I

Page 1 of 1
A. Project Description

This proposal seeks $4,838 to assess and plan for future projects related to digitizing significant historical holdings of Florida’s cultural heritage repositories: archives, historical societies, libraries, and museums. It leverages the Libraries new capacities and assets from past grant funded projects: Ephemeral Cities (IMLS), Digital Library of the Caribbean (DOE), Unearthing St. Augustine (NEH) and Advancing Access and Preservation Best Practices in Florida (NEH).

The University of Florida has a long history of partnering with other institutions in digital collection building and digitization activities. Many collaborative endeavors are undertaken with partners around the U.S. or internationally, but the majority have been completed with partners from within the state. Most notably the Libraries have enjoyed long-term collaborations with other public universities in Florida, and also have partnered with a variety of cultural heritage repositories. And yet, despite numerous years as a leader in digital efforts in Florida, Libraries’ personnel know relatively little about the digitization activities, plans and needs of the majority of the state’s cultural heritage repositories.

The proposed project has three primary goals:

1. To determine the current state of the digital activities in Florida’s libraries, archives, museums and other cultural heritage repositories.
2. To plan for a collaborative digital project, or projects, with multiple partners around the state.
3. To submit one or more digital project grant proposals based on inter-institutional collaboration models.

To accomplish these goals, the project team will complete the following activities:

1. Conduct a literature review and collect extant information on digital activities and needs in Florida.
2. Create and distribute a survey instrument to more than 500 cultural heritage repositories (list available upon request).
3. Analyze the survey results and prepare a report.
4. Conduct a planning meeting in Miami with representatives from FIU, USF, and UM. [1.5 days]
5. Write and submit a grant application, likely to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Background - In 2003, UF received an IMLS grant to lead a collaborative project entitled Ephemeral Cities. Partners included Florida International University (FIU), the University of South Florida (USF) and numerous historical societies, museums and libraries throughout the state. The primary goal of the project was to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and digital library technologies to place community histories in geographic context and link to digital resources documenting those histories. The three cities selected for the project were Gainesville, Tampa and Key West, and the objective was to allow users to explore the evolution of those cities over time using a digital atlas system. Stated simply, the idea was ahead of its time. The technology needed to successfully complete all of the project’s goals simply did not exist at the time. In the intervening ten years Libraries personnel have learned much, and technology has progressed greatly. Numerous grant-funded projects, such as the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) and Unearthing St. Augustine, have led to significant advances to the UF open source digital content management system, SobekCM.

The project team is currently planning for an inter-institutional project with FIU, USF and the University of Miami (UM) that is intended to bolster a proposal to IMLS for funding. Although early in the conceptual stage, the project will include many of the same goals and activities established in the original Ephemeral Cities project. Additionally, the team will adapt some of the successful aspects of the dLOC model of a central coordinator to help provide coordination, training, technological infrastructure and other supports to cultural heritage repositories lacking the capacity to engage in digital projects. Each of the lead university partners and the project coordinator will collaborate with multiple partners in their regions. For example, UF may decide to partner with the St. Augustine Historical Society as the project team already enjoys a strong relationship. Some partners will contribute digital content (e.g., oral histories, maps, audiovisual materials, etc.), while others may only contribute technological support (e.g., GIS), and some may contribute both. With grant funding from IMLS and/or other funding sources, the project will support the ongoing development of SobekCM and serve as a replicable model for other institutions, states and collaborations.

Survey of Digitization in Florida's Cultural Heritage Repositories – The project team is unaware of any survey focusing solely on digitization and digital projects in Florida’s cultural heritage repositories. Over the past ten years, there have been a small number of national surveys that have included responses from Florida repositories. For example, IMLS conducted a 2004 survey of Technology and Digitization in the Nation's Museums and Libraries, from which it is possible to draw some general conclusions applicable to Florida almost ten years ago. The Association of Research Libraries has produced multiple SPEC Kit surveys in the last 5-10 years relating to digitization and digital activities, most of which
include results from Florida’s ARL libraries. Additionally, some useful data has been produced by surveys addressing other topics, such as an archival education needs survey that was conducted in 2010 as part of a grant-funded project at UF, Advancing Access and Preservation Best Practices in Florida. The majority of the respondents identified digitization as the area in which they needed the most education and training. Although the survey was aimed at archivists, respondents also included library, museum and historical society professionals.

