

## **END OF FUNDING PERIOD REPORT**

### **LAUC Statewide Grants, Research & Professional Development Committee**

Primary Applicant(s): Susan Powell

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#### **TITLE OF PROJECT:**

Time Period of Grant: Winter/Spring

Amount of Award Received: \$350

Original Abstract as Submitted:

My proposed project, "Creating a Historical (20th Century) Mongolian GIS Dataset," consists of creating a set of historic GIS datasets based on maps digitized from Mongolian institutions. These datasets will be made publically available in order to help scholars expand research questions concerning the past century of Mongolian history, environmental change, and urban growth. I plan to spend approximately 6 weeks (during May and June 2017) in Mongolia visiting archives and libraries in Ulaanbaatar, with a short excursion to the city of Sainshand to visit a provincial museum. I will make descriptive records of the maps I find, identify those that would provide useful GIS data, and arrange for scanning. While in Mongolia I will begin the process of georeferencing the scanned maps, as well as creating and describing GIS datasets, which I will continue after returning to Berkeley. I plan to include these datasets in the UC Berkeley Library digital collections and also hope to include them in the ACMS Inner Asia Digital Archive. My selection of maps and data creation decisions will be informed by conversations with local librarians, researchers, and other stakeholders, which is why I feel that spending time in Mongolia is so important to this project.

#### **I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS and EVALUATION**

- Describe what was achieved during the time period of the grant.

I am currently in the midst of my project in Mongolia. Thus far I have made several visits to the National Library to view materials, traveled to a provincial capital (Sainshand) to investigate local regional resources, and met with Mongolian researchers to learn more about research needs. Over several weeks I have been working to establish a relationship with the National Central Archives and access to their materials. I have also begun creating some GIS datasets for the database.

- What aspects were completed as proposed? If your study could not be completed as proposed, explain how your plans were altered.

It has taken longer and been more difficult than I anticipated to view maps at both the National Library and the National Central Archives, and especially to obtain high-resolution digital scans. As a result I have focused more on atlases available through other resources and documenting which materials are available through the National Library and the Archives.

- Did the project accomplish what it intended? Did it make a difference?
  - Include any relevant quantitative data, if applicable (e.g. How many individuals have benefited from this project? In what way? This may include various output

measures such as circulation, reference transactions, program attendance, survey responses, etc. as appropriate.)

- Include any anecdotes, if applicable.

As I am still in the midst of the project, I do not yet have any measures of accomplishment other than anecdotal accounts of the interest that Mongolian researchers express in the project.

- What would you do differently next time, if anything?

If possible I would try to find a local collaborator earlier on in the process. Obtaining access to special format collections like maps at the Mongolian institutions requires being in the country in person and a significant amount of patience, persistence, and time. Having a local partner who could have started the institutional access process earlier would potentially have allowed me more time with and greater access to the country's map collections.

- What advice do you have for others applying for LAUC research grants?

My advice to other applicants is to do as much as research and planning as possible before submitting your application. It is helpful to have conversations with your supervisor and other colleagues as far in advance as possible.

## **II. IS YOUR PROJECT COMPLETED? Yes\_\_ No\_X\_**

If No, what is needed to complete the project? Is more time needed? Or more funds?

I am currently in the midst of my project, so more time is needed. I anticipate that the work of creating the core collection of the Mongolian 20<sup>th</sup> century historical GIS dataset will continue through the fall as I work with a student assistant to convert the scanned images into GIS layers. The funding I received through the LAUC mini-grant and an additional 2 grants from other sources is sufficient to complete the project.

## **III. FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Please explain how the funds received were spent. Attach your original budget and indicate how well your estimates matched with actual expenditures. Receipts are not necessary.

As my trip is currently in progress I do not have final actual expenditures to report yet, but I feel that my expenditures are mostly in keeping with my actual expenditures. I have allocated the \$350 I received from the LAUC grant to cover food costs while in Mongolia.

## **IV. SHARING YOUR PRODUCT/RESULTS**

What are your plans for disseminating the results of your work? If it will be a web page or product, or published article or book, when will it be available to the public? Include citations/URLs if known.

I plan to make the GIS datasets created through this project available through the UC Berkeley Library geoportal. They should be available by January 2018. I will also share copies of the data with the American Center for Mongolian Studies and my other local collaborators to make available to their researchers.

## **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.

**Attachment: Estimated expenditures**

My proposed budget for the research trip to Mongolia was as follows:

Flight from San Francisco, USA to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia \$1,800  
Ground transportation to/from airports \$150  
Train fare to/from Sainshand from Ulaanbaatar \$50  
5 weeks' accommodations in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia \$500  
1 week accommodations in Sainshand, Mongolia \$100  
6 weeks' meals \$600  
Library/museum reading room registration fees \$50  
Reproduction fees \$500  
Interpreter fees (for research in Sainshand) \$500

Total \$4,250

In addition to the \$350 I received through the LAUC mini-grant, I received an additional 2 grants:

- \$2,000 small grants award from the Association of Asian Studies
- \$2,500 Library Fellow award from the American Center for Mongolian Studies

The additional funding in excess of my estimated expenditures will allow me to cover unforeseen expenditures and acquire additional materials for the project.