END OF FUNDING PERIOD REPORT
LAUC Statewide Grants, Research & Professional Development Committee

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TITLE OF PROJECT:

Time Period of Grant: FY 2011/2012
Amount of Award Received: $500
Original Abstract as Submitted:

One of my areas of scholarly interest is the field of vexillology, the study of flags. I have presented a number of conference papers in this field, and have published several scholarly articles including two that were monograph-length. I am submitting this presentation grant application to request funding to attend the Washington Flag Congress (ICV 24/NAVA 45), which will be held on 1-5 August 2011 in Washington, D.C. This conference is a combined meeting of the biennial International Congress of Vexillology (ICV), the meeting of Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques (FIAV), and the annual meeting of the North American Vexillological Association (NAVA). At the meeting I will be reporting on the NAVA Digital Library project, and also presenting a research paper.

URLs for more information:

- Washington Flag Congress website - http://www.washingtonflagcongress.org/
- NAVA website - http://www.nava.org/
- FIAV website - http://www.fiav.org/FIAV.html

NAVA Digital Library Project

Abstract: The NAVA Digital Library is an online resource designed to provide access to all of the organization's publications through our website. All publications which are more than two years old will be open-access, freely available to anyone who wants to use them. The most current two years of each publication will be made available to our members through the "member's only" section of NAVA's website. For the Washington Flag Conference I will be preparing a poster session which introduces the project to the attendees, explains how we have implemented the project, and discusses possible "next steps" – not only for NAVA, but also for other vexillological organizations – to make our publications available online. I will be demonstrating the NAVA Digital Library, and offering recommendations to representatives of the vexillological associations from other countries on how they can implement similar projects.

Background: I am currently a member of NAVA's Executive Board, serving my third term as NAVA's 2nd Vice President. In this capacity I oversee NAVA's publications including a peer-reviewed scholarly journal (*Raven: A Journal of Vexillology*) and our organization's newsletter (*NAVA News*). The biggest project that I have undertaken in this position is the planning and

implementation of the NAVA Digital Library. NAVA is a small bi-national organization about 400 members. To my knowledge, I am one of only two practicing librarians who are members of the organization, so I am trying to lend my professional expertise to help complete this project.

To initiate the NAVA Digital Library project, I consulted with our metadata librarian here at UCSB to learn more about best practices such as scanning resolution, file naming practices, and metadata templates. My involvement in this project has included: writing a digitization plan; inventorying the materials which will be included to determine which would need to be scanned and which would be converted from digital formats; establishing parameters for scanning; naming all the PDF files according to an established file-naming convention; converting various "born digital" files to PDF format; adding metadata to all the files; and preparing a web interface to allow users to locate and access the files.

After several years of work, I have now prepared and posted 206 files for the *NAVA News* (1967-2009) and 45 files for *Raven: A Journal of Vexillolog*y (6 volumes from the period 2000-2008). I am still working out some details with more complicated born-digital files, but hope to be finished with that work by the time of the conference. In addition, I need to post the "members-only" files so that they will be available to our membership. While I am completing the conversion, preparation, and posting of files for the digital library, I am also working on a project to convert our old static HTML index to a database. The new database will be fully-searchable and will have links to the full text of the articles in the NAVA Digital Library. I expect to have at least a working prototype available for demonstration during the conference.

URLs for more information:

- NAVA Digital Library: http://www.nava.org/documents/library/index.php
- Digitization Plan: http://www.nava.org/documents/library/plan.pdf
- NAVA News & Raven Combined Index (1971-2009): current static HTML version - http://www.nava.org/NAVA%20Publications/nnraven/index.html

Research Paper Description

Abstract: According to historians, twelve American astronauts explored the surface of the Moon between 1969 and 1972. During their time on the lunar surface each Apollo crew deployed a special flag pole, leaving a total of six American flags on the surface of the Moon. Or did they? Since the 1970s conspiracy theories have emerged which claim that NASA faked the Moon landings. Much of the evidence used by the conspiracy theorists consists of photographs and films released by NASA during the Apollo Program. Not surprisingly, the flags have played a major role in the argument that the Moon landings were an elaborate hoax. This paper will examine the claims of the conspiracy theorists related to flags and will provide explanations in support of the historical reality of the Apollo missions.

