Projects World Digital Library Guidelines

Projects

From World Digital Library Guidelines Wiki

Meeting Minutes and Related Documents

March 2008, Berlin

- Minutes from 3rd Working Group meeting
- Latest version of Guidelines as of the close of the meeting on March 4, 2008
- Updated outline / bullet scheme agreed to on March 3, 2008

August 2007, Durban

- Minutes from 2nd Working Group meeting

May 2007, Washington, DC

- Minutes from 1st Working Group meeting
- Results from brainstorming session. This document is the beginning of an outline for the guidelines.
- Outline captured on camera

Resources

A Framework of Guidance for Building Good Digital Collections. 3rd edition. Bethesda, MD: National Information Standards Organization, 2007. NISO Framework Advisory Group. http://www.niso.org/framework/framework/framework3.pdf

Guidance on the Structure, Content, and Application of Metadata Records for Digital Resources and Collections. Report of the IFLA Cataloguing Section Working Group on the Use of Metadata Schemas http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/guide/metaguide03.pdf

Requirements for Digital Preservation Systems: A Bottom-Up Approach. D-Lib Magazine. November 2005. http://www.dlib.org/dlib/november05/rosenthal/11rosenthal.html

Digital Libraries: Resources and Projects. http://www.ifla.org/II/diglib.htm

University of Wisconsin Digital Collection Center: General Resources for Content Providers. http://uwdcc.library.wisc.edu/contentProv/index.shtml

Metadata Decisions Survey

Online survey results (not including those sent from email) [1]

Survey sent out on 2007-10-03 to IFLA-L[2]

Pre-test results and revised questionnaire[3]

Retrieved from "http://www.worlddigitallibrary.org/wiki/practices/index.php/Projects"

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Minutes of the IFLA Working Group on Guidelines for Digital Libraries 3rd Meeting

Meeting dates: March 3-4, 2008 Location: Berlin City Library

Present: Allene Hayes, Catherine Lupovici, Claudia Lux, Dale Peters, Jaesun Lee, Marcia Zeng, Michelle Rago, Ingeborg Verheul, Simone Bastos Vieira, Winston Roberts

*** The three asterisks indicate an action item. We all have tasks to complete in relation to the Guidelines, but there were a few specific actions assigned during the meeting.

Digital Library Manifesto

Claudia reported that the Digital Library Manifesto has been enthusiastically received by the Governing Board. The Manifesto should serve as the basis for the Guidelines.

Working Group (WG) Membership Changes

Elsbeth Tank has left her position at the Danish Library for the Blind and is no longer a member of this Working Group (WG). The new member will be one of the following:

- Bente Dahl Rathje, Chief Consultant, The Danish National Library for the Blind and Print Disabled / Chair of Libraries for the Blind Section, IFLA (BDR@dbb.dk)
- Koen Krikhaar Dedicon (kkrikhaar@dedicon.nl)

*** Bente and Koen will let Claudia know which of them will join the group and Claudia will let us know.

World Digital Library (WDL) Presentation

Michelle demonstrated the World Digital Library (WDL) prototype.

The following issues were discussed during the presentation:

- Cautions as to the use of color/contrast in terms of accessibility and internationalization/localization
- Difficulty of effectively transmitting video in some regions
- Cataloging at the level of items or collections. Cataloging at the item level allows for more precise browsing and searching, but is more costly to produce. Europeana has dealt with the same question.
- Scalability of browsing features
- Project site is http://www.worlddigitallibrary.org.

Europeana (European Digital Library) Presentation

Catherine demonstrated the Europeana maguette.

- The Europeana prototype will launch in November of 2008 with 2 million items.
- Requirements for content providers are online at http://www.europeana.eu/content_providers.html.
- The maquette and other project resources are available at http://www.europeana.eu/content_providers.html.

Minutes of the 2nd WG Meeting in Durban

No comments on the Durban meeting minutes.

Status of Digital Libraries IFLA Special Interest Group (SIG)

We discussed the advantages, disadvantages, and timing of establishing the Special Interest Group (SIG). Establishing the SIG could raise issues that have already been addressed in the Guidelines.

Several sections are interested in sponsoring the SIG:

- Academic and Research Libraries
- IT
- Preservation
- National Libraries

We should align the SIG with the section that will provide the most input.

It was decided that we will not act on the establishment of a SIG until the Guidelines are in draft form. This WG can be active during the Guidelines draft and revision process. The WG can host a large session to discuss the draft document (in person at IFLA and virtual follow-up). This is what was done for the public libraries draft.

Evaluation and Confirmation of the Bullet Scheme

Bullet scheme (outline) was revised, accepted, and sent to WG members.

Evaluation and Confirmation of the Audience, Tone, Level of Detail, etc.

Clarify audience. The Guidelines should provide lessons learned and should be *acceptable* to large research libraries and *useful* to institutions in developing regions.

The Guidelines should be based on best practices established by larger, more experienced libraries with a focus on helping institutions that don't have extensive digital library experience.

The Guidelines are a resource for the practitioner and/or policymaker to influence and educate others (e.g., politicians) and to provide justification for resources.

The Guidelines should focus on best practices for particular issues and should not be a report on the issues.

Evaluation of the Wiki

Only a few of us have used the wiki.

We will send drafts to the group via e-mail and also post drafts to the wiki.

If you are having trouble uploading documents then send your document to Michelle for uploading.

If you plan to use the wiki as a workspace prior to delivering your first draft, provide a deadline for review and comment.

*** Michelle will send a reminder to all about access to the wiki and instructions for using the wiki.

Contents of Guidelines

Structure

The following structure was adopted.

Main text elements + authors:

- Foreword (Claudia)
- Acknowledgements (?)
- Introduction (Winston, Ingeborg)
- Summary of recommendations (Winston)
- Table of contents: (Winston)
- Chapter 1: The purpose of a digital library (Winston, Ingeborg)
- Chapter 2: The purpose of these Guidelines (Winston, Ingeborg)
- Chapter 3: Selection and Management of Content (Dale, Simone)
- Chapter 4: Metadata (Jaesun, Marcia, Allene)
- Chapter 5: Technological issues and workflow (Dale, Catherine)
- Chapter 6: Service requirements (Catherine, Michelle)
- Chapter 7: Organisation and management (Ingeborg, Winston, Simone)
- Chapter 8: Governance (Ingeborg, Winston, Michelle)
- Annexes (Winston to compile using input from WG members)
 - Text of the Manifesto
 - o Glossarv
 - References
 - Resources
 - Templates
- List of graphics
- Index

The following chapter structure was adopted:

- 1. Objective
- 2. Definitions
- 3. Implementation of [] in a Digital Library

- 4. Functional Requirements
- 5. Practical Steps (textual and graphical decision tree/flow)
- 6. Recommendations
- Numbers 4, 5, and 6 should include examples from digital library projects.
- We should include staffing information in each chapter.
- Provide resources and definitions for your areas of responsibility.
- Note when sections of your draft should be in an annex.
- We should use the "The Public Library Service: the IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines for Development" (http://www.ifla.org/VII/s8/proj/publ97.pdf) as an example for structure, inclusion of relevant legislation, and inclusion of public library manifesto.
- Number 3 (Implementation) should focus on embedding this activity within an organization. What is the plan? Who are the stakeholders? What are the policies?
- All recommendations for each chapter will be aggregated to form an executive summary.

We will determine how resources and definitions should be aggregated after submission of first drafts. Links to resources will be easier to update if they are in one section of the document.

Members discussed how to handle inquiries during the draft process and after the Guidelines have been accepted. Suggestions include:

- Work toward community model. Allow/encourage users to provide examples, case studies, and comments online.
- After the Acknowledgments we could add "How to contribute" which would provide contact information for IFLA HQ. *** Winston will check with IFLA professional coordinator on procedures for sending comments.

Discussion of Each Chapter

Each group provided an update on the status of their chapters.

Submit any suggestions to Winston as to what should be in Claudia's foreword.

The metadata team provided a thorough chapter for the group's consideration. This led to the new chapter structure outlined above.

The group discussed the difficulty of providing a core set of metadata elements even though the utility of this is recognized.

Several group members reported revised chapter outlines. *** All members should verify that the latest version of the Guidelines sent by Winston on March 4, 2008 represents their updated chapter outlines.

Development, Length, and Style

Winston will bring content together from the various groups.

The length of the Guidelines was discussed. Members noted the difficulty in limiting the text for complex issues. The final version could be 20-50 pages, excluding the annexes.

Don't worry about length at this stage. Decisions can be made after the first drafts are received.

Tables and graphics should be numbered from the beginning of the document.

We can use any numbering scheme while writing. We should strip out the numbers before submitting a first draft.

Use "object" or "digital object."

Don't use DL to refer to "digital library."

*** Claudia will check with UNESCO on whether or not we must abide by any UNESCO documentation specifications.

Next Steps / Schedule

By March 31, 2008:

First drafts of chapters must be circulated among each writing team via e-mail.

By April 28, 2008:

First drafts of chapters must be submitted to entire WG via e-mail and posted to the wiki.

By May 14, 2008:

Winston will edit first draft of Guidelines and then send to the WG for quick comments.

By May 30, 2008:

First draft completed. Comments will be solicited via the IFLA list and IFLA's site. The WLIC session to discuss the Guidelines will also be announced to the list.

By June 30, 2008:

All public comments received.

July/August 2008:

A second draft will be produced for WLIC 2008. The second draft will also be posted to the IFLA list. An open session to discuss the Guidelines will be conducted at WLIC in Quebec. This session will be announced on the IFLA list along with the calls for comments. Sunday, August 10 might be a good day for the session. We will also announce the session and the Guidelines in the IFLA Express as well as attend section meetings to publicize.

By September 30, 2008:

Third draft produced.

IFLA Working Group on Digital Libraries

IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines for Digital Libraries

Outline structure / breakdown of contents (based on the revised scheme agreed at the Berlin meeting of the Working Group, 3-4 March 2008)

(Status: Tuesday 4 March, end of the day)

Notes:

- Length:

o up to 50 pages (whether this figure includes the annexes is not yet clear).

- Audience:

 administrators, policy staff and technical project staff in large and small library institutions, in developing as well as developed countries.

Approach :

High-level, user-focused, forward-looking;

 The Guidelines may occasionally refer to the existence of political issues but not to discuss these in any detail;

 The strategic aim is to contribute evidence that may help convince decision-makers of the importance of supporting digital libraries because of their value in terms of cultural, educational and information policy;

 Striking a balance between the item apporach and the collection approach;

Striking a balance between theoretical and practical advice.

- Level:

 high-level requirements, which can be adjusted to specific digital library projects;

 the guidelines should be 'scaleable' (comprehensive enough to be useful to large research libraries, but able to be adapted for use by smaller libraries and libraries more focused on public access);

- Focus:

 Primarily focused on access to digital materials (whether born digital or the product of digitisation of non-digital and older materials) for the purposes of information and education;

 But also refers to the requirements for preservation (of both digitally archived material and original material on older conventional carriers) in a way which is technically credible and culturally responsible.

- Presentation:

o The text must be readable (not too dense, plenty of white space)

 Text elements must be findable (a suitable section numbering system will be applied)

- o Graphics will be used for clarity in some cases (e.g. decision trees); they will be numbered (fig. 1, fig. 2, etc)
- Main text elements + authors:
 - o Foreword (Claudia)
 - Acknowledgements (to be confirmed may be part of the foreword?)
 - o Introduction (Winston, Ingeborg)
 - Summary of recommendations [brings together the recommendations at the end of the various chapters] (Winston to compile after text is complete)
 - o Table of contents: (Winston to finalise after text is complete)
 - o Chapter 1: The purpose of a digital library (Winston, Ingeborg)
 - o Chapter 2: The purpose of these Guidelines (Winston, Ingeborg)
 - o Chapter 3: Selection and Management of Content (Dale, Simone)
 - o Chapter 4: Metadata (Jaesun, Marcia, Allene)
 - o Chapter 5: Technological issues and workflow (Dale, Catherine)
 - o Chapter 6: Service requirements (Catherine, Michele)
 - o Chapter 7: Organisation and management (Ingeborg, Winston, Simone)
 - o Chapter 8: Governance (Ingeborg, Winston, Michelle)
 - Annexes (Winston to compile using input from WG members)
 - Text of the Manifesto
 - Glossary
 - References
 - Resources
 - Templates
 - List of graphics
 - Index (Winston to arrange for production by a specialist)
- Internal structure:
 - Each chapter will follow this pattern (where possible):
 - Objective
 - Definitions
 - Implementation of the [chapter topic] in the [name] digital library, and examples in other libraries or projects
 - Functional requirements, and examples in specific libraries or projects
 - Practical steps including a decision tree, and examples in specific libraries or projects
 - Recommendations
 - The annexes giving terms, references and resources corresponding to the chapters will follow the same structure.
- Style guide:
 - o 'digital library' will not be abbreviated to DL
 - 'object' or 'digital object' (according to the context) will be used instead of 'document' - >>>> GLOSSARY

Foreword

by Clauda Lux, President of IFLA

(The IFLA Working Group on Digital Libraries was first proposed by

The proposal was endorsed by the Governing Board of IFLA in

.....
etc?)

