



iCommons

889 South Street
Suite 3
Portsmouth NH 03801 USA

Ph +1 603 3730062
Fx +1 415 3541778
icommons.org

24 June 2009

Gleice L. A. Sanches
Grants Administrator
Gerente de Doações
The Ford Foundation
Brazil Office
By email to g.sanches@fordfound.org

Re: Grant no: 1070-0656
Local Context, Global Commons
Reporting period: 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

Dear Gleice,

Attached is the interim report for our second fiscal year. The grant runs one month beyond this fiscal year and a final report for the month of April 2009 will be sent to you separately.

Also included are

- interim financial reports for the same period
- a capital equipment report
- an interim flow-through report for the previous fiscal year

By submission of this report we hereby certify that the individual submitting this report is authorized to submit it on behalf of the organization; that we are in compliance with the requirements of the grant letter and that any funds expended have been expended in accordance with the purposes of the grant.

The person responsible for project management of this grant is Kerry McKay, Executive Director of the The African Commons Project. I am the person responsible for the report's submission.

Thank you for your patience,

Warmest regards,

Diane Cabell
Corporate Counsel

| |
|--|
| INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT iCOMMONS LTD: LOCAL CONTEXT GLOBAL COMMONS |
|--|

A. GENERAL REFLECTION

Our primary long-term goal is to make knowledge, science and culture available for legal re-use in order that this rich and valuable content can be legitimately copied, amended and distributed in ways that are more useful to local users. While we began with a tremendously supportive community of sophisticated legal and technical specialists who enthusiastically supported building the "commons", our objective under this grant was to develop practices, tools and tactics that will expand adoption of such practices to main stream public users.

In the second year of this two-year grant, iCommons continued to develop specific projects – based on words, gatherings, partnerships and software, both local and global - that both (i) raised awareness of the advantages of making content available under easy permissioning and (ii) expanded the number of works that were actually placed "in the commons" by being made available under such terms.

Challenges and lessons learned. A main lesson learned was how to better communicate this simple, but highly legalistic and technical concept. This was a challenge even in those countries where the Internet, open source software and Creative Commons were first developed. By selecting content that was meaningful to most members of the public, such as personal family photographs and other physical artifacts, we were surprising successful at helping people in the South to understand and apply the tools and principles of the information commons to real-life scenarios in their own worlds. "Start locally to build globally" is an old adage; however we would add to that our own corollary "start physically to build digitally."

We developed clever software tools that would scale as more users contributed their work and as we received more data on commons-based initiatives, but were surprised at how easy it was to "over-engineer" a website in a way that actually might discourage less sophisticated users from participation. Therefore, a second major lesson we learned was to keep a better balance between technology and communications. We still have progress to make and future work will include specific improvements in this regard.

Lastly, we determined that we should focus more of our future organizational efforts on institutional users and creators. We developed some remarkable tools for working directly with individual members of the public, but found that it is difficult to reach individuals other than through local events or by connecting with local organizations. Further, while individuals have submitted incredibly interesting and creative proposals, they are generally not well finance or organized enough to carry out their proposals. Therefore, while we will continue using the platforms developed for interaction with individuals, we plan to focus our future work on outreach to associations with similar interests and to target government agencies and other high-profile organizations and industries in our promotional activity.

Significant events. There were three particular events that were significant to our work this year:

- The 2008 iCommons iSummit in Sapporo which was attended by over 300 economists, entrepreneurs, artists, activists and researchers from over 50 countries. We were able to



consider how our goals would benefit - and be adapted to - a more diverse range of industries and communities.

- A successful collaboration between researchers from India, Brasil and South Africa in publishing a comparative copyright review. All three countries indicated the need to take a more developmental approach.
- The successful launch of an American-developed, locally applied South African project to release openly licensed archive photographs and invite collaboration on an "open heritage" platform for the Gay and Lesbian Archive in Johannesburg. This provided us with the greatest insight into communicating our concepts outside our normal constituency.

Long-term impact on organization's goals. The growing attendance at iSummit conferences has enhanced working relationships and provided new industry-specific expertise that will help us promote our mission goals around the world. Our multi-national collaboration on comparative copyright provides a template we can use as we review other jurisdictional boundaries which in turn will inform us of better mechanisms to reduce national barriers to the free exchange of content. Similarly, the software tools and platform that we developed for the open heritage project and for our own website community can easily be replicated for use by any number of different interest groups, industries, and communities and be used to continue to build enthusiasm for sharing practices and diversify the content in the commons.

Changes that could result from grant. The change that we most hope to see in the future as a result of the work produced with grant funds is a vastly expanded public awareness of, contributions to, and reliance upon material in "the commons." The open sharing movement is rapidly gaining mass and momentum. iCommons looks for the following changes in the near future:

- Led by the examples of Brasil's Ministry of Culture, and United States President Barack Obama (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/copyright>), more official governments and agencies will adopt open sharing practices.
- More open repositories will be developed by commercial industries to share knowledge, as for example where research data is pooled for common use by any pharmaceutical company and where schools share online classroom materials.
- Open source production tools will be developed for media formats not currently available under open sharing practices, such as video and film.

