

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
HISTORIC COSTUME COLLECTION
DIGITIZATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
PROGRESS REPORT FOR DALNET

June 30, 2002

January to March 2002 –

Project Design Phase 100% completed - January to March 2002

March 2002 to September 2002 –

Project Implementation Phase approximately 60% completed as of date of this report.

Details follow:

- Selected portions of collection are almost finished being digitized --- one digitization session remains. We will be trying to videotape this last session.
- Research into development and/or enrichment of existing metadata in CollectorPro database is ongoing.
- Work on Web site design and content (e.g. help pages, introductory text, etc.) with input from all project-associated parties and create an alpha test site for the project is still being conceived. See starting point at <http://www.lib.wayne.edu/web/hcc/>
- Received and are currently installing Digital Library Extension Service (DLXS) software and MrSID Geo imaging software on servers. Configuration and testing will begin in late July.
- Cataloging and indexing the images using appropriate metadata and indexing standards has not yet begun.
- Metadata planning meetings have been held and are continuing. As of this date, a mixture of DC and VRA may be used. This work and data mapping plans are almost completed.

Submitted by
Adriene Lim
WSULS

DALNET Information Hub Digital Projects WSU Costume Database Project Follow-up Interview

Participants: Jeff Trzeciak, Adriene Lim, Ann Walaskay, David Murphy
Date: Sept. 4, 2001

General Project Description: The WSU Fine and Performing Arts Dept. owns a collection of several hundred costumes, primarily of women's clothing and accessories from various eras and parts of the world. The costumes are valuable for researchers in theater and fashion design. The goal is to create a database of digital images and descriptive metadata records of that collection. The Arts Dept. has committed to providing more sociological research on the items to add content for metadata in the records. They have asked the WSU Libraries to do the digitization of images, database development, a web interface, and storage of the data. There is already in existence a sampling of records done in MARC, accessible via Horizon, including 20 gif images. The WSU Libraries want to begin digitizing the rest of the collection, and will probably do so with or without DALNET assistance. There are three related goals: 1.) This project is in line with the Libraries' goals to provide digital content for courses. For example, WSU uses Docutek ERES for electronic course reserves and the link to this costume collection could be inserted into the online course support for pertinent classes. 2.) It will also serve as a test of digitization processes to pave the way for other digitization projects. 3.) Another goal is greatly improved access/preservation. Even though requests often come in from scholars to view the costumes, physical access is very limited due to preservation concerns. By offering digital images and descriptions, the information will be available to researchers and students worldwide.

Primary Contact: Adriene Lim, WSU Systems Librarian. Phone (313)577-0367, fax (313) 577-6777. email: ab7155@wayne.edu

The Database: To date, Adriene Lim has in her possession a raw database for all the items done originally in the software program Collectorpro 97. The Arts Dept. had created their own fields and filled in basic information such as the manufacturer's name, date, place of manufacture, and fabric. Adriene was able to extract data and use delimited fields to create a sample Horizon database, including the 20 gif images. It is viewable at: <http://webpac.wayne.edu/webpac-bin/wgbroker?new+-access+top.wsucostumetest> [The Zserver is not started for this right now. A request has been made to restart it.] The full WSU database would have several hundred items of high quality costumes and include closeups of artifacts such as jackets, purses, and scarves. Images would be in gif and jpg formats and eventually may also include Quicktime 3D images of the costumes. The database would reside on a DALNET server. It would be a slowly growing collection and, if it continues as a Horizon database, would be subject to the same upgrade requirements and maintenance as other Horizon databases. If Horizon continues to be the software interface, it would be relatively easy and fast to make digital images and metadata records. Access would be through a record in Horizon with several very broad subject headings and an 856 field link to the URL for

the Costume database. The time involved to have a preliminary database of at least 300 records is estimated at six months.

Another possibility would be to use another platform besides Horizon. Since alternative software has not yet been selected and would require some testing, etc., the time involved in getting the database operational would be longer. WSU would probably still use a single record in WebPac (or IPAC) with a link to the database.

