ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library Large-scale Digitization Project, 2007.
Joint Purchase with Newberry Library Brings Fifteenth-Century France to Life

A unique fifteenth-century roll, jointly purchased with the Newberry Library through a new resource-sharing program, is shedding new light on one of Europe's most turbulent periods.

The roll is the Genealogy of the Kings of England and France and the Dukes of Burgundy, created probably in 1467 to celebrate the investiture of Charles the Bold as duke of Burgundy.

It shows by means of coats of arms the genealogy of 200 years of English and French kings, as well as two families closely related to the French kings, the powerful dukes of Burgundy and Bourbon.

"We are so pleased to have been able to purchase this in conjunction with the Newberry Library's new resource-sharing program for rare materials," says Barbara Jones, head of the Library's Rare Book and Special Collections Library.

"It not only enables both of us to purchase something that might otherwise end up in private hands, but also has enabled us to provide something needed for current scholars. In fact, a graduate student here couldn't even wait for the roll to arrive in Urbana—she drove to Chicago while it was still at the Newberry Library. So, it was not bought just to gather cobwebs—it has gotten immediate use."

The roll, which apparently had lain unstudied in a French chateau until now, was intended to show that Charles the Bold's lineage gave him equal status to the kings of England and France. This was an important point for Charles, who was determined to create a new kingdom of Burgundy, based on the kingdom that had existed during the Carolingian empire.

As such, the roll traces the lineage of at least six of medieval Europe's most powerful families. It starts with England's Edward I (crowned in 1272) and France's Philip III (crowned in 1270) and ends with the then-current rulers, England's Edward IV (crowned in 1461) and France's Louis XI (also crowned in 1461).

Those familiar with medieval European history will recognize that this is the exact time period during which English claims to the French throne resulted in the Hundred Years' War, and within England itself, the War of Roses over succession to the English throne. Throughout it all, the dukes of Burgundy played one side against the other. In fact, it was a duke of Burgundy who instigated the English invasion of France in 1413 that culminated with the crushing defeat of the French at Agincourt in 1415.

And it was a duke of Burgundy who not only precipitated the English invasions of 1429, during which Joan of Arc defeated the English at Orleans, but also captured her and handed her over to the English for execution.

"We like to look at the ways in which the visual layout—in this case, the placement of the coats of arms—conveys meaning," says Anne Hedemann, a U of I professor of art history who specializes in medieval manuscripts and historical chronicles. "In this case, every person who reigned is represented, but the alignment provides information in such a way that the social discord is masked, which is very typical of medieval dynastic writing."

In fact, she says, the block of text above the English arms claims that the Hundred Years' War was "a fraternal problem" due to the intermarriage between the English and French royal families—an extreme blurring of the territorial grabs the English invasions actually represented.

But the roll is fascinating for other reasons as well. "Extant roll chronicles rely heavily on text to explain history or ancestry," explains Charlotte Bauer-Smith, an art history graduate student who has studied the roll extensively since its purchase. "National myths, such as the baptism of Clovis, may be highlighted, and genealogies are traced back to Troy and sometimes to Christ or Adam."

"Our roll does not use these devices—it is not a chronicle. Its exclusive use of heraldry and minimal use of text make it unique."

And the information Continued on pg. 7
Library Friends Remembers...1985-1991
(As part of Library Friends' twenty-fifth anniversary year, Friendscript is presenting highlights of the past quarter-century as a tribute to the thousands of Friends who have helped the University Library maintain its stature as one of the best in the world.)

The Library's seven-millionth volume, multi-million-dollar donations, the quest to raise $3 million to match a challenge—all of these marked the third quarter of Library Friends' existence.

"This was a period of intense activity, explosive growth, and the establishment of major programs and collections," says the Library's director of development and public affairs, Joan M. Hood. "Our jubilation was tempered only by the loss of our visionary leader, Hugh C. Atkinson.