(Suggestions: include brief references to such matters as:

- the importance of digital libraries
- current uncertainty about the 'best' solutions to a number of key issues: the situation is evolving..
- relationship with UNESCO
- the desire of IFLA to address issues important to all its members
- the need to keep the Guidelines up to date..

Acknowledgements

IFLA's thanks are due to the Library of Congress for its generous support for two meetings of the Working Group, and for hosting the May 2007 meeting; to the Zentral-und Landesbibliothek Berlin for hosting the March 2008 meeting; and to the various libraries which lent IFLA the services of their employees to take part in the planning and drafting of the Manifesto and the Guidelines.

Thanks go also to Mary Rhoads of the Library of Congress for her efficient help with meeting logistics.

UNESCO.....

Staff of the WDL and TEL.....

Members of the IFLA Working Group

Simone Bastos - Senate Library, Brasilia

Allene Hayes - Library of Congress, Washington DC
Jaesun Lee - National Library of Korea, Seoul

Catherine Lupovici - formerly of the Bibliotheque Nationale de France, Paris;

now at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague, for The

European Library

Claudia Lux - Zentral- und Landesbibliothek Berlin

Dale Peters - formerly of DISA, University of KwaZulu, Natal, South

Africa; now at the University of Goettingen, Germany

Michelle Rago - Library of Congress, Washington DC

Winston Roberts - National Library of New Zealand, Wellington - editor

Ingeborg Verheul - Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague

Marcia Zeng - Kent State University,

Contributions to the work of the group were also made from time to time by

Address of IFLA Headquarters for all comments regarding these Guidelines:

See www.ifla.org

Or write to info@ifla.org for the attention of the Coordinator of Professional Activities, or write to:

IFLA Headquarters,

PO Box

The Hague,

The Netherlands

Fax

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The Governing Board of IFLA defined the mandate of the Working Group on Digital Libraries as follows:

Introduction

The Working Group had to grapple with a number of difficult issues in relation to the objectives of digital libraries and the approach to be taken in the Guidelines. Some of the issues were:

The first drafts of the Guidelines were placed on IFLANet for consultation with the worldwide professional community in 2008, and presented at the World Library and Information Congress of IFLA in August 2008, in Quebec City. The final version of the Guidelines was approved by IFLA and UNESCO in

The text is presented as clearly as possible, and the most important terminology is defined, with the intention of facilitating translation into many languages. The Working Group has tried to avoid culturally-defined assumptions about the nature and purpose of digital libraries, and has consulted widely on successive drafts.

The Guidelines will be revised from time to time. Users of the Guidelines are welcome to send their comments and suggestions on the text to IFLA Headquarters at any time. Reports of experience with implementing the recommendations would also be welcomed.

Summary of Recommendations

[compilation of recommendations from the chapters]

Chapter I - The purpose of a digital library

The IFLA Manifesto for the Digital Library (see Annex 1) defines a digital library as "an online collection of digital objects, of assured quality, that is created or collected and managed according to internationally accepted principles for collection development and made accessible in a coherent and sustainable manner, supported by *services* necessary to allow users to retrieve and exploit the resources."

The purpose of a digital library is for wide access to information – the intellectual content of digital documents and objects - by those who need it. For this purpose, digital libraries may be composed of born-digital documents, or those which are the product of digitisation of documents whose information content was inscribed or carried on any one of a number of types of physical materials. The digitisation of such content, on physical carriers which may be fragile, damaged or otherwise endangered, often provides the opportunity to take measures to preserve the original.

Conversely, IFLA believes that projects to digitise fragile materials should not be undertaken without first ensuring that the technical quality of the resulting digital product will meet standards allowing it to be incorporated into a digital library.

A digital library is not to be confused with the results of a digitisation programme, though it may draw on the products of such a programme for content, provided that the digital objects in question were produced according to sufficiently rigorous standards.

Political aspects:

Digital access to documents and information may offer the general public and researchers of more than one nation, territory or state access to physical material which they collectively regard as their cultural heritage.

In some cases, digital technology may in practice provide members of a particular community with virtual access to the content of a document, if not to the actual physical original, which it may consider to be its property of which it had previously been deprived. If a community, once made aware of the existence and the location of a physical document or object which it considers part of its cultural heritage, then lays formal claim to it, the possibility of 'virtual repatriation' of the content of the document or object to which this community lays claim may not necessarily be regarded by it as an adequate substitute for actual physical repatriation.

Such matters are beyond the scope of the IFLA Guidelines; however IFLA can use its good offices to facilitate discussions among the libraries and other cultural institutions and organisations of the communities and other parties concerned, if and when such cases arise.

Digital libraries are an international resource. To that extent they may support education and information programmes underway in developing countries. The selection of content

for digital libraries also offers opportunities for partnerships between cultural institutions and authorities in developed and developing countries. Any wider issues that may arise in this context, such as transfer of technology and intellectual property rights, are beyond the scope of these Guidelines.

Social policy aspects:

For digital libraries to be effectively available for access by all communities, and all groups within a community, regardless of their level of economic resources, their degree of isolation from large population centres, or other contingencies, it is necessary that consumers also have affordable access to the infrastructure and skills required. UNESCO and IFLA therefore urge governmental authorities at national and local level to provide high-speed broadband networks covering the whole of the territory they are responsible for, reaching into communities (particularly to homes, educational facilities and enterprises), and actively to promote training in the use of relevant ICT applications within communities.

Community attitudes to ICT, new media and social networking are often significant factors determining the speed of take-up of increased connectivity and new opportunities for learning. Where confidence is lacking, public and school libraries can often help to boost skills and confidence, by socialising new concepts and providing training in new ICT applications. Access to the rich content available in digital libraries is a strong motivating factor.

Technological aspects:

- · Hardware requirements?
- · Speeds?
- Costs? [consider if this is the right place to address this issue..]
- Solutions?
- Public/private sector collaboration..

Chapter II – The purpose of these Guidelines

The Guidelines take as their starting point the IFLA Manifesto for the Digital Library (2008), which asserts that digital libraries are a means for providing that free access to information the principle of which is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which lies at the heart of UNESCO's work and of the profession of librarianship, and which was endorsed by the World Summit on the Information Society.

The purpose of the Guidelines is to offer general guidance and advice on the practical application of the Manifesto principles in both policy and technical areas, on the basis of the developing international consensus on best practice in these matters.

International level:

International organisations (governmental and non-governmental)

UN ICT Taskforce

UNESCO

ITU - WSIS (quotations from the WSIS Principles re access to information, cultural and linguistic diversity, intellectual property and access to telecoms infrastructure)

Private sector initiatives.... Consortia (RLG,)

Existing international and regional digital libraries:

EU policy statements...

Europeana

World Digital Library

The proposed Singapore/New Zealand initiative

Other examples of regional and/or bilateral initiatives...

National level:

A brief analysis of the reasons that led to the development of some particular national examples of digital libraries reveals that

(examples used: Memory of America; Het Geheugen van Nederland; Gallica; the New Zealand 'National Digital Heritage Archive', etc.)

Incorporation into national e-strategies:

US examples: CLIR, NCLIS, DFC initiatives and recommendations.....
NZ example: the NDHA incorporated into the New Zealand government's 'Digital Strategy' and 'Digital Content Strategy' [text in here...]

Chapter III - Selection and management of content

- 1. According to origin (born digital or the product of a digitisation programme).
- 2. According to type of material (text, graphic material, sound, or a combination)
- 3. According to type of user or audience (researchers, general public)
- 4. Selection criteria (with examples of sets of criteria):
 - criteria for different types of digital library
- 5. Intellectual property rights management issues:
 - · Older, public-domain material
 - · Negotiating licensed access to material in copyright
 - i. New models: Creative commons?
 - Cultural property issues, including indigenous IP.
- 6. Sources of content:
 - Single institution?
 - Multiple institutions?

The Guidelines are intended to be inclusive rather than exclusive, recognising that there are different digital library models, responding to different cultural imperatives, institutional mandates and objectives, and levels of resourcing.

The Guidelines are intended to be useful as 'metaguidelines' – to provide an internationally agreed framework for more detailed instructions that institutions creating digital libraries may want to issue to their developers.

The Guidelines are based on the experiences of library institutions in different countries, which have developed their digital libraries as they have gone along, in many cases learning from each other as they traversed what was until quite recently uncharted territory.

The Guidelines are intended to encourage scaleable development of digital libraries; or, to put it more simply: IFLA believes that it is often more practical for libraries to start by seeking limited solutions employing the resources that are available, rather than going straight into very ambitious projects. Small-scale projects can grow.

These Guidelines are for policy developers as well as for technical designers. IFLA hopes that they will be useful to libraries in all regions of the world and in all countries, at whatever stage of economic development they may be. However, that there are certain minimum technical requirements in terms of hardware and software which must be met as a pre-condition for any digital library initiative. It is also necessary for an institution planning a digital library – other than a limited in-house project – to have access to a high-speed broadband network.

Structure of the Guidelines.

While the Guidelines are high-level, they do devote a whole chapter to the production of metadata: good metadata are of critical importance to any digital library

An effort has been made not to overburden the text with notes, definitions, comments on resources, and so on. Such material has generally been placed in annexes.

The structure of each chapter follows a standard pattern, as far as possible:

- 2. objective
- 3. definitions
- 4. implementation of x n DLs and examples in other libraries / projects
- 5. functional requirements and examples
- 6. practical steps and examples
- 7. recommendations

<u>Cultural policies and strategies relevant to digital libraries</u>: (scope note: key documents only, with selective quotation – a comprehensive list can go in the annex on resources)

- · Selective or comprehensive?
- 7. Collection development:
 - · Agreements on cooperation, re-use, sharing

Chapter IV - Metadata

- 1 Metadata decision in the design and planning of digital projects
 - 1.1 Metadata principles
 - 1.2 Functional requirements of metadata
 - 1.3 Workflows
 - 1.4 Decision trees
 - 1.5 Related technologies
 - 1.6 Examples
 - 1.7 other
- 2. Metadata Element Sets and Application Profiles (= data structure)
 - 2.1 Metadata standards
 - 2.2 Considerations in selecting a standard to use
 - 2.3 Construction application profiles
 - 2.4 Construction crosswalks
 - 2.5 Metadata scheme and crosswalk registries
 - 2.6 Other issues
- 3. Data contents in a record (data content decision)
 - 3.1 Core elements
 - 3.2 Value spaces
 - 3.3 Data content standards and best practices
 - 3.4 Other issues
- 4 Authority files and controlled vocabularies (data value decision)
 - 4.1 Adopting existing value encoding schemes
 - 4.2 Establishing your own authority files for names
 - 4.3 Developing controlled vocabularies
 - 4.4 Maintaining authority files and controlled vocabularies
 - 4.5 Vocabulary tools and Web services
 - 4.6 Other issues
- 5 Metadata encoding (= data format/technical interchange decisions)
 - 5.1 Universal and widely used encoding formats
 - 5.2 Examples of encoded records
 - 5.3 Tools for encoding and converting records
- 6 Maximizing metadata
 - 6.1 Metadata repositories
 - 6.2 Exposing metadata to OAI harvesters
 - 6.3 Other methods

Chapter V – Technological issues and workflow

1. Encoding.

- 2. Digitisation.
- 3. Minimum technical requirements.
- 4. Standards (for interoperability, for public access).
- 5. Staff skill requirements.
- 6. Workflow.
- 7. Quality control and automatic data validation.

Chapter VI - Service requirements

- 1. Legal context; accountability.
- 2. Requirements for enduring access.
- 3. Requirements for accessibility.
- 4. Requirements for digital archiving / preservation.
- 5. Selection criteria for digitisation.
- 6. Staffing.

Chapter VII - Organisation and management

- 1. Different business models
- 2. Organisation / project management.
- 3. Resources required (including staffing and training) budgeting.
- 4. Planning for embedding the DL in normal day to day operations ('business as usual').
- 5. Implementation phases.
- 6. Relations between partners.
- 7. Evaluation statistics.
- 8. Usability for target audience(s).
- 9. Usefulness to contributors and partner institutions.
- 10. Viability: costs vs benefits.
- 11. Marketing and promotion.

Chapter VIII - Governance

- 1. Managing relations among stakeholders (private sector sponsors? Community leaders? national governments? UNESCO?)
- 2. Governance structures
- 3. Sustainability:
 - financial (funding: public or private? various partnership models)
 - technological

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Annex 1

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[drop approved text in here]

The IFLA/UNESCO Manifesto for the Digital Library

2nd Meeting Working Group IFLA UNESCO Guidelines digital libraries August 21st, ICC – Durban South Africa

Present: Allene Hayes, Catherine Lupovici, Claudia Lux, Dale Peters, Jaesun Lee, Marcia Zeng, Michelle Rago, Ingeborg Verheul, Simone Vieira. Absent with notice: Winston Roberts

Members Working Group:

Claudia will check with Elisabeth Tank and Olga Ustinova if they are still interested in participating in the Working Group. There has been some non-communication after they missed the first meeting. Renate Goempel (ICABS) won't join the Working Group. Ingeborg will report to ICABS Board.

