

To: LAUC Research & Professional Development Committee
From: Cynthia Jahns, UC Santa Cruz
Date: January 30, 2009
Re: LAUC Mini-Grant Application

A. Summary: I request a mini-grant in the amount of \$500 to support an article I plan to write describing the current state of digitization of cartographic materials in the University of California and Stanford map collections, which I would publish in either the WAML quarterly journal, the "Information Bulletin", or in the "Journal of Map & Geography Libraries".

Our UC map collections hold thousands of significant and valuable maps. The map librarians of the University of California have long hoped to engage CDL in digital preservation of the special map resources in our collections. While the UC/Stanford Map Libraries Group (UCSMLG) has hosted CDL staff at its meetings from time to time to discuss preservation projects in general terms, and has received encouragement from CDL staff, no projects have resulted.

I believe that the first step in developing such projects would be to create a prioritized list of possible map digitization projects, based on a review of the resources of each campus' map collection. (Merced and San Francisco don't have maps, so there are 8 collections.) I am applying for a \$500 LAUC mini-grant to cover visits to campuses to view and discuss possible candidates for digitization, make choices with the map librarian, and write a description of the proposed projects. I would travel to visit campuses during summer using 3 days release time. I would include an introduction discussing what has already been scanned and made available at individual campuses, and write a summary describing projects that have common elements. Site visits are needed because viewing the actual maps provides the opportunity to visually compare the materials and to consider the possibilities for grouping maps in categories or projects.

Our map collections hold thousands of important maps that would be used by historians, geologists, anthropologists, environmental scientists, and others if they were available online. There are maps that would provide supplemental information for existing OAC collections, such as the Japanese American Internment or the Gold Rush. However, most map libraries don't own large format scanners or have the staff available to work on digitization projects. CDL could fill that role. Because most campuses can't afford large format scanners, it makes sense to take advantage of CDL's superior equipment and staff expertise, as well as the opportunity to store and preserve the images as part of CDL's digital collections.

I would plan to list as many as fifty projects. While fifty sounds like a large number, it would give those of us with unique historic maps a chance to list several possible projects. I wouldn't expect that all these projects would be done by CDL, of course: the project inventory would provide a good overview of the possibilities. It would also give each map librarian a list of potential digitization projects to use for discussion with their local library administration when opportunities arise for digital projects.

An inventory would also let each campus compare projects, so that if more than one campus had an interest in scanning fire insurance maps, for example, they could investigate ways to collaborate. The UCSMLG could rank the projects in the final list; this could be done at the group's annual December meeting.

While the GILS group has compiled a list of potential digitization projects recently, their list focuses on widely held depository material rather than unique items, which many of the map collections own and hope to digitize. This is not to say that we don't have some good candidates from depository material ourselves - the historic soil survey maps of California, for example, from the USDA Soil Conservation Service, would be a great project. (The current maps are online, but not the historic ones.)

I've spoken with Patricia Cruse and Heather Christenson at CDL about this proposal, and was told this inventory "would definitely be of value" and "a good first step". Ms. Christenson and the Digital Special Collections Team would consult with me regarding specific pieces of information to gather that would be important to CDL, to ensure that the inventory would have value beyond the campus level. The map librarians have often expressed the wish that we could have more of our materials incorporated into our campus and/or the CDL web presence. This project would be a way to initiate that partnership.

I would expect to write an article describing the current state of digitization of cartographic materials in the University of California and Stanford map collections, which I would publish in either the WAML quarterly journal, the "Information Bulletin", or in the "Journal of Map & Geography Libraries".

B. Timetable: I would expect to do the travel and interviews over the summer (July-September), following further discussions regarding data to be collected with CDL. I would plan to write the document describing and listing the potential digitization projects by January 31, 2010.

C. Budget Summary:	Mileage and one hotel night in Davis	\$250
	Mileage and one hotel night in Los Angeles or Riverside	\$250
		Total: \$500

Travel Note: I could drive from Santa Cruz to Davis, interview the librarian at Davis, spend the night, drive to Berkeley, interview the librarian at Berkeley on Day 2, and then drive home to Santa Cruz.

Because I have parents and other relatives with whom I could stay in Orange County, and who I visit every summer, I could devise a route around the southern campuses that would require only one hotel night. The specific order in which I would visit those campuses would depend on the schedules of those librarians.

D. The applicant is a member of the bargaining unit represented by the UC-AFT.