The events of 1986 alone would have been enough to distinguish this period in the life of Library Friends. In the spring of 1986, C. Walter ('37) and Gerda B. Mortenson donated $2 million to establish the Library's first professorship, the C. Walter and Gerda B. Mortenson Professorship for International Library Programs.

University Librarian Hugh C. Atkinson's death in 1986 delayed appointment of the first Mortenson professor until 1988, when Marianna Tax Choldin, then head of the Slavic and European Library, was named to the position.

Meanwhile, also in 1986, the Library acquired its seven-millionth volume—Peregrинato in Terram Sanctam (1486). In keeping with a new tradition, the book was purchased with funds donated by a Library Friend, charter Library Friend John E. Velde, Jr. (38). "I was happy to be able to give the Library funds for its seven-millionth volume," he said at the time. "The Library is the heart of the university.

But Library Friends wasn't done yet. In 1987, the Library decided that its original folio of Audubon's The Birds of America was in serious need of restoration. Because of binding that had been done years before the Library had acquired the set in 1949, the images were bleeding, and pages were becoming mottled. To restore the folio to its original glory would cost more than $90,000—more than the Library could possibly afford, and more than Library Friends had ever raised for a single purpose.

That's when Library Friends board member James Gallivan came up with a brilliant idea—an auction of facsimile Audubon prints from the then-new, 1987 facsimile folio published by Abbeville. "We finally got the idea that if we could find 100 people to donate $650 each, we could give them four prints at the cost of what they would pay at a gallery," explained Mr. Gallivan at the time. "The 35 most popular prints we could auction.

By October 1987, after intense phone calling by Mr. Gallivan and Library Friend Bob Wallace, the auction was over—six people had to be turned away for lack of prints. A crew of volunteers spent weeks shrink-wrapping the prints. After the auction ended, on November 1, Library Friends had raised a whopping $92,000. The fund-raiser went on to win an award for best use of volunteers from Friends of Libraries U.S.A.

As for the Audubon prints themselves, they underwent extensive restoration by Douglas Kenyon, Inc., of Chicago and now can be seen in their original glory in the Rare Book and Special Collections Library.

It was this kind of success that emboldened the Library in 1988 to apply for a rare, but highly coveted, challenge grant of $1 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The money would be used to create an endowment for acquisitions, preservation, and bibliographic control of humanities-related collections.

Why rare, why coveted? Only four, full $1 million grants were awarded that year, and an institution can only receive two such grants within its lifetime. The only catch—in order to receive the full $1 million, the Library needed to raise $3 million of its own within four years. By June 1992, we exceeded the goal, creating more than a dozen new endowment funds through bequests and estate-planning commitments.

Among them was the largest unrestricted gift in the Library's history—a $1 million bequest from the estate of Edna Brown Titus (28, '30), who is best known as the editor of the Union List of Serials.

And the Mortensons, in 1991, decided to donate another $2 million to established the C. Walter and Gerda B. Mortenson Center for International Library Programs to increase the work already accomplished by their professorship. The final coup de grace for this incredible five-year period, however, was donation to the university in 1991 of $18.7 million from the Grainger Foundation to build a new engineering library.

This period was also marked by the acquisition of several major collections, most with the financial help of Library Friends, including more than 300 love letters from Carl Sandburg to his wife, all previously unknown by researchers; 219 letters documenting the personal life of H.G. Wells; and the personal papers of poet and Spanish civil war veteran Edwin Rolfe, which created the core of a new and important Library collection.

Library Friends also hosted a two-day symposium honoring Accent and Ascent, two literary magazines whose editors had been long-time U of I faculty members and whose papers are held at the University Archives.

Among the featured invitees were Stanley Elkin, William Gass, Gordon Weaver, Carol Pieman, and Brendan Galvin, all of whom had connections with the magazines.

Old Aerial Photos of State Available on World Wide Web

by Greg Kline
(reprinted with permission from the Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette)

They call it "history from a bird's eye view," and when the "birds" in question first began to take in the view they were certainly propeller-driven and probably made of wood and canvas.

