

**2007-2008 Smathers Libraries Mini Grant  
APPLICATION COVER SHEET  
Application due: October 1, 2007**

Project Investigator Name: Chelsea Dinsmore  
Department: Government Documents  
Email address : [chedins@uflib.ufl.edu](mailto:chedins@uflib.ufl.edu)

Phone: 273-0369

Additional applicants, please give name and email for each:

Christy Shorey [chrshor@uflib.ufl.edu](mailto:chrshor@uflib.ufl.edu)

Title of grant: Digitizing Hansard's British Parliamentary Debates, 2<sup>nd</sup> series [1820-1830, 25 volumes].

Project abstract (no more than 100 words):

Hansard's British Parliamentary Debates are one of the best sources of the political record for the United Kingdom [1803-1891]. Because the Debates are difficult to use, researchers avoid using the material. We propose creating a text-searchable digital version of the 2<sup>nd</sup> series [1820-1830, 25 volumes] of the Debates. The project is designed to act as a pilot to determine best practices for creating a usable digital form of the Debates. Users' survey data can be presented to outside granting agencies to emphasize the importance of this project.

Funds requested (Limit of \$5,000): \$758.37

Describe how the 10% mandatory cost share will be met:

Preservation is providing the disbinding (3 hours @ 7/hr=\$21), phase boxes (19 @ \$10 ea=\$190.00), the DLC is providing the archival DVDs (5 dvds @ \$0.45 ea=\$2.15).

Please list the library resources to be used in this project and the name of the person authorizing the intended use and date authorized. If you need more room, continue on a separate page.

| Resource  | Authorizing Individual | Date Authorized |
|---|------------------------|-----------------|
| Preservation will disbind volumes and create phase boxes where needed                     | Cathy Martiniyak       | 9/10/2007       |
| DLC will perform the services detailed in this proposal with existing equipment and staff | Erich Kesse            | 9/10/2007       |
| Cataloging will put URLs into catalog records once files are uploaded                     | Betsy Simpson          | 9/26/2007       |
|   |                        |                 |

I have my Department Head's approval to submit this application.  Yes  No

  
Signature

10/1/07  
Date

**Project Description:** The University of Florida library is one of a limited number of US libraries that own a complete physical set of Hansard's British Parliamentary Debates (Debates). Roughly equivalent to the US Congressional Record, the Debates are one of the best sources of political history for the United Kingdom for the period 1803-1909. The Debates have been an under-requested, but highly respected, resource for researchers of British, European, and colonial history. Junior researchers, at times, find its lack of overall indexing and current physical state ponderous to use. Seasoned researchers, however, recognize it as a source of detailed information, offering leads to additional research in their respective areas of study. Digitizing this resource will assist both in its discovery and use by researchers at all levels.

The investigators will survey a group of known and potential users about their knowledge of the Debates and what they would like to see in an online version of this resource. The 2nd series of Debates will then be digitized by the Digital Library Center (DLC), and a limited number of metadata tags will be added to facilitate indexing. The body of the Debates will be full-text searchable. DLC will then mount the images to the web. The initial survey group (or one similar) will be asked to review the materials and give input on the digital product. The results of this focus group, along with the proto - type, will provide data which can be taken to an outside granting agency with a proposal to digitize and tag (to a deeper level, if warranted) the remaining 397 volumes of series 1 and 3.

We understand that the 3<sup>rd</sup> series of the Debates has been partially digitized, through the efforts of the Google Books Project at the University of Michigan; however our sources at UM and Google have been unable to indicate plans to complete the 3<sup>rd</sup> series or address the earlier series. In any case, the limited searchable text available is not sufficiently tagged [in our opinion] for advanced data mining.

**Value of project:** Digitizing the Debates will further the George A. Smathers Library's stated mission of meeting the information needs of the University of Florida community by providing (improved) access to a relevant piece of recorded knowledge. By optimizing the delivery of this resource we will provide a more usable version of the Hansard's British Parliamentary Debates and bring an underutilized resource to the attention of many more students of 19th century Great Britain and its political activities. Based on the most recent set of library goals, this project will assist our users in the discovery of a library resource and increase library outreach by providing a tool which could be effectively used by distance learners, as well as area high school students. Library staff will also find the resource easy to use and therefore easy to recommend. With the addition of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence to UF's collection of international research centers, an increase in international research questions is to be expected. This seems like a prime opportunity to highlight the library's foreign holdings, make them more available and, by adding value to the original material, increase library services needed by academic programs.

