Realities of European Digital Library, and its Liaisons with World Digital Community
(Tentative, and we can think of a more provocative title!)

Proposed Panel Chairs:

Ching-chih Chen, Simmons College, Boston, MA, USA
&
José Borbinha, INESC-ID, Portugal

Given the specific theme of this conference, there are many on-going topics which deserve to have a lively and provocative discussion. In 2004, leading digital library research and development community in the US had an intensive Workshop on this rather sensitive topic sponsored by the US National Science Foundation (NSF). The result was published in the Report of Larsen and Wactlar.[1]

Despite of that report, after the end of DL-2 Initiative, NSF has no new program to continue that initiative. It also discontinued its short-lived IDLP (International Digital Library Program) in 2004. Research funding for US digital library R&D activities is currently merged to other NSF programs, although NSF's NSDL (National Science Digital Library) program is ongoing. In addition, the more application-centric programs are available in agencies like Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

In Europe, digital library R&D and application developments have been addressed specifically in the scope of DELOS, the Network of Excellence for Digital Libraries. Other focused activities have been also promoted, supported by the European Commission, National Governments, and individual institutions. However, the gap between research and experimental developments from one side, and final services and sustained activities in the other side remains to be filled.

There are many lively problems and issues for this Panel to explore. We consider that our panel can help to bridge the gaps, and provide a forum for interaction and sharing of ideas.

It is not the Panel's goal to provide any state-of-the-art discussion, which is not possible with many on-going initiatives and different visions of the future of digital libraries as well as diversified focuses of institutions involved in digital libraries. While a model for interdisciplinary digital library R&D activities has been proposed[2], how content, technology, and user should be interwined to develop applications for universal use is a real problem. Global Memory Net supported by the NSF/IDLP Program is one of the successful collaborative models to bring distributed global digital library applications together by addressing the interdisciplinary model which addressed in Ref. 2. The site is expected to be launched soon, but for the meantime, one can browse all reference information as well as partners by going to the following site without having to login [just type the following on one's browser, one-page summary is available at http://www.memorynet.org/   :

---

[1] Larsen, R., Wactlar, H.(Eds.), 2004. *Knowledge Lost in Information: Report of the NSF Workshop on Research Directions for Digital Libraries*. Chatham, MA. School of Information Science, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. http://www.sis.pitt.edu/%7Edlwkshop/report.pdf.

[2] Ching-chih Chen, Howard Wactlar, James Z. Wang and Kevin Kiernan, "Digital Imagery for Significant Cultural and Historical Materials - An Emerging Research Field Bridging People, Culture, and Technologies," International Journal on Digital Libraries, 5: 275-285 (2005).

Chen2.simmons.edu/v4/   [then, check on "Archives" for Global Memory Net, "Partners" for collaboration etc…

We hope to identify other related cases for collaboration as well as to motivate interested institutions with equally successful models to share.

The two proposed panel co-chairs are not strangers to the global DL community, and have collaborated in co-editing the latest Special Issue on Multimedia, Contents and Management of International Journal of Digital Libraries.[3] It is our belief that if the proposed Panel is approved, we shall be able to have a panel of no more than 5 members. In addition to the two co-chairs, other panel members under consideration are:

- "TEL - The European Library" (http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org). The contact person is Jill Cousins (Jill.Cousins@KB.nl)

- "South-East European Digitization Initiative (SEEDI)", (http://www.ii.edu.mk/SEEDI2005/, Contact person: Milena Dobreva (milena.dobreva@gmail.com)

- DELOS - Constantino Thanos

It is possible to have someone else from other parts of the world, like Asia, etc.

Biographical information of Ching-chih Chen and Jose Borbinha are attached in the following for the Committee's use:

Biographical Information of the Proposed co-Chairs

Ching-Chih Chen is Professor of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, Boston, and is a consultant and speaker to over 40 countries. She is the author/editor of more than 35 books and over 200 journal articles in areas of new information technologies, such as global digital libraries, multimedia technology, digital imaging, interactive videodisc technology, global information infrastructure, information management, and information resources, etc. She produced the award winning interactive videodisc and multimedia CD entitled *The First Emperor of China*, supported by the US National Endowment for Humanities (NEH). She has led two major NSF/International Digital Library Projects (IDLP): (1) Global Memory Net, a gateway to the world cultural, historical, and heritage multimedia resources, with collaborators from different part of the world, and (2) International Collaboration to Advance User-oriented Technologies for Managing and Distributing Images in Digital Libraries. She is also co-PI, with Prof. Raj Reddy, of the China-US Million Book Digital Library Project.

A Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, she was appointed by President Clinton in February 1997 to serve as a member of the U.S. President's Information Technology Advisory Committee (PITAC). PITAC was established by a new Presidential Executive Order. Under both Presidents Clinton and Bush during 1997 to December 2002, she co-chaired the

---

[3] *Special Issue on Multimedia, Contents and* Management, International Journal on Digital Libraries, 6 (1), February 23, 2006 (online). Jose Borbinha, Ching-chih Chen, and Stavros Christodoulakis, co-editions.

PITAC Subcommittee on International Issues, and was a member of the PITAC Subcommittees on Next Generation Internet (NGI) and IT*2 Initiative Review; and Panels on Digital Divide, Digital Library, Learning of the Future, and Individual Security. She also chaired the PITAC's activity on Digital Divide for Smaller Institutions.

During 1987 to 2001, Dr. Chen was Chief Organizer of a series of 12 International Conferences on New Information Technology (NIT) in many continents of the world. The outcome of NIT '99 (Taipei) and NIT'2001 (Beijing) are the two-volume books related to the development of Global Digital Libraries – *IT and Global Digital Library Development* (1999) and *Global Digital Library Development in the New Millennium: Fertile Ground for Distributed Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration* (2001).

She is a recipient of many major awards, and was also elected in 1985 as Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She served as an Honorary Professor of Tsinghua University in Beijing from August 1999 to 2002 and University of Hainan, China since 2004. Active in the digital library area she was the co-Chair of the 4th ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL) of 2004 held in Tucson, Arizona in June 2004. She was on the Advisory Board of DELOS (the European Digital Network for Excellence), serving as the US Co-Chair of the NSF/DELOS Working Group in Digital Imagery for Significant Cultural, Historical and Heritage Materials, and served as the co-editor for the *Journal of Digital Library*'s Special Issue on Multimedia Contents in Digital Libraries. A sought-after international speaker, in rent two years, she delivered keynote speeches and made presentations at many international conferences including those in Delhi and Bangalore, India; Dubrovnik Croatia; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, China; Bangkok, Thailand, etc. She is on the advisory board of the major China Digital Library Project of the National Library of China, and in October 2005, she was appointed as a consultant to OCLC for its Global Digital Initiative.

José Borbinha has a background in Electrical Engineering and a PhD in Computer Science. He is an Assistant Professor at the Information Systems and Computer Engineering Department at IST (Lisbon Technical University), and a researcher of the Information Systems Group at INESC-ID.
His main interests are in the areas of research, analysis, planning and development of technology, systems and services in the field of information systems in general and specially in the areas of digital preservation, digital documents and publishing, digitization, etc., including issues on descriptive and structural metadata and interoperability.

Between 1998 and 2005 he was the Director for Innovation and Development at the National Library of Portugal, where we launched the initiative for the National Digital Library.
He has been an active member in several European projects and initiatives in the area of digital libraries (namely DELOS, LEAF, TEL, MALVINE, NEDLIB, MinervaPlus) and member of the Programme Committees of the major international conferences in the area (JCDL, ECDL, RCDL, ICADL). He has take part of review and advising actions in his areas of expertise for the European Commission and the National Science Foundation (USA).

He is member of the ACM – Association for Computer Machinery and of the IEEE - Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He is a founding member of the IEEE Technical Committee on Digital Libraries, and member of the Advisory Boards of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative and of the Networked Digital Thesis and Dissertations initiative. He is a member of the Portuguese Society of Engineers ("Ordem dos Engenheiros") and of the Portuguese Association of Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists ("Associação Portuguesa de Bibliotecários, Arquivistas e Documentalistas")