The U.S. Agriculture Department began taking the aerial photo survey of Illinois in the 1920s to gather information that could be used for such purposes as studying crop yields and erosion.

Over time, around 200,000 of the photos, some from every county, accumulated at the University of Illinois Map and Geography Library.

They show Champaign when the area from Prospect Avenue to the Assembly Hall was pretty much cornfields and O'Hare Airport when it was surrounded by orchards. (The Chicago airport used to be named Orchard Field.)

But a large part of this visual history of the state's development is endangered. The older photos in particular are suffering from more than a half-century of use. Enter three UI departments—the Library's Map and Geography Library and Digital Imaging Initiative, and
Emblem Book the Basis for Ground-breaking Digital Project

A seventeenth-century emblem book from the Library’s world-renowned emblem-book collection has made its debut on the World Wide Web as the prototype for a ground-breaking indexing and digitization project.

For scholars of emblems—the highly allegorical images that dominated popular books from the mid-1500s to the late 1700s—the site will enable them, for the first time, to search emblems by authors, artists, place of publication, kinds of objects and activities, and the like.

It will also enable them, for the first time, to view the emblems either as the usual low-resolution web image or in close, high-resolution detail.

To date, the few sites on emblem books are not truly searchable and feature only low-resolution images. None span an entire collection.

Says Professor Sabine Mödersheim, a specialist in emblematics at McGill University who was on campus in November to present a lecture, “This web site will enable us to say, ‘This is exactly what we want,’ with no errors. This is very helpful.”

The site is the result of two years of collaboration between the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign’s Rare Book and Special Collections Library, the Digital Imaging Initiative Group and the library expertise of the Rare Book and Special Collections Library’s library expertise.

Professor Wade’s research with the Library’s collection of German emblem books provided an excellent opportunity to explore how digital imaging could make the books accessible to a larger audience,” says graduate assistant Cheri Morgan, who worked on the technical part of the project with Beth Sandore, coordinator for the Digital Imaging Initiative.

“Professor Wade’s research with the Library’s collection of German emblem books provided an excellent opportunity to explore how digital imaging could make the books accessible to an international audience of scholars, while at the same time preserving the amount of physical handling of the books themselves.”

An associate of Professor Wade’s, Thomas McGeary, and librarian N. Frederick Nash, were responsible in 1993 for the publication of a catalog of the Library’s emblem books, which definitively established the Library’s collection as one of the largest in the world.

As an outgrowth of that work, Professor Wade and Patricia Hardin, a Ph.D. candidate in Germanic languages and literature at the U of I, almost immediately embarked on creating a text database scholars could search by motto, descriptors of the images in an emblem, artist, author, date, etc.

Thanks to three years of financial support from the U of I’s Campus Research Board and the library expertise of the Rare Book and Special Collections Library’s library expertise, the site’s URL is images.grainger.uiuc.edu/emblems/default.html.

The prototype web site currently contains 2,500 emblems in 67 German emblem books from the Library’s collection.

The prototype web site currently contains indexed information for only the small number of digitized images; the full database (text only) should be available at the website this spring.

“Professor Wade’s group is now seeking funds to complete scanning for the project.”

Barbara Jones and Gene Rinkel, they have created a database covering approximately 2,500 emblems in 67 German emblem books from the Library’s collection.

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Says Professor Sabine Pfann’s 1626 Emblematica, the book used for the prototype web site.

In addition, two images from problem books were scanned in color using a Leaf Scitech digital camera with a 16 megabyte file per photo at 300 dots per inch (dpi). To produce the color image, three exposures were needed using red, green, and blue filters to produce the needed color separations. An electronic flash was used to avoid exposing the rare items to intense, hot lights.

Digital photography was done by Thompson-Mcclellan Photography of Champaign, Scantech Color Systems, also of Champaign, provided the digitizing attachment, the scanning experience, and the color separations.