From a collection management standpoint, the libraries currently provide digital access to the Florida House Journal (a similar project both in scope and content to the

Debates) and are currently processing the addition of the Cuban House and Senate journals as well as similar journals of other Caribbean countries to our online holdings. The Debates provide a context for the English Caribbean and its drive toward independence. This project, in a sense, is ancillary to our U.S. Department of Education TICFIA Program funded program, "Digital Library of the Caribbean". The Debates provide similar context for Africa at the point of discovery, exploration and the wars of colonial powers.

**Resources needed:** In addition to the efforts of the principle investigator, Chelsea Dinsmore, who will oversee the project, we will rely heavily on the Conservation Unit and the Digital Libraries Center for this project. Christy Shorey will track the materials through the disbinding and boxing phases (directed by John Freund), and see them delivered to the DLC. The grant will pay for staff time spent scanning, doing quality control, and entering metadata. Meanwhile, Chelsea and Christy will organize the focus groups before and after the database is created. Equipment is already available for all of the required steps. No travel is being requested.

**Methodology:** A protocol for surveying the faculty and student participants will be developed and submitted to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for approval. The initial survey will cover basic knowledge level regarding the Debates and (if any) what steps could be taken to enhance use of this resource.

The Debate volumes will be disbound and scanned, creating TIFF 6.0 image files. After extensive quality review, the files will be processed by Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and derivative files (JPEG, JPEG2000 and TXT) will be created from the master TIFF's. The dates of speeches and the source of each speech (House of Commons or Lords) will be tagged. The image files will be made freely available on the UFDC web site. Text-encapsulated XML will also be posted 'behind' the TIFF's, allowing for full text searching across all volumes. An 'archival information package,' including a copy of the master TIFF files and all associated metadata will be provided to the Florida Center for Library Automation's Florida Digital Archive for long term storage in the digital repository. Finally, each volume will be returned to Preservation, where post project assessment will take place and a custom fit phase box will be constructed for the 19 volumes not already boxed. Holdings data for the paper copy will be altered in the OPAC and the volumes will be transferred to our remote storage facility for long-term retention under secure, non-circulating and climate-controlled conditions. See attached Timeline [Appendix A].

Faculty and students, who participated in the initial survey, or a group of similar composition, will be invited to preview the digitized version of the Debates and asked to participate in an evaluation of the proto-type. Their responses will be included in the final report.

**Results:** We will create a full-text searchable, digitized version of the 2<sup>nd</sup> series [1820-1830] of Debates. Each volume contains approximately 1,034 pages, for a total 25,348 pages across the 25 volumes. A group of established and potential users will be

identified and surveyed about their reaction to digitized version of the Debates. The successful completion of this project will create a more usable version of this very relevant resource. It will also provide base data which can be used to seek a larger grant to process the remaining 398 volumes of Hansard's British Parliamentary Debates.

**Attached letters of support:** Dr. Jessica Harland-Jacobs (History), Erich Kesse, Peter Malanchuk, Jan Swanbeck, Gayle Williams (FIU, Latin American & Caribbean

## MINI GRANT PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION

### 2007-2008 Application Budget Worksheet

Please add lines to table as needed. If you need help completing this form, please contact Grace Strawn in the Business Office 273-2555.

#### 1. Salaries and Wages (no fringe benefits required)

| Name of Person  |              | Salary times % of effort |           |    | Grant Funds | Cost Share | Total     |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------|----|-------------|------------|-----------|
| Conservation    | Student      | \$7/hr                   | 3 hrs     | 1% | \$          | \$ 21.00   | \$ 21.00  |
| Quality Control | DLC Staff    | \$7.75/hr                | 7.182hrs  | 1% | \$ 55.66    | \$         | \$ 55.66  |
| Text Unit       | DLC Staff    | \$8/hr                   | 50.696hrs | 1% | \$ 405.57   | \$         | \$ 405.57 |
| Data Entry      | Nelda Schwar | \$15/hr                  | 15min     | 1% | \$ 4.00     | \$         | \$ 4.00   |
| Data Entry      | DLC Staff    | \$8/hr                   | 10hrs     | 1% | \$ 80.00    | \$         | \$ 80.00  |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b> |              |                          |           |    | \$ 545.23   | \$ 21.00   | \$ 566.23 |

#### 2. Equipment

| Item            | Quantity | times | Cost | Grant Funds | Cost Share | Total |
|-----------------|----------|-------|------|-------------|------------|-------|
|                 |          |       |      | \$          | \$         | \$    |
|                 |          |       |      | \$          | \$         | \$    |
|                 |          |       |      | \$          | \$         | \$    |
|                 |          |       |      | \$          | \$         | \$    |
|                 |          |       |      | \$          | \$         | \$    |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b> |          |       |      | 0           | 0          | 0     |