Thanks to the generous support of the Ford Foundation, we have a suite of templates, tools and platforms as well as an influential international network that will help us convince them do so.



B. OBJECTIVES

| Objectives predicted in the proposal | Objectives achieved |
|---|---|
| 1. Workshop: hold a conference for stakeholders to develop modes of working, debate core issues for infusing diverse opinions into iCommons and decide on core themes for investigation by each team member. | Achieved in previous reporting year |
| 2. Online platform and research: develop a community-based website serving as a publishing mechanism for the views of the team members and enabling the gauging of community responses to the views/projects of iCommons working groups. | Achieved development of platform in previous reporting year. Achieved reporting and much research in current reporting year. |
| 3. iCommons Annuals: production and distribution of edited global showcase of the commons, containing the best feature stories from icommons.org, with a particular focus on perspectives written by the partners of this project. | Achieved. First issue produced in previous reporting year. Second issue published in current reporting year. |
| 4. iCommons Summit: global meeting of about 250 practitioners from around the world, discussing and practicing commons-based approaches to culture and innovation. | Achieved in previous reporting year. Replicated with independent funding in current reporting year |
| 5. Open Heritage platform: publication, implementation and documentation of free, fully localizable open source software for the open sharing of cultural heritage in key institutions from the partner countries. | Beta version achieved. Demonstration launched in current reporting year. |

C. ACTIVITIES

1. A workshop

Predicted activities: Create a Local Context Global Commons plan of action with responsibilities, methods of communication and timeframes documented. Develop consensus on a focused set of themes to be elaborated on during the project.

Activities carried out: Completed in previous reporting year.

2. An online platform and regular research outputs

Predicted activities: Launch of the new site with co-creation facilities and regular (monthly) contributions by partner organizations in the iCommons Lab Report that highlight new areas of research and debate.

Activities carried out: See previous reporting year for details regarding development and initial launch of the revised www.icommons.org platform.

Platform. During the current reporting year, the platform has become one of the key public sources for information on a global scale about open sharing practices. Other organizations working in this field have more narrow interests, either localized or limited to a particular theme. The site was continually updated with local and regional news about current progress in the creation and adoption of open sharing tools and practices, key policy developments, events and other matters of interest. In addition, contributions, debate and discussion by individual members of the community



has been ongoing and was particularly heavy leading up to and during the 2008 iSummit when it was used for real-time communication during the conference.

- Over 1050 individuals have joined the online community
- Over 435 separate articles have been contributed
- Over 50 nodes (individual project proposals) have been established in categories as diverse as education, business, culture, policy, media events and scientific research.

To avoid abuse and minimize irrelevant input, the software developed for the platform includes a mechanism by which the community can vote whether or not a contribution should be moved to a more prominent display location. We did find, to our regret, that while this mechanism worked quite successfully for that purpose, it tended to inhibit discussion in our smaller and relatively diverse constituency because of the delay during the voting process. Therefore we have decided to disable the voting application until we have grown larger. Meanwhile, the platform and its software will continue to be used for collaborative research and as a template for other online communities.

Regular research. Our key partner organizations have provided monthly analytical reports for the iCommons Lab Reports. These are the only regularly produced reports on global open sharing practices in existence. They are invaluable research tools for practitioners. See <http://icommons.org/magazine/>.

BISA Copyright Review. A major research project has been underway during the current reporting year. The BISA Copyright Review has been completed and will be published in April 2008 and submitted with our final narrative report.

This study has been conducted with the assistance of our collaborators, Fundação Getulio Vargas Law School, Alternative Law Forum and The African Commons Project. It grew out of discussion raised in the online platform. It was originally envisioned as a simple comparison of legal regimes however, using a rapid –response research methodology in which the researchers were encouraged to peer-review one another’s writing and also amend the scope of the research as it progressed, it was decided to create three side-by-side articles rather than a comparative report. The reason for this was that each country’s context was so specific, and each country’s current copyright reform rate so different that a comparative report would be too vast and unstructured.

The study therefore explores the review process used by India’s government, lobbyists, academics, government advisers, and activists when that nation made significant changes in its copyright law to adjust to the digital age. The report highlights lessons learned from that process and analyzes how South Africa and Brazil can improve their own review procedures. It is a superb resource for the many other Southern nations that are currently revising their own copyright laws.

3. iCommons Annuals

Predicted activities: The distribution of a quality product that is a snapshot of the status of "the commons" in 2007 and 2008 and reviews what the future holds for subjects like peer production and “piracy” around the world.

Activities carried out. Two Annuals have been produced during the term of the grant. During the current reporting period, the second volume, iCommons Annual 2008 was published. See http://icommonssummit.org/programme/the_icommons_annual_2008.html.