The idea behind both kinds of scanning, notes Ms. Morgan, is to capture images in high resolution so that they can be used either for a printout or a photo-quality reproduction that’s as clear or clearer than the original.

A sample screen from the new emblem-book web site. The site can be searched by any of the descriptors to the right.
Library Receives Bequest from Local Music Educator

The Library has received a bequest from the estate of a long-time local music educator, Nellie Marie Stuart (35). The bequest of nearly $45,000 will form the new Nellie M. Stuart Library Endowment Fund to support the Library's collections, programs, and services.

Miss Stuart, a Champaign native, died in 1997 at the age of 84. She was widely known in the area both as a school music teacher in Champaign from 1961-1973 and as a private teacher of voice.

Prior to that, she was associate professor of voice at Drake University (1955-58), an assistant professor of voice at Mississippi Southern College (1951-53), Louisiana State University (1950-51), and the University of Illinois (1949-50), and an instructor of voice at Oberlin Conservatory (1944-46), Pomona College (1941-1943), and the University of Illinois (1936-41).

During the 1930s, using the stage name of Ellen Stuart, she had an active singing career primarily in the Chicago area, including several solo appearances on Chicago's NBC radio affiliate. In 1935, she was named "best woman singer" at the U of I. She served on an aircraft carrier during World War II and was involved in the battles at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. After working briefly for Arthur Anderson & Company in Chicago, he returned to Urbana to work with his father in the family insurance and real estate firm. He's still working at age 80.

Richard B. Cogdal, a prominent local businessman and former member of the Library Friends board, has created a Library endowment fund of $50,000 through a deferred estate bequest.

The fund will be used to provide unrestricted support for the Library's collections, programs, and services.

"We are grateful for the confidence Mr. Cogdal has placed in us and for his vision to provide a flexible fund," says University Librarian Robert Wedgeworth about the bequest.

"Endowment funds such as these permit us to plan with assurance for the future."

Mr. Cogdal, an Urbana native, received a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1939 and a master's degree in 1940, both from the University of Illinois. He served on an aircraft carrier during World War II and was involved in the battles at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. After working briefly for Arthur Anderson & Company in Chicago, he returned to Urbana to work with his father in the family insurance and real estate firm. He's still working at age 80.

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Local Businessman Creates Unrestricted Library Endowment

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Library Endowment
Created by Former Ford Foundation Executive and Wife

When alumni James and Beth Armsey decided in 1982 to spend their retirement years in Urbana, they thought it might be a good time to create a series of endowments for cultural centers at the university.

Starting in 1986, they created their first deferred bequest, but did not want it publicized until all their plans were in place.

Now, twelve years later, their series of bequests is complete, and that first gift can be announced—a nearly $83,000 deferred bequest to create the James W. and Beth L. Armsey Library Endowment Fund.

The fund will be used to purchase new printed books for the Communications Library and the History and Philosophy Library.

“Library is the heart and soul of a university,” states Mr. Armsey emphatically. “In my view, without a good library, you don’t really have a university.”

Mr. Armsey should know—he spent twenty-one years with the Ford Foundation primarily as director of programs for higher education, public broadcasting, journalism education, and minority higher education.

It was Mr. Armsey who initiated and ran the Ford Foundation program that distributed almost a half-billion dollars in grants to colleges and universities throughout the country during the 1960s and 1970s, providing the most comprehensive program of support for higher education in American philanthropic history.

It was a program with strong Illinois roots. Henry Heald, former president of the Ford Foundation, had earned his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering in 1925 from the U of I. Mr. Armsey earned both his bachelor’s degree in journalism (1941) and his master’s degree in political science (1946) from the U of I as well.

“I had worked with Henry Heald for many years, when he was president of Illinois Institute of Technology and president of New York University,” says Mr. Armsey. “When Heald became president of the Ford Foundation in 1956, he brought me along as his assistant.”

The years Mr. Armsey spent with Heald at ITT and NYU showed him the problems colleges and universities faced in dealing with their financial needs.

