counterpart and which material in the reports were useful to CD considerations. The surprising outcome was that while ILL librarians believe that monthly or more frequent reports are needed for CD, the reality is that collection development librarians really only wanted/needed the report quarterly. This led to a discussion on what types of data points would be helpful to the CDOs as well as a discussion on having ILL people sit on each member's own Collection Development Team. For those institutions who do have ILL representatives to their CD committee, all commented that it had been extremely helpful to have another viewpoint and perspective on the individual CD committees. One of the action items was for each representative to return to their member campuses and have more open dialogue between ILL and CD.

Buy on Demand programs (ILL department purchasing monographs rather than requesting it via ILL) proved to be another topic of interest for both committees. Four GWLA members presented their institution's program and outlined how they buy on demand for patrons. During the course of discussion, several other libraries also reported that they utilize buy on demand as well. While some libraries have a relatively small account for this purpose, (for instance a \$5,000 budget), other libraries reported that they have up to \$20,000 for this same program. A very interesting phenomenon was that several GWLA members who have a buy on demand service have studied usage statistics and find that those monographs purchased on demand have very high circulation statistics.

Perhaps the liveliest agenda item of the joint meeting was the long, sometimes raucous but always informative and frank discussion on sharing more formats via ILL within GWLA. Reports shared by KU, USC and Oklahoma State outlined the inequality of institutions requesting a format type that they are unwilling to lend to other GWLA members. Several of the CDOs stated that they needed to rethink and reopen this discussion within their own institutions on lending more formats. The action item agreed upon was that (barring special circumstances), no institution should be requesting material that they are not willing to lend.

We will be doing a survey (most likely by Survey Monkey) to assess the usefulness of the meeting and the programming offered. The survey results will be shared with the GWLA Board and to the membership at large.

Overall, there have been many favorable comments from both committees on this meeting and I firmly believe that it helped the committees form a team perspective that should grow and foster in the upcoming months. I would be remiss if I did not thank the planning group for all their work and dedication in making this meeting as successful as it was. I would also like to extend my appreciation to all the Deans and Directors for funding travel for this important meeting.

Joint Meeting Planning Group:

Ken Carriveau, Chair RSDD Baylor University

Susanne Clement, Chair CD University of Kansas

Steve Harris, CD Utah State University

Lars Leon, RSDD University of Kansas

Rich Paustenbaugh Oklahoma State University

Ex-officios:

Camila Aire, GWLA

Anne E. McKee, GWLA

New Digital Collections Committee – A Program Officer’s Perspective

By Jim Dildine, GWLA Digital Collections Program Officer

When I was first asked to comment on the role of Digital Collections Program Officer (DCPO), several issues came to mind. Of course, the primary duty of this position, as well as that of the Digital Collections Committee (DCC), will be to serve the interests of GWLA member institutions. The basic mechanisms for this effort will be:

1. Evaluate project proposals and present them to the Board
2. Do cost analysis of the projects
3. Identify grant opportunities
4. Report on project status

Already, the [Western Waters Digital Library](#) provides tangible proof of the Alliance’s ability to address relevant and meaningful issues. It also demonstrates the GWLA ability to enact successful collaborative projects in the online environment—projects that transcend the resources of a single organization and thereby provide research opportunities hitherto available only to an exclusive group of well-funded researchers.

Yet, this description of the mechanisms and objectives of Digital Collection Committee doesn’t

fully communicate the charge of the DCC. Ultimately I believe the committee is charged with the building of academic community. For without the complex of factors that form community—common goals and interests, positive relationships, mutual support, open communication, etc.—it would be impossible for the rest of the factors to come into being. The DCPO's primary role will be to foster the atmosphere of collaboration, not only by serving the structural needs of the projects (work flow oversight, quality control, grant writing, promotional campaigns, communication network, website maintenance, etc.), but also by promoting the vision of the consortium to the various constituencies who may benefit from the online content.

The effectiveness of any collaborative effort is based as much on the aggregation of relationships as it is on the aggregation of content. Likewise, the collaborative environment is a space where creativity can flourish, where the limits of a single organization's vision can be expanded by the vision of the many partners. The online environment presents unique opportunities for researchers. Never before have such wide-ranging aggregations of content been so readily available, or so readily interfaced. This ability to inter-connect materials and form creative sets of content is one that should not be overlooked by the academic community. Online exhibits, historiographies, curriculum, blogs, relevant published articles, and more are all possible avenues to stimulating intellectual interest among a wide range of online patrons.