The Annuals are compilations of the best writings around the Commons covering a diverse range of themes, from peer production and education, to policy and open business, and reflecting thought and opinion within local contexts. The document is available in pdf version for download from the



icommons website and also includes raw files to enable reproduction and reuse. The Annuals provide:

- a historically-valuable document that showcases current writings around the common, available as a beautifully produced ‘bookcase’ resource as well as an electronic version;
- a place for different voices and different contexts that would not usually be accessible, and gathered into one single resource;
- an open-licensed publication that allows for reuse, republication and reproduction, fully accessible via the icommons website;
- a practical guide for policymakers, donor agencies, media and activists.



The format of the 08 Annual differed from its precursor, aiming to “mirror” the realities of media consumption in developing world contexts. A large part was contributed to directly by the Local Context, Global Commons core team, who have written around themes and topics that have been discussed in monthly team meetings, and thereafter supplemented and elaborated upon in follow-up conversations online.

The iCommons Annual 2008, licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution ShareAlike license, is a compilation of the best writings around the Commons over the past year, but also includes writings by the designated LAB leaders which outlines what they hoped their LAB would achieve at iSummit 2008 (see below). The publication mirrors each LAB in theme from the conference.

See the previous reporting period for a discussion of the iCommons Annual 2007.

4. iCommons Summit

Predicted activities: A global meeting of about 250 practitioners from around the world, discussing and practicing commons-based approaches to culture and innovation. Enlightening and/or controversial subjects being presented and discussed at the Summit – as well as fruitful workshop discussions that spark new ideas for projects with at least 10 new projects/collaborations emerging from Summit.

Activities carried out: The successful 2007 iSummit (<http://icommons.org/isummit07/>) was discussed in the previous reporting period.

Although the succeeding 2008 Summit was not directly funded by this grant, we were able to use the capacity-building tools and expertise developed under the grant to more efficiently produce the 2008 event and to attract over 40 non-Foundation sponsors. See www.icommonssummit.org. The 2008 iSummit drew nearly twice as many participants and resulted in a host of new initiatives. The iSummit 08 took on a different methodology this year with community-driven programming, interaction and peer-to-peer learning. See the summary report at http://icommonssummit.org/summit_blog/2008/08/a-report-back-from-the-isummit.html.

Based on lessons learned from the 07 Summit, a programme workshop was held in South Africa in January 2008 to divide the 08 Summit into specific topic-centered themes, or tracks as DIY Video, Open Business, Local Contexts, Global Commons: Open Publishing, Frontiers of Openness in Japan and Research workshop on Free Culture. The tracks or LABS as they were known at the iSummit, took the form of working groups, with participants gathered together between keynote addresses for the duration of the Summit. The objective of the labs was to provide participants with



progressive, insightful information from which practical tools, guidelines or policies could be built for implementation within existing projects or initiatives.



An image of one of the themed LABS at iSummit 2008

At a final report-back session the outcomes were shared with all participants and took the form of tools, resources and/ or ideas that would be of practical benefit to each discipline.

The Local Contexts, Global Commons research team were invited to take part in the LCGC: Open Publishing track and were invited with other community members to create specific discussions within this track. Rebecca Kahn, from the core LCGC team, was one of the main facilitators.

The iSummits are invaluable to the momentum of the open sharing movement.

There is no other face-to-face event that is global both in content and attendance. While online communication (wikis, weblogs, mailing lists and other fora) enable extremely useful collaboration, nothing quite replaces face-to-face communication. Our iSummits provide key activists and thinkers with real time and opportunity for extended discussion, debate and planning. Stakeholders get the opportunity to learn from diverse communities that they would not have considered consulting online and to build trusting relationships flowing from personal interactions. There are many, many people in the extended commons community, particularly those from nations who do not have experience and expertise in the field, who have suggested that the iSummits are the single most influential event in the promotion of open sharing practices on a global basis.

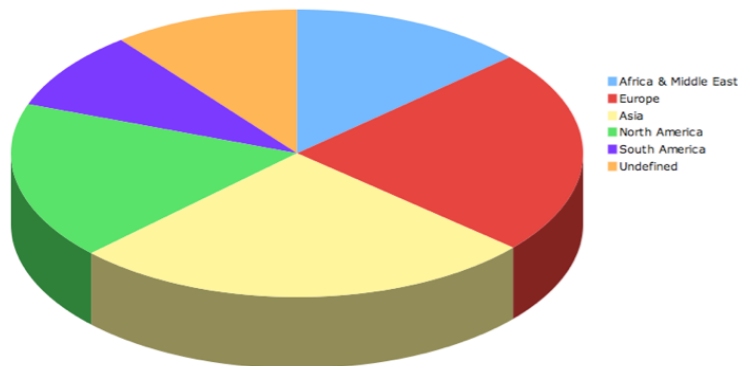
Participant no's

| | <i>Sapporo '08</i> | <i>Dubrovnik '07</i> | <i>Rio '06</i> |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| International participants | 200 | 275 | 200 |
| Local participants | 250 | 15* | 50* |
| Totals | 550 | 300 | 250 |

*estimates

2008

Participants by continent (not including Japan)



5. Open cultural heritage platforms

Predicted activities: The publication, implementation and documentation of free, fully localizable open source software for the open sharing of cultural heritage in key institutions from the partner countries. The publishing and distribution of well-documented and accessible software for cultural institutions to use in documenting their collections – as well as assistance in implementing and documenting the system at one key archive.