“When we looked at the way universities functioned, and the way funds were so constricted and designated,” he remem-

bers, “it was obvious that what an administrator really needed was money that was free to fill in the gaps as the university saw fit in order to provide some integrity to the academic structure.”

Additionally, Heald and Armsey felt strongly that any such program should be targeted at institutions over a wide geographic area “so that there would be ready access all over the United States to really first-rate education, in addition to the Ivy Leagues on the east coast.”

The result was a challenge-grant-type program in which an institution would have to raise between $2 and $4 for each dollar received from the Ford Foundation. The money then could be spent in any way the institution saw fit.

“We did have one condition, though,” says Mr. Armsey. “In order to get them going, we would give them some money, called a conditional grant, to use until they raised the rest of the matching money. The condition was that they had to tell us what they would spend this initial money on.

“In every case, I urged them to spend it for their libraries, which is what most of them did. I didn’t exactly insist that the money be used for libraries, but when you control the money, what you say has weight!”

In fact, money spoke so loudly that Mr. Armsey was able to achieve what he considers his greatest professional achievement—the desegregation in the 1960s of higher education at private universities in the South.

At Mr. Armsey’s urging, the Ford Foundation trustees agreed to refuse consideration of any institution that would not admit African-Americans as full-time undergraduate students. The result was the admission of the first full-time African-American undergraduates at four major southern universities. It’s not something that we announced or publicized,” he says. “We just held out the carrot of the grants.”

From 1959 to 1966, Mr. Armsey was also responsible for the Ford Foundation’s extensive grant-making activities related to the creation, development, and programming of the nation’s non-commercial television stations. Among the most important stations were those in New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and Chicago.

Other programs initiated and administered by Mr. Armsey were responsible for the creation of the Columbia Journalism Review and Northwestern University’s Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research, and a million-dollar refinancing of the Nieman Foundation program at Harvard University.

Also in conjunction with this Ford Foundation duties, he was a higher-education consultant to the government of Thailand, and educational television consultant to the governments of India, Columbia, Brazil, and El Salvador.

Beth Armsey received her bachelor’s degree in microbiology from the U of I in 1940 and pursued post-graduate work at St. Louis University in medical technology. “Wherever we were, I had a job in a medical lab,” she laughs.

Mrs. Armsey was also active in professional organizations for many years, including a stint as president of the Illinois Society of Medical Technologists. She also helped publish a journal for medical technologists in New York. She is still an active member of the League of Women Voters.

“You can see where our interest in libraries comes from,” says Mr. Armsey. “It’s from our experience here at the U of I and in our careers. We’re convinced that you really can’t be an educated person without an understanding of history and the basics of philosophy. A lot of people think that’s not so, but they’re wrong.”

The other endowments created by the Armseys are designated for the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Krannert Art Museum, and the university’s public broadcasting stations, WILL radio and television.
The Library is Looking for...

$351 to purchase The Environment Encyclopedia and Directory for the City Planning and Landscape Architecture Library. This world-survey directory is organized by country and includes information on world heritage sites, national nature reserves, and parks as well as definitions and explanations relevant to the environment.

$590 to purchase Grösses Angerlexikon (3rd ed.) for the Music Library. This unique biographical dictionary includes information on 15,000 singers from the era of recorded sound. For hundreds of lesser-known singers, this is the only source of information on birth and death dates, performances, and recordings.

$540 to purchase 10 recent books on aphasia and other communication disorders for the Applied Life Studies Library. The books are needed to support research and teaching in the Department of Speech and Hearing Science. Titles deal with aphasia treatment, right hemisphere damage, and adult neurogenic language disorders.

Funds to help preserve deteriorating volumes of the Illus for the University Archives. Because of active, daily use, the embrittled paper of these volumes has begun to disintegrate, requiring preservation photocopying and rebounding. Donate funds to preserve one year or several years. Cost is $80 for each volume from 1895-1907; $125 per volume from 1908-1923.