Catherine Lupovici will be the program manager of The European Digital Library. Here new e-mail address as of September 1st is: <u>Catherine.lupovici@kb.nl</u>

Manifesto on Digital Libraries vs. Guidelines

After the last meeting a small working group worked on the first draft version of the IFLA/UNESCO Manifesto on Digital libraries.

Claudia has presented a draft version to the IFLA General Board. They were very satisfied with the text and had only some slight amendments. Claudia checks if correct final version was used (version Draft 6.0 - 26-6-2007) and will discuss amendments with Ingeborg.

The next step will be to send the draft to UNESCO. Approval will take some time. Ingeborg will forward the final draft to the Working Group members.

The manifesto has a political purpose and is meant for countries/librarians that need to convince their governments of the importance of digitization and building digital libraries.

The guidelines for digital libraries will be used as a document to get started, when libraries have planned to set up their own digital library.

Wiki at WDL website

Michelle will provide a wiki at WDL. The basic text of the guidelines will be placed on this wiki, so that all working group members can work in the same document.

The wiki will be available a.s.a.p. Beginning September (?).

Michelle will forward link as soon as the wiki is available.

Set up Guidelines

The Bullit Scheme from the 1st brain storm session will be used as a model (see e-mail Ingeborg – Bullits versions draft 0.1 – July 12, 2007).

The second model (the extended bullit scheme based on the UNESCO Guidelines for digital preservation – see also mail Ingeborg) will used as a background model.

The following text model will be used to write the texts:

- 1. Objectives
- 2. Target audience
- 3. Definitions
- 4. Issues specific to the topic (functions; technical aspects etc).
- 5. Practical steps

The nature of the Guidelines will be: short; deep = concrete/practical, not theoretical deep. We will focus on high level requirements that have to be adjusted to specific projects. The guidelines have to be usable for all levels.

Integration WDL in Guidelines:

There will be a final check if the first set up of the Guidelines covers all WDL topics as well. If there are topics missing, we can discuss if it's necessary to integrate them. If possible WDL (but also EDL) will be used as examples.

Specific bullits:

All participants will work out their specific topics.

As to II Content – Selection IPM: this section covers Intellectual Property Management (also called IPR) and collection management.

As to III Content – Metadata: Marcia and Jeasun will set out a questionnaire on metadata. The draft will be forwarded to the working group members (to set out in their own organisation) and amongst the IFLA Cataloging Section Members. The questionnaire will be in English only.

Publicity and next steps:

In next Friday's section meetings, all working group members will present the progress of the working group. Documents to use: press release IFLA on first Working group Meeting and First Bullit Draft (both attached here).

The first draft version of the Guidelines will be presented and discussed at IFLA WLIC 2008 in Quebeck. The draft will be sent to all sections, early June 2008. In Quebeck a 2hrs open discussion session will take place. Model: short presentation (5/10 minutes) + open discussion. Provide copies; make notes of changes; ask audience for agreement on comments.

Claudia will arrange a location; Ingeborg will take care of practical organisation.

At IFLA WLIC 2009 in Milan the final version will be presented officially.

Planning:

September 2007:	Wiki available	Action: Michelle
End of September 2007:	E-mail reminder	Action: Winston
End of November 2007:	E-mail reminder	Action: Winston
December 3 rd 2007:	Editing first draft	Action: Winston/Ingeborg (in New Zealand)
End of December 2007:	First draft available	
1st Week February 2008:	Meeting in Europe	Action: Michelle/Allene/Donna Wilson?
Early June 2008:	First draft to Section	S
August 2008:	Open discussion Sections	
August 2009:	Final version presentation	

Prototype WDL:

Michelle has presented a prototype of the WDL. It looks very promising.

The prototype will be presented at the UNESCO Meeting in Paris in November 2007.

IFLA Special Interest Group Digital Libraries:

Last Monday an informal meeting took place for people involved in national digitization programs for cultural heritage (Memoria Chilena; American Memory; DISA; Memory of the Netherlands, Picture Australia etc.). The purpose of this meeting was to share information on the projects and to see if a better way can be found to share information at IFLA. Up till now IFLA lacks a group that pays special attention to digital libraries or digital activities in libraries. For this specific group it is not only Metadata or Digital Preservation that matters. Also Access and Context creation are important issues.

To establish more cooperation, we would like to establish a Special Interest Group on digital libraries (or: digitizing initiatives in libraries), which will focus on emerging activities in libraries to build digital libraries, to establish portals for digitized cultural heritage in the ALM-sector on a national and international level and to carry out national digitization programs.

All working group members support the idea to initiate such an Special Interest Group.

Since a Special Interest Group has to be attached to a Section, we will ask the Sections that support the Working Group Guidelines, if they are interested in supporting.

Ingeborg will write a short proposal. Claudia will produce a list of all Sections (and core activities) that are represented in the Working Group.

1st meeting Working Group Guidelines Digital Libraries, May 4th, LoC - Washington DC

On May 4th 2007 the first meeting of the IFLA/UNESCO Working Group for Guidelines on Digital Libraries took place in the Library of Congress, Washington DC. This meeting was facilitated by the Library of Congress World Digital Library Initiative.

Participants

Allene Hayes Library of Congress (Library Services)

Jaesun Lee National Library of Korea

Catherine Lupovici Bibliotheque nationale de France

Claudia Lux Zentral- und Landesbibliothek, Berlin / IFLA

John Vanoudenaerde Library of Congress (WDL)
Dale Peters Digital Imaging South Africa
Michelle Rego Library of Congress (OSI, WDL)
Winston Roberts National Library of New Zealand

Ingeborg Verheul Koninklijke Bibliotheek

Simone Vieira Federal Senate Library of Brazil
Donna Wilson Library of Congress (OSI, WDL)

Marcia Zeng Kent State Univerity

Background information

A growing number of libraries is taking up digitisation initiatives. More and more libraries are expected to start building their own digital libraries. At the same time, libraries need to share their digitising expertise and their digital collections with other scientific and cultural heritage institutions on a national and international level. In the future sharing digital material will be important. Therefore it will be necessary to work according to best practices and common standards, in order to be able to achieve this in the near future.

As had been done on the topic of digital preservation, IFLA/UNESCO should provide a platform to provide a set of recommendations and guidelines, also to help libraries to move forward on a strategic level. Currently IFLA lacks a central group for digitising and digitising best practices. The idea to start a working group on digital libraries was suggested to the IFLA Governing Board by LoC's Deanna Marcum.

At the LoC's World Digital Library Initiative (the UNESCO Paris December 2006 Meeting) IFLA presented the idea to form a Working Group on Guidelines for Digital Libraries, in which several IFLA Sections are represented, in order to set up a general guideline, based on best practices, with recommendations on the different aspects of a digital library to help libraries to get started to build, publish/give access to and to share digital collections in a standardised way.

Working Groups

The Working Group on Guidelines for Digital Libraries is one of the four IFLA working groups that were established during the UNESCO Paris Meeting. It will be primarily a stand alone IFLA/UNESCO working group. The group will be practically supported by the WDL, and in return WDL hopes to benefit from the results/outcomes.

Around WDL there eventually will be 4 IFLA-related working groups:

- 1. Selection and content working group (not yet esthablished)
- 2. User research outreach & marketing group (idem)

- 3. Technical architectural working group (specificly for WDL) April 07
- 4. Best practices working group = IFLA Working Group on Guidelines for Digital Libraries.

Goal of the Working Group

The goal of this working group is to establish general guidelines on digital libraries (building, embedding, managing of), based on best practices.

IFLA/UNESCO Manifesto on Digital Libraries

At UNESCO Paris Meeting (dec. 06) it was also decided to write an IFLA/UNESCO Manifesto on Digital Libraries, in order to enable libraries, that are not allowed by their governments, or that need to get support and/or funding from their governments, to develop digital libraries. It will be mainly a political document. Closely connected to the other IFLA manifesto's. The Manifesto will be political. No concrete information on digital libraries. A draft version has been prepared. The Working Group on Guidelines for Digital Libraries will take up this Manifesto.

The Guidelines:

The Guidelines have to be non political or political and technical neutral. With sustainable content. The Guidelines have to be a planning & decision making tool (for the decision makers). At the same time, the Guidelines have to be useful for people that have to build a digital library as well. The policy part will be for managers, the technical part for working people. The Guidelines have to be written from an international and general perspective, not focusing on the creating part, but on the access site.

Brainstorm on:

- Workflow map
- Definitions
- Principles
- For who writing
- What is affordable
- What is sustainable

Brainstorm Topics – some thoughts to write down:

- Definition of a digital library and it's cultural value. Digital libraries are not only gallery displays, but also ment for scientific use (which includes searchable databases).
- Not only preservation and access, but also information for all.
- Focus: not on legal aspects; first focus on free material: public domain or contracts. Important to manage content: information management practiced.
- Objective: support
- Scope: digitisation: this is the main focus.
- UNESCO/IFLA Guidelines: contistant way of handling born digitals. Purpose: economic transformation: provide electronic sources to support economical education system and recreation.
- Digital library management means bringing things together and common rules for digitising.
- How to build a digitisation project. ISO-standards and ALM-practices.
- User participation has to be taken into account.

See for more detailed info on the brainstorm: digital pictures Marcia Zeng (02-06-2006) and the Overview provided by e-mail by Donna Wilson (09-05-2007).

Proposed outline:

After the brainstorm on the topics that have to be include in the Guidelines, and how they can be grouped, the Working Group came to the following outline:

Chapter	Content	Writers
I Preambel	 Executive Summary (15 pages) Preambel/preface (including definition digital libraries; national strategy on culture; politics; technological aspects; digital inclusion in the third world) Policy 	Winston/Ingeborg/Claudia
II Content	- Selection IPM	Dale/Simone
III Content	- Metadata	Jeasun/Marcia/Allene
IV Technology (workflow)	EncodingDigitisationMinimal requirements	Dale/Catherine
V Service	- Access - Preservation	Catherine/Michelle
VI Organisation/Evaluation	- Implementation - Sustainability: - Embedding; - Planning - Evaluation - Marketing	
VII Annex	 Glossary Reference Index Templates for advice on consultation communities & license agreements on intellectual properties 	

Basis for this outline: Content/structure overview Winston Roberts.

End of July 2007 - email	conceptual framework: - bullits - working draft
August 2007	Working Lunch at IFLA WLIC Durban (Tuesday)
End of September 2007	E-mail
End of November 2007	E-mail

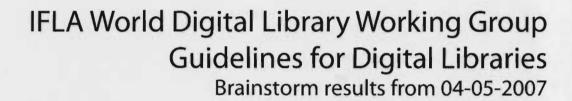
End of December 2007	First draft
January/February 2008	Meeting: 1st week February

Practical Organisation:

Editorial control: Winston Roberts

Organisation Durban meeting: Dale Peeters Organisation February meeting in Europe: LoC

Writing the Guidelines will be an open process. We'll share everything in the Group and in the Libraries involved and the draft will be put on the web for evaluation. On the WDL-website LoC will create a Wiki in WDL for the Working Group. Relevant documents and already existing guidelines can be put on this Wiki. Action: all.



Cross-cutting Topics

- Web 2.0
- How to deal
- Standards
- Workflow

Policy

- DL Need to repair (standardized)
- Audience
- Planning to do DL
- Definitions
- Principles for sustainability
- DL in progress
- Sustainability through policy change + technology change
- Political aspects
- Consultation with communities who own material
- Affordability for all countries + budgets
- Cultural intellectual property
- Writing DLs with national cultural policy (govt.)
- Bridging traditional and digital
- Functional requirements
- Compatibility
- Extensibility
- WSIS IT in society
- Government cooperation
- Internal repatriation
- Skills
- Defining requirements
- Governance
- Access to national policy
- Government policy on DL
- Advocacy

Copyright and Legal Matters of DL

- Document: ALA Guidelines on Intellectual Property Management
- Document: ALA Digital Rights Management for Librarians
- Cultural property
- Legal aspects
- Protecting our cultural heritage
- Copyright

DL Collection Building

· Digital collection building

- Digital acquisition
- Web archiving
- · Harvest Capture objects
- Born-digital material
- · Indigenous culture
- Digitization
- Film
- · Oral collections
- DVDs/CDROMs (offline collections)

Digitization Process

- · Mass digitization
- · Low/high resolution
- Tiff
- · PDF
- SGML XML
- JPEG2000
- JPG
- TXT
- · Other formats...
- Document: IFLA/UNESCO Digitisation Guidelines

Classification

- Digital material classification CDU, DDC...
- Place names
- · Digital certification
- Authority data
- Indexing Cross-search (+multilingual)
- Document: IFLA Guidance descriptive metadata
- · Document: IFLA Guidelines multilingual thesauri

Organizing Data DL

[no sub-categories]

DL"Cataloging"

- DC Dublin Core
- Quality
- Incomplete Inconsistent Incorrect metadata
- Metadata variety ...formats ...standards ...complete?
- · Metadata for digital objects
- Metadata project
- Controlled vocabulary
- Different granularity of description

Multilingual

- Other languages How to add
- Machine translation
- Multiple languages
- Multilingual controlled vocabulary

Technology

- Sustainability
- Affordability

Access to DL

- Free software to access DL
- Greenstone etc.
- Format for disability (DAISY)
- Prototype DL LoC BnF
- Audience
- Design
- Training Developing DL
- Accessibility
- Usability

Preservation

- User/Evaluation
- Digital Preservation
- Trusted repository
- CD DVD
- Document: UNESCO Guidelines on Digital Preservation

Digital Services [no affilitated topic]

Trusted repository [no affiliated topic]

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Homepage

Access to Information Capacity Building Content Development dom of Expression Media Development Memory of the World

Activities by region/country



Africa Europe and North America Latin America and the Caribbean Asia and the Pacific

Programmes

International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)

Portals

Libraries Archives Information Society Free & Open Source

Communication and Information Sector's news service

Search

UNESCO and US Library of Congress host meeting on **World Digital Library project**

01-12-2006 (Parls)

UNESCO and the Library of Congress will host today at UNESCO Paris Headquarters meeting to pave the way for the launch of a World Digital Library, an internet-based repository of knowledge from all cultures and in all languages.