Unfortunately, these surveys reveal very little about the current state of digitization and digital efforts in Florida. If UF is going to continue providing leadership and support to cultural heritage repositories in digitizing and providing access to the state’s rich historical treasures, the Libraries needs to be far more methodical about collecting data to direct digital activities. There are too many unanswered questions. What steps are repositories taking, if any, to provide access to digital resources? What are their digitization priorities? What are they lacking in terms of infrastructure, expertise, technology? What materials already have been digitized? What barriers hinder digital preservation and access? What collaborative efforts already exist? In order to address this lack of useful data, the project team proposes to conduct a survey on digitization practices and digital projects at cultural heritage institutions in Florida. The project team will conduct a thorough literature review, examining surveys pertaining to digitization and collecting extant evidence about the state of digitization. UF’s CAPES (Collaborative Assessment and Program Evaluation Services) program in the College of Education will assist in the creation and dissemination of the survey, analyze the results, and prepare a final report.

Planning for Collaborative Digital Projects - At the same time that the survey is underway, the project team will convene a planning meeting to discuss 1) the IMLS collaborative digital project described above, and 2) other possible collaborative digital projects. For many years, UF Libraries personnel have participated in similar planning meetings prior to collaborating on grant-funded digital projects. It has always proven to be expedient to meet together face-to-face to share and discuss ideas, define the problems that need to be to solved, and develop the principal goals and activities for these projects. This planning meeting gives UF and its partners the best chance of crafting a competitive grant application for submission to IMLS and other funding agencies/sources.

In addition to this mini-grant project team, representatives from FIU, USF and UM have agreed to participate. The team also will invite representatives from cultural heritage repositories in Miami-Dade. Participants will include digital collection librarians, programmers, archivists, GIS and mapping experts, special collections librarians, and faculty specializing in Florida history. FIU has offered to host the day-and-a-half meeting. The meeting will be held in mid-December or January so that there is sufficient time to write and submit the grant application to IMLS in February 2014. Analysis of the survey results also should be completed during the grant-writing period. Combined with any anecdotal information collected from cultural heritage professionals at the planning meeting, the data collected by the survey should be sufficient to demonstrate need and explain significance.

B. Project Importance
This project is designed to foster collaborative project planning and to increase knowledge of and communication about digitization activities in the state. Beyond the end of this project, the results of the survey and planning activities will be useful in attempts to increase the number and variety of repositories participating in digitization efforts statewide. This, in turn, should expand and enhance access to Florida’s cultural heritage materials.

The results of the survey will fill a major gap in the knowledge about digital activities relating to cultural heritage collections in Florida, both accessible and inaccessible. This survey increases awareness and understanding about the current state of Florida's digitization efforts, identifies the major “players” active in the state, and reveals common practices, interests and needs. The survey results should serve as a road map for future digital activities, particularly collaborative endeavors, and should lead to the development of strategies for digitizing Florida's cultural heritage resources. Finally, the results will be rich baseline data useful for future research examining digital activities in the state.

At the same time that the survey provides an initial measurement – a snapshot view – of digitization activities and needs statewide, the planning meeting should produce a collaborative digital project that can serve as a model for the future. Regardless of whether this model is based upon the aforementioned dLOC model or some other approach, the intent is to develop the technological infrastructure and a methodology that can be replicated by others. Another long-term benefit of the collaborative project planned at the meeting will be the ongoing development of the open source SobekCM system, which ensures that UF and all current and future adopters of the system will be able to support a wider range of scholarly activities.
Along with the survey results, the planning meeting should reveal existing and potential collaborative efforts throughout the state. There are several advantages to participating in collaborative digital projects: sharing of expertise and resources (e.g., hardware and software), agreement on standards and best practices, online integration of related materials preserved in multiple repositories, identifying and addressing common issues that are more easily solved with partners, shared training programs, and greater effectiveness at seeking funding to support activities. A key activity for many successful collaborative digital programs in other states or regions has been to conduct surveys at the onset to determine the status of digitization activities, assess needs, and identify partnerships. Because Florida’s cultural heritage repositories reflect the state’s diverse cultures and communities, it is essential to hold a planning meeting at which potential partners can voice their interests and needs.