As the project continues to develop, I see the following as issues that the DCPO position will be responsible for:

1. Continued expansion of current project content, as well as soliciting additional new projects
2. Managing workflow of current and future projects
3. Continuing the development of funding resources
4. Overseeing ongoing upgrades to the Digital Library webpage
5. Exploring and recommending innovative technologies as appropriate to project needs and goals
6. Managing DCC information flow to include all interest parties within GWLA

7. Promoting the GWLA online digital resources to the broadest possible interested audience
8. Support the GWLA role as a leader in the movement to provide online access to Federal Technical Documents (for example: GWLA may wish to set up a wiki site where all current projects throughout the country can be updated and tracked by the participating institutions)
9. Developing new relationships within and without the academic community in order to innovate the online presence and fully develop the potential of vast resources available to the Alliance (for example: journalism and history students might collaborate to create online history projects; or curriculum modules might be created for classroom use, etc.)

I will apply my personal interest in the historical, anthropological, environmental, and political issues of the American West, as well as my background in photography and online projects to these activities, and I hope they will benefit the project. I look forward to working with you all. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

[James Dildine](#)

Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA)

Digital Collections Program Officer

Phone: (507) 344-1574

NEH Western Waters Digitization Grant

By Jim Dildine, GWLA Digital Collections Program Officer

The following is an interview conducted with Dawn Bastian (CSU), who is the Principal Investigator for the recently acquired NEH grant funding the [Western Waters Digital Library](#) (WWDL) project: The Foundations of Western Water Policy. This project is a collaboration between [Colorado State University](#), [Brigham Young University](#), [University of California at Berkeley](#), [University of Utah](#), and [Washington State University](#).

Q: Could you briefly describe the process that brought the partner libraries together for this NEH grant writing collaboration?

Dawn: Four of these institutions (Colorado State, Brigham Young, Utah, Washington State) collaborated successfully on the first phase of WWDL development. We have a history of working together and a special dedication to this project. Also, for this phase the group wished to focus on water policy and environmental history of the Colorado and Columbia rivers, and we have a great deal of content from which to select. The University of California at Berkeley was invited to participate not only because of the wonderful content and expertise it can provide, but because it, too, is an institution that has demonstrated leadership in water archives and digital libraries.

Q: Could you outline the selection criteria used to determine which collections would be included in the grant proposal?

Dawn: The WWDL does have a collection development policy that guides us. Once we decided upon our focus, we considered what archival collections were most pertinent.

Q: Were faculty members involved in the selection process?

Dawn: Yes, they were; we've involved faculty all along in WWDL development. Faculty also had input into our collection development policy.

Q: The list of grant supporters is impressive; do you feel this was a significant factor in the success of the application?

Dawn: Absolutely. They are established scholars who use these materials; we knew who they were and sought their support.

Q: How were the grant application tasks assigned?

Dawn: Two people coordinated the drafting of the application and we delegated tasks based on

the knowledge and experience of the contributors. Also, it was natural to have each institution provide us with descriptions and significance of its own selected materials.

Q: Was there a lot of back and forth exchange between the granting partners and the granting agency—did you receive significant guidance from NEH?

Dawn: Yes; we capitalized on opportunities to meet directly with some NEH staff, and had some follow-up conversations by phone. This personal contact proved to be very fruitful. We were advised to include the archival component and emphasize the significance, merit, and impact of the project. We also paid close attention to past reviews that were available for the previous grant submission.

Q: Given your own experience, what would you say were the major hurdles to successful grant procurement for a multiple institutional collaboration?

Dawn: The time constraints in particular were difficult to manage. The deadline for submission was tight and people with limited time and complex responsibilities had to integrate the drafting of the grant into their schedules. Also, it's not necessarily clear what will make an application stand out for the reviewers. It typically requires two or three submissions to get an award; more is learned from each submission about what will impress the granting agency.

Q: What do you anticipate will be the major challenges for the project?

Dawn: Juggling responsibilities, keeping busy people engaged and on track. Staff turnover, if it occurs again during this phase of the project, will also be a major challenge.

Q: What do you anticipate will be the major rewards of the project?

Dawn: Processing and making important collections accessible and knowing we will have satisfied the needs and desires of researchers who will be discovering and using the materials.

