

IMLS Grant Conference Call—August 11, 2004

1. Greg Crane introduced two new staff members at Tufts: Gwynne Langley comes from a museums background and Alison Jones comes from a libraries background. They will be studying who uses historical newspapers and how they use them. They will also be doing tagging.
2. Rachel Frick reviewed the work of Digital Divide. New files were received two weeks ago; they are better than files received earlier. The new ones integrate many of the tags we have specified. However the new files do not parse. We expect DD to supply files that parse. Andrew Rouser reported that the files do not parse for lack of argument tags, dateline tags, opener tags, and the like. One file had an outdated header; that raises questions about the consistency of DD's work.

Andrew is using oXygen as his XML editor; DD is also using it. So DD ought to be able to test the files the same way Andrew does when he receives them to make sure they parse. Apparently DD isn't doing this. DD has also sent files that it hadn't done spell check on.

Greg Crane will, henceforth, be cc:'ed on UR-DD correspondence.

Jayson of DD says it will take until June 2005 to complete the job *if* full production commences now.

3. Greg Crane reported that he has been trying to align 5,000 place names in the Civil War Atlas with the Getty Thesaurus of Place Names. This work anticipates creation of an authority file.
4. Greg Crane outlined the purpose and goals of the needed metadata meeting. It will lay the foundation to learn:
 - a. how far we can enrich and add value to the files we receive from DD. That will help us assess the cost-benefit trade-offs.
 - b. how much metadata can be extracted by automated and semi-automated methods.
 - c. how existing research findings apply to 19th-century historical documents
 - d. how can what we learn be applied to a larger corpus of documents and help distributed labor projects succeed (e.g., community driven projects such as Gutenberg) How can such projects scale so that many contributors can add value and sustain quality?

Given pending staff changes at Tufts, a September date will be best for this meeting. A day or a day and a half will suffice. Gwynne, Alison, Greg and three programmers from Tufts will participate. Andrew, Leigh, Rachel, and perhaps one other from Richmond will participate.

5. Jim Rettig reported that he has been working with the Foundation, Corporate, & Government Relations office staff to revise the project budget. The revised budget must be submitted with the request for an extension. Because of turnover in a critical position in the Foundation, Corporate, & Government Relations office, Jim did not

begin the budget revision process earlier in the summer. Once the Richmond budget is revised its structure may provide a model for revision of the Tufts budget.

6. Bob Kenzer reported on plans for the October 25 conference. He would like to invite someone from UNC's Documenting the South project. The list of those to be invited will be firm by August 25. Bob is aiming to attract a broad range of likely users of the newspaper and the ancillary materials. Several historians will also be included.

Greg Crane is interested in "cyberstructure" issues—what is that people need to have in to be able to answer the questions they want answered about the past? What will be useful to them?

Bob needs to know who from Tufts will participate in the conference.

7. All agreed that the year-end review meeting for year one of the project will be held in conjunction with the conference. It has been scheduled for the morning of Tuesday, October 26 at the University of Richmond's alumni center. (Mark your calendars!)