

## **B. Introduction**

### **The Clewiston Library Digitization Project**

Hendry County is a rural, agricultural county in Southwest Florida with a population of 39,561 according to the 2005 Annual Estimates of Population (CC-est2005-alldata-12) census released on 8/4/2006.

Hendry County includes two incorporated municipalities: Clewiston and LaBelle. Clewiston Library, Barron Library (located in LaBelle, the county seat) and Harlem Library comprise the Hendry County Library Cooperative. As the result of a long-range planning process in 2005, all three libraries provide Hendry County residents with materials and general information on current topics and titles. In addition, each library has a secondary individualized area of focus. Clewiston Library serves the city residents as well as a large Hispanic population living in outlying rural areas. This year Clewiston Library has established a Florida room to house historical reference material and books pertinent to local and state history. Harlem Community Library was founded in 2000 to serve the needs of a section of Clewiston. It is located in a former school building which also houses the Harlem Academy daycare center. Harlem's current expansion plans call for a state-of-the-art wireless computer lab and a new children's section. Their specialty is a growing African American collection. Barron Library has experienced a large increase in circulation of 43% over last year due to a large portion of the county's population growth. Barron Library collects genealogical materials and has a new computer workstation for area genealogists to use.

Clewiston Library has one professional librarian, the Library Director, who also serves as Cooperative Coordinator. It also has five fulltime paraprofessionals and one part-time paraprofessional, as well as several teen volunteers who help out on holiday vacation periods and over the summer. Barron Library has two fulltime and two part-time staff. They have one volunteer and several teen volunteers during the summer. Harlem Library has had approval from the county and the Hendry County Library Advisory Board in 2007 to hire a fulltime person. They currently have three part-time employees and several volunteers during the summer.

Hendry County Library Cooperative has 27,589 registered borrowers. In addition, we have seasonal visitors who use the Internet while they are vacationing in Florida.

The Hendry County Library Governing Board is the Clewiston City Commission. There is also the Hendry County Library Advisory Board that provides assistance with policy matters.

The total budget for Hendry County Library Cooperative for 2006-07 is \$923,959.00.

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Hendry County residents use the public access computers heavily in all county facilities. The Hispanic students need special attention both in schools and in the library. According to the 2000 U.S. Census fact sheet, only 54.2% of Hendry County residents have obtained a high school diploma or equivalent degree, compared to 80.4% of the total U.S. population. Approximately 30% of our adults are functioning at the lowest level of literacy.

The county's Hispanic population has risen to 18,078, as of July 1, 2005. This represents a significant increase from 39.51% of the county's population in 2000 to 45.70% in 2005. Hendry County's population has the largest percentage of Hispanics of any county in Southwest Florida. Children make up 46.5% of the county's population and of these children, 33% of them are living below the poverty level.

We are requesting an LSTA grant to digitize the *Clewiston News* newspapers from 1928-1945, since the quality of the negatives of these papers before 1945 on file with the University of Florida is too poor to digitize. This project will compliment the National Digital Library Program, whose goal is to have all Florida newspapers available online. The newspapers are deteriorating rapidly because the quality of the newsprint was inferior, especially during the war years.

The Hendry County Libraries would also like to upgrade our website in the future by adding additional historical materials, such as photographs, birth records, photos of artifacts, early manuscripts and documents related to settlements, land transactions, and Indian relations and trading.

## **D. Need**

### **Clewiston History**

The current historical information available digitally about the Clewiston area is negligible. Our target audience for this project is the researchers who would access the *Clewiston News* for data on the local news that would only be available in these papers. Through the Florida Digital Library at <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc/UFDC.aspx?c=fdnl1> we will give this information a wide audience. Erich Kesse reports that the 2005 issues of target newspapers are currently being digitized for FDNL. The *Caloosa Belle* and *Clewiston News* for 2005 are already up and other 2005 titles are in the process of being digitized pending load. All 2006 titles are now being digitized. Therefore, retrospective digitization will provide a more complete history.

The Hendry County Library Cooperative would like to provide historical information on our website for residents, students, visitors, veterans, genealogists, teachers and scholars.

