

OREGON STATE LIBRARY

Library Services and Technology Act
Final Grant Activity Report
Email this form to ferol.weyand@state.or.us

LSTA Contract Number: 12-04-5a

Grantee: _____

Project Title Oregon National Primate Research Center Rare Book Digitization Project

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See the instructions

1. Project Purpose (90-140 words)

The Oregon National Primate Research Center's Isabel McDonald Library has a collection of rare books on monkeys, apes and other non-human primates which includes books owned by few libraries in the USA or worldwide. Due to their scientific content, historic value, and artistic merit these books are of interest and value to a wide audience. Many of these rare books are too fragile or valuable to permit interlibrary loan and the ONPRC Library may be visited by appointment only which severely limited access to these items. The project purpose was to digitize ten books in the public domain that represent non-human primates as subjects of scientific study and natural beauty. Digitizing these books, none of which were otherwise available online, preserved them for the future whilst making these hidden gems available to all interested parties in Oregon and around the world.

2. Project Activities / Methods (limit 250 words)

The ONPRC Librarian and the OHSU Historical Collections & Archives Librarian selected books for the project based on criteria of rarity, interest, artistic and scientific merit which at the time of selection were not available online and were copyright free. As the project progressed it was decided to add an extra book of outstanding merit.

LeGrand Olsen was hired as project employee due to his experience with digital collection and metadata. Olsen and the OHSU Digital Collections and Metadata Librarian created a metadata schema for the collection.

Mr. Olsen and Ms. Urbanski were trained by experienced staff at OHSU to use the Indus book scanner. Mr. Olsen scanned every page of each book at archival quality of 600dpi and then edited the images in Photoshop. Grant funds were used to pay the salary for the project employee and purchase various items such as Perspex to hold down the pages and book cradles for the

oversized books. The images were saved to a server and backed up on a portable hard drive (purchased with grant funds).

Grant funds were used to purchase an upgrade to contentDM to allow storage of the collection. The final images were uploaded into contentDM as books and the collection was made available on the OHSU digital collection website <http://drl.ohsu.edu> . Grant funds were also used to create displays for the exhibit planned at the end of the project and the printing costs of 200 brochures promoting the collection.

3. Project Outputs

3. a. Outputs Summary Table– please report as appropriate depending upon your grant
(double click Word table to enter data- table can be altered to record appropriate outputs)

Actual # of people served this quarter	0	Potential # of people served per year	2500-
# of exhibits	0	# of planned exhibits	1
# exhibit attendees	0	# of expected exhibit attendees	200-
Other output measure(s): # books scanned and edited #books uploaded into contentDM	11, 6	Other output measure(s) to date: #books scanned and edited # books uploaded	11, 11
Links posted on webpages	1	Planned links on webpages	2

3. b. Project Outputs Narrative (*limit 250 words*)

The project was successful and exceeded the goal of making high quality digital copies of ten rare historical primatology books available online. Due to the nature of the project as yet few people have been able to use this valuable resource so calculating the number of people served is difficult, however the books are now available to a wide audience and usage will increase once the collection is publicized.

Efforts are underway to promote the collection locally and internet wide. ONPRC has approximately 2,500 visitors a year (presumably with an interest in Primatology) to whom the collection will be promoted. A brochure has been produced which contains high quality images from the project and this will be distributed to local institutions as will flyers promoting a special exhibit. An exhibit of the books and their digital images will take place September – December 2013 at OHSU library. Due to its location in the lobby the exhibit will be in the direct path of the approximately 27,000 entrants to the library during this period and presumably a significant number of them will be led to the online collection. In addition to these local efforts an announcement and link to the collection will be posted on the Primate Info Net (PIN) a website which averages over 18 million hits per year and this will expose the collection to a worldwide audience.

4. Project Outcomes (*limit 250 words all together including a-c*)

4.a. Desired change in knowledge, skills or abilities of grant participants

We aimed to make digital copies of rare historical primatology books that because of the limitations of access and the physical necessity of conserving rare and valuable books were available to a very limited number of people. We believed these books would be of interest and use to a wider audience including Primatologists, artists, schoolchildren and the general public if they were available online.

4.b. Methodology(ies) of measuring used

The initial measure of success is demonstrated by the digitizing of eleven books surpassing the initial goal of ten books. In terms of use it is too early to claim success as the collection has only recently been completed and uploaded to contentDm and the webpage is not yet complete, however the number of hits to the collection will be counted. An announcement of the collection and a link will be posted on Primate Info Net Website which averages over 18 million hits per year the potential response to this could be huge. In addition feedback on the upcoming exhibit and opening will be calculated.

4.c. Results and Interpretation

The digital copies of the eleven books are of extremely high quality. Digitization essentially created duplicate copies of the book that are now available limited only by access to the internet. The books can be read or looked at online or individual pages can be downloaded depending on the interest of the viewer. We are confident that usage will be high once publicity is underway.

5. Other Results (*optional- limit 200 words*)

Interest and enthusiasm for the project amongst library personnel involved in the project or who were shown the books and images was so high that an exhibit is scheduled in the OHSU main library September through December 2013. We hope to hold a special opening event for the exhibit if a pending funding request is granted. In addition the OHSU Digital Collections and Metadata librarian has expressed interest in creating ebooks of some of the collection. The announcement of the collection on PIN will probably generate many hits to the webpage which will be counted.

6. What plans, if any, have you made for follow-up or continuation of this project? (*optional- limit 200 words*)

There is a lot of enthusiasm around the project which should only increase after the exhibit and the announcement on PIN so we hope to capitalize on this to continue and extend the project. We intend to create an improved webpage which will allow any future digitized books to be added. If the OHSU digital collection transitions to another software there will more potential for online

exhibits which should make future development easier. The Digital Collections and Metadata Librarian at OHSU is examining possibly creating ebooks of some of the digitized books. We also plan to investigate low cost options of digitizing more of the historical primatology collection by using volunteers or creating projects for interns or library school student required projects. Nothing is yet firm but there are lots of potential ideas and plans of how to continue with this project as time and funds allow.

7. What were the significant lessons learned in the course of the project that others considering a similar project should know? (*optional – limit 250 words*)

We decided to make exact copies of the books by scanning every cover, endpaper and even blank pages at archival quality (600dpi) resulting in some huge files especially for some of the longer 300page plus or oversized books. Initially we didn't realize that the size of the files would create problems. After one or two incidents of programs crashing and image uploads taking hours we decided to break down each book into segments of a few pages which placed less strain on the software and in the event of problems resulted in loss of smaller amounts of work.

We also after the crash of a server were justified in the time we had taken to back up project work on a large portable hard drive. If we had not budgeted time or money for this then much of our project might have been lost or significantly delayed in completion.

Another important lesson is that if you want high quality images then skill is required even for scanning which at first we thought would be a routine activity – it increased the quality of the product and saved time in the long run by employing someone to scan who was able to evaluate the images and rescan if needed.

One overall lesson we learned was that a quality product takes more time than you think as if you are doing a project for the first time then there is always something unexpected!

8. Anecdotal Information (*optional – limit 250 words*)

The project books have only been viewed by a very limited number of people so far but all those who have seen them and have praised the beauty of the illustrations in particular in the *Storia Naturale delle scimie*. We are confident that the exhibit and announcement will generate a great deal of interest in the digital collection.