The WSU Arts Dept. is committed to doing more in-depth research into the history and sociology of the items which would be input to enrich the metadata content. How long the research would take is unknown. Even if the fuller content information is not provided by the Arts Dept., the database could be valuable as a way to attract potential partner institutions who could add or link to the database in the future. Two institutions that are possible partners to increase the scope of this project are the Detroit Historical Museum and Henry Ford Greenfield Village. Partnerships would open up the chance of an IMLS grant. While the Costume collection does not apparently have a Detroit or Southeast Michigan connection, it would have an international audience of researchers and students.

Resources: WSU is committed to make in-kind contributions to the project in the form of staffing and equipment. Adriene Lim will oversee the project. Fran Krempasky, the Head of Cataloging, will assist with the metadata. Support for final editing of the images and creation of a logo will be done by Graphics. WSU is hiring a new webmaster that will hopefully have experience in digital archiving to assist in the web design. **WSU is requesting from DALNET funding to cover the following:**

2 FTE student assistants at 40 hrs/wk for six months at the rate of \$11.00/hr
 $2 \times 40 \times 24 \times 11 = \$21,120.$

1 digital camera = \$1,200.

1 laptop computer = \$3,000. → OMIT

Total = \$25,320.

\$70/record

Also requested from DALNET: **DALNET server space, DALNET office staff to assist with server use and database upgrades, etc.**

Description of needs: The laptop is needed to take to the location of the costumes (they will not allow moving the costumes to the library). One student will take pictures of the costumes while the other inputs corresponding metadata. A student would also be used to manually input data into MARC fields. Knowledgeable students are required and \$11./hr is in the midrange of student pay rates. Note: WSU's DALNET Digital Lab has ordered 2 digital cameras and digital video equipment. [Is this correct?]

Legal Considerations: WSU owns the collection and the copyright for all materials. The only caution is the need to secure copyright clearances from any faculty who may have taken digital photos. Future photos will request signoffs from faculty up-front. Students

employed by WSU would not require signoffs. In the event of future partnerships with other institutions, copyright may become more of an issue.

Links to existing costume databases, etc.

Example of 3D images:

<http://cti.itc.virginia.edu/~kmr3c/docs/costumes.html>

List of links:

<http://www.oclc.org/research/publications/arr/1999/zeng/appendixa.htm>

A metadata model and project at Kent State Univ.:

<http://www.slis.kent.edu/~mzeng/OCLCreport/cover.html>

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1. Describe any collection that may be a candidate for digitization. Include information such as subject matter; format (photographs, items, text, etc.). If known include approximate size, scope (depth of coverage), if collection is static or growing, etc.

Costume collection, College of Fine and Performing Arts, Wayne State University

Clothing primarily from the US with an emphasis on women's clothes of all types. Approximately 300 pieces. Collection is growing.

2. Why is this collection valuable? Why is it unique? Any special significance to Southeastern Michigan? What is the importance of digitizing it? Who will benefit?

This collection is valuable as a teaching/learning resource. However, access is limited and digitization would permit access for a much wider audience including theater groups, students in the Detroit metropolitan area studying history or social science, costume designers, virtual visitors to participating libraries and museums, etc. It is not anticipated that the items in this collection are particularly unique. They are nonetheless a good reflection of the times when they were used and the people who used them.

3. Are you aware of any potential funding sources (Grants, foundation, and your institution)? If yes, please describe.

The IMLS grants are a potential source of support funds.

4. Is there any written information describing the collection (index cards, computer databases, registrar, MARC records)? If yes, please describe.

The "owners" of this collection have a database that includes information on some parts of the collection. Attempts to merge this into MARC records did not prove successful and it may be necessary to re-enter the information in a format that will work with Imagine.

5. Additional comments.

Wayne State University Library System has agreed to collaborate with the Detroit Historical Museum on the development of an IMLS grant proposal in support of this and a much more extensive collection of costumes at the latter institution.