This project supports the mission and goals of the Libraries. Digitization and digital scholarship are identified annually in the Libraries’ budget reviews as core strategic services that support the mission of the University (e.g., http://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00001359/00001). All digital content and services support the Libraries’ mission by enhancing educational activities and supporting research at UF. Additionally, the project supports the University’s mission to provide service for the public good and support the state’s critical needs. Based on many years of expertise as leaders in digital efforts internationally, the UF Libraries can provide guidance to cultural heritage repositories in the state. This guidance is critically important to those repositories lacking sufficient resources or knowledge.

C. Similar Projects
There are numerous collaborative projects that have used surveys and planning meetings as methods for guiding their decision making and activities. Academic libraries have served in leadership roles for many of the projects at the state level. Examples include California, Tennessee, Nevada, to name only a few. There are many more examples where academic libraries participated in similar endeavors as part of coalitions with state libraries, archives or historical societies (e.g., North Carolina).

D. Resources Needed and Impacts
Grant funds will be used to compensate CAPES for consultation services, and to fund travel to Miami for the planning meeting. The project will not require any additional resources. Aside from Special Collections and IT, the home departments for the project team members, the only department impacted directly will be the Fiscal Services Office in support of the travel to Miami for the planning meeting.

E. Project Plan

| November 2013 | • John Nemmers, Mark Sullivan and Cathy Martyniak conduct a literature review to identify survey data pertaining to digital projects in Florida.  
• With consultation from CAPES, the project team members develop the survey instrument, distribution list, and letter of appeal. |
| December 2013 | • Survey distributed.  
• Project team encourages participation via direct email, listservs, personal contacts, and networks.  
• Planning meeting held in Miami with representatives from UF, USF, FIU and the University of Miami, as well as possible partners in the region. |
| January 2014 | • Survey closes.  
• CAPES analyzes results. |
| February 2014 | • CAPES submits final report with analysis of survey results.  
• Project team incorporates survey results in IMLS grant application. |
| March-April 2014 | • Project team publishes results of survey |

This accelerated timeline ensures that all information gathering and planning activities are completed in time to submit a competitive grant application to IMLS, which is due in February.

Survey Activities
The survey population will include more than 500 cultural heritage repositories identified using a variety of lists, including but not limited to:

• Archival repositories listed in the Guide to Florida Archives & Manuscript Repositories http://library.ucf.edu/SpecialCollections/GuidetoRepositories/
Florida Association of Museums database of Florida museums http://www.flamuseums.org/museums/
List of libraries maintained by the State Library of Florida: http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/fgils/fl_lib.html

The project team will compile this list at the start of the project.

Working with CAPES the project team will distribute the online survey instrument via email. The survey will ask the respondents questions such as:

- What holdings should be prioritized for digitization based on subject? Temporal coverage? Format?
- What holdings have been digitized but aren't accessible online easily or at all?
- What collaborations currently exist? Have existed? Should exist?
- What training/support is most needed?
- What technologies are being used (etc., digital systems, hardware)? What technologies are most needed?
- What standards or best practices are being followed?
- What guidance are institutions seeking?
- What are the greatest barriers to digitization and providing access to digital content?

CAPES will analyze the survey responses and submit a final report by February 2014.