(The narrative for the NEH grant is available at Basecamp under the Digital Collections

Committee section. For a complete version of the grant contact Jim Dildine, GWLA Program Officer, by [email](#).)

Timely Task Force Reports

GWLA STRATEGIC INITIATIVE NO. 3 - COOPERATIVE ACCESS

A Progress Report for the GWLA Membership

By Stephen Bosch, The University of Arizona Libraries

In May 2006, this Task Force was established by GWLA in order to expand cooperative access to electronic journals and other shared content and resources and to develop a model for assisting local journal editors in providing persistent open access.

Current members

Alberta Bailey, University of Arkansas

Steve Bosch (Chair), University of Arizona

Jim Brewer, Texas Tech University

Joel Cummings, Washington State University

Scott Eldredge, Brigham Young University

Karen Estlund, University of Utah

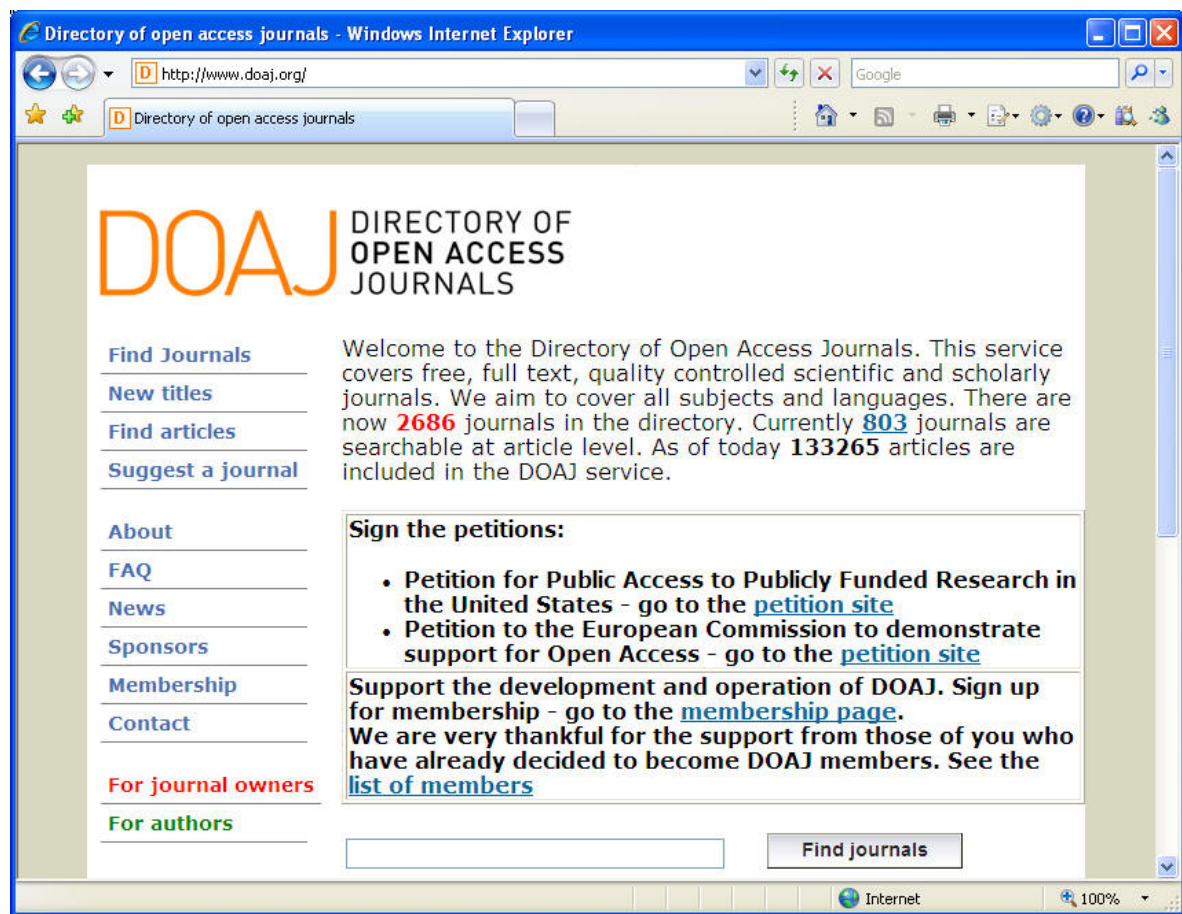
Holly Mercer, University of Kansas

Beth Turtle, Kansas State University

Progress to Date

The Task Force had initial discussions at the ALA Conference in June 2006. As the charge involves multiple elements it was decided that the initial focus would be on open access (OA) publications edited by GWLA Faculty. A starting point would be to determine what activities

existed within GWLA. The Task Force polled the GWLA Collection Development Committee and national groups to see if this information already existed. It became obvious that this information did not exist nor was there any easy way to gather the data.