Activities carried out: The **iHeritage** project resulted in the development of an online open cultural heritage platform and was a major initiative of this reporting period. A demonstration site has been launched at <http://omeka.ischool.berkeley.edu/omeka/>.

In collaboration with our sub-contractors, The African Commons Project and the Alexandria Archive Institute, the project was launched in 2008 to investigate access, digitisation and copyright issues relating to South African Heritage, memory and culture. OpenSA! – a project of iHeritage with the goal of making South African heritage more accessible for remixing and re-publishing by online creators was also introduced. Response to the project was incredible – with a number of local radio stations and websites reporting on the project (see <http://iheritage.org.za/press/press-cuttings/>).

The project involved four major areas:

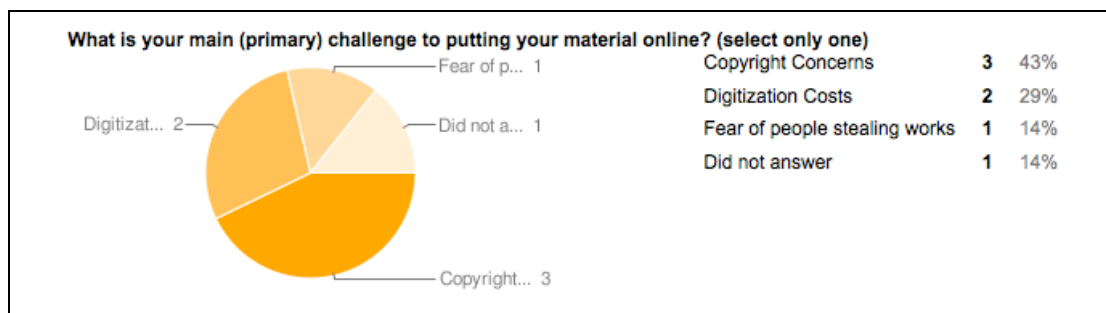
a. Seminars

Three free seminars in the first 3 months of 2009, inviting members of the museum, archive, library and public art sectors to discuss the concepts of digitization and accessibility of online heritage. Included in these seminars were issues of copyright and open access, orphan works and suggestions which could be implemented at government level, problems associated with digitisation, and also showcasing existing digital platforms and current local initiatives.

The seminars were a great success, and worked well to spread new ideas around copyright sharing of South African heritage. We also managed to collect some great data about the South African heritage sector's awareness of digital copyright issues from the participants over the past few months. See <http://iheritage.org.za/jozi-seminars/>.

b. Training in digital copyright for heritage institutions

All attendees of our first seminar indicated that they were interested in attending training on digital copyright issues. We have since run the digital copyright for heritage training in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town and have started a mailing list of people who have attended the course and who are sharing their questions and experiences with open licensing with one another. See <http://iheritage.org.za/training/>.



Sample from the Online Heritage Questionnaire



c. Advocacy

This is an area that all participants have been interested in us pursuing. There is a dire need for more public awareness about the problems that archivists face in making their collections available online, as well as about the negative practices that currently exist in privatizing our national heritage. This will form part of the next stage of the project if we are able to find enough support.

d. Software testing for multi-stakeholder collaboration

Tools. This grant has supported the development of the Open Cultural Heritage Platform, a tool to implement and document fully localizable, open source software for the open sharing of cultural heritage. The syndication approaches advocated here make it easy for anyone to creatively use and recombine collections from different sources. Instead of remaining locked in museum isolation (or isolated online "silos"), cultural heritage collections can freely flow across the web. iCommons' collaborator on the project, the Alexandria Archive Institute, has developed extensions to existing open source platforms that add the legal permissioning needed to contribution content to the archive. When final testing is complete, the tools will be posted as add-ons/plugins at <http://omeka.org/>.

Demonstration. A local archive was identified. We have assisted the Gay and Lesbian Memory in Action archive on a project to digitize and make available a series of photographs, texts and video around gender identity in Johannesburg. The launch of this exciting project is expected in mid-June, and the Omeka software that the project is building on, has been gaining great momentum among heritage circles throughout the country. In the future, we hope to build on this project by working with other archives and museums to put their material on Omeka and thus enable museums to share data under open licenses with one another.

A more detailed **Open Heritage Platform Development Report** is attached at the end of this document.

