

## **ITAC Collaborative Proposal: College of Liberal Arts and College of Fine Arts**

### **Digital Image Library**

**\$95,000**

We request funding to continue development of a Web-based image catalog, search and presentation tool. There are two parts to this request, 1) further development of the tool and 2) acquisition of additional digital images. The project originated in Liberal Arts for use by the Classics, Middle Eastern and Germanic Studies Departments, and version 1.0 of the tool will be complete by the fall 2004 semester. A similar need for this tool has been identified in Fine Arts, and because Art History and Classics have historically shared images (usually by physical transfer of slide-based media) the two colleges have agreed to proceed together. Many of these images are useful to other disciplines on campus and over time, the application and images will be shared with other colleges and schools. The image licensing structure is conducive as well; individual images used to be purchased one slide at a time with no further duplication or digitizing rights, and the new license provides legal, campus-wide rights in perpetuity for digital images at a modest increase in price. These high-resolution images come with high-quality metadata and cost less than locally produced digital images and metadata. This is a unique opportunity to present high-quality media for instructional use in a cost-effective manner.

Much work has already been done. Currently, the Java-based tool is used via the Web and allows faculty members to create and distribute digital image collections. The authorization system allows the collections to be made available to selected individuals or groups. The search tool is designed to work with distributed collections around the campus and searches can be limited to one or more specific collections (e.g. Classics, Art History, Middle Eastern Studies) or discover assets across all collections. A key feature is the ability to save search results as a unique collection that is accessible at a later time. Images are downloadable in several resolutions and created collections can be annotated, arranged into slide shows, and displayed in the classroom with the integrated web-based presentation system. Adding to the work already done by Liberal Arts, Fine Arts will provide substantial funding over the next few months to make specific enhancements to the application needed for use in Art History survey courses. General Libraries and the Center for Instructional Technologies have also participated in the implementation of the tool. Besides the two, full-time programmers who are currently working on version 1.0, Liberal Arts will hire a full-time Senior Systems Analyst to manage the project and purchase \$20,000 in production servers.

Part of the requested funding will be used to extend the application. In order to facilitate the use of “fair-use” assets, version 2 will have more finely grained authorization system that allows assignment of rights by asset. Support for more media types, custom upload forms, custom “skins” to mimic departmental look and feel, and more user options on the html-based slide shows are also planned.

The rest of the requested funding will be used to acquire more digital images. Using existing departmental resources, a core set of images will be available for use by fall 2004. Most Classics courses and certain Art History survey courses will be supported by this initial collection. Since these images are purchased on a campus-wide basis, they will also be useful to courses in other disciplines such as English Literature, comparative literature, and the cultural component of language courses. Instead of maintaining separate image libraries by department, the current campus practice, images will be shareable across colleges, thus eliminating duplicate effort and image costs— a much more efficient use of student funding.

To summarize, the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Fine Arts request funding to extend the implementation of an online image catalog and presentation tool as well as acquire additional high-quality images for general use on campus.

Additional programming = \$50,000

Image acquisition (5000 images @ \$9 each) = \$45,000