Planning Meeting Activities
The project team will work with FIU personnel to coordinate the planning meeting at FIU in December 2013. The meeting will span 1.5 days, and will include demonstrations of technologies (e.g., SobekCM) and detailed discussion of the IMLS grant concept. The project team has identified several individuals to participate in the planning meeting:

- Althea (Vicki) Silvera, Department Head, Special Collections, Green Library, FIU
- Jamie Rogers, Assistant Director of Digital Collections, Green Library, FIU
- Jennifer Fu, Head, GIS Center and the Digital Collections Center, Green Library, FIU
- Laura Capell, Head, Digital Production & Oral Histories, UM
- Maria Estorino Dooling, Chair, Cuban Heritage Collection, UM
- Beatrice Skokan, Manuscripts Librarian; African Studies, Women's & Gender Studies, UM
- Barbara Lewis, Coordinator for Digital Collections, USF
- Andy Huse, Assistant Librarian, Special Collections, USF

Many of these individuals have agreed to participate already. Additionally, the project team will work with FIU and UM to identify regional cultural heritage professionals who should be invited to the meeting.

F. Collection – Not Applicable to this Proposal

G-H. Grant Writing and Dissemination of Survey Results
This project should culminate in two concrete products: 1) a completed survey report, and 2) a collaborative digital project proposal. The project team will publish the results of the survey and subsequent analysis online in the UF Institutional Repository (IR). Results will be announced via professional listservs and online groups, and the team members plan to submit an article for publication. The article will include an evaluation of the success of the project based on the survey response rate and the quality of the data collected. At the same time, the project team will work with partner institutions to write the collaborative grant proposal, which will be submitted to IMLS in February 2014. The grant proposal also will be made available online in the IR.

I. Long Term Financial Implications
This project will produce data and planning information that will be used to write the IMLS application. If successful, the IMLS grant should provide funds to support development of SobekCM. Beyond this immediate implication, the data and planning could lead to multiple subsequent digital projects involving Florida’s cultural heritage resources.

J. Equipment – Not Applicable to this Proposal
BUDGET NARRATIVE

Grant funds will be used to hire UF’s CAPES program for consultation services. David Miller, CAPES Director, has agreed to donate his time free to the project. He will employ a graduate student for $1,930 to complete the survey development, delivery and analysis.

Grant funds will be used to support travel to Miami for the 1.5 day planning meeting on the FIU campus. The budget includes travel funds for:

1. UF: Martyniak, Nemmers, Sullivan:
   - Airfare * $215 x 3 people Total: $645
   - Lodging (2 nights) ** $258 x 1 person Total: $258
   - Lodging (3 nights) ** $387 x 2 people Total: $774
   - Meals (3 days) $108 x 3 people Total: $324
   - Car Rental (3 days) $29 per day Total: $87
   Total $2,088

2. USF: Lewis, Huse:
   - Lodging (2 nights) ** $258 x 2 people Total: $516
   - Meals (2.5 days) $90 x 2 people Total: $180
   - Mileage (279 miles) $0.445 / mile Total: $124
   Total $820.16

Total Travel Funds $2,908.16

* The lowest rate flying from Gainesville to Miami is $215, based on searches of Kayak.com and American Airlines, October 7, 2013.

** Lodging at St. Michel Hotel in Coral Gables, as recommended by FIU Library personnel. Nightly rate is $129. Nemmers and Sullivan will spend 3 nights, arriving the night before the meeting to organize and set up the meeting with FIU personnel. Martyniak will spend 2 nights, arriving the day of the meeting.

As PI, Nemmers will contribute 3% FTE ($2,426). He will be responsible for the literature review, compiling the list of survey recipients, writing the survey appeal letter, developing the survey instrument, reviewing analysis report by CAPES, publicizing the survey results, organizing and participating in the planning meeting, and writing the collaborative grant proposal for submission to IMLS.

As Co-PI, Sullivan will contribute 3% FTE ($2,883) and will have the same responsibilities as Nemmers.

Cathy Martyniak will contribute 2% FTE ($1,678). She will have the same responsibilities as Nemmers, except she will not be responsible for organizing the planning meeting.
Please add lines to table as needed. If you need help completing this form, please contact Bess de Farber, PH# 273-2519.

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The Saint Augustine Historical Society (SAHS) would support, welcome, and benefit from your proposed survey of digital resources in Florida’s cultural heritage repositories. SAHS holds manuscript, photographic and other print as well as audio resources on the history of St. Augustine, northeast Florida and the Spanish colonial southeast region. We would certainly benefit just from the exercise of answering the questions, which would force us to think about our collections in new ways.

