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Workshop on Technical Aspects of Building Digital Libraries and
Electronic Information Networks

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Examples of Digital Library Projects [1]

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- NYPL Digital Library. "The New York Public Library Launches Online Library Collections with Images and Texts on African American Culture (4-30-98). The Library's new Digital Library Collections website features a wide range of primary source materials from its four research libraries. The first collection accessible from the site is Digital Schomburg." See the NYPL Digital Library Collections Fact Sheet.

- Bibliotheque National de France's GALLICA. "The French National Library (BnF) has been involved in a massive digitization program since 1992, with the goal of converting 100,000 titles and 300,000 pictures to digital image form. Currently over 87,000 texts and 100,000 pictorial items have been digitized, representing 26 million pages and 3 terabytes of information. Over one million pages on 19th century French culture are now available at the GALLICA Web site. The books and serials were scanned as 300-400 dpi, 1-bit images; the pictorial materials at 1,000 x 1,500, or 2,000 x 3,000 pixels, and compressed with JPEG at 10:1 compression. Forty percent of the digitization was directly from the documents themselves; the remainder from microfilm or photographs. Material is accessible via the Web site as bitmap images or in some cases in PDF format." (from RLG DigNews 2/15/98)

- British Library's Digital Library Programme. "The British Library holds over 18 million volumes and is one of the world's greatest treasure houses of recorded information from every age and culture. In 1993 it published its Strategic Objectives for the year 2000 in which it made a commitment to becoming a major centre for the capture, storage and transmission of electronic documents." (from Initiatives for Access 3/16/987) "Through the various projects in the Initiatives for Access Programme, we have built up a digital store of many GigaBytes of material. We have the Electronic Beowulf; the Library's Treasures (including the Magna Carta, the Sforza Hours, the Leonardo Notebook, etc.); part of the Burney Collection of newspapers; part of the Library's photographic collections (including Indian Miniatures and Canadiana); and the Dunhuang materials. This eclectic range of material forms a significant digital store. Selection policies on what to digitise in the future will be developed." (from DLP FAQ)

- HELIOS at Carnegie Mellon. "The Carnegie Mellon University Libraries now provide electronic access to portions of the congressional papers from the late U.S. Senator John Heinz (R-PA). Named in the senator's memory, the Heinz Electronic Library Interactive On-line System (HELIOS) allows researchers to currently search, browse, view and print over 434,000 digital images from the H. John Heinz III Archives. With specifications developed by Carnegie Mellon archivists, HELIOS supports conventional access to archival materials, and adds powerful new functions for searching and retrieving documents. The bulk of the collection (1 million images) will be made available electronically by the project's completion." (from HELIOS April 1998)

- DAS from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. ""Documenting the American South" (DAS) is a database that provides primary materials offering Southern perspectives on American history, literature, and culture to teachers, students and researchers. Currently, DAS includes three digitization projects: African American slave narratives, first-person narratives, and Southern literature. A fourth, based on Confederate imprints, is in development. The Main Library System at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill sponsors this database, and the texts come primarily from its Southern collections. An Editorial Board guides its development." "All the selected materials are encoded according to the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI P3) SGML-based Guidelines, using TEILite.DTD (version 1.6). There is also an HTML version, as an alternate format, for all the electronic editions encoded in SGML/TEI. The translation from

SGML to HTML has been generated using a perl script. The project is available at http:/sunsite.unc.edu/docsouth and supported by the Academic Affairs Library, the Ameritech Co., Inc., the Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the SunSite at UNC-CH." (from DigiNews 12/15/97)

- Making of America (MOA) is a digital library of primary sources in American social history from the antebellum period through reconstruction. The collection is particularly strong in the subject areas of education, psychology, American history, sociology, religion, and science and technology. The collection contains approximately 5,000 books and journal volumes with imprints between 1850 and 1877. The project represents a major collaborative endeavor in preservation and electronic access to historical texts." (from The University of Michigan Digital Library Production Service 12/97)

- CIDC at Cornell University. "The Cornell Institute for Digital Collections (CIDC), funded by $2 million in private grants, will make images of these cultural and scientific collections immediately and universally accessible to anyone with a computer and a modem via the World Wide Web. The new institute also will develop tools to help educators use these images and will conduct research on how best to manage the new technology. Early projects will include digital imaging of the holdings of the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art (over 25,000 objects); operating an indexing system to help users find images in the several visual arts repositories across the campus; participating in efforts to broaden public and research use of Cornell's principal botanical garden, the Cornell Plantations; and assisting in the creation of a Website of images of 20th century dictators, part of an international anthropological study of totalitarianism. Cornell already has several prototype digital collections available, including "Utopia," a database of images of European Renaissance art; the Museum Educational Site Licensing Project (MESL), a three-year collaborative research effort among seven museums and seven universities to share digital images; a collection of Louis Agassiz Fuertes' ornithological artwork; and correspondence and diaries of Ezra Cornell, the university's founder." (from Cornell Chronicle 10/30/97). "In addition to these projects, the CIDC is also involved in an initiative with the Museum Digital Licensing Collective, a project to develop a nation-wide collection of digital images based on museum holdings that could operate in a not-for-profit as well as profit manner. The University Library at the University of California at Berkeley and the Cornell University Library are lead participants in developing plans for supporting the technical infrastructure of the database." (from CIDC Projects)

- "The Canadian Initiative on Digital Libraries or CIDL was launched at the Canadian Library Association's annual conference in June. By September 1997, 53 Canadian public, research and special libraries had joined CIDL. In so doing, the members indicated a willingness to commit funds, expertise and staff resources to work to resolve issues of common and national concern. The National Library agreed to host the Initiative's secretariat, the CIDL Web site and listserv." (from D-LIB 1/98)

- NARA's Electronic Access Project began in 1996 with a budget of $4.5 million, including $2.7 million for the development of the prototype online catalog locator NAIL.

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