CRMS-World Project Update
July 13, 2012

Highlights

We are six months into the CRMS-World project with generous support of the Institute for Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant. In a short time we have accomplished some important milestones with our partners.

- We seated the project’s Advisory Working Group who validated the legal analysis and resulting review process. The product is a whitepaper available on the CRMS-World grant website. In September, we will host a meeting of our Advisory Working Group to review existing practices and results.
- We assembled and trained the first group of reviewers; over three days in May in Ann Arbor, library professionals from around the country worked together to learn and improve our review system and interface.
- We developed online training materials that will allow us to increase the number of reviewers through virtual learning and have begun training reviewers remotely. Our first distance-educated reviewer is trained and working; notably she is performing comparably with the other reviewers who were trained in a face-to-face setting.
- With pleasure, we welcome the California Digital Library as a new partner to the project.
- Additionally, we are working towards collaboration with Professor Elizabeth Townsend Gard of Tulane University Law School, creator of the Durationator, a copyright duration calculator. Ideally, this collaboration will facilitate an independent review mechanism to confirm the accuracy of our copyright determinations. It will support Professor Townsend Gard to refine the Durationator.
- In CRMS-US, reviews continue apace. To date, 295,411 titles have been reviewed with 156,915 determined to be in the public domain.

As we continue with the CRMS-US work, we are also now actively making copyright reviews in the CRMS-World system. The new reviewers are learning the system and, in the course of doing so, are helping to refine it. This work is documented in a project wiki to ensure standard practices as we learn more and the project evolves.

Other News

We hope to expand our international determinations processes in the course of the grant. To that end, we are discussing with a contact in Germany. German language books are the second largest number of titles in HathiTrust after English language - in the range of 500,000 titles. Many of these titles predate
World War II, and there is speculation that a large number of these may not be available in Germany. Thus a copyright determination effort would be particularly compelling. We are assisted by members of our expert review team and our advisory board in exploring some international partnerships; in particular, we are grateful to Dan Zellner of Northwestern University and of Kenneth Crews, the Director of the Columbia University Copyright Advisory Office.

Our rights research efforts sparked fresh interest in increasing legal access to state government works in HathiTrust. In particular, state librarians from Michigan and Utah are working with us to make their state government works open as appropriate. A collection of these works can be found in HathiTrust. The UM Copyright Office has a summer intern from the University of Michigan law school, Justin Bonfiglio, providing research support about the copyright status of state government works.

Moving Forward

This summer we anticipate the rate of reviews to increase as our reviewers grow in expertise. Thank you to all of the partners for ensuring their reviewers are able to work on the project for at least the amount of time committed formally in the grant proposal. Staffing and time is particularly precious these days, and we greatly appreciate the commitment of each and every partner.

We welcome expressions of interest by new potential partners. For inquiries, please contact Bobby Glushko, Program Manager at rglushko@umich.edu or Rick Adler, Project Manager at rcadler@umich.edu.