It was decided that the best approach was to research the [Directory of Open Access Journals](http://www.doaj.org/) (DOAJ) for this information. The first step was to review the DOAJ to get information on the affiliations of the main editor listed. This data was not comprehensive as it only listed the “top”

editor. This work did not identify a critical mass of information so it was necessary to review editorial board web pages in the DOAJ. Due to time constraints, the group didn't extend the manual process to all titles, but we did develop a critical mass of data, identifying over 150 journals and over 280 editors.

Next Steps

The project needs to identify the sustainability issues OA publishers are facing on our campuses. To that end, a survey was developed that was distributed to GWLA. At the March GWLA Membership Meeting it was decided that each campus would determine the best way to approach their faculty editors. The deadline for response was set at May 19, 2007.

The survey will provide the information that determines what steps GWLA can take to insure that open access publishing efforts can be sustained. Following from that, the Task Force will determine if those processes and systems used to sustain the OA efforts can be extended to print publications that may be at risk of being acquired by commercial publishers.

The survey should be completed soon. Once complete the results will be analyzed to determine problems or synergies (similar publishing processes, platforms, digital archiving, etc.). The Task Force will review OA publishing efforts at other institutions (Michigan, MIT, etc.) and will make recommendations on steps needed to develop a model for assisting local journal editors in sustaining open access by the Fall GWLA Membership Meeting. The GWLA Collection Development Committee volunteered to complete, during the summer, a full review of DOAJ to get a comprehensive list of all Open Access activity on GWLA campuses.

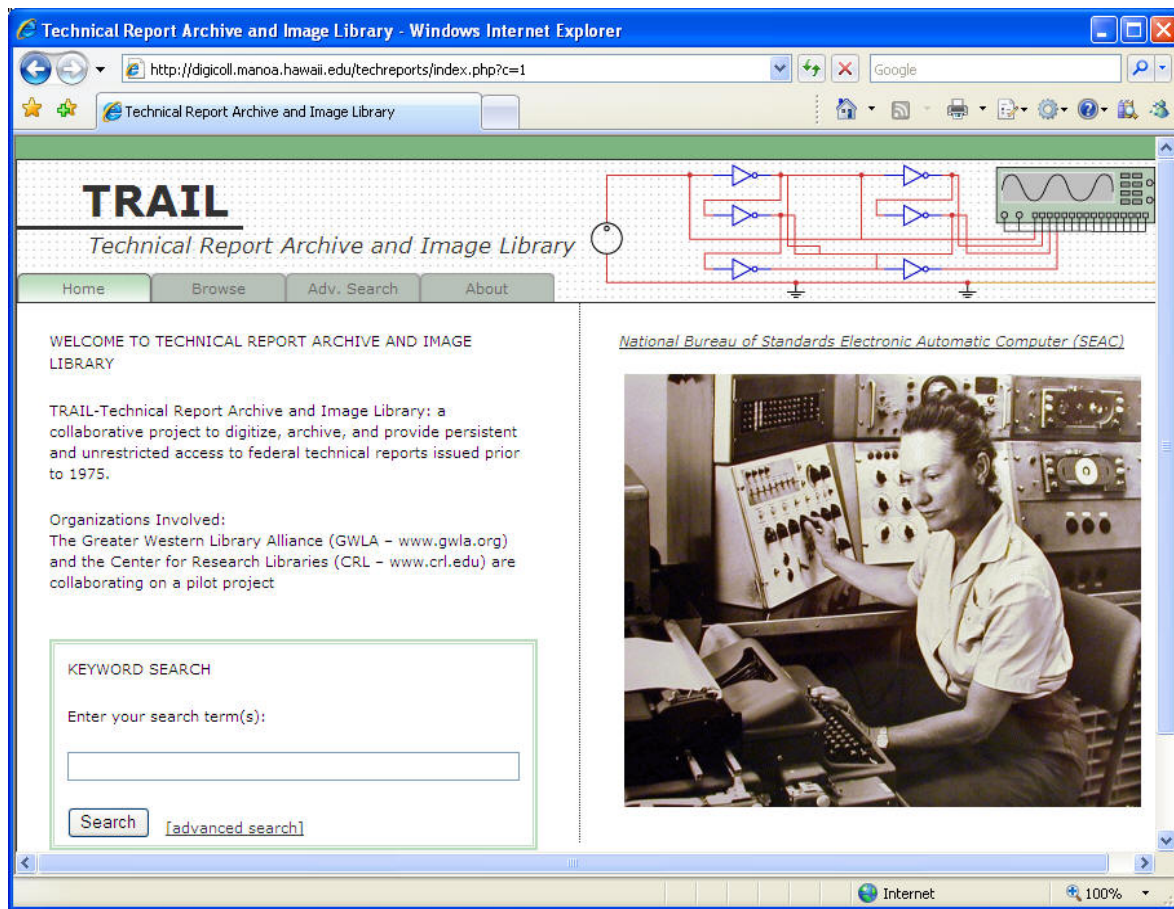
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GWLA TECHNICAL REPORTS PRESERVATION TASK FORCE