The meeting will seek to establish a network of experts and partners who will work on the project. It is hosted by UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Communication



and Information Abdul Waheed Khan, U.S. Ambassador to UNESCO Louise Oliver, and Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, who first proposed the idea for a World Digital Library in 2005. It will be chaired by Claudia Lux, President-elect of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

Other participants include representatives of national libraries in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and North and South America. They will review major national and regional digital library initiatives already underway and discuss how these initiatives might relate to a World Digital Library.

They are also expected to discuss the prototype of a World Digital Library website that will feature multilingual search, retrieval and display capacities, and such tools as time lines, maps, and in-depth presentations by scholars and curators.

"Making all this available free of charge on the Internet will give teachers and librarians a new resource to encourage young people to reads and study foreign languages, and will advance learning both with and between countries", said Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States of America, and Honorary Ambassador for the UN Literacy Decade, in a message to the meeting.

"I am pleased UNESCO, the United States and other partners continue moving forward on this important initiative," said UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura. "We must encourage all Member States to pool efforts at all levels to protect unique and endangered books, manuscripts, archival documents and audio visual materials through the use of state-of-the art technologies," added Mr Matsuura

The World Digital Library is to be developed in cooperation with UNESCO and other libraries and cultural institutions from around the world with the aim of promoting international and inter-cultural understanding, expanding non-English and non-Western content on the Internet, and contributing to scholarship.

The project will focus on digitizing unique and rare material and making it available freely on the Internet. This material is to include manuscripts, maps, books, musical scores, sound recordings, films, prints and photographs, and architectural drawings from libraries and other cultural institutions around the world.

A key aspect of the project is to build digital library capabilities in the developing world, so that all countries and parts of the world can participate and be represented in the World Digital Library.

"For UNESCO, libraries - be they paper-based or digital - have always played a crucial role to fulfill its mandate to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image and to maintain, increase and spread knowledge", said Abdul Waheed Khan announcing UNESCO's support to the initiative.

James H. Billington said: "A World Digital Library will promote intercultural dialogue and international understanding and increase the volume of freely available high quality content on the Internet. Primary documents of culture have a human appeal that transcends politics."

Related thomes/countries

- United States of America About UNESCO Archives Portal About UNESCO Librarios Portal Publiflingualism in Cyberspace Content Dovdopment Languages in Cyberspace Enteritage: Natus Archives 2006;



HIV and AIDS and TV

World Digital Library Project Home > About the Project

About the World Digital Library Project

The World Digital Library will make available on the Internet, free of charge and in multilingual format, significant primary materials from cultures around the world, including manuscripts, maps, rare books, musical scores, recordings, films, prints, photographs, architectural drawings, and other significant cultural materials. The objectives of the World Digital Library are to promote international and inter-cultural understanding and awareness, provide resources to educators, expand non-English and non-Western content on the Internet, and to contribute to scholarly research.

The Vision

Experience the technologies that will put visitors in touch with cultural heritage collections from around the world.



The Planning Process

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington proposed the establishment of a World Digital Library (WDL) in a speech to the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO in June 2005. The Library of Congress is currently engaged in a planning process to determine how this vision can be realized. Participants in the planning process include national libraries and other libraries and cultural institutions from around the world that have expressed interest in joining the project, as well as UNESCO and IFLA. The planning process is being underwritten by a gift from Google, Inc. UNESCO-Library of Congress Experts Meeting

- o UNESCO and US Library of Congress host meeting on World Digital Library project1-12-2006 (UNESCO)
 - o The Library of Congress Initiative for a World Digital Library Discussion Paper
 - o Opening Remarks by James H. Billington to the UNESCO-Library of Congress Experts Meeting
 - o Agenda
 - o List of Participants
 - o World Digital Library Web Site Demonstration (PDF, 2.45MB)

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Last Updated 21-12-2006

World Digital Library Project Home

World Digital Library

The World Digital Library will make available on the Internet, free of charge and in multilingual format, significant primary materials from cultures around the world, including manuscripts, maps, rare books, musical scores, recordings, films, prints, photographs, architectural drawings, and other significant cultural materials. The objectives of the World Digital Library are to promote international and inter-cultural understanding and awareness, provide resources to educators, expand non-English and non-Western content on the Internet, and to contribute to scholarly research.

Read More

At the UNESCO General Conference in Paris on October 17, the Library of Congress, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the National Library of Brazil, the National Library and Archives of Egypt, the National Library of Russia, and the Russian State Library presented a prototype of the future World Digital Library. The prototype features books, manuscripts, maps, films, prints and photographs, and sound recordings contributed by the partner institutions. It functions in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish, and includes content in additional languages. Other features include search and browse by place, time, topic, type of item, and contributing institution; a "Memory of" section devoted to in-depth exploration of the culture and history of individual countries; and videos by curators that explain why particular primary source documents are important and what they tell us about a culture.

Experience the Prototype

Experience the Vision



Latest News and Events

- Le prototype d'une Bibliothèque numérique mondiale présenté à l'Unesco (French) 17-10-2007 (Lemonde.fr)
- Checking Out Tomorrow's Library 17-10-2007 (Washington Post)
- U.S. Library of Congress introduces plans for world digital collection 17-10-2007 (International Herald Tribune)
- Library of Congress Advances 2 Digital Projects Abroad 17-10-2007 (New York Times)
- Voices from the past heard online as world's digital archive nears fruition 19-10-2007 (The Independent - UK)

World Digital Library Project Home | Contact

Last Updated 23-10-2007

World Digital Library Project Home > About the Project > Discussion Paper for UNESCO Experts Meeting

The Library of Congress Initiative for a World Digital Library Discussion Paper for UNESCO Experts Meeting UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 1 December 2006

I. Introduction

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington proposed the establishment of a World Digital Library (WDL) in a speech to the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO in June 2005. Billington suggested "that the time may be right for our country's delegation [to UNESCO] to consider introducing to the world body a proposal for the cooperative building of a World Digital Library. This would be a new type of activity that ... would hold out the promise of bringing people closer together precisely by celebrating the depth and uniqueness of different cultures in a single global undertaking."

This paper is intended to identify the main issues that need to be discussed and eventually resolved in connection with the creation of a WDL. It has been prepared as background material for the UNESCO Experts Meeting on the WDL on December 1, 2006. The participants in this meeting include representatives of leading libraries in countries with which the Library of Congress already has pursued or is pursuing digital library partnerships (Brazil, Egypt, France, the Netherlands, Russia, and Spain), and from two international organizations - UNESCO itself and the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) - that officially have communicated to the Library of Congress their interest in exploring cooperation in connection with this project. In addition to these participants, a number of participants from other countries have been invited to establish a better balance among regions and to solicit additional viewpoints.

II. Background to the Project

In the past fifteen years, libraries and other cultural institutions have launched a large number of projects aimed at providing online access to digital collections. The Digital Collections Registry of the Digital Library Foundation (DLF) lists 754 publicly accessible digital collections hosted by the partners and allies of the DLF. Together, the UNESCO Libraries Portal and the UNESCO Archives Portal contain more than 22,000 links, many of which are to content-rich online digital library and archive projects. The OAIster project at the University of Michigan claims to be serving 9,624,092 records from 698 institutions. Other major projects include the Carnegie Mellon Million Book Digital Library Project and, in the commercial sector, Google Book Search and the competing mass book digitization projects that are now emerging.

In addition, a number of major regional initiatives are underway or under discussion. These initiatives were discussed at the UNESCO Open Forum at the IFLA conference in Seoul in August 2006 and will be reviewed again at the December 1 Experts Meeting. They include the European Library, the El Dorado Digital Library for Latin America and Iberia, and several initiatives in Asia and the Middle East.

While much has been achieved at the national level and many of the regional projects promise substantial benefits to their users, two challenges are likely to persist for the foreseeable future.

First, not enough digital content is being created. This is true for Europe (as witnessed by the attention that the European Digital Library initiative has drawn to this issue), North America, and developed Asia. It may even become more of a problem in the future, as resources shift, in relative terms, from digital conversion to the preservation of born digital content and from the digital conversion of cultural artifacts to the mass scanning of books. The situation in the developing world is of course far more problematic. In many countries, relatively little is being done to digitize collections and to make them available on the Internet. The result is that the distribution of digital content on the Internet is uneven with regard to geographic regions, cultures, language, and types of institution.

Second, content is often hard to find, difficult to search, and presented in a multiplicity of ways that confuse and frustrate users. Multilingual search and display are not well developed, and many features that young people are used to finding on commercial sites are not available on the cultural and educational sites maintained by libraries, archives, and other cultural institutions.

The WDL project will not be able to solve these problems on its own, but it can attempt to make progress toward doing so and help to point the way for other national and international projects aimed at improving both the quantity and quality of cultural content on the Internet.

III. Objectives and Audience

The major objectives of the WDL should include the following: (1) the promotion of international and intercultural understanding and awareness; (2) service to education; (3) the expansion of non-English and non-Western content on the Internet; (4) promotion of awareness of foreign languages (which in turn could encourage and facilitate language learning); and (5) contribution to scholarly research.

To achieve these objectives, the WDL will have to appeal to a broad range of audiences on a worldwide basis. The target audience for the WDL should include students, teachers, librarians, and the general public (life-long learners). The WDL should be of value to scholars and researchers as well, but it should not attempt to compete with or supplant other scholarly projects, e.g., union catalogs that tell researchers where physical items can be found, or highly specialized sites that cater to the needs of particular scientific disciplines. The WDL can link to these projects and increase awareness of and direct traffic to them.

The strategy for appealing to a wide range of audiences should be not to provide a "lowest common denominator" user experience, but to create a website that is attractive to and useful for different users with different needs and expectations. This can be done through a sophisticated but user-friendly site that provides excellent connectivity and reliability, large (but not indiscriminately collected and unbalanced)

amounts of content, multiple access points, powerful searching, and interpretation and presentation of content by leading scholars and curators. In keeping with the trend toward interactivity and user participation, the WDL also should provide opportunities for direct involvement on the part of users, without compromising its intellectual and curatorial integrity.

In order to be useful in developing countries, many of which do not have significant and plentiful broadband access points, the WDL also will have to be able to deliver some services to users that require low bandwith or mobile device solutions.

In addition to the objectives that will be furthered by the creation of a WDL website (and that are being served by many other digital library projects around the world), a large, international WDL project could have other positive spin-offs and could promote a range of ancillary objectives. The latter might include: (1) assisting developing countries to create their own national and regional digital libraries by providing them with equipment and expertise that can be used to create content for both the WDL and these national and regional projects (based on the principles of non-exclusivity and re-purposing); (2) promoting standards and best practices that institutions in developing countries (and smaller institutions in the developed world) can use as they create their own digital library projects, whether or not they participate in the WDL; (3) contributing to the security and preservation of artifactual collections by assisting with the creation of inventories and catalogs and by carrying out pre-digitization preservation work; (4) promoting economic development by creating jobs in participating countries for the performance of various tasks (cataloging, digitization, web design and programming, translation, and so forth) and through the promotion of tourism.

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IV. Content Selection and Creation

The World Digital Library should concentrate on presenting rare and unique collections that are physically stored in geographically dispersed locations, and which, when brought together with other collections through cross-national and cross-cultural multilingual search and browse capabilities, will yield new knowledge and insights and will be of value to educators, students, and the general public, as well as to researchers. Examples of such collections are given in Appendix I.

Such content can come from two sources: it can be re-purposed from existing institutional, national, and regional digital library projects and contributed to the WDL; or it can be scanned expressly for the WDL (and then re-purposed, if desired, for use in institutional, national, and regional projects). The WDL should use both methods.

For developed country participants that already have staff and equipment for digitization and that already have digitized many cultural treasures, re-purposing is mainly what is needed.