D. INDICATORS

| D.1 Indicators foreseen in the proposal | D. 2 Goals achieved to date |
|---|---|
| A workshop resulting in 1) a common vision of the significance of this project, 2) the importance of finding an effective process for communicating with one another and 3) extending the impact of this collaboration in the future. | Completed as foreseen in previous reporting period. |
| Development of a community-based online platform to serve as a publishing mechanism for the views of the team members and enabling the gauging of community responses to the views/projects of iCommons working groups. | Platform launched as foreseen in previous reporting period. See http://icommons.org/publish_create/ Site includes various communication and collaboration tools as well as a mechanism allowing the community to "vote" on the relevancy and importance of contributions. More than 435 full articles have been contributed. http://icommons.org/articles Over 1050 individuals have joined the community. http://icommons.org/profiles |



| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Focused interaction and activity by the iCommons community and beyond around at least one controversial article each month.</p> | <p>Over 50 working group nodes have been established. http://icommons.org/nodes http://icommons.org/resources</p> |
| <p>30 regular (one post every month) contributors from developing countries by the end of 2007. 60 regular contributors by the end of 2008.</p> | <p>There are more than 60 regular contributors, however we failed to reach our goal of having more than 60 of them <i>from developing countries</i>. The contributions focused on issues in developing countries and our base of contributors from such locations continues to grow. As discussed earlier, we are adjusting our outreach practices to reach larger groups. http://icommons.org/magazine/</p> |
| <p>Research into matters of concern to the stakeholders.</p> | <p>The BISA Copyright Review, a guideline to developing nations as they adjust their copyright laws for the digital age, is in progress. http://icommons.org/resources/bisa-copyright-review</p> |
| <p>Production and distribution of edited global publication (Annual) to showcase of the commons, containing the best feature stories from icommons.org, with a particular focus on perspectives written by the partners of this project.</p> | <p>iCommons Annual 2007 was published in the preceding reporting period. http://www.icommons.org/annual07 iCommons Annual 2008 was published in the current reporting year. http://icommonssummit.org/programme/the-icommons-annual-2008-1.html</p> |
| <p>At least 50 references (or full-text inclusion) of articles from the Annual in external publications (citation).</p> | <p>Unfortunately, we do not have resources to search for such citations.</p> |
| <p>Global meeting of about 250 practitioners from around the world, discussing and practicing commons-based approaches to culture and innovation.</p> | <p>iSummit 2007 in Croatia attracted 300 participants. http://icommons.org/isummit07/ iSummit 2008 in Japan attracted 550 participants. http://icommonssummit.org/</p> |
| <p>At least 10 new projects/collaborations emerging from Summit discussions.</p> | <p>Over 50 working group nodes have been established. http://icommons.org/nodes http://icommons.org/resources</p> |
| <p>Publication, implementation and documentation of free, fully localizable open source software for the open sharing of cultural heritage in key institutions from the partner countries.</p> | <p>iHeritage project produced the Open Cultural Heritage Platform which is in beta testing at present. http://iheritage.org.za/</p> |
| <p>At least 1 archive/museum providing successful feedback in making the software more user-friendly and effective in disseminating free cultural heritage.</p> | <p>Now in demonstration. See the QueerJozi testing site. http://omeka.ischool.berkeley.edu/omeka/</p> |



E. CHANGES IN THE ORGANIZATION OR IN THE CONTENT

We experienced little change in our organizational structure or program goals and activities during this grant, other than as specifically noted above. The movement to offer free or easy sharing practices is growing substantially. Such practices are being adopted by increasing numbers of organizations, particularly those in the educational and government sectors. As early leaders in this field, it was often difficult to explain the somewhat legalistic and technical principles to the uninitiated. Growing public awareness of open sharing practices has made it much easier for us to explain our mission to the public.

F. ISSUES

Internally, we underwent a wrenching change in our organization during the reporting year. Heather Ford and The African Commons Project in Johannesburg (the original project team) have provided operational services since 2006; however the world-wide economic downturn caused an unexpected reduction in funding from non-Foundation sources which necessitated a dramatic reduction in our expenses. We terminated Ms. Ford and narrowed the focus of TACP's contract to completion of this grant. That work was accomplished on 30 April 2009, one month after this reporting period.

Support for minimal operations is currently sustained by a 5-year grant from the Kusuma Trust. Until additional funding resources have been secured, the iCommons staff has been reduced to a single individual, Diane Cabell, who is responsible for administration during this transition period. Ms. Cabell is the former Assistant Director of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard and is well-known in the field. Her CV is attached. Cabell's efforts are augmented by the extremely capable assistance of the volunteer Board of Directors.

Cabell's primary task will be to develop additional revenues for future program activity. She would welcome any and all advice and assistance that the Foundation can provide to strengthen the organization during this transition period.

G. DIVERSITY

iCommons has been a geographically diverse entity from its inception, as a charter purpose was to bring balance to US-centric technologies. In terms of national origin, the board consists of natives of Brazil, Croatia, Germany, Japan, Netherlands and the US while operations were based for most of the reporting period in South Africa. During the reporting period, Lawrence Liang of Bangalore, India, resigned to avoid conflicting commitments.