$399 to purchase the Encyclopedia of the Republican Party/Encyclopedia of the Democratic Party for the Education and Social Science Library. These volumes provide an in-depth history of the parties' origins, evolution, and rising and falling political fortunes. It also includes biographies of winning and losing presidential and vice-presidential candidates, speakers of the house, and others, and information on the quadrennial political conventions.

Funds to purchase Paula Modersohn-Becker: Werkverzeichnis der Gemälde for the Ricker Library of Architecture and Art. This catalogue raisonné is the most complete, scholarly work dealing with the most important woman artist associated with the proto-German Expressionist school of Painting, Paula Modersohn Becker (1876-1907). Cost $300.

To donate any of the items mentioned above, please contact Sharon Kitzmiller, associate director of development, at 227 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL 61801, or telephone (217)333-5683.

Mortenson Lecturer Links Democracy in Haiti to Literacy

Haitians are clamoring to have a role in the country's new democratic institutions, but the country's 193-year history of overwhelming illiteracy is stymieing their efforts.

That's the message delivered by this year's Mortenson lecturer, Michelé D. Pierre-Louis, executive director of the Soros Foundation's Fondation Connaissance et Liberté, headquartered in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

"The newly enfranchised population is claiming its rights to participate in the respublica," she told an audience of about 200 at the November 12 lecture. "At the core of its search for democracy is a powerful demand for education and justice. The question is, how long will the weight of the past constitute an impediment to real emancipation and constructive development?"

The past she refers to extends to even before the country's founding in 1804. At the time of the French Revolution, according to Ms. Pierre-Louis, nearly 90 percent of the Haitian population was slaves, two-thirds of whom were African-born.

"After a bloody war against the colonial powers," she explained, "they all became freed men. Wandering in an unknown land, speaking a fragmented language, worshipping old gods, creating a new peasant culture in utterly adverse conditions...This laid the foundations of our social and cultural dichotomy."

The chasm between the tiny class of French-oriented descendants and the rest of the country was deepened in 1860. That's when the Haitian government signed a treaty with the Vatican that, among other things, ceded to the Catholic Church the government's own role to provide education to its citizens. The Church responded by opening private schools, taught in French, to train the elite.

To compound the problem, the official language of the country, until 1987, was French; unfortunately, 90 percent of the country historically has spoken only Creole, with only about 10 percent able to speak both languages. In fact, it was not until the 1940s that anyone even tried to put Creole—up to that time a strictly oral language—into writing, a move the French-trained intellectuals decried.

Not surprisingly, then, the Duvalier regime's decision in 1979 to mandate the use of Creole in all schools as an attempt to tackle the illiteracy problem ended in failure.

"No books or other written materials existed in Creole, and no efforts were made to fill the gaps," said Ms. Pierre-Louis. "...Generations of children were used as guinea pigs, and today, they cannot read or write in any language. Let alone speak and argue in an articulate and clear manner...Promotion of Creole, in fact, is reinforcing the inequalities of our society. To keep the poor and destitute away from learning French at an early age perpetuates their exclusion and isolation."

Instead, she advocates teaching children in French from early childhood through all subsequent years of schooling. Without access to French, she contends, "The small, dominant elite will continue to be the only sector of the population to have access to the world of knowledge and of economic advantages linked to the use of an international language."

No government in two centuries has really shown any political will to tackle the problem of illiteracy, she continued. "At this point, Creole cannot be the only learning vehicle for the people. Haiti today has to be bilingual, if not multilingual...Such a decision should be assumed courageously, and its consequences analyzed carefully."

Library Friends who have donated at least $35 will receive a printed version of Ms. Pierre-Louis' talk when it becomes available.
Continued from pg. 2

Two heavy users of the photos, the state Natural History and Geological surveys, prompted UI officials to consider its future, Professor Johnston said.

"They had concerns about the collection disappearing," she said.

The Imagebase project began coming together when some of the photos had to be scanned for another reason, and the job went to Scantech, whose normal business is preparing graphics materials for printing.