For the developing world, the WDL project should aim to provide equipment, training, and whatever else might be needed (including preservation work if it is required prior to scanning) to enable institutions in these countries to participate in the project. The Library of Congress already has experience in working with partner institutions in Brazil, Egypt, and Russia on establishing dedicated installations for cooperative digitization projects. Much more could be done in other countries. Other methods that could be used to generate digital content are mobile scanning operations dedicated to smaller institutions (used by the Library of Congress and Russian partners in Siberia and the Russian Far East) and the engagement of local contractors with the requisite skills and equipment. This aspect of the project is likely to be complicated, expensive, and will require skilled and dedicated staff. However, expanding scanning activities in the developing world will be essential to ensure that the WDL is truly representative of all countries and cultures. Moreover, rather than being seen as an expensive burden on the project, it could be made a selling point to potential corporate, foundation, and government donors who will be attracted to the idea of working with cultural institutions in both the developed and developing world to set up turn-key scanning operations in places where they do not exist.

Irrespective of how the content is obtained for the WDL (re-purposed or originally scanned), two further issues need to be addressed: how big (in terms of numbers of images and collections) should the WDL be, and what particular collections should be solicited or, perhaps more controversially, what material should be rejected as inappropriate for the WDL.

Suggestions regarding the optimal size of the WDL have ranged from relatively small (a digital exhibit that will present from a few dozen to at most a few hundred representative images from the world's major cultures) to vast (an enormous portal that will link all of the other major national and regional portals into a single "union catalog" of digital content).

There is no need at this stage to give a definitive answer to the question of ultimate size, which will be determined by resources, the number and enthusiasm of the participating institutions, and other factors. Most likely, the optimal size for the WDL will be somewhere between these two extremes: it will be large, perhaps even very large, but it will not aim to be exhaustive. There are many reasons to reject the digital exhibit model. The existence of Google and other search engines has conditioned users to expect that "at least something" should be turned up by a search, no matter how obscure the topic or unintelligible the search request. The WDL cannot and should not try to compete with these expectations, but it should proceed from the assumption that users will expect to find their country, their topic of interest, their language, on the site. This argues for a large volume of material. Researchers also will want to find whole collections with significant volumes of material on the site, or they will quickly lose interest and turn elsewhere. On the other hand, the WDL need not be exhaustive. It will not be under any obligation to encompass all relevant content for a given topic or country. Rather, it can direct users to other projects and portals that do have the ambition to be comprehensive for a given country or region (South Korea's National Digital Library and the European Digital Library are examples that come to mind.)

Apart from the question of size, the issue of what content is selected for inclusion in the WDL and by whom needs to be addressed. Selection inevitably touches upon national and cultural sensitivities and could lead to disagreements among the partners or to external criticism of the project as a whole. Mechanisms therefore will need to be put into place to minimize the likelihood and intensity of possible disputes and criticisms.

One way to minimize the possibility of such controversies arising, at least in the early stages of the project, would be to work off existing lists of collections that already command the support of the relevant expert and cultural communities. UNESCO's Memory of the World Register, for example, lists more than 120 collections and/or items of major historical and cultural significance. Not all of these collections may be suitable for digitization, but a key goal of the WDL project might be to support the digitization and making available on the Internet of as many of these collections as possible. This would not be on an exclusive basis; rather, the same collections could be re-purposed for inclusion in the WDL, on UNESCO's own website, on major national and/or institutional websites, and in the major regional digital library projects.

Beyond working off such pre-established lists, the WDL will need to ensure a representative and intellectually credible process for the selection of content. This should involve setting up committees of scholars and curators for countries, regions, or cultural areas that will be responsible for identifying collections that are particularly important and/or representative and for vetting suggestions put forward by actual and prospective partner institutions. Such committees should be composed of leading scholars from both the countries concerned and from other parts of the world.

V. Web Presentation

A key goal of the WDL project should be to offer a seamless user experience and a high degree of functionality. The WDL site must be fast, reliable, and easy to use.

Planning for the WDL should start with a recognition that the way in which scholars, researchers, and the general public are using the Internet has changed fundamentally in recent years. Traffic increasingly is coming from commercial search engines, with the search terms that bring users to library sites extremely varied and fragmented. This trend suggests that resources need to be devoted not just to helping users find material, but also to creating higher-value added content that will encourage users to spend more time in a given site and to take greater advantage of internal search and browse capabilities. The latter must be improved, however, if this is to happen.

Providing a good user experience will depend at least in part on the volume of digital content available, as discussed in the previous section. In addition, the WDL should offer intellectual added value that users can quickly recognize and exploit. This value will be provided in three areas: (A) access through multilingual search, retrieval and display, including cross-cultural, cross-national, and cross-temporal searching and browsing using multiple access points; (B) context through the provision of narrative and interpretive content; and (C) participation by inclusion of social networking and related features that allow users to interact with the WDL and with other WDL users, rather than just passively view its content.

A. Access

Multilingualism

In order to qualify as credibly "multilingual," the WDL interface should be offered in the six official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish), plus Portuguese (given the participation of the National Library of Brazil as a founding partner). A medium-term goal of the project should be to add, as resources permit, interfaces in other major languages, e.g., Hindi, Japanese, and German.

Search, browse and display also should be in these seven languages. Since the content on the site will come from many institutions around the world, including those which catalog their holdings in languages other than the seven initial interface languages, in practice, search, retrieval, and (perhaps to a lesser degree) display will be in a $7 + 1 + 1 + 1 \dots$ mode. In other words, a user from Vietnam will not be able to access all of the material on the WDL using Vietnamese. However, he or she should be able to search in Vietnamese for at least all of the Vietnamese items (i.e., items contributed by institutions in Vietnam and cataloged in Vietnamese). Over time, it is to be hoped that leading institutions (national libraries and universities) in these countries will take responsibility for translating other parts of the WDL into additional languages, beginning with the materials most relevant to the interests of their national users.

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Search and Browse

The following methods of searching and browsing (including further sorts within browses and search results) are shown on the WDL mockup, and are representative of the kinds of features the WDL should offer. Final selection and elaboration of these methods should be subject to discussion among the partners and to the full working out of the technical and resource requirements for implementation.

Search should be through a simple Google-type search box. Advanced search capabilities also will be available.

The browse feature should offer six additional entry points: institutional repository and collection; type of item; year or time period; place; topic; and today's featured theme. These features can be seen on the WDL mockup that will be presented at the December 1 Experts Meeting.

Browse by Institutional repository and collection will be the main place on the WDL where collections will be displayed qua collections. This will be an important consideration for the contributing partners and their internal custodial divisions, and will ensure that the integrity and identity of their collections is

maintained on the site. This browse feature also will be useful to certain specialized categories of users (collectors, curators, and some scholars).

Browse by Type of item (rare books, manuscript, map, photograph, film, sound recording, and so forth) will help to make users aware of the range of materials on the WDL, meet the demands of teachers and scholars for multi-format access, and encourage the comparison of similar items from different cultures over different periods of time. Types of item should be grouped under headings in simple, non-technical language, without regard to the bureaucratic subdivisions of the contributing partner institutions.

The browse by Year or time period feature will help to facilitate cross-cultural and cross-national comparisons (e.g., of what was happening in China when something else was happening in Europe) and provide time lines that teachers find especially useful.

Place will enable geographic search and display, and lay the groundwork for a range of potential Geographic Information System (GIS)-related applications that can be developed for later versions of the WDL or by users of the WDL. Geographic tools (enabled by encoding of latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates in the metadata) also can be used to track items that refer to the same place but whose names have changed over time or that differ in different languages (St. Petersburg/Petrograd/Leningrad/St. Petersburg).

Browse by Topic will facilitate research and education with regard to general topics. Whether the topic browse feature uses Dewey Decimal classifications or some other system remains to be seen, but one objective of this feature probably should be aggregation to general categories that may not necessarily turn up in a literal Google-type search of the metadata. ("Religion," for example, might aggregate pictures of churches and mosques, sacred music and books, and so forth, even though the word "religion" might not appear in the item metadata.)

Today's featured theme is simply a way to introduce variety in the opening page of the WDL and to encourage exploration by providing an additional route into the collections. It also could be a way to generate additional participation by partner institutions and their curators, as these institutions could be asked to volunteer to select and develop the themes – using items from different institutions and different parts of the world – on a rotating basis so that the 365 days of the year are covered.

Item-Level Display

All search and browse paths will lead to item-level displays that will contain basic bibliographical data (provided in the language of the interface) and such features (zoom, enlarge, translate) as may be appropriate to the item.

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B. Context

In addition to its search and browse features, the WDL should offer presentations in intensively edited and curated digital features that build upon and showcase selected items from the digital repository. The purpose of these presentations will be to provide context and interpretation, and to offer general introductions to the collections and items contained in the WDL.

As will be seen on the WDL mockup, these country- or culture-specific presentations are envisioned as "Memory of ..." features that will be developed by committees of scholars, linguists, and historians. The central organizing feature of each "Memory of ..." presentation will be a time line showing the major periods in a given country's history, which will be introduced and explained by a brief narrative (vetted by scholars, but written to appeal to the non-specialist, general user). These narratives will be illustrated by images selected from the collections in the repository.

In addition to the basic time line, the "Memory of ... " sections may include other access points (e.g., maps), selections of top treasures, and other means of providing context and interpretation, such as webcast interviews with scholars and curators.

C. User Participation

Features on the WDL that might be employed to allow users of the WDL to participate in the project might include blogs, chats with curators, and the lightbox feature that allows users to create their own "My WDL."

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VI. System Architecture

The WDL system architecture should be distributed in nature, with each participating site contributing to the creation or maintenance of content and/or to ensuring the accessibility and preservation of content, depending upon the site's strengths and capacities. Some sites will primarily focus on selection and creation of digital content (mainly digitization from analog content, at least initially). Other sites will both select and create digital content and operate content collections and their supporting technologies and infrastructure to ensure regional/global availability and access.

In this suggested architecture, the hosting and maintenance sites are geographically distributed. The content in the WDL collections is highly replicated on each and every hosting and maintenance site. We refer to the hosting and maintenance sites as mirror sites. One of the mirror sites is a special central site that receives digital content from other sites (e.g., digitization sites or translation sites, if translation is to be done at different sites than the digitization or the central site). After receiving digital content from other sites, the central site ingests the content into an instance of a digital repository. A copy of the populated

maintenance. Figure 1 provides an example of a site layout for this type of architecture with content and metadata flow between sites. The figure shows the start of information flow (content and metadata) from digitization sites (circles in the figure) and the distribution of populated repositories to mirror sites from the central site.

Each mirror site will have a modular design and may have a distributed architecture in itself, but with colocated components, to support requirements as needed. Each mirror site will support preservation and access functionalities. In addition to preservation and access functionalities, the central site also has an acquisition sub-system that interfaces with content producers to receive content and stage it prior to ingestion into the repository. Technical analysis will be needed to determine the optimal number of mirror sites, with six or seven probably a reasonable starting assumption (East Asia, Europe with possibly an additional site in Russia, the Middle East/Africa, North America, South America, and South Asia).

An important issue in the architecture is the management of heterogeneity as content is created, transferred and ingested into the repository. By the time content and associated metadata are ingested into the repository and are made accessible in an efficient and useful manner on mirror sites, they will go through several stages and transformations within sites and between sites. As it is first created in digital form, content may be in several different file and aggregation formats with different naming conventions and qualities from one digitization site to the next. The content sets grow in complexity and volume as they are translated into several other languages, and may be transformed again into other formats at this stage of their lifecycle. Metadata is created and collected from the very beginning and is added to from one stage of the lifecycle to the next. Metadata schemas and their formats and structures thus vary from one stage to the next, generally increasing in complexity. As transfer of content from one stage to the next occurs, transformation into different forms and formats will occur as content is wrapped and packaged to facilitate transfer.

In the proposed WDL architecture, the number of file and aggregation formats for different content types and for different stages of the content lifecycle is kept to a select few. The architecture will adopt commonly used standards and best practices in this area. In addition, the uniformity of formats, structures and processes should increase as we move from creation to ingested, accessible and searchable content in the repository. Within the repository (i.e., the site that is replicated on mirror sites), the content formats and structures are normalized to provide uniformity within and between collections, as much as possible. This characteristic will enable effective search within and between diverse collections in ways that heterogeneous information sources could not afford.

This proposed architecture would support the following features:

Preservation: Existence of mirror sites ensures that multiple copies of every digital object exist in geographically distributed locations. Loss of a copy at one site can be recovered by transfer of that object from another site.

Performance: Existence of regional mirror sites increases performance by providing better response times to a greater number of users.

Reproducibility: Developing the technology and formally populating the repository at a central site in a uniform way, before replicating to other sites makes creating additional mirror sites in a timely manner feasible.

Ease of operation: A turnkey populated repository with uniform structure at the mirror sites makes operating the WDL system simple and possible at a lower cost.

Platform independence: The WDL system will be able to run on a multitude of hardware and operating system platforms to facilitate local diversity at the mirror sites.

Global search: Uniformity of formats and structures within the repository will enable global search within and across diverse collections.

Availability: Existence of mirror sites ensures that if a site is temporarily down, access continues to be provided via other running mirror sites.

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VII. Finance and Governance

Digital library projects are expensive and becoming more so over time. The Library of Congress American Memory project to place an initial five million items online in the period 1995-2000 cost over \$60 million. The Meeting of Frontiers project carried out by partners in Russia, Germany, and the United States spent approximately \$3 million to create a site that contains just under a million images, displayed and searchable in two languages. The national librarian of France has suggested that Europe needs to spend \$150 million to \$200 million to create a European portal to compete with Google.