We are less equally distributed by gender or race but this is not unusual in technology-based industries where most personnel are male. One of seven board members (Catharina Maracke), the sole officer (Diane Cabell), the former Executive Director (Heather Ford who was also a former board member) and the new Project Manager (Elizabeth Stark) are female. We do not inquire about our personnel's religious beliefs. We have never experienced any diversity challenges.

H. PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE

Only one more month (April 2009) remains on the term of this grant. We will address future perspectives in our final reporting period.



OPEN HERITAGE PLATFORM DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Overview of the Problem

Many cultural heritage collections are managed by small teams or institutions with little capacity to develop their own web-accessible database solutions or other public access to the data files created by the project. Without greater access and dissemination, many of these collections remain obscure, ignored, and under-used. Thus, there is a significant need to find ways to facilitate sharing such content. Fortunately, the declining costs of web-related technologies, especially the growing power and maturity of open-source code libraries, are starting to make it more feasible for even small and under-funded institutions and individual projects to publish their collections online.

This grant has supported the development of the Open Cultural Heritage Platform, a tool to implement and document fully localizable, open source software for the open sharing of cultural heritage. The syndication approaches advocated here make it easy for anyone to creatively use and recombine collections from different sources. Instead of remaining locked in museum isolation (or isolated online “silos”), cultural heritage collections can freely flow across the web. In doing so, these collections will gain new life as they enrich many different kinds of contexts (social networking sites, weblogs, instructional systems, etc.) actively used across the online world.

This project’s goals are to provide easy-to-use tools for cultural institutions to document their cultural heritage collections, integrate their collections with content from other organizations and syndicate their content across the web.

The Open Cultural Heritage Platform is now in demonstration with content from the GALA collections based in South Africa. See the QueerJozi testing site: <http://omeka.ischool.berkeley.edu/omeka/>

How it Works

The Open Cultural Heritage Platform implements extensions to Omeka (<http://omeka.org>), a free and open source collections-based web publishing platform. Omeka allows individuals and organizations to share collections with the world, build exhibits and write essays. It offers customizable themes, tools for building exhibits and adding contributions, blogging and tagging. A robust open-source developer and user communities underwrite Omeka’s stability and sustainability.

Omeka is seeing widespread use to help small museums establish a Web presence and share their collections. However, while Omeka represents an excellent solution for creating online exhibitions, it needed extensions to help break down the boundaries that separate “museum culture” from living culture. Currently, most online museum websites attempt to mimic in the online environment what they offer in the physical environment. Their collections are largely staged to meet the presentation goals of the curatorial staff. While this is often done to help guide public interpretation, the model can often be quite limiting, since it places museum visitors in the role of a passive audience. Obviously, because many physical collections are rare and fragile, such limiting visitor interactivity in these ways is often necessary. However, the use of digital media can change this dynamic, and can make other models of visitor engagement possible. Visitors need not be limited to passive spectators of cultural heritage, instead, they can be made co-creators and active participants in how cultural heritage is interpreted and used.

This goal of breaking down the boundaries of the museum, and inviting visitors to be active participants in the use of cultural heritage guided our extensions of Omeka. While Omeka offered an excellent open source platform for creating and administering online collections, it had limited support for making collections easily reused and portable. Our development efforts focused on two main areas:

- **Legal Interoperability:** The Creative Commons licensing plug-in we built for Omeka offered much greater flexibility in licensing content than Omeka originally offered. Collections sometimes have specific items where some stakeholder communities have special spiritual, historical, or emotional ties. Some of the Creative Commons license choices may not be ideally suited for such items.



However, in other cases, stakeholders may wish to make other items as freely available as possible. The new plug-in we developed enables each item in a collection to be licensed separately, giving a great deal of control for organizations to set licensing permissions as appropriate given their specific concerns and goals for each item in their collections.

- **Technical Interoperability:** Omeka offered few web services that allowed for the easy portability of content. Our development of Atom-based web services on Omeka helps make Omeka collections far more portable. The Atom-based web services (developed by combining source code from Open Context, another open source project) provide a powerful set of query options to request items from a collection. Query parameters include: geographic, chronological, descriptive (based on how items are described), and social (based on relations between people and organizations and items from a collection). All the results of queries are expressed as an Atom-feed, an open format which is one of the most widely deployed and supported standards on the Web. By expressing query results in Atom, Omeka collections can be easily recombined with collections from Flickr in innovative mashups, or with news items from journalists or bloggers, or even displayed in personal profile in Facebook.

Our two main extensions addressed some of the key legal and technical barriers to making cultural heritage a more vibrant and active force in people's lives. Currently, most museum websites (including Omeka instances) make a single presentation of collections available to users. This limitation locks cultural heritage collections into a museum context, where there heritage as seen as static, or relegated to a past as described by the museum and its staff. Our efforts to help make cultural heritage collections easily portable can change this dynamic.