By Alice Trussell, Kansas State University

The challenges surrounding access to federal technical reports have long been known to science and engineering librarians. For many of us, they were more akin to the infamous “mystery meat”: you knew something was there but you didn’t know exactly what it was or how to identify it. Librarians at the University of Arizona spearheaded an effort to see whether other librarians were interested in working to resolve the access problem. Their efforts resulted in a project in which GWLA is partnering with [CRL](#) to craft a trial project that would digitize a body of selected reports. In spring 2006, GWLA approved a strategy to “develop a collaborative project with the Center for Research Libraries to identify, digitize, archive, and provide persistent and unrestricted access to federal technical reports issued prior to 1975.” A talented task force was appointed to investigate and implement the project.

CRL hosted an organizational meeting of the task force in August 2006. In addition to task force members, there were representatives from CRL, GWLA, and [GPO](#). Many things were accomplished in the two days of the task force meeting that simply could not have been



accomplished otherwise. The organizers outlined objectives that included completing a prototype collection by March 2007, developing a cost model and implementation plan for ongoing efforts, and gaining stakeholder approval (GWLA & CRL). They reviewed the task force's charge, identified specific collections for the prototype project, and designed an aggressive timeline to meet the deadlines. The organizers developed a Gantt chart, assigned tasks, and discussed ideas for long-range models. Copyright issues were of particular emphasis in the conversation. The collections the organizers chose were US government works and items produced prior to 1977 that do not include a copyright notice. In January 2007 a follow-up two-day meeting was held in Kansas City. Weekly conference calls since August have kept the work on track.

Streetprint is the platform chosen to build the database upon. It is open-source software with enough technical depth and tools to create a viable database. The University of Hawaii at Manoa has provided an enormous amount of work creating the website and loading the digitized files. Linda Hall Library volunteered to help with the initial efforts of the page digitization, but a large quantity of material was later outsourced to provide realistic cost models as well as realistic technical challenges in dealing with vendors. The prototype website at

<http://digicoll.manoa.hawaii.edu/techreports/index.php> displays the tangible results of the efforts. The National Bureau of Standards Monograph Series and a small set of Atomic Energy Commission Division of Biology and Medicine reports were also selected to provide a variety of content as well as additional technical challenges for the digitization process.

The technical aspects of digitization received conscientious care and attention. GPO Specifications for Digitization and Quality Control were chosen as standards to insure quality in the final product. For preservation aspects, an archival quality TIFF file was created, and a PDF version is used for viewing purposes. Redundancy is built into the structure to insure ongoing preservation and access. Two host institutions will serve as repository sites to store the TIFF files, and 2 mirror sites will host the public access side of the PDF files. The TIFF files will always be available should the PDF files be corrupted and a new copy needs to be made. Paper files will also be maintained.

Check out the [website](#) and see what wonderful work this GWLA/CRL task force has done!

Last Update: July 1, 2007

Webmaster: [Webmaster](#)

URL: www.gwla.org/newsletters/spring2007.htm