#### 3. Supplies

| Item            | Quantity | times | Cost   | Grant Funds | Cost Share | Total     |
|-----------------|----------|-------|--------|-------------|------------|-----------|
|                 |          |       |        | \$          | \$         | \$        |
| Phase Boxes     | 19       | @     | \$10ea | \$          | \$ 190.00  | \$ 190.00 |
| DVDs            | 5        | @     | \$.43  | \$          | \$ 2.14    | \$ 2.14   |
|                 |          |       |        | \$          | \$         | \$        |
|                 |          |       |        | \$          | \$         | \$        |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b> |          |       |        | 0           | \$ 192.14  | \$ 192.14 |

#### 4. Travel

| From/To         | # of people | # of days | Grant Funds | Cost Share | Total |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-------|
|                 |             |           | \$          | \$         | \$    |
|                 |             |           | \$          | \$         | \$    |
|                 |             |           | \$          | \$         | \$    |
|                 |             |           | \$          | \$         | \$    |
|                 |             |           | \$          | \$         | \$    |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b> |             |           | 0           | 0          | 0     |

#### 5. Other (services vended, etc.)

| Item            | Quantity | times | cost | Grant Funds | Cost Share | Total |
|-----------------|----------|-------|------|-------------|------------|-------|
|                 |          |       |      | \$          | \$         | \$    |
|                 |          |       |      | \$          | \$         | \$    |
|                 |          |       |      | \$          | \$         | \$    |
|                 |          |       |      | \$          | \$         | \$    |
|                 |          |       |      | \$          | \$         | \$    |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b> |          |       |      | 0           | 0          | 0     |

| Total Direct Costs (add subtotals of items 1 through 5) | Grant Funds | Cost Share | Total     |
|---|-------------|------------|-----------|
|   | \$ 545.23   | \$ 213.14  | \$ 758.37 |

## Chelsea Dinsmore

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**From:** Cathleen Martyniak  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2007 11:09 AM  
**To:** Chelsea Dinsmore  
**Cc:** Robert Parker; Christy Shorey  
**Subject:** mini grant permission

To whom it may concern:

Christy Shorey will be given release time to work on the Hansards mini grant as co-PI with Chelsea Dinsmore, if the grant is awarded.

Thank you,

Cathy

Cathleen L. Martyniak  
Chair, Preservation Department  
University of Florida Smathers Libraries  
Gainesville, FL 32611  
(voice) 352 273 2830  
(fax) 352 392 6597  
(email) [cathy@uflib.ufl.edu](mailto:cathy@uflib.ufl.edu)

9/27/2007

## Chelsea Dinsmore

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**From:** Cathleen Martyniak  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2007 11:12 AM  
**To:** Christy Shorey; Chelsea Dinsmore  
**Cc:** Robert Parker; John Freund  
**Subject:** mini grant permission

To whom it may concern:

In support of the Hansards mini grant, Preservation will provide the following support:

- Conservation staff time to disbind the volumes
- Custom phase boxes to house the loose pages post-scanning

Thank you,

Cathy

Cathleen L. Martyniak  
Chair, Preservation Department  
University of Florida Smathers Libraries  
Gainesville, FL 32611  
(voice) 352 273 2830  
(fax) 352 392 6597  
(email) [cathy@uflib.ufl.edu](mailto:cathy@uflib.ufl.edu)

9/27/2007

## Chelsea Dinsmore

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**From:** Erich Kesse  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2007 12:09 PM  
**To:** Chelsea Dinsmore  
**Subject:** DLC Commitment to the Hansards Project

Chelsea,

I have agreed that DLC will perform the services detailed in the Hansard's Parliamentary Debates (2<sup>nd</sup> Series) digitization project proposed by yourself, Chelsea Dinsmore, and Christy Shorey.

Erich Kesse  
Digital Library Center  
3-2900

9/27/2007

## Chelsea Dinsmore

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**From:** Betsy Simpson  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 27, 2007 11:27 AM  
**To:** Chelsea Dinsmore  
**Subject:** Hansard mini-grant

I have agreed that cataloging will edit the Hansard Parliamentary Debate (2nd series, 25 volumes) catalog records to reflect the online status and to indicate that the paper volumes have been moved to remote storage.

Betsy Simpson  
Chair, Cataloging and Metadata Department



College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
Department of History

025 Keene-Flint Hall  
PO Box 117320  
Gainesville, FL 32611-7320  
352-392-0271  
352-392-0627 Fax

26 September 2007

Dear Grants Management Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Christy Shorey's and Chelsea Dinsmore's application for a mini-grant to digitize the second series of Hansard's Parliamentary Debates.