Southwest Florida's history lies in the frontier stories told in small agricultural settlements around Lake Okeechobee and to the West. The *Caloosa Belle*, *Belle Glade Sun*, *Clewiston News*, *Glades Democrat*, and *Okeechobee News* are the most authoritative available source of the history of Clewiston and the surrounding area. Clewiston was not settled until the mid-1920's and the city's charter from the State of Florida was not enacted until 1931. These publications are an irreplaceable treasure documenting the history of the development of Clewiston, LaBelle, Moore Haven, Belle Glade, Pahokee, Okeechobee, and Canal Point.

In addition, the newspapers contain valuable information on the history of aviation, since John Paul Riddle, a pioneer in aviation training, airplane manufacturing, and airline operations, operated Riddle field here in Clewiston during WWII. He also constructed and ran bases in Arcadia, Daytona Beach and in Obion County, Tennessee.

## **Harlem History**

Florida Thomas, Director of the Harlem Community Library, indicates that the history of the Harlem Community before the 1960's is only available through the *Clewiston News*. There is not a written history of Harlem, which used to include an area owned by U.S. Sugar called Townsite, in the old days. Ms. Thomas owns photos of the homes built in Townsite, which were all moved on a truck one day by U. S. Sugar to another location in Harlem because of fear of civil rights unrest. There are plans by local historians to write Harlem's history someday, and when that day comes, these early local accounts will be primary source material for the historical book on Harlem.

## **Other Research**

These early years of the *Clewiston News* contain critical primary source data of interest to many other researchers as well. The most significant topics of interest are early Florida, Florida pioneers, Clewiston history, Harlem history, the Everglades, the Seminole Indians, and WWII aviation. A local writer is compiling a history of Clewiston, which will also use these newspaper accounts for accurate historical information about our town.

War Veterans have inquired about specific people and events in their history, and these facts have to be individually researched by our staff and that of the Clewiston Museum.

For example, the library received a phone call from Mary Margaret at a Florida veteran's hospital inquiring about a plane crash in this area between 1943 and 1945 for a patient. She had contacted several media sources in the area by telephone, to no avail. The Clewiston Library staff spent several hours looking through the bound volumes for this information.

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The newspapers had to be searched individually to retrieve the information for this patron, whereas digital access could have given this veteran an answer to his query online.

In addition, WWII veterans can recreate parts of their war experience and training and reconnect with their fellow servicemen and women. The information will be available worldwide for scholars researching American aviation history. From 1941-45 is a particularly significant time period for historians.

During the war, Riddle-McKay Aviation School of Florida, a private contractor for the United States government, built and operated bases, training some 26,000 young men to fly. Riddle Field in Clewiston, in Daytona and in Arcadia were important U. S. Airforce training bases during WWII. RAF pilots came here to train with our Allied troops to fight the Axis powers overseas. This collaboration was beneficial to both countries' fighting forces. These men and their sons and daughters will have access to primary source information on this accomplishment with the successful completion of this project.

The *Clewiston News*' obituary information will be available to genealogists who are researching their family histories.

Individuals who grew up in this area can readily retrieve information that is pertinent to their past.

As part of a greater whole, the goal of digitizing all Florida newspapers will be closer to realization with the completion of this project. Historians, teachers, genealogists and veterans worldwide will benefit from the retrieval of information contained in these significant volumes. These early events chronicled the pioneer spirit that formed America's heritage.

## **E. Inputs**

1. **Volumes.** The 884 volumes of the *Clewiston News* from 1928-1945 are owned by the Clewiston Museum. Bound volumes are given to them every year for safekeeping by the newspaper staff. These volumes are bound together in a yearly book.

2. **Staff.** Barbara Oeffner, the Library Director, will be the project manager for this undertaking. Her duty will be to oversee the project to its successful conclusion. Jeff Barwick, the Clewiston Museum Director, will coordinate the resources needed to physically ship the newspapers to the designated vendor. Barbara and Jeff have worked together on other projects, including the Sugar Festival last April and on a One Book, One Community photo display at the library. Sondra Taylor-Furbee, Executive Director of SWFLN and Christopher Jones, Education Coordinator, will advise and assist with the digitization project.

3. **Grant Funds.** The LSTA grant will be used to digitize the old brittle newspapers and make them available to everyone through the University of Florida and a link to the Hendry County Library website.

4. **Partner Organizations.** The Clewiston Museum, as a partner in this project, will provide part of the funds to carry out the tasks involved in this project. We will work together to provide access to these historical early years of the *Clewiston News*.

The University of Florida, under the direction of Erich Kesse, will host the digital version of the *Clewiston News* and make this data available through their databases.