"We did a couple small projects for them, and I think that got them thinking," said Mike Smith, Scantech's general manager.

The process of getting the photos to the Internet is laborious.

First, Scantech or library personnel have to clean them in preparation for making a digital copy.

The pictures, as many as six at a time, are then run through the industrial-strength scanning devices at the company, which convert them to computer files.

"We can scan at a resolution where you can see the fibers in the prints, the paper," Mr. Smith said.

"These (the company's scanners) are not the things that you have at home that the kids use to scan in Christmas cards."

In addition, software filters are used to improve the quality of the photos further.

After that, the Geographic Modeling Systems Lab determines the photos' map coordinates and catalogs their features to, in effect, create an index to the collection.

The files finally end up on an Internet-accessible computer at the UI, where they can be searched for, viewed online in compressed form and downloaded in their full glory.

Professor Johnston, of the Geographic Modeling Systems Lab, said the biggest challenge has been developing an electronic search system for the collection that's useful to experts and laymen alike.

"You're designing it for several audiences," he said.

Down the road, the big problem could be storage space.

In computer lingo, each of the files is about 25 megabytes large. If the project takes in 60,000 photos as planned, it will need nearly two terabytes of computer disk space — the storage capacity of between 1,000 and 2,000 typical home computers.

Although the photos available at the site are limited, the site is available now. The address is http://images.grainger.uiuc.edu/airphotos.htm

Continued from pg. 1

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After that, the Geographic Modeling Systems Lab determines the photos' map coordinates and catalogs their features to, in effect, create an index to the collection.

The files finally end up on an Internet-accessible computer at the UI, where they can be searched for, viewed online in compressed form and downloaded in their full glory.

Professor Johnston, of the Geographic Modeling Systems Lab, said the biggest challenge has been developing an electronic search system for the collection that's useful to experts and laymen alike.

"You're designing it for several audiences," he said.

Down the road, the big problem could be storage space.

In computer lingo, each of the files is about 25 megabytes large. If the project takes in 60,000 photos as planned, it will need nearly two terabytes of computer disk space — the storage capacity of between 1,000 and 2,000 typical home computers.

Although the photos available at the site are limited, the site is available now. The address is http://images.grainger.uiuc.edu/airphotos.htm

Continued from pg. 1

Two heavy users of the photos, the state Natural History and Geological surveys, prompted UI officials to consider its future, Professor Johnston said.

"They had concerns about the collection disappearing," she said.

The Imagebase project began coming together when some of the photos had to be scanned for another reason, and the job went to Scantech, whose normal business is preparing graphics materials for printing.

"We did a couple small projects for them, and I think that got them thinking," said Mike Smith, Scantech's general manager.

The process of getting the photos to the Internet is laborious.

First, Scantech or library personnel have to clean them in preparation for making a digital copy.

The pictures, as many as six at a time, are then run through the industrial-strength scanning devices at the company, which convert them to computer files.

"We can scan at a resolution where you can see the fibers in the prints, the paper," Mr. Smith said.

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Calendar

EXHIBITS

February
"Medieval Devotional Literature." Rare Book and Special Collections Library
"The African Diaspora: Images and Visions." Main Corridor and Mueller Exhibit Case
"Getting to Know Your Neighbor: Ethnic and Cultural Diversity." Media Center

March
"Medieval Devotional Literature." Rare Book and Special Collections Library
"Women's History Month." Main Corridor and Mueller Exhibit Case
"Getting to Know Your Neighbor: Ethnic and Cultural Diversity." Media Center

April
"Division of Rehabilitation Education Services: 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration." Main Corridor
"Getting to Know Your Neighbor: Ethnic and Cultural Diversity." Media Center

SPECIAL EVENTS
April 7, 4-6 p.m. Exhibit, reception, and lecture by U of I English Professor Bruce Michelson on "Twain and the Printed Word." Rare Book and Special Collections Library, 346 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana.

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