Estimates for international projects with a high degree of engagement in the developing world and the unique problems posed by multilingual search and display are inherently tricky. The initial estimate by the Library of Congress for a global digital library pilot effort involving just twelve countries was for \$27 million over five years. An important priority of the WDL planning process should be to come up with more precise cost estimates, based upon ongoing pilot projects, and to decide how smaller, manageable chunks of a WDL can be created, block by block over time, using available financial and in-kind resources.

A possible model for governance might be a membership organization that individual libraries and cultural institutions would join as WDL participants. Institutions would ascribe to a charter that would include general provisions relating to intellectual property, technical standards, and other issues that otherwise might have to be painstakingly negotiated in bilateral agreements between each of the participating

institutions. A general meeting and an executive council might in turn govern the WDL organization. The WDL also might have something like an overall editorial board to review the quality and balance of the collections and presentations on the WDL.

VIII. Next Steps

It is proposed that the next steps in developing the WDL include the following:

- The convening of expert working groups to explore the key issues outlined above, plus any others that might be identified at the December 1 meeting.
- O Development of a working prototype, based on the mockup presented at the December 1 meeting and the feedback regarding it, to be presented to UNESCO in October 2007 and used as a basis to generate political support, recruit partners from around the world, and solicit private sector, foundation, and governmental financial and in-kind support for the project.
- Additional suggestions for follow-up activity are welcome, and can be made at the December 1 Experts
 Conference or directly to the Library of Congress or any of the working group chairs.

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Appendix I: Examples of Collections that Might be Included in the World Digital Library

- Rare Books. Possible candidates would include significant volumes on history, culture, science, and other topics, in all languages.
- Other Printed Material. Pamphlets and ephemera tend to be of great interest to scholars; railroad and shipping timetables are also of interest, as are early advertisements and directories.
- Maps. Hand-drawn maps by explorers; early printed maps; printed maps that played significant roles in shaping national consciousness in different countries; maps by indigenous peoples or that show geographic knowledge obtained from indigenous peoples; topical maps showing industry, transportation, ethnographic and linguistic distribution.
- Photographs. 19th and early 20th century collections that document everyday life, buildings, and infrastructure; albums (published or unpublished) created for special occasions such as visits and anniversaries; collections owned or created by important historical personages.
- Postcards. Late 19th and early 20th century collections that document the rise of tourism and the tourist industry.
- Prints, Posters, Lithographs. Collections that document buildings, infrastructure, flora and fauna, important historical events.
- Architectural drawings. Anything that sheds light on important buildings and structures; monuments from civilizations around the world.
- Manuscripts. Key historical documents; illuminated manuscripts; examples of calligraphy in all scripts; sacred texts and other religious texts; personal diaries and letters of general interest. Collections/items that most likely would not be candidates for inclusion would be large volumes of government or other institutional papers or the personal papers of individuals.
- o Musical Scores. Any of particular historic or aesthetic significance
- o Film Clips. Early films; documentary clips that show events and individuals of historic importance.
- Sound Recordings. Ethnographic recordings (folk songs); sound recordings of important historical personages.

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Opening Remarks to the UNESCO-Library of Congress Experts Meeting on the World Digital Library

Paris, November 30, 2006 Librarian of Congress James H. Billington

Your excellencies, distinguished colleagues, friends, thank you for coming to this conference, especially those of you who have traveled long distances to get here. Ambassador Oliver, thank you for that introduction, and for hosting this event in this historic place. And thank you, Assistant Director General Khan, for your support. We are grateful to UNESCO, the U.S. Mission to UNESCO, and the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO for working with us in organizing this event.

Our purpose, this evening and tomorrow, is to discuss plans to build a World Digital Library, working with UNESCO, its member states, and cultural institutions from around the world. I look forward to exchanging views with all of you on what this initiative should accomplish, and how it best can be carried out.

In this opening session, I am going to outline for you my own vision for a World Digital Library, not with the expectation that the Library of Congress or I myself have answers to all the questions that a project of this complexity raises, but as a way of kicking off the discussion and inspiring you to think about the same questions as well as raise new ones that you might have.

The basic vision is straightforward. As I said my speech last year to the U.S. National Commission in which I first proposed this idea, the goal is to create an online encyclopedia, freely available over the Internet, of important and interesting cultural objects from the world's countries and civilizations. These works will reside in a large, online repository that can be searched and used in different ways by teachers, librarians, scholars, and the general public.

In addition to the repository, the World Digital Library should have special sections, developed by scholars and curators, that present the "memory" of countries and civilizations by selecting the most important of these cultural objects, placing them in their historical context for a general audience.

In putting forward this vision for a World Digital Library, I had in mind the experience of the Library of Congress in developing bilateral, bilingual digital library projects, beginning with Russia in 1999 and continuing with partners in Brazil, Egypt, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Spain. I am grateful to our partner institutions in these countries, all of which are represented at this conference, for the work that we have accomplished together. I look forward to working with them – as well as with many other new partners – in determining how we can take the experience and knowledge gained in building a series of bilateral, bilingual projects into a genuine multilateral, multilingual effort to display important cultural materials in all languages and from all countries, especially emphasizing cultural diversity and bringing developing countries to the forefront.

The proposed World Digital Library is not intended to replace or compete with the many planned or existing national and regional digital library projects. Such projects are important for helping countries and regions to establish or strengthen their identities, for building regional cooperation, and for meeting the needs of teachers and scholars from those regions and countries.

I envision that the World Digital Library, whatever form it ultimately takes, will work with these projects, support them to the degree that it is able, and exploit as many synergies and complementarities with them as possible.

At the same time, however, I do not believe that a World Digital Library can be the mere mechanical aggregation of the various national and regional parts. As a historian, I know that "world history" is not just the sum of our separate national and regional histories. Rather, it is a sub-discipline in its own right, focused on offering comparative, cross-national, and cross-cultural perspectives – at its best helping people ask the big questions about what civilizations share in common and what makes them distinctive. In much the same way, a World Digital Library has to offer intellectual and cultural value going beyond that provided by the individual national and regional projects.

The World Digital Library – both the digital library itself and the cooperation among scholars, librarians, and curators from around the world that will be needed to create this digital library – has the potential to accomplish many worthwhile objectives.

I will cite three in particular.

First, a World Digital Library will promote inter-cultural dialogue and international understanding. Because the Internet is by definition international and because the primary documents of culture have a special human appeal that transcends politics, a well-organized and appropriately presented collection of such documents offers an enormous potential for increasing trans-cultural understanding, especially through the impact it can have on curious and multi-medially oriented young people.

A second and related objective of the World Digital Library will be to increase the volume of freely available, highquality content on the Internet, particularly in languages other than English. In this way, the World Digital Library will help to increase linguistic and cultural diversity and contribute to UNESCO's goal of building knowledge societies.

The Library of Congress already has a track record in this area. In our bilateral projects, we have worked with partners to increase their capacity to scan materials in Russian, Portuguese, Arabic, and other languages. Much more needs to be done, however, both in terms of extending digitization and content-creation to other countries and languages, and in improving multilingual searching and display capabilities so that our sites are equally accessible to audiences using many different languages.

A third objective that the World Digital Library will promote is capacity building in developing countries. The Library of Congress is not a development assistance agency, so let me be clear: I am not proposing that we get into the development assistance business for its own sake. We have no mandate from our own Congress to do this. What I

globalization will undermine our ability to deal with the economic, political, and security challenges of the future. I the world's peoples in a way that not only will make us spiritually and intellectually poorer, but that in this age of complexity. We will cut ourselves off from digital access to the cultures and civilizations representing the majority of charity, but because without such capacity we will not be able to accomplish a venture of this magnitude and ambitious task that it will require the skills and knowledge of people around the world. We in the developed world ambitious task that it will require the skills and knowledge of people around the world. We in the developed world

will return to this point in a moment.

of interest and support. incoming president, Claudia Lux, will serve as our conference chair tomorrow. I much appreciate these expressions partners – from Brazil, Egypt, and Russia – are already participating in the planning process and the development of the prototype site that we will preview tomorrow. We also have developed a close relationship with IFLA, whose been enthusiastic. Current and prospective partners have expressed interest in working on this project. Some of our In the eighteen months since I first proposed the idea of a World Digital Library, reaction from around the world has

to be answered as we go forward. At the same time, however, many people around the world have questions about the World Digital Library that need

quality of the project? Will the World Digital Library be commercialized or privatized? These questions were raised with particular urgency last November, when Sergei Brin, the co-founder of Google, Inc., and I jointly announced that Google was making the first gift to the proposed World Digital Library. that most of the funding will have to come from the private sector, what will this mean for the independence and One of the questions that we hear most often concerns financing. Who is going to pay for all this? And, assuming

on gifts from private individuals, foundations, and companies. of books, periodicals, and other materials. However, for special initiatives involving outreach and education, we rely United States generously provides for our staff salaries, our buildings and other facilities, and our basic acquisitions Like other national libraries, the Library of Congress is a government-supported institution. The Congress of the

of the funding, or \$15 million, but the other \$45+ million came from private donors. library projects as well. American Memory, our flagship digital library project that began in 1994, was a \$60 million effort to put online five million items from American history over a five year period. Congress provided 25 percent This has been the case with exhibits, fellowships, and publications, and it has become the norm for our digital

over copyright and intellectual property. profit consortia, and it will not, because of its overwhelming focus on older materials, get involved in controversies to do with the mass book digitization projects that are being undertaken by various private companies and nonalso is important to note that the World Digital Library will deal with rare and unique cultural objects. It has nothing demonstrate a prototype of the World Digital Library, both of which are to be made freely available to the public. It funding is a gift, and does not come with strings attached. We have been given the money to develop a plan and to It is in this connection that we sought and received the gift from Google for the World Digital Library. The Google

order to enable them to take part in this effort. participate in the World Digital Library. We fully expect to fund equipment and other costs in developing countries in or, just as well, by giving directly to partner institutions in other countries who then can use this funding to back this effort, either by contributing to the World Digital Library fund that the Library of Congress has established As the project proceeds, we fully expect to receive additional gifts and grants from companies, foundations, and individuals who support the building of a World Digital Library. We hope that contributors in many countries will

cultural and linguistic? promote American or what are sometimes called "Anglo-Saxon" values, or will it be open to genuine diversity language material on the Internet, or will it strengthen the position of other languages in cyberspace? Will it establishing the World Digital Library? Will the World Digital Library further increase the presence of English-Other questions that we frequently hear with regard to the World Digital Library concern issues of content selection, multillingualism, editorial interpretation, and management control. What will be the role of the Library of Congress in

We will be addressing many of these issues in detail in our sessions tomorrow.

ensuring that it is a gift of free and open knowledge to the world. scope and ambition of the project. The second concerns the need for cooperation in carrying out such a project and In this setting, I would like to make just two general points in response to these questions. The first concerns the

something which we all know they are very good at. So we must aim high. concentrate on our national and regional projects and let the commercial search engines find the material expertise - it will not be worth doing. Without such scale and excellence, the world will be better off if we all just To be worthy of its name, the World Digital Library has to be an ambitious undertaking. If this project is not done on a large scale and at the highest level of quality – both technical and with regard to scholarship and curatorial and scholarship and s

include three elements: As the specialists who will attend tomorrow's meeting will see and discuss in detail, we envision a project that will

content needed for the World Digital Library. First, a network of scanning centers around the world, concentrated in developing countries, that will produce the

that will be created by these scan centers. Second, a powerful, multilingual website through which the public can access the vast repository of digital content

reliable and that can be preserved over time. Third, a state-of-the-art network that enables content to be distributed around the world in a way that is fast and

the digitization of important cultural artifacts in these countries, thereby making sure that all cultures and A network of scanning centers, located mainly in cultural institutions in developing countries, is needed to carry out

languages are represented in the World Digital Library.

kinds of centers, building on our experience going back to the late 1990s in working with the Russian State Library The Library of Congress already has worked with our fellow national libraries in Brazil and Egypt in setting up these

contributed from existing projects, will begin to fill up the World Digital Library repository.

The material to be digitized should include not only paper and printed works, but video and audio material that document cultural traditions that are in danger of being lost to humanity. I think in particular of the music in many languages and from many cultures that needs to be captured and preserved before it is gone.

Our second challenge is to build a powerful World Digital Library website that allows for maximal exploitation of this content. The site has to be multilingual, not just with regard to its content, but its functionality as well. A reasonable starting objective is full search and display capability in seven languages, with others to be added later.

The website must provide interesting and innovative pathways into the repository of material so that students, educators, and all users are encouraged to explore, will be inspired, and will come back again and again for education and enjoyment. It must employ maps, time-lines, and other features that facilitate asking the questions that are appropriate to an initiative that is global in scope: At a given place, what cultures and civilisations rose and fell over the centuries and millennia, and what traces of them remain? At a given time, what was happening in Europe, China, Egypt, or other parts of the world?

The World Digital Library also needs to have interactive features – blogs, special presentations, chats with curators – that will encourage people to be participants in rather than just passive users of the World Digital Library.