My area of specialization is modern British and imperial history. A digitized version of Hansard's would be an invaluable research tool for me, especially as I embark on a new book project that will require me to survey parliamentary debates of the early nineteenth century.

More importantly, my students would benefit from this project. I would likely require undergraduate students in several courses, including EUH 3502 (Modern Britain), EUH 3530 (From Colonies to Commonwealth), EUH 3533 (Ireland in the British Empire) and WOH 4234 (Atlantic Exchanges), to use the collection in various assignments. I already require students to conduct research in Empire Online, a database the library recently purchased on my urging. Students in my research seminars, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, would use the collection researching a variety of topics including the abolition movement, Catholic emancipation, parliamentary reform, and the Irish question. I am certain that my colleagues in African, American, Caribbean, Latin American, and European history would use Hansard's in their own research and teaching, as would faculty in other departments.

Finally, digitization of Hansard's would provide a great service to the wider academic community as well. Hansard's is one of the key sources for research British history and culture. Scholars in various disciplines from all over the world would undoubtedly take advantage of this project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jessica Harland-Jacobs  
Assistant Professor  
Undergraduate Coordinator  
harlandj@history.ufl.edu



George A. Smathers Libraries  
Technology Services Division  
Digital Library Center

200 Smathers Library  
PO Box 117007  
Gainesville, FL 32611-7007  
352-846-0129  
352-846-3702 Fax  
[www.uflib.ufl.edu/digital/](http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/digital/)

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Dear Grant Committee Members:

I write to offer my support for the Hansards digitization project proposed by Chelsea Dinsmore and Christy Shorey.

The funds requested for the project are sufficient for its successful completion. Having completed similar projects (Florida House Journal, and the journals of the Cuban House and Senate, etc.), the Digital Library Center is well experience with the needs and requirements of documents such as the Hansards. Because these 25,000+ unbound pages represent one title, they move quickly through our workflow.

The project has my support, as well, for topical reasons in support existing projects and future grants, notably the Digital Library of the Caribbean (<http://www.dloc.com>) and African Collections (<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc/?g=Africa>).

Hansards records the evolution and devolution of Empire. The second series, the target of this mini-grant, published between 1820 and 1830, documents important events in colonial history and of meaning to African, Caribbean and Florida studies. When, for example, the United States was affecting the Missouri Compromise and reinstating slavery in the new Florida Territory, the United Kingdom was ending slavery. The decade marks significant flux in the Empire. With political stability on one hand, the British colonies were relatively stable. And, with the Industrial Revolution on the other, colonial economies were beginning to experience radical change. A digital Hansards, with fully searchable text, can be mined for historically significant content pertaining to both Africa and the Caribbean.

Insofar as the project serves as prototype for national granting, it demonstrates that an extended project, covering additional series, has a viable low cost threshold. UF is often criticized by reviewers for costs that seem impossibly low. Prototyping has been an invaluable proof of budget efficacy. Moreover, this prototype will outline issues of utility. Hansards is a largely untapped resource, under utilized everywhere because of its condition. The P.I.s will be able to frame studies of the text's utility among researchers. Use will indicate viability for research: text mining, plotting geo-temporal elements on maps and timelines, indicating areas ripe for education modules, and suggesting areas for partnerships to build the stronger national grant. Finally, this project will allow the P.I.s to respond effectively to the Google question, i.e., "Why do something Google is committed to?" Google, which made the third series available, has not facilitated its use (or made the resource particularly easy to find) nor has it moved to mount additional volumes. More importantly, Google has not built the meaningful corpus of related topical resources around the first series, nor even made its text easy to mine despite search term highlighting.

Please, give it your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erich Kesse". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink on a white background.

Erich Kesse  
Digital Library Center

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George A. Smathers Libraries  
Collection Management Division  
Dept of Special and Area Studies Collections/Africana Collection

519 Library West  
PO Box 117001  
Gainesville, FL 32611-7001  
352-273-2643  
352-392-8118 Fax  
[www.uflib.ufl.edu/cm/africana](http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/cm/africana)

September 28, 2007

Mini Grants Committee 2007-2008  
George A. Smathers Library  
University of Florida  
CAMPUS

Dear Mini Grants Committee:

Chelsea Dinsmore has asked me to comment on an important mini-grant proposal concerning the creation of a text searchable digital version of the Hansard's British Parliamentary Debates for the 2<sup>nd</sup> series 1820-1830 (25 volumes of debates). I am in complete support of this important and timely initiative for this proposed segment and hopefully a complete digital product for the entire series will follow. This is a major standard research and reference resource for the nineteenth and early twentieth century history of England and its world prominence for this era. With respect to Africa this decade is a precursor to a rich and exciting project for both British colonial and African historians. The British were positioned in all regions of sub-Saharan Africa: east, west, central and southern.