By removing the legal copyright barriers to reuse and by embracing simple and powerful technical standards such as Atom, we create many more options for museum hosted cultural heritage collections to take on new meanings and new uses in new contexts. Subsets of collections from different museums can easily be combined by users to create and present their own collections that reflect their own interests and perspectives. The collections can also take on new roles, and serve to enrich online environments and experiences that are outside of museums. For example, a subset of collections can be selected by people for use in their personal profile in social networking sites such as Facebook, and thus help express online personal identities.

On Not Reinventing the Wheel

In many not-for-profit technology development projects, too much emphasis is placed on creating new tools and not enough emphasis is placed on extending and adapting existing toolsets. When we first wrote the grant application for the Ford Foundation, Omeka was not available as a platform for supporting small museum collections. By the time work on this project actually began in January of 2009, Omeka had been released and was seeing considerable uptake and use. Rather than duplicate efforts and start from scratch, we strongly believed that it would be more cost-effective and more in keeping with the spirit of open collaboration to adopt Omeka as a platform. Thus, we ported critical components of Open Context as a plug-in for the Omeka system. Integration between Open Context's web-service component and Omeka offers a very cost-effective way of enabling museums and related organizations to participate in a distributed network of cultural heritage dissemination. Open Context's powerful web-service capabilities will enable distributed search, syndication of content, and mashups. These distribution capabilities will be joined with Omeka's user-friendly collections management and publishing functions. Thus, the OCH Platform's combination of these two systems brings together key benefits of both of these systems. This system is simple and customizable, and allows contributors to share in the way that they wish (without conforming to restrictive standards).

Features

Users of the OCH Platform can choose to create a project, using the tools offered on the OCH project web page. Project creation is simple and quick, and offers the following features:

- Choice of customized templates
- Choice of location (home on the Web)
- Keywords, provenance
- Citation information for each item of content



- Tags (currently in development by Omeka's development team)
- Description, creator
- Licensing information
- Collections management tools (login, administrative access)
- Automatic integration of related content from diverse projects
- Informed, faceted navigation across multiple projects and through single projects
- A RESTful API based on the faceted navigation feature, enabling mashups and distribution of collections via the Atom Syndication Format.

Deliverables

- Programming for multiple interfaces and languages: Omeka's templating system is very mature and can be used to create templates in a variety of languages, including those that require non-Western character sets. In addition, the Atom-based web-services express content in valid Atom feeds using the UTF-8 character set encodings. This allows for a great deal of flexibility in using non Latin alphabet characters.
- Customization to feature content from chosen museums: In addition to support for different languages, the templating system easily allows for museums to create their own custom look and feel for their online presence.
- Testing, feedback and revision of system: The GALA staff provided continual feedback and testing of the Omeka installation and the plug-ins developed for this project. This helped to prioritize development of new features, assess their performance and guide their revision.
- Documentation: The plug-ins have extensively-documented code that will be reviewed by Omeka's primary development team at George Mason University. This team will provide additional feedback about extending the documentation, as well as an additional layer of quality assurance to further improve the reliability of the source code.



Diane Cabell | Curriculum Vitae

Contact

889 South Street, Suite 3
 Portsmouth NH 03801 USA
 dc@icommons.org
 +1 603 373 0062

Current positions[iCommons Ltd](#)

Corporate Counsel, Secretary & Interim Financial Officer

[Creative Commons](#)

Corporate Counsel & Secretary

[Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard Law School](#)

Fellow Emeritus

[World Intellectual Property Organization](#)[National Arbitration Forum](#)

UDRP Panelist

[Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#)

Lifetime Sustaining Fellow

Previous experience[Berkman Center for Internet & Society](#) at Harvard Law School

Assistant Director, Director of Clinical Programs, and Clinical Instructor

[Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#)

Assistant Counsel, Patent, Copyright & Licensing

Research & Clinical Activity

- [Capitol Records, et al. v. Noor Alaujan, et al.](#), [amicus brief](#) in litigation against music downloaders
- [Chilling Effects](#), measuring the use of cease & desist notices to curtail freedom of speech on the Internet (current).
- [Open Knowledge Exchange Network](#), P2P platform providing open content to southern nations (current).
- Republic of Palau, advisor on policy for .pw domain name registry.
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.
- [Open Source Licenses - Quick Reference Chart](#)
- [Guide to Quick Reference Chart](#)
- [Enablis Entrepreneurial Network](#), G8 DOTForce model to encourage development of digital enterprise in developing nations (2002).
- [Deliberative Discourse in Cyberspace](#), research study developing specifications for online tools used in deliberative discourse, sponsored by the Markle Foundation (Spring 2000).
- [ICANN & The Public Interest](#), conference on the role of democracy in Internet technical administration, Los Angeles (October 1999).
- [Representation in Cyberspace](#), exploration of democratic representation in the management of Internet technical parameters (Spring 1999).

Additional Activities

- Boston Bar Association, Intellectual Property Law Section, Co-chair (2001-2002), Computer & Internet Law Committee Co-chair (1999-2001).
- Internet Corporation for Assigned Names & Numbers (ICANN), Membership Advisory
- Committee (1998-1999), Membership Implementation Task Force (2000).
- Visiting Scholar, Norwegian Research Center for Computers and Law, Faculty of Law, University of Oslo (Spring 1998).