Our third challenge is to build a robust network, based on a system of mirror sites, that enables all regions of the world to provide access to all of the content in the World Digital Library and that supports the goals of preservation, high performance, and constant availability.

Following from this first general point about thinking big and setting ambitious goals, my second point concerns how to achieve these goals. The Library of Congress, with the support of UNESCO, is convening this experts meeting to begin a discussion on how to carry out something on this scale and complexity. The Library of Congress hopes to continue to be a facilitator in this process. Our purpose is not to control, but to bring all of the interested parties to undertake this effort. No one institution can do any of this work alone. It will take a network of committed partners to lead the way.

The Library of Congress cannot raise all of the funding or garner all of the in-kind contributions that will be needed to create a World Digital Library on this scale. We have a large and skilled workforce, but we do not have the translators, programmers, web designers, subject matter experts, and other specialists that will be required for this effort.

Not least, while the international and foreign language collections of the Library of Congress are huge, we do not have the most important collections of cultural materials from countries around the world that will need to be scanned for inclusion in a World Digital Library.

For this reason, we need to work with partners to build capacity – to install equipment and train staff – so that institutions in these countries can select and digitize the material for the World Digital Library, material, that I might add, which under the non-exclusivity principle that we are following and have always followed in our digital library projects.

In sum, I hope that many of the questions regarding the World Digital Library largely answer themselves as we go forward with an effort this complex and this ambitious. It will have to be a cooperative effort, engaging the skills and taking into account the interests of all potential partners, otherwise it will not succeed. The only way it can live up to the vision that many of us have for this project is to enlist the support and enthusiastic participation of a broad community of librarians, scholars, and private and governmental funders. With UNESCO's help, we hope to begin building that support in this important meeting.

These points need to be elaborated and discussed in detail. We will begin this process tomorrow morning at UNESCO headquarters. I look forward to seeing many of you there, and to hearing your ideas and suggestions.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to your comments and suggestions, and to working with all of you in realizing this ambitious effort.

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World Digital Library Experts Meeting

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

1 December 2006

Co-sponsored by UNESCO, the U.S. Mission to UNESCO, and the Library of Congress

Meeting Chair: Claudia Lux, President-elect, IFLA

Friday, 1 December 2006 UNESCO Headquarters Room 14 1, rue Miollis 75015 Paris

10:00 - 12:00 Opening Remarks and Review of Major National and International Digital Library Projects

- o Abdul Waheed Khan, Assistant Director-General, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO
- o James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress
- o Susanna Connaughton, Executive Director, U.S. National Commission for UNESCO
- o Jean-Noël Jeanneney, Chairman, Bibliothèque nationale de France
- o Jacinta Were, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- o Lourdes Feria, University of Colima, Mexico
- o Sarah Thomas, Cornell University, United States
- o Sherif Shahin, National Library of Egypt

12:00 - 13:30 The World Digital Library Initiative: Presentation and Discussion

- o John Van Oudenaren, Senior Advisor, World Digital Library, Library of Congress
- o Laura Campbell, Chief Information Officer, Library of Congress

13:30 - 15:00 Lunch - Cercle des Délégues

15:00 - 16:30 Discussion of Key Issues in Developing a World Digital Library

- o Architecture
- o Selection
- o Governance
- o Financing

16:30 - 16:45 Break

16:45 - 17:45 Follow-up Actions

Establishment of Working Groups and Selection of Lead Institutions

Deadlines and Next Steps

17:45 - 18:00 Closing Remarks and Adjourn

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World Digital Library Experts Meeting

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

1 December 2006

Co-sponsored by UNESCO, the U.S. Mission to UNESCO, and the Library of Congress List of Participants

Mr. Abdelaziz Abid

Senior Programme Specialist **UNESCO**

Dr. Noha Adly

ICT/ISIS Director Bibliotheca Alexandrina

Dr. Mohamed Saber Ibrahim Arab

Chairman, The National Library & Archives of Egypt

Dr. Olga V. Barysheva

Head, Digital Technologies Department The National Library of Russia

Ms. Caitlin Bergin

Public Affairs Officer U.S. Mission to UNESCO

Dr. James H. Billington

Librarian of Congress Library of Congress

Ms. Laura Campbell

Associate Librarian for Strategic Initiatives Library of Congress

Ms. Susanna Connaughton

Executive Director U.S. National Commission to UNESCO

Mr. Ian Desai

Intern World Digital Library United States

Ms. Lourdes Feria

Coordinator of Information Technologies University of Colima, Mexico

Dr. Nancy E. Gwinn

Chair, Management & Technology **IFLA**

The Honorable Robert S. Martin

Professor, School of Library & Information Studies Texas Woman's University

Dr. Babak Hamidzadeh

Director, Technical Development Library of Congress

Mr. Hans J. Jansen

Director, Research & Development Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Netherlands

Mr. Jean-Noël Jeanneney

President

Bibliothèque nationale de France

Mr. Abdul Waheed Khan

Assistant Director-General, Communication & Information **UNESCO**

Dr. Galina Aleksandrovna Kislovskaya

Director of International Activities The Russian State Library

Dr. Peter J. Lor

Secretary General

IFLA

Dr. Norbert Lossau

Director Goettingen State and University Library, Germany

Dr. Claudia Lux President Elect IFLA

> World Digital Library Library of Congress

Dr. Vladimir N. ZaytsevDirector General
The National Library of Russia

Dr. Xiaolin ZhangDirector
Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences

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World Digital Library Mockup Page Images





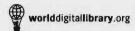
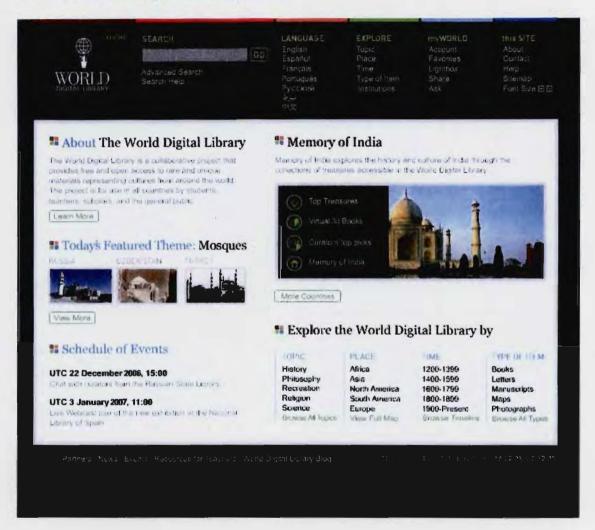


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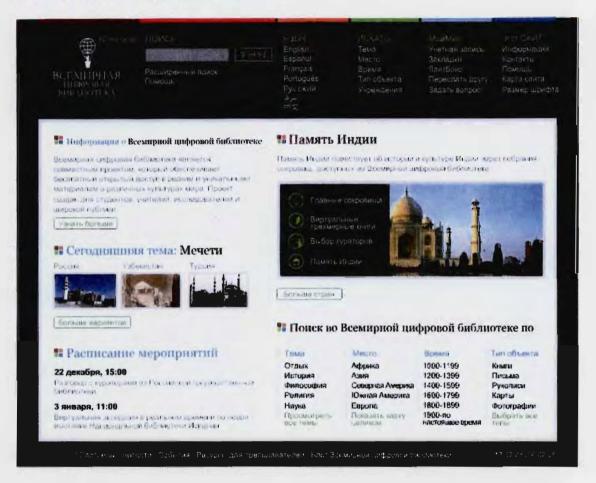


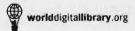
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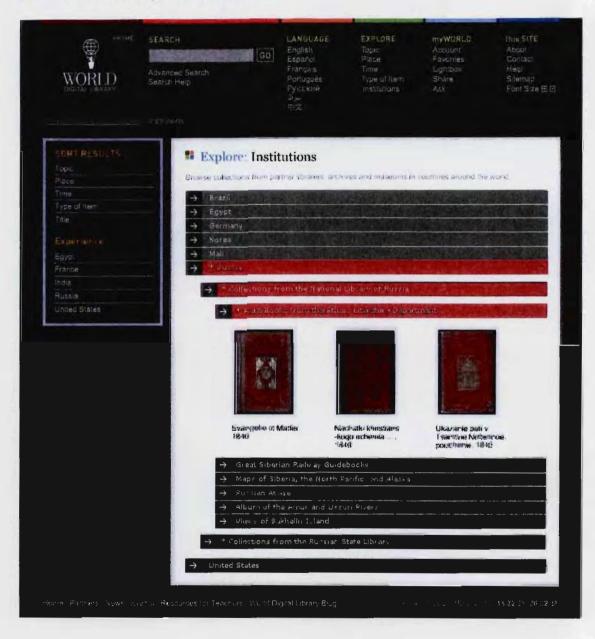


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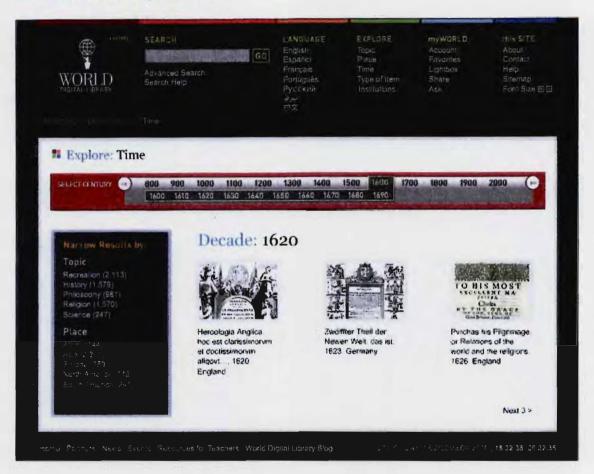


Browse by Institution



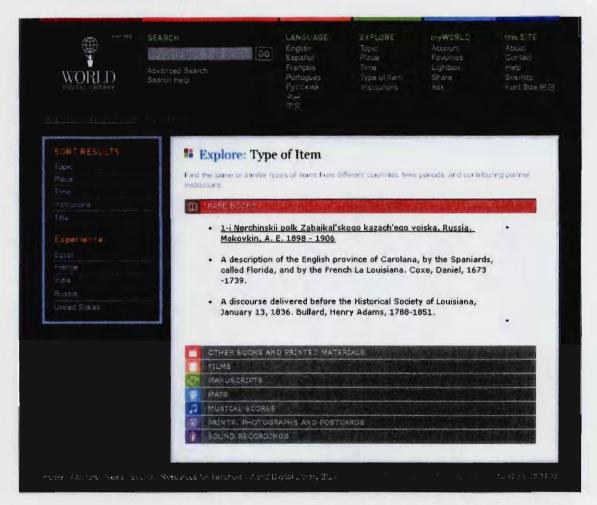


Browse by Time



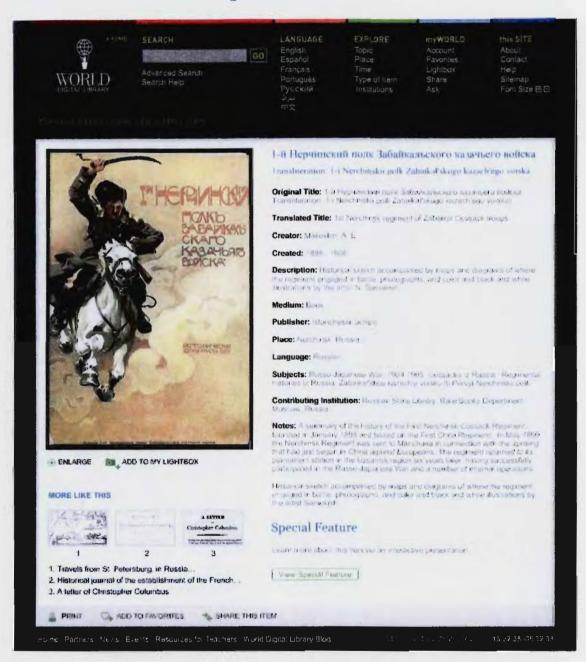


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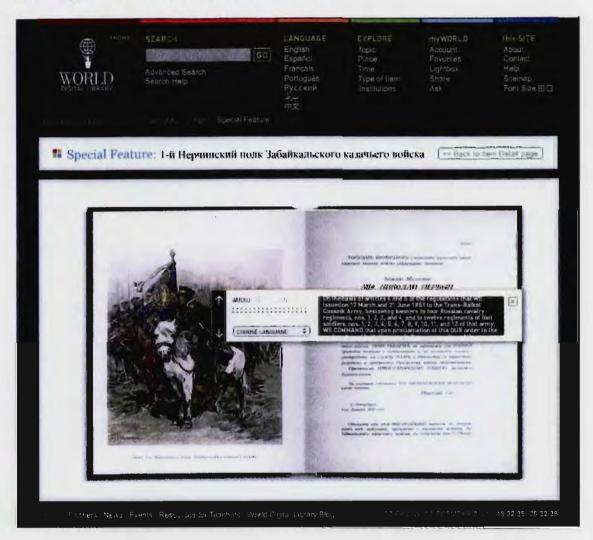