It would be most helpful to learn what other institutions consider as priorities for selecting collections to digitize. At times it seems to me that the level of interest and enthusiasm of volunteers for projects is a major influence in the choice of projects.

It would be helpful to learn of potential partners for grant applications and direct cash contributions.

Please let me know how SAHS can assist with the creation of the survey and as it unfolds.

Susan R. Parker

Susan R. Parker, Ph.D.
Executive Director
St. Augustine Historical Society
271 Charlotte St.
St. Augustine, FL 32084
904-824-2872 (Phone)
904-824-2569 (Fax)
sahsdirector@bellsouth.net
www.oldesthouse.org

Historian:
Colonial Southeast,
Spanish Borderlands
October 10, 2013

John Nemmers  
Descriptive & Technical Services Archivist  
University of Florida Smathers Libraries  
Gainesville, FL 32611-7005

Dear Mr. Nemmers,

The Gold Coast Archives group was created in 2002 to provide an opportunity for archivists to meet, discuss and network within the archive profession. This group also encourages new archivists and curators in the field to learn about the profession. We meet quarterly at various organizations in Broward, Dade and Palm Beach counties in Florida.

When we meet, our group is almost always discussing what we are doing digitally to preserve our collections. So many collections are being comprised of digital images, e-mails, websites and social media accounts. How will we preserve these valuable records for the future? A lot of our members are from smaller organizations that don’t have the staff, time or money to fully save/preserve these important documents. If it was possible to partner with larger organizations to preserve these items or devise a plan that would assist smaller organizations, our group would be heading in the right direction.

On behalf of the Gold Coast Archives, there is no doubt that we would fully support a survey of cultural repositories if it would lead to a cooperative effort on saving these important documents in the future.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Michael Zaidman  
Gold Coast Archives Leader

Gold Coast Archives – South Florida  
http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Gold-Coast-Archives-2982960/about
John,

Please accept this email in support of your proposed project “Planning for Collaborative Digital Projects in Florida’s Cultural Heritage Repositories.” Florida’s historical organizations contain a vast collection of materials important to the history of the state and of the country. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funding, many of these collections are not digitized and thus are not available for dissemination to an audience outside of on-site visitors to the owning repository.

This project would allow for the digitization of many of these collections, and would allow for more collaborative projects across the state. The results of this project would help institutions such as mine when planning exhibits. In this digital age, it is paramount that curators and exhibit designers be able to access collections online to aid in gathering information as well as identifying potential materials for inclusion in exhibits. This benefits not only the museum who is creating the exhibit, but also the repository that holds the material(s) by allowing their name to reach a wider audience through credit-lines. This can also serve as an added revenue source through the charging of use and reproduction fees. In addition, having collections online helps to increase the number of visitors (either on-site or virtual) to an organization.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Gaub Antequino  
Collections Manager  
Orange County Regional History Center  
65 East Central Boulevard  
Orlando, FL 32801  
Tel: 407.836.8587 Fax: 407.245.0412  
www.thehistorycenter.org  
Smart. Surprising. Fun.

A Year in the Life: Backstage to Onstage at the Universal Orlando® Resort  
January 26, 2013- January 26, 2014  
An exclusive look at the process that goes into bringing the theme parks’ iconic annual events to life.  
http://www.thehistorycenter.org/backstagetoonstage

PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law (F. S. 119). All e-mails to and from County Officials are kept as a public record. Your e-mail communications, including your e-mail address may be disclosed to the public and media at any time.
October 9, 2013

Dear John Roman Nemmers,

It is a pleasure to work with you on the project, “Planning for Collaborative Digital Projects in Florida’s Cultural Heritage Repositories”. We would be able to help with survey instrument development, delivery and data analysis. I would work with a graduate student to complete this project. The graduate student would cost $1929.60 for three weeks of half time work. I would donate my time free to the project.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

M. David Miller
Professor, Research and Evaluation Methods
Director, CAPES

The Foundation for The Gator Nation
An Equal Opportunity Institution