



Digital library programs often involve partnerships, because they require resources and expertise that do not exist in one administrative unit alone. The recently-created Indiana University Digital Library Program is no exception. The individual digital library initiatives that preceded the formation of the Digital Library Program relied upon strategic partnerships and offered models for expanding our digital library activities.

INITIAL DIGITAL PROJECTS

The Indiana University Libraries have been developing digital collections and services since the early 1990's, and all have involved partnerships. The Library's first digital initiative was the Library Electronic Text Resource Service (LETRS) established in 1992¹. LETRS provides access to electronic editions of scholarly texts and assistance in creating and using such texts. Although established by the Library's Reference Department, LETRS became a partnership soon after. In May 1993 LETRS, with additional assistance from the Office of Information Technologies and Research, and the University Graduate School, the Libraries and the University Computing Services joined together in a partnership to extend and expand support for scholarly electronic texts by drawing on the complementary resources and expertise available in each organization. Currently, LETRS is jointly funded and staffed by University Information Technology Services (UITS) and the Libraries. The Libraries' second major digital initiative, the VARIATIONS Project, involved a partnership between Indiana University and IBM, with IBM providing funding for software and hardware and the university providing staff, space, and the collections². Since 1996 VARIATIONS has provided online access to CD-quality sound recordings from the William and Gayle Cook Music Library.

FORMALIZING PARTNERSHIPS

In 1996, the Libraries wanted to formalize their support for digital initiatives throughout the Indiana University system, recognizing that not all important collections are located on the Bloomington campus and not all important collections are even housed in libraries. Suzanne Thorin, Ruth Lilly University Dean of University Libraries, decided to formalize the partnership with UITS and add another partner, the School of

INDIANA UNIVERSITY DIGITAL LIBRARY PROGRAM

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Library and Information Science (SLIS) to create the Indiana University Digital

Library Program. The purpose would be to provide ongoing financial and management support for existing digital initiatives and to develop new digital projects and services³. The Digital Library Program is dedicated to the selection, production, and maintenance of a wide range of high-quality networked resources for scholars and students at Indiana University and elsewhere. Our work spans all eight campuses of the university and all units on each campus, providing support for projects and start-up assistance throughout the university. Digital Library Program staff offer a variety of services: exploring grant opportunities, preparing grant proposals, managing digital projects, funding graduate assistantships and internships for SLIS students, and generally advising on project development and management.

Our emphasis to date has been on surveying collections that may be candidates for digitization, exploring grant opportunities to support projects, and creating a new production service, the Digital Media and Image Center, to support internally- and externally-funded projects with audio, video, and image digitizing expertise⁴. The Digital Library Program Team began developing a service model to support the work of the VARIATIONS staff; *The Victorian Women Writers Project*, a collection of SGML-encoded texts edited by Perry Willett, Librarian for English⁵; and *Dido*, a database of digital images created and maintained by the Department of the History of Art in the Hope School of Fine Arts⁶. We wanted it to be clear that the Digital Library Program is here to provide support to the service or project manager, not take control. Simultaneously, we began meeting with collection managers in Bloomington and on other campuses to discuss potential projects to digitize resources and make them available on the web.

EXPANDING DIGITAL PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

Our first digital collection project is the *Frank M. Hohenberger Photograph Collection*, which went online September 1, 1998⁷. The Hohenberger collection, dating from 1917-1960 and housed in the Lilly Library, consists primarily of photographs by Frank Michael Hohenberger, 1876-1963, Brown County photographer and newspaperman. The photograph collection totals

8,300 prints and 9,400 negatives. This collection is notable for its copyright status. Although the photographs are primarily still under copyright protection, the Lilly Library holds the copyright, allowing the Digital Library Program to make them accessible on the web. The project illustrates two important aspects of a successful partnership: Both the Lilly Library and the Digital Library Program made significant contributions to the project and both received benefits. The Lilly Library wanted to make its most popular collection more accessible to the public, while protecting the physical condition of the photographs. The Digital Library Program wanted to gain experience creating a digital collection of photographs, with supplemental information and learning activities for students and teachers. We wanted to establish our credibility as a program that could create this collection and provide reliable access to it via the web.

Our second major project involved three partnerships: inside the Libraries with Lilly Library and the University Archives; outside the Libraries but still within the University with the Archives of Traditional Music; and outside the University with the Monroe County Public Library. We have received two grants, a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and a Library Services and Technology Act grant from the Indiana State Library, to digitize and preserve the Hoagy Carmichael Collections at Indiana University⁸. These collections are housed in the Archives of Traditional Music, the Lilly Library, and the University Archives. The collections include letters, original music manuscripts, published sheet music, original lyric sheets, commercial and field recordings, recorded interviews, commercial and homemade films, photographs, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, early drafts of his biography, oil paintings (by Carmichael himself), a piano and many other artifacts totaling more than 3,000 items. A portion of the digital collections and a complete index will be offered on the web. The entire digital collection will be available at Indiana University Bloomington, via our campus network.

In the Hoagy Carmichael partnership, as in the others above, all partners will contribute to the project and gain from the project. The project will meet the needs of each participant in some way. The partnership with the public library will allow us to conduct usability testing with the general public, one of our target audiences for the digital exhibition section of the web site. It will also provide the public library with some multimedia computer equipment for their Indiana Room. The Libraries receive preservation treatment of their materials; publicity for their work and collections through the web; and, in the case of the Archives of Traditional Music, digitizing equipment and funding for cataloging their Carmichael Collections. The Digital Library Project receives digitizing equipment and gains

valuable experience solving the many challenges in creating a complex, multiple-format digital collection for the web and the campus network. And the big winners are our users around the world who will have access to a wealth of wonderful and valuable resources by and about master Hoosier songwriter Hoagy Carmichael.

As the members of the Digital Library Program Team develop new products and services, we continue to focus on meeting the needs of all partners. We cannot create a digital library alone. We need access to the collections owned and managed by many administrative units of Indiana University, including libraries, archives, and museums. But we have expertise and experience that will allow those units to meet their own goals of preservation and improved access to their collections, creating virtual collections from throughout the university. We look forward to many new successful digital library partnerships.

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REFERENCES

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