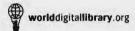
Item Level Description



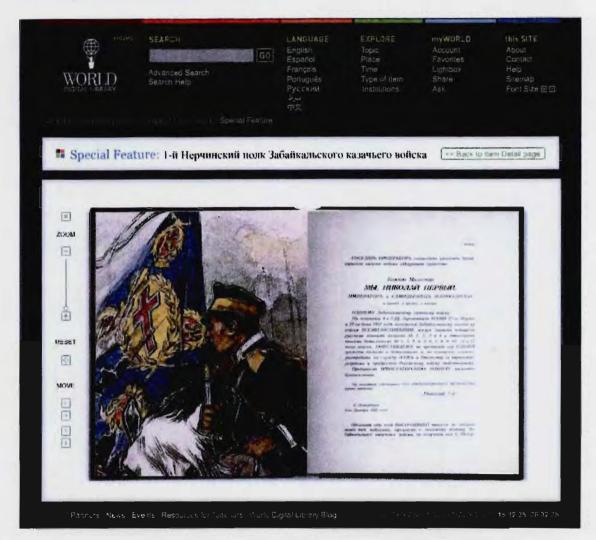


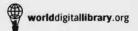
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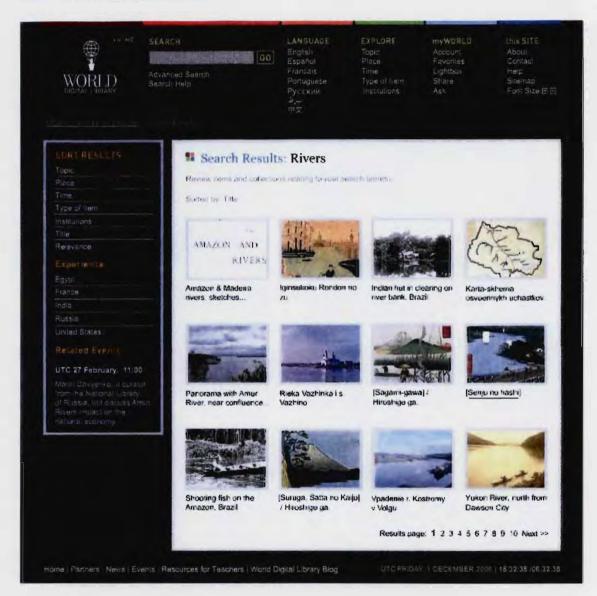


Special Feature: Zoom





Search Results



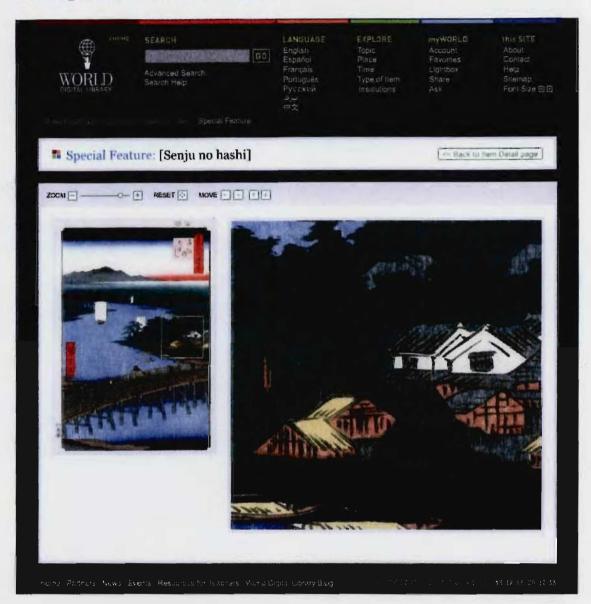


Item Level Description





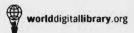
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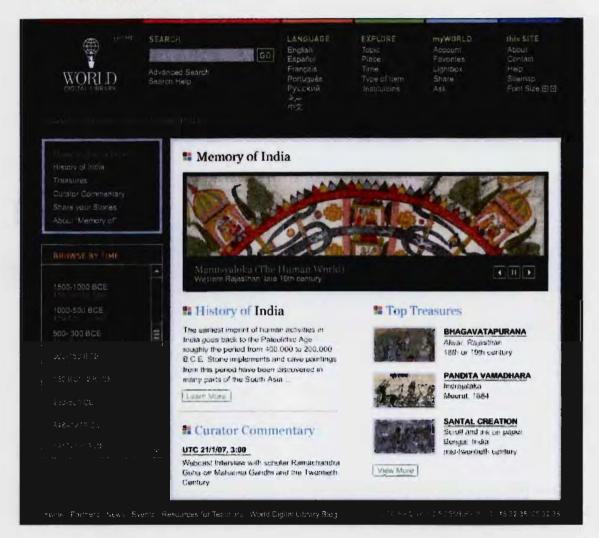


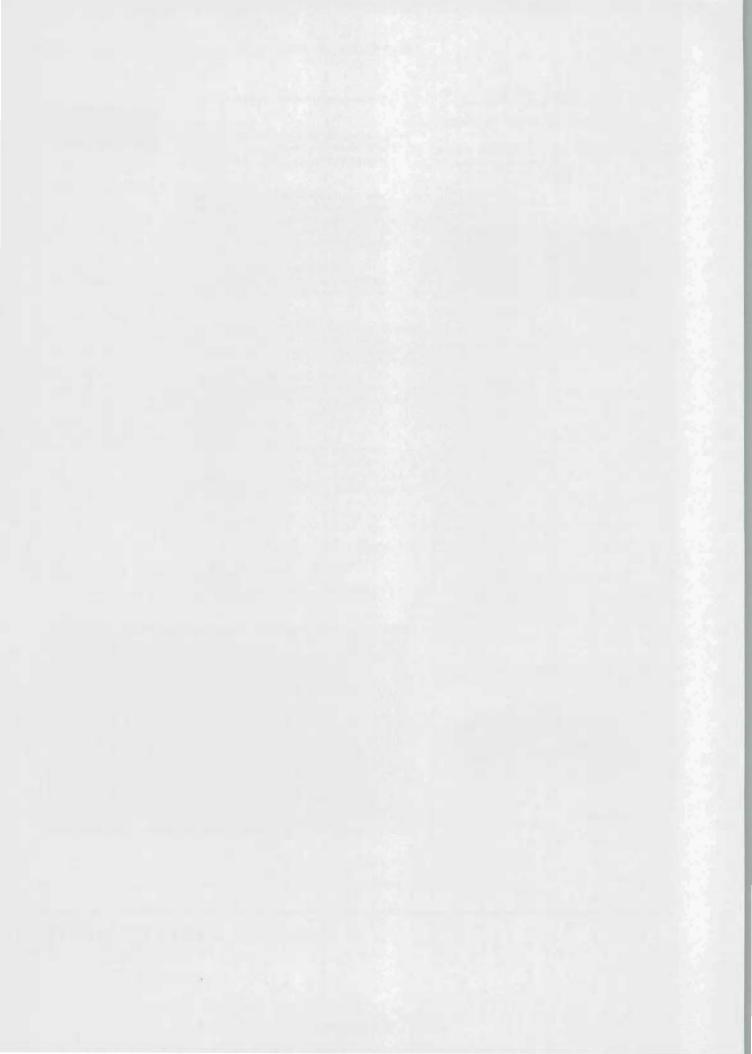
Item Level Description in French





Memory of India





million grant from Google and technical assistance by Apple, Initially, five other libraries contributed material for the prototype, including the national libraries of Egypt, Brazil and Russia.

The digital library is searchable in seven languages, with video commentaries from curators alongside material that includes original maps, manuscripts, photographs and recordings. The ambition is that the material will ultimately be available on personal computers, hand-held devices and some of the rugged, inexpensive laptops that are being developed for emerging markets.

And that list includes Apple's iPods, according to Hervé Marchet, who was representing Apple at the introduction of the World Digital Library and declined to say whether the company was providing funding

"The contribution of Apple is the expertise of its technology," Marchet said. "The mission of Apple in this project is really a mission of quality, a mission of bringing easy to use technology, and to allow more content to be posted online in a very simple way."

When library officials displayed their new handiwork, though, the high technology was overshadowed by the ancient treasures that it could show off: an elaborate 17th-century map of the world with California pictured as a sliced-off island; a 1903 Thomas Edison film of immigrants arriving at Ellis Island and a delicate 17th-century Arabic manuscript on the fundamentals of

"My name is Fountain Hughes," declared a firm southern voice in one of the recordings posted on the site dating back to the 1940s. "My grandfather belonged to Thomas Jefferson. My grandfather was 115 years old when he died. And now I am 101 years old."

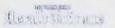
Laura Campbell, an associate librarian with the Library of Congress, said that national libraries. including China's, have been generally receptive to the project.

The project's organizers, she said, are now working to raise money, discussing alliances with Nokia and Vodafone and gathering commitments from countries to participate.

"No one to date has said to us we don't think this is right," Campbell said. "I think people are curious about how it might work and that's why the prototype helps to take the mystery out of what's possible."

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Library of Congress Advances 2 Digital Projects Abroad

By DOREEN CARVAJAL. Published October (8 200

PARIS, Oct. 17 — The Library of Congress announced an ambitious plan on Wednesday to digitize a collection of the world's rare cultural materials — artifacts ranging from a photo collection of a 19th-century Brazilian empress to a crackly recording of the 101-year-old grandson of a slave.

The library also signed an agreement with Unesco in Paris to move ahead with the World Digital Library project, which is in the testing phase and will not be available for public use until next year.

Other national libraries appear poised to cooperate in the venture, which is modeled after the Library of Congress's vast American Memory project that has posted millions of original items on the Web, including Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

"The vision is simply that this is a means for promoting far better intercultural understanding in the world," said James Billington, the librarian of Congress for more than 20 years and the driving force behind the project, which aims to overcome the digital divide in developing countries by offering the collection free online.

The World Digital Library is proceeding as European libraries develop their own digital collections. The European Digital Library will release its prototype next year, and is a response to Google's efforts to digitize libraries in the United States and Britain.

The French National Library has already developed a test project, Europeana, for the European library and is in the process of digitizing 300,000 books. Bruno Racine, the president of the French library, said there was no competition between that project and the World Digital Library.

"The multilingual dimension seems to be a very ambitious challenge, and if we can contribute usefully, we will be happy to do so," Mr. Racine said of the World Digital Library.

The world library started two years ago with a \$3 million grant from Google and technical assistance by Apple. Initially, five other libraries contributed material for the prototype, including the national libraries of Egypt, Brazil and Russia.

The digital library is searchable in seven languages, with video commentaries from curators alongside material including original maps, manuscripts, photographs and recordings.

The aim is that the material will ultimately be available on personal computers, handheld devices and some of the basic, inexpensive laptops that are being developed for use in emerging economies.

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"My name is Fountain Hughes," declared a firm Southern voice in one of the recordings posted on the site dating to the 1940s. "My grandfather belonged to Thomas Jefferson. My grandfather was 115 years old when he died. And now I am 101 years old."

The project's organizers, according to Laura Campbell, an associate librarian at the

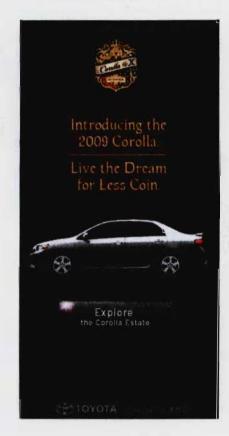
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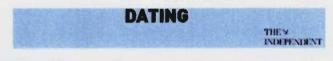
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Voices from the past heard online as world's digital archive nears fruition

By Angela Doland Friday, 19 October 2007

You will be able to listen to a former American slave tell his story, turn the pages of a book about ancient treasures from Egypt or pore over old maps written in Latin. When the World Digital Library goes online next year, it will be free and multilingual, with contributions from around the world including rare books, films, prints, sound recordings and musical scores.

Reporters were yesterday shown a prototype of the new archive, which is being put together by the US Library of Congress, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and five partner institutions - Egypt's Bibliotheca Alexandrina,

the National Library of Egypt, the National Library of Brazil, the National Library of Russia and the Russian State Library.

John Van Oudenaren, a senior adviser on the project, said the goal was to create a "highquality, fluent user experience, no matter what language you are using". He added: "Too many sites are multilingual in a very superficial sense.'

He gave a guided tour of the prototype, showing off documents such as New World maps, historic photographs from Brazil and a 1949 audio file of a former slave in the US. The prototype, which is not available online, runs in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese. The concept is modelled on the Library of Congress's American Memory project, which launched in the 1990s and now has 11 million historical items online.

The library has support from Google, Apple and Intel, all of whom are contributing on some level. Google has already pledged £1.5m towards the project.

"We have provided expertise about how to digitise documents, how to do it for less money, how to handle and sort digital content and make it accessible," said Hervé Marchet, Apple's director of education markets in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

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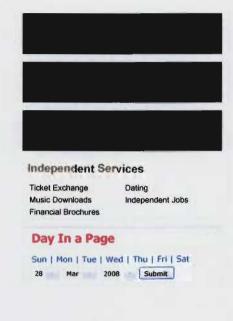
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