Background: I chose this topic because it combines several of my skill sets. First, as a former NASA contract employee I have experience researching and writing about the history of the U.S. manned space program. I have published three works on NASA history: a history of the lunar flag assembly, a history of NASA symbols and the use of flags in the U.S. manned space program, and also a history of NASA's early manned Mars mission planning efforts. Second, as a librarian I

teach students how to critically evaluate information. For this reason, I find the moon landing hoax conspiracy theories to be very troubling. How can so many people believe the arguments presented by the hoax theory proponents? Because the audience at this conference will be an international audience, I wanted to present a paper that would have a broad appeal. I also wanted one that would draw upon my knowledge of vexillology, NASA history, and critical evaluation of information.

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS and EVALUATION

This was a very exciting and eventful conference. It was my first international vexillological meeting, so I met many people who I had known only through their writing or through online communication. My paper was very well received. I had prepared a table-top exhibit on the topic, and this along with the formal presentation generated a lot of questions from fellow vexillologists.

I also prepared a poster display and gave a brief presentation on the North American Vexillological Association's Digital Library and the VexIndex Project (see next paragraph). I am directing the Digital Library for NAVA. We have been digitizing our newsletter and journal and posting them online. The library is open-access except for a 2-year embargo on the current content, which is available only to members of the organization. My hope is that NAVA's Digital Library will serve as a model for other vexillological organizations so that we can get more of the scholarship in our field available online. *NOTE: The NAVA Digital Library is currently being migrated to NAVA's new Drupal website. Work on this is still ongoing.*

In addition, I introduced the attendees to a new project that I have initiated – at the time called "VexIndex". Thanks to input from the community, I have renamed the project "International Vexillological Index (IVI)". With this project, I am combining my professional expertise in librarianship with my scholarly interest in vexillology. I initiated the project and intend for it to be a multi-lingual index of the world's literature related to flags. The database will be open-access for the dataset, and will link to full text when available. It will index books, articles, websites, and other sources of information. Throughout the conference, I discussed the IVI project with representatives of vexillological associations from around the world. As a result, I have obtained partnership agreements from the following vexillological organizations and entities: Burgee Data Archives (Canada), Česká vexilologická společnost (Czech Republic), Flag Data Centre (Czech Republic), Flag Research Center (USA), Flag Society of Australia Inc., Flags of the World (an international collaborative website on flags), Great Waters Association of Vexillology (includes 5 US states), Société Suisse de Vexillologie (Switzerland), Southern African Vexillological Association (includes 11 African nations), and Vexillological Association of the State of Texas. Partner institutions have agreed to allow full indexing of their publications in the database. There were also representatives of other organizations which expressed interest, but require approval of their leadership before making a commitment. Some of these organizations already have data that they will let me import. I also recruited 6 volunteers who have expressed interest in helping with the project.

During the banquet, I was awarded the Vexillon Award by the Fédération Internationale des Associations Vexillologiques. This award is given by the international vexillological community to the author of the best book published anywhere in the world on the topic of flags during the 2-year

period between International Vexillological Congresses. I was given the award in recognition of my book, *Russian Regional Flags*.

II. IS YOUR PROJECT COMPLETED?   Yes_X_   No__

III. FINANCIAL STATEMENT
I received a $500 presentation grant from LAUC to attend this conference. It was combined with $1,000 from my professional development funding to cover part of the expense of my trip.

My expenses for attending the Washington Flag Congress were:

- Early Conference Registration: $250 (paid before 1 Feb. 2010)
- Hotel (Sun. July 31 - Sat. August 6):
  - Conference rate: $175/night + taxes
  - Total for 7 nights: $1,372.91
- Flight: $653.80
- Meals: $400 (approx.)
- Total: $2,676.71

My actual expenses were about $150 more than my estimate of $2,523.

IV. SHARING YOUR PRODUCT/RESULTS
My conference paper was published in the conference proceedings. Below is a full citation:

Platoff, Anne M. "Six Flags Over Luna: The Role of Flags in Moon Landing Conspiracy Theories." In *Proceedings of the 24th International Congress of Vexillology* (n.p.: North American Vexillological Association, 2011), p. 820-881.

I am forwarding to LAUC a PDF version of the publication with this report, and plan to upload it to eScholarship.

I am also sending copies of my handouts that I distributed regarding the NAVA Digital Library project and the VexIndex Project.

V. NOTE
Information included in this report may be reprinted or posted on the web for dissemination to UCOP, other UC Libraries, and future potential LAUC grant applicants.