

Fine Arts Collections and Liberal Arts DASE
Joint Venture ITAC funding request for 2005-2006 funding cycle
College of Fine Arts - College of Liberal Arts - UT Libraries

The colleges of Fine Arts and Liberal Arts, and the General Libraries request a one-time ITAC grant of \$49,000 for collection and storage of digital media and development of Liberal Arts Digital Archive Services (DASE). Employing General Library's expertise and Liberal Arts tools, the project will provide teachers and students throughout campus with user-friendly access to a number of Fine Arts image collections, including the Blanton Museum's collection of original art.

Overview: DASE

Liberal Arts Digital Archive Services (DASE) is a joint effort of Liberal Arts, Fine Arts, and General Libraries. DASE will consist of a set of applications for the collection, cataloging, and serving of digital media collections from all over the University. DASE applications currently under development include DASE Workflow, DASE Collection Builder, DASE Media Browser, and DASE Authenticator.

DASE Workflow provides scanning and other media digitization efforts with a set of easy to use tools for organizing files, creating catalog records, and capturing initial metadata. Workflow transparently begins cataloging and metadata collection at a very early point in the digitization process, and provides digitization, post-production, and metadata specialists with a convenient method of tracking ongoing progress.

DASE Collection Builder handles creation and management of departmental collections. It allows metadata specialists to create and edit metadata, and offers tools for customizing the metadata creation process. With DASE Collection Builder users can: upload digital assets, define collection attributes and Dublin Core mappings, create and edit metadata for individual items or groups of items, predefine possible attribute values, customize metadata input forms, and define search and display options to be used in the DASE Media Browser. In addition, the DASE Collection Builder will provide basic tools for administering user permissions for the DASE Image Browser.

DASE Media Browser will give faculty and students the ability to search diverse collections of hundreds of thousands of images, videos, audio files, and other media. Users will be able to download files or organize them into online collections accessible from within Media Browser. A special feature will give faculty the ability to quickly create online slide shows and share them with students either online or by projecting them in class. A two screen option in the slideshow feature will allow faculty teaching in dual screen auditoriums to organize and format dual screen slide shows. The dual screen slide show feature is being coordinated with classroom designs so that presenters will be

able to show different slides on each screen and control the show from a hand-held remote. (See Classroom in Liberal Arts Vision Plan. Also see Inventing Classroom 2010. Both are under separate cover.)

DASE Authenticator will provide other DASE applications with a single source of directory information about users. The information will come from ITS's XML Gateway and ABRA directory service and other campus sources, as well as from data entered directly by users and catalog managers. Authenticator will allow DASE developers to adopt much more agile and modular production methods.

Prototypes of the Collection Builder and Media Browser are available for use. These prototypes have limited sets of functionality and deal only with digital images but they provide an excellent view of the future power of DASE. Both prototypes are password protected. If you would like to take a look at them, please contact Peter Keane pkeane@mail.utexas.edu for passwords and instructions.

Development of DASE has gone forward to date with funding from Liberal Arts IT fees, a 2004-2005 ITAC award, and a grant from the Utopia project. Fine Arts is currently assisting with the inclusion of the Visual Resource Center (VRC) collection of 500,000 image records.

Use of Previous Academic Year Allocations

N/A

Needs and Proposed Use of Funds

The project proposed here combines DASE development efforts, proposals to digitize Fine Arts media collections, and the General Libraries expertise in cataloging, archiving, and serving digital media.

Fine Arts

While the inclusion of the extensive image holdings of the VRC collection is an important first step for Fine Arts, there are other valuable collections within the college that would enhance the utility of DASE, both for instruction and use by the public. The Blanton Museum of Art represents one such collection. Consisting of over 17,000 physical objects, the digitization and subsequent storage of the digital objects with General Libraries would make them discoverable by both DASE Media Browser and the search engine implemented by General Libraries. The value of exposing such a collection to the public through Utopia is obvious.

Other instructional collections are available within the college that would be made more valuable by the DASE tools. Recently, three Fine Arts faculty who curate these specialty

collections applied to the Center for Instructional Technologies' ~FaSTex program for assistance with the digitization and Web-exposure of these collections. CIT does not consider them appropriate for ~FaSTex. Two of them, with Art History content, would make excellent additions to the other VRC collections -- for which significant infrastructure already exists. The third, with content relating to Theatre Costuming would require more but still manageable effort. All are valuable instructionally and access through DASE applications would greatly enhance this value.

Processing these collections will require funds for scanning, metadata collection, and additions to some of the DASE applications. The process will require 1 FTE undergraduate assistant and .5 FTE graduate student assistants. Total cost will be \$30,000. Fine Arts commits \$15,000 towards scanning and metadata collection charges and requests an ITAC grant of \$15,000.

UT Libraries

The University of Texas Libraries' will provide both infrastructure support and metadata expertise for the DASE project. The University Libraries' core mission includes highly reliable online and near-line storage. The Libraries' will make available a managed storage systems to enable long-term, permanent access to the digital objects that are produced for inclusion in the DASE project. The Libraries' storage systems are backed up frequently and housed in the University's central data center. These systems are redundant and failsafe and have been established to serve as a permanent archive.

In addition, the University Libraries will offer their expertise in the areas of cataloging and archiving. The Libraries' Metadata Librarian will help craft a metadata policy which will ensure user-friendly search and retrieval as well as appropriate archival and preservation controls for digital assets. The Libraries' subject bibliographers will also be available to assist in identification and selection of content for inclusion in the DASE project.

The high resolution required by Fine Arts images will result in very large media files and significant storage costs. The Library requests \$10,000 in ITAC funds to purchase the estimated 1TB of storage on high availability Network Appliance file servers needed for the Fine Arts images. UT Library will provide all other server hardware and systems administration costs related to the project with an in-kind value of approximately \$12,000.

Liberal Arts

Liberal Arts currently plans to invest \$50,000 in contract programming for further development of DASE. These plans focus on providing access to Liberal Arts departmental collections. Liberal Arts requests \$20,000 in ITAC funds to purchase additional programming time devoted to the specialized needs of Fine Art collections. Liberal Arts also requests \$4,000 for specialized data-modeling, load-testing, and image-processing software. Liberal Arts will provide all project related server and system

administration costs for the DASE applications, an in-kind value of approximately \$7,000.

Following is a summary of the requested funding:

	College and Library Commitment			Requested	Totals
	LA	Library	FA	ITAC	
Contract Programming	50,000			20,000	70,000
Server Costs		12,000	7,000	10,000	29,000
Software				4,000	4,000
Wages for scanning and Metedata Entry			15,000	15,000	30,000
Totals	50,000	12,000	22,000	49,000	133,000

Respectfully submitted by:

Fine Arts: Jim Kerkhoff
 kerkhoff@mail.utexas.edu
 471-0392

Liberal Arts: Joe TenBarge
 tenbarga@mail.utexas.edu
 471-7095

UT Library Mark Mcfarland
 m.mcfarland@austin.utexas.edu
 495-4358