Publications

- UDRP Opinion Guide, Berkman Center Online Lecture & Discussion Series (2002)
- Berkman Online Lecture & Discussion Series:
 - Development & the Internet (April 2003)
 - E-Commerce (April 2001)
 - Using ICANN's UDRP (April 2000)
- Foreign Domain Disputes 2000, *The Computer & Internet Lawyer*, Vol. 17, No. 10 p.5, Aspen Law & Business (October 2000).
- Domain Names: World Standard Set for Key Internet Disputes, *Dispute Resolution Magazine*, American Bar Association Section on Dispute Resolution, Vol. 6, No.2, p.12 (Winter 2000).
- Trademark Disputes Online –ICANN's New Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy, 180th Program, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (November 18, 1999).
- Names in Cyberspace, Developing Internet Legal Issues, Committee on Continuing Legal Education, American Law Institute – American Bar Association video production (September 1999).
- Name Conflicts, Learning Cyberlaw in Cyberspace, Prof. Lydia Loren, Coordinator (Fall 1999).
- Yes, ICANN...No, UCANNNT , The Battle for Regulation of the Internet, Section Review, V. 1, No. 2, Massachusetts Bar Association (March 1999).
- Intellectual Property Primer, *OnTheInternet*, magazine of the Internet Society
- @Association.News, newsletter of the Association of Internet Professionals, Legally Speaking columnist (2000)
- "The InterNIK Dragon", Appendix I in the CD-ROM version of *The Domain Name Handbook: High Stakes and Strategies in Cyberspace*, by Ellen Rony & Peter Rony, R & D Books, Lawrence, KS (1998).

Panels and Presentations

- *"Creative Commons" Porque é preciso aumentar o domínio público em direitos autorais*, O Centro de Estudos de Direito do Ibmec, Rio de Janeiro (March 2003)
- *Voices of ICANN: Analysis of Public Comment in a Global Regulatory Organization*, [Politics of Code: Shaping the Future of the Next Internet](#), Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy, and the Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford, UK (February 2003)
- The Public Domain in the United States, [AHRB Research Centre for Studies in Intellectual Property and Technology Law](#), School of Law, University of Edinburgh (February 2003).
- *The Courts of Cyberspace*, Shidler Center for Law, Commerce & Technology, University of Washington School of Law (April 2002)
- *Arbitrating Domain Name Disputes Under the Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)*, [New Vistas in Dispute Resolution](#), Dispute Resolution Section, American Bar Association (April 2002)
- *Who Oversees the World Wide Web?*, 3rd Annual CLE Seminar on Law of the Internet & Representation of Technology Companies, The Florida Bar (May 2001).
- *Online Dispute Resolution Mechanisms: Are They Fair?*, 7th ECLIP II Workshop on Alternative Dispute Resolution, Norwegian Research Centre for Computers & Law, Oslo, Norway (April 2001).
- *Perspectives of an ICANN Panelist*, (requires PowerPoint viewer), Domain Name and Trademark Disputes - A Global Perspective, US and International Trademark Committees of the Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago and the John Marshall Law School (March 2001).
- *ICANN Elections and Beyond*, CFP2001, Computers, Freedom and Privacy, Cambridge, MA (March 2001).
- Trademarks in Cyberspace 2000, What's New in 2000: Case Law and Legislative Update, International Trademark Association (October 2000).
- *Impact of Technology on Legal Practice*, American Association of Law Schools (January 2000).
- *UDRP and PL 106-113: Regulation of Cybersquatting*, Boston Bar Association (December 1999).
- *ICANN: Overview of Internet Administration*, Electronic & Internet Commerce at the Dawn of the 21st Century, Massachusetts Bar Association (November 1999).
- *Trademark Disputes Online –ICANN's New Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy*, Representing e-Commerce Clients '99, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (November 1999).
- [ICANN & The Public Interest](#) (Moderator), Berkman Center for Internet & Society and the Markle Foundation, Los Angeles, CA (October 1999).
- *Developing Issues in Internet Law*, ALI-ABA CLE video (September 1999).
- *Trademark, Domain Names & Related IP Issues on the Internet*, Massachusetts Bar Association CLE Seminar (June 1999).



- *Doing Business on the Web: Identifying Legal Issues and Avoiding Liability*, American Lawyer Media Online, LegalSeminars.com (June 1999).
- *Computer & Telecommunications Institute*, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (March 1999).
- *Internet Maintenance and the Domain Wars*, Northeastern University School of Law (November 1998).
- *Arts Online: US Legal Issues Facing the Artist in the Online Environment*, Symposium presentation at the Institutt for Rettsinformatikk, Universitetet i Oslo (Mai 1998).

Bar Admissions and Degrees

Admissions:

Supreme Court of the United States
Federal District Court (Massachusetts)
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Degrees:

J.D., 1972, Northeastern University School of Law
B.A., 1968, Boston University