The Southwest Florida Library Network will provide the Clewiston Library help with all aspects of their digitization of the *Clewiston News*. Executive Director Sondra Taylor-Furbee and Digitization Director Christopher Jones have had experience with digitization, and they will provide expertise and assistance with this project. They are currently working with the Clewiston Museum and other historical organizations on a SWFLN digital preservation project funded with LSTA grant monies.

## **F. Action Plan**

The Clewiston Library and Clewiston Museum will advertise a request for proposals to digitize the *Clewiston News* from 1928-1945.

After the proposals are received, we'll review them and have them discussed by a committee of Clewiston Library Board members, SWFLN, and the Clewiston Museum Board members.

The Clewiston Library will provide the estimated 80 hours of staff time to bubble wrap, box up, and tape closed the bound volumes of the *Clewiston News* from 1928-45. We will provide the materials such as packing boxes, bubble wrap, book tape and Styrofoam peanuts to assure the newspapers are not damaged in transit to the scanning site.

The Hendry County Library Cooperative will, in partnership with the Clewiston Museum, prepare the newspapers for shipment. This will come from two staff members. The Director will supervise another staff member in the packing of the newspapers for shipping to the OCLC Preservation Center or iArchives. Both vendors have extensive historic newspaper digitization experience working with institutions participating in the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). iArchives is the University of Florida's vendor for NDNP. OCLC Preservation Resources has assisted University of Florida in its Caribbean newspaper digitization projects. The other staff member will be either an employee of the Clewiston Library or our partner the Clewiston Museum, a member of

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the Friends of the Library, or one of our volunteers. The shipping charges will be paid for by the Clewiston Museum.

The Library Director has had experience in a similar project in her former position as reference librarian for the Palm Beach County Library System. Fifteen hundred pounds of The Belle Glade area newspapers owned by the Lawrence E. Will Museum from 1924-present were packed and shipped by Phyllis Lilley, Belle Glade Branch Manager, and Barbara Oeffner, reference librarian, in 2004. These newspapers were microfilmed by the OCLC Preservation Center. This project assured the preservation of the local history these newspapers represented. The newspapers were deteriorating and were fragile when handled by researchers. Bits of paper came off when they were handled.

The Clewiston Library Digitization Project would like to digitize the early years of the *Clewiston News* so that the information will be accessible to a worldwide audience.

## Copyright

The Clewiston Library will adhere to copyright compliance. We will use SWFLIN's authorization form to make sure the *Clewiston News* and other documents will have the appropriate copyright permissions.

The Clewiston newspapers were not copyrighted in 1928-1945. However, the ownership is still with The *Clewiston News*. They want the Clewiston Library to keep the archival copies along with the Clewiston Museum, as they do not have storage space.

## Preservation Plan

### Outsource

OCLC Preservation Center in Bethlehem, PA or iArchives in Linden, Utah will make three copies of the data in greyscale. One will be the property of the Clewiston Library (surrogate copy), one will be owned by the Clewiston Museum, and one will be for the University of Florida Digital Library Center to add to the Florida Digital Newspaper Library.

After the newspapers have been scanned and processed by OCLC or iArchives, they will be sent back to the Clewiston Museum, where they are currently housed. This will necessitate unpacking and storing the volumes from 1928-1945. We estimate this work will take from 25-30 hours. Staff or volunteers will provide this labor.

Once the files are digitized, and metadata is attached, they can be stored wherever is most convenient, on our Hendry County Library network, or on a remote third party host. The

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newspaper text and digitized images will be attached to any needed metadata and stored in an appropriate database in non-compressed tiff file format at 300 dpi, in compliance

with FDNL standards. The surrogate (digital copy) will be preserved by the Clewiston Library. There will also be a digital copy for the Clewiston Museum. Erich Kesse has indicated that the Florida Digital Newspaper Library at <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc/UFDC.aspx?c=fdnl1> will be willing to host the data on their server, giving full credit to The Clewiston Public Library, the Clewiston Museum, LSTA and the publishers. There are plans to make FDNL data cross-searchable with the Florida Electronic Library in the near future. Although FDNL is independent of PALMM, Erich Kesse said that there are also plans to make it cross-searchable with PALMM.

Users can search archived documents with either a simple search, using keywords or an advanced search using headlines, bylines, pages, truncated words, and other user defined customized fields. Each search result will include metadata and an image of the document.