For the decade proposed there are significant discussions concerning the British development of southern Africa particularly the Cape Colony. English became the official language in the Cape Colony in 1822 following the settlement of 5,000 British on one hundred acre farms. There are subsequent references to the administration of the Cape Colony during the ten year period and also discussions regarding the dissolution of the Africa Company (May 1821), and the Ashanti wars in the (Gold Coast/Ghana). Included are numerous discussions and debates concerning the slave trade and its abolition attempts in West Africa, Sierra Leone, Cape Colony, Mauritius, Seychelles, and East Africa. This issue continued throughout much of the nineteenth century. I would also mention that the Times of London 1785-1985 (Thomson Gale Databases) would serve as an excellent historical companion resource for researchers to consult and validate debates and information with the purpose to better comprehend and appreciate the issues confronting Africa and the British involvement.

The pilot project should be supported and subsequently broadened to complete the digitization/searchable text of the Hansard's through 1909. For us at the University of Florida that would be exciting enabling us to track the British engagement in West Africa, (Gold Coast, Nigeria and Sierra Leone), Southern Africa including Rhodesia and East Africa, (Uganda and Kenya). JSTOR has full text for the British geographic journals that began in 1833 and continue into the twenty-first century which chronicled their exploration and development in Africa. Hansard's would serve as a British governmental resource and as a worthwhile extension of England's mind set with respect to

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Africa thereby providing a more clearer definition of European colonial power involvement and their relationships with the indigenous leaders. The direct benefactors would be our students and faculty as well as researchers elsewhere in the world. This is a gem of a proposal with the potential to mine numerous historical nuggets thereby linking hitherto discrete items of information into a more complete historical composite for this time period.

Should you need further elaboration and validation for this proposal, please call upon me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Peter Malanchuk  
African and Political Science Bibliographer

Cc: Chelsea Dinsmore, Foreign Documents Bibliographer



**George A. Smathers Libraries**  
Public Services Division  
Government Documents Department

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September 27, 2007

Dear Grant Management Committee,

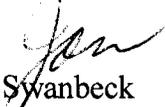
It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of support for the digitization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> series of the Hansard's British Parliamentary Debates.

This is exactly the type of publication that lends itself to digitization. Because so few libraries own this series, scholars must travel to holding libraries, sometimes great distances. A digital version of this important publication will be welcomed by researchers world-wide.

This source, as pointed out in the proposal, is highly underutilized. Not only are there limited copies available but it is also very difficult to use. The provision of full-text searching will dramatically enhance access to the invaluable information in the Debates. This is a wealth of primary source documents about the United Kingdom. It is as important to British scholars as the Congressional Record is to American historians.

It will be wonderful to see this series that has been languishing in various locations of our libraries come to life in digital format for our users. I am confident that this effort will lead to the eventual digitization of the remaining 398 volumes of Hansard's British Parliamentary Debates. Scholars will quickly recognize the enhanced access provided by the digital version and clamor for more!

Sincerely,

  
Jan Swanbeck  
Documents Department



Grant Committee Members  
University of Florida Libraries  
Gainesville FL 32611

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Dear Grant Committee Members:

This letter offers my support for the Hansards digitization project proposed by Chelsea Dinsmore and Christy Shorey.

I support their proposal to digitize the Hansards British Parliamentary Debates, second series, 1820-1830, because of how it fits into other topical and regional digital projects. I have recently started my appointment as Latin American and Caribbean Information Services Librarian at Florida International University and will also take on the role of Co-manager for the Digital Library of the Caribbean, a TICFIA-funded grant carried out by FIU with the technical support of your own Digital Library Center. Dloc's success depends on mounting documents that provide access to otherwise difficult to find materials that are important sources for studying the Caribbean's past and future.

Having coming to FIU from Emory University, I am also very familiar with the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database project there. The availability of the Hansards material would provide valuable data to be added to the slave trade project. In the end, they will complement one another as two major digital tools dedicated to the Caribbean and slave trade issues.

It is exciting to contemplate how the Hansards project will open new doors for researchers on historical issues. I hope you will give this project the maximum amount possible for its success.

Sincerely,

Gayle Williams  
Latin American & Caribbean Information Services Librarian  
Green Library 225  
Florida International University  
Miami FL 33199

Steven and Dorothea Green Library  
University Park, Miami, FL 33199 • [www.fiu.edu](http://www.fiu.edu)

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