

IMLS Board Meeting, September 28, 2006.

Support the Learner: What, Where, When and Who

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Four Basic Ideas

1. Understanding means knowing the context.
2. Could the use of digital resources be made more like using a well-organized library reference collection?
3. How could it be easier to find context for any museum object, document, or performance: What is related to it in what it is, where it came from, when it originated, and who was associated with it?
4. Distinguishing WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, and WHO provides a useful structure.

We seek to show how existing techniques and standards could be adopted, adapted, or augmented to link existing digital resources and their existing metadata in a more structured way, to show “proof of concept.”

Results and New Developments

1. Proof-of-concept web interface achieved at <http://ecai.org/imls4w/>
2. Recommendations for improved “best practices,” standards, and interoperability.
3. Proposal for improved mark-up for biographical texts.
4. A strategy for redesigning the library reference collections for a network environment.
5. Insights into academic use of online resources and information literacy.

Background

A version of this presentation will be made available at the project website at <http://ecai.org/imls2004/> listed among presentations, reports, and papers at <http://ecai.org/imls2004/publications.htm>

This work is a collaboration between the Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative (ECAI) and the School of Information. ECAI, an informal international collaboration, seeks to advance education and research through increased attention to time and place and is based in International and Area Studies at Berkeley, <http://ecai.org>.

This project builds directly on two prior National Leadership awards:

-- *Seamless Searching of Numeric and Textual Resources* (1999-2002): How to map between diverse subject vocabularies and search across different media.

<http://metadata.sims.berkeley.edu/GrantSupported/seamless.html>

-- *Going Places in the Catalog: Improved Geographical Access* (2002-2004): Linking places and spaces using place name gazetteers and maps with library catalogs.

<http://ecai.org/imls2002/>

PI: Michael Buckland; Co-PI: Fredric C. Gey & Ray R. Larson; also Kim Carl, Vivien Petras, Jeanette Zerneke, and others.

Next ECAI conferences: National Academy of Sciences, Moscow, May 29-June 1; and Berkeley, CA, Oct 17-20, 2007. Come join us!