## **Publicity**

The Clewiston News project will be announced through local media, PBS station WGCU in Ft. Myers, the SWFLN newsletter, and the Clewiston Chamber of Commerce. We will request 6 public service spots on WAFC, the local radio stations and Radio Fiesta whereby the Clewiston Library Director and Clewiston Museum Director read a prewritten ad and music is plugged in behind it.

We will publicize it on the Hendry County Library website, the City of Clewiston website, and at all three Hendry County libraries. The Clewiston Museum will also publicize it to their members. We will notify the local schools and churches, as well as the local businesses through the Rotary and Lion's Clubs. We will publicize the intent to digitize the back issues from 1928-1945 as soon as we are notified of the LSTA grant award.

## **Timeline**

### **October, 2007**

We will obtain a final quote from OCLC and iArchives regarding expense of the scanning project. Then the Clewiston Library, The Clewiston Museum, SWFLN and the University of Florida will advertise a request for proposals. A committee will be formed with representatives from The Clewiston Library and our partners the Clewiston

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Museum, SWFLN, and the University of Florida Digital Library. We will select the vendor that can provide the best price and services for our needs.

The Clewiston Museum will order shipping labels from FedEx and obtain shipping charges to and from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, Linden, Utah or another location where the selected vendor is situated.

### **November, 2007**

The Clewiston Library in partnership with the Clewiston Museum will wrap, pack and box up the 884 *Clewiston News* volumes. To assure that they're not damaged, we'll use appropriate packing materials. Barbara Oeffner, the Clewiston Library project director, will supervise this activity.

The cost of rebinding the newspaper volumes. We will have the selected vendor rebind the newspapers.

### **January, 2008**

Unpacking the return volumes will take 25-30 hours. This can be done by library and/or museum staff and volunteers.

Store and preserve the original *Clewiston News* volumes in archival boxes.

Test the digital data for quality control.

Add the new link to our Hendry County Library website.

Have the *Clewiston News* image files uploaded to Florida Digital Newspaper Library at <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/UFDC.aspx?c-fdl1>. This can be done with the Digital Library of the Caribbean toolkit or another tool.

Attach the additional components at the University of Florida to comply with FDNL standards. These services will be provided at no cost as a matching contribution from this partner.

## **G. Budget Page and Narrative**

The Clewiston Library Digitization Project will have a number of components that will be delegated to Clewiston Library and Clewiston Museum staff. SWFLN and the University of Florida will be consulted and used to answer questions and give advice

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throughout the project. All the partners will work together to achieve a successful outcome to this project.

The cost of staff time to supervise the packing and transportation of the *Clewiston News* 1928-1945 to the vendor will be donated by the Clewiston Library.

FedEx shipping charges to and from the vendor will be paid by one of our partners, The Clewiston Museum, estimated at \$700.

The cost of scanning & digitizing the newspapers, which is estimated by iArchives, Inc. to be \$10,296 for 9,300 pages will be paid for by the LSTA grant.

The estimate from OCLC Preservation Center is \$12,000. (We have obtained two estimates because we will have to issue a request for proposals for this project.)

The Clewiston Library will donate the staff time to unpack the volumes, estimated at 30 hours.

The company iArchives, Inc. or OCLC Preservation Center, or another vendor will scan and digitize the *Clewiston News* so that the important history of this area will be made accessible to students, researchers, and scholars.

The University of Florida will provide the following:

- 1) JPEG derivatives (made from TIFF) ...630 pixels wide...for \$.01 per page.
- 2) JPEG2000 (JP2) derivatives (made from TIFF)...NDSP specification ..\$.04 per page (Univ. of Florida cost)
- 3) TXT derivatives (Made from TIFF) using advanced PrimeRecognition software, configured with 6 optical character recognition engines for best accuracy \$.15 per page (Univ. of Florida cost)
- 4) Mark-up for image deployment (structural metadata)...compliant with UFDC/FDNL standard \$0.115 per page

The cost of the University of Florida's share is \$.35 per page times 9,300 pages = \$3,255.00

The number of hits on the web site will be measured to indicate how many viewers have searched for information in the *Clewiston News*. A web poll will be designed and conducted to determine how many searchers have found the information they seek in the back issues from 1928-1945.

We are requesting that the requirement to match 1/3 of the funds over \$10,000 be waived since Hendry County is a rural county.

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The total budget required to complete this project is \$12,000.

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