



HARRY RANSOM
CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Information Technology Vision Plan 2006-2007

SUMMARY OF REQUESTS

To provide enhanced classroom IT support and to digitize collection materials in support of classroom instruction and student research, the Ransom Center requests funding in the amount of \$39,900 for one IT staff position and for an additional notebook, data projector, and TV/DVD to support simultaneous use of equipment in three classrooms.

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT IT PROGRAMS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Vision/Mission/Goals of Unit

The mission of the Technology and Digital Services Unit of the Harry Ransom Center is to provide skillful and effective technical support for all of the Center's programs and services, including:

- Acquisition of cultural materials for the purposes of scholarship and education
- Preservation of and access to creations of cultural heritage through cataloging, conservation and collection management
- Support of research through public services, symposia, publications and fellowships
- Provision of education and enrichment for students, scholars and the public through classroom support, exhibitions, public performances and lectures.

Ransom Center Support of Classroom Instruction and Scholarship

The Ransom Center supports classroom instruction and access to resources for UT scholars through its research materials and services. The Center plays an integral role in educating UT students, primarily in the colleges of Liberal Arts and Fine Arts, by providing access to primary source materials and support resources for these fields. While the Center supports research by UT students and scholars from all academic divisions, it is particularly engaged in support of

academic programs in English, French and Italian, American Studies, Plan II, Liberal Arts Honors, Photojournalism, Radio-Television-Film, Theater and Dance, Music, and the School of Information. The Center also provides one-year internships that are available to UT students from all fields of study.

Information Technology is fundamental to the Ransom Center's services to UT students and scholars. Access to research and instructional resources is provided through the Center's web site, UT Library Online, UTopia, in-house databases, and audio and/or video copies. Unique research materials available only on site are made accessible to UT scholars on a 24/7 basis through digitization. Unique materials that are completely inaccessible for classroom and research use due to fragility or value (such as the Gutenberg Bible) are made accessible through digitization. Ransom Center IT staff provides technical support for UT classes held in Ransom Center classrooms (see list of classroom use, attached).

IT Programs

Technical support

Functions performed by technology staff in support of 114 staff & 224 pieces of technology equipment include:

- Troubleshoot hardware, software, and networking issues
- Install, and maintain hardware and software
- Train staff in use of hardware and software
- Enable and support wired and wireless network

Web site

Functions performed by web staff include:

- Maintain web site
- Format content for the web site
- Edit existing web content
- Design and compile kiosk content
- Write software to enable web-based databases

Databases

Functions performed by database staff include:

- Support current databases
- Transfer databases from old software to new software
- Create new information systems
- Work with staff with all database issues

Audio/visual event & classroom support

Functions performed by Technology Services staff include:

- Videotaping activities, including production of dvd/vhs products of the taping event
- Technology support in the theater (lights, sound, computers, display)
- Provide equipment & support for classes, presentations, events

Digitization

Functions performed by digitization staff:

- Digibook scanning and processing
- Slide scanning
- Video transfer to digital media
- Audio transfer to digital media

Administration

Functions performed:

- Manage & coordinate technology functions throughout the organization; write reports; maintain statistics
- Analyze & determine hardware, software, networking & media needs
- Order, install and maintain hardware & software & supervise staff in same
- Maintain computer accounts (administrative computing, remote access, email, system)
- Maintain web pages & supervise staff in same (upload, format & correct files; run statistics and diagnostics)
- Communicate with other UT departments on technology issues (ITS, UT Network Information Center, University Libraries)
- Serve on campus technology committees
- Interact with patrons, vendors & external service bureaus
- Train, supervise, & manage Web Master, Information Analysts, Librarian, Media Specialist, work study students, graduate students; train staff and HRC guests in use of computers, networking, systems and accounts
- Continually upgrade knowledge and maintain awareness of developments and trends in technology

Infrastructure

Computers:

170 desktop/laptop, 86 MAC OS and 84 WIN OS
2 storage systems, 1 MAC and 1 WIN

Other:

50 devices, including networked printers, scanning devices, projectors, TVs, VCRs, DVD players.

Network:

200 data nodes
7 wireless routers

Current and proposed funding sources for IT programs and infrastructure

Current funding sources. Funding for all Ransom Center IT staff salaries is from the Ransom Center regular budget. Hardware, software and networking expenses are funded in part by the Ransom Center regular budget and in part by endowment income. Hardware and software specific to grant-funded projects is generally funded by the grant.

For fiscal 2005-06, the Ransom Center received an ITAC allocation in the amount of \$14,842 for equipment and staffing as described below.

Proposed funding sources. In addition to the sources listed above, the Ransom Center hopes to generate some additional IT income through corporate sponsorships of programs and web pages and to secure additional funding from the Information Technology fee for classroom IT support and for digitization of collection materials in support of classroom instruction.

Best practices

Creation of temporary half-time Computer Programmer/Services Assistant position

The addition of this critical position has enhanced the Ransom Center's ability to provide classroom IT support. The position classification as a Computer Programmer/Services Assistant at an FTE equivalent salary of \$26,520 represents a salary cost efficiency over the Information Analyst position salary of \$39,000 as originally requested.

Technical support for LAH350: Watergate: Press/Presidency

Professor Isenberg's honors class was held at the Ransom Center in the Spring 2005 semester and included prominent Watergate-era speakers ranging from

White House employees to journalists. Ransom Center IT staff videotaped all class sessions with speakers and generated copies for students and scholars. A web site of the Woodward and Bernstein Watergate Papers <http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/online/woodstein/> was developed as a core text for this class as well as for students and scholars generally.

USE OF PREVIOUS ACADEMIC YEAR ALLOCATIONS

For AY2005-06 the Ransom Center requested ITAC funding in the amount of \$59,368 to fund one IT staff position and equipment in support of classroom instruction. An allocation in the amount of \$14,842 was awarded.

The notebook and data projector as requested in the 2005-06 proposal have been purchased. We had originally requested a 32" TV and a DVD/VCR player, and while this configuration was and is still needed, we determined that our greater immediate need for classroom support was for one large screen TV that could serve multiple classrooms. The large screen TV and a TV cart with wheels were purchased with ITAC funds, and a Sony DVD/VCR for this configuration was purchased with Ransom Center funds. When the Ransom Center's older multimedia projector died, it was replaced with ITAC funds.

The need for an additional IT staff position was critical to our ability to provide classroom IT support and to create digital surrogates of collection materials for classroom use. Though a full-time position was and is needed, and was included in our 2005-06 ITAC request, the modesty of ITAC funding allocated to the Ransom Center precluded the hiring of a full-time position. Instead we created a temporary one-year half-time position, funded partially from the ITAC allocation and partially from other HRC funds. An additional cost-savings measure was the classification of this temporary position as a Computer Programmer/Services Assistant at an FTE equivalent annual salary of \$26,520 rather than as an Information Analyst position with an annual salary of \$39,000 as originally requested.

The 2005-06 ITAC allocation to the Ransom Center of \$14,842 covered the following expenditures:

Equipment

Mac laptop	\$1,799
Multimedia projector	\$1,485
TV, large screen	\$2,850
Cart w/ wheels for TV	\$1,037

Multimedia projector	\$1,110
Computer Programmer/Services Assistant 0.5 FTE @ \$13,260	
Partial salary + fringe benefits	\$6,561

TOTAL	\$14,842

NEEDS AND PROPOSED USE OF FUNDS

To support the following programs and one-time projects, the Ransom Center requests funding for one IT staff position and for the following equipment:

Computer Programmer/ Services Assistant	\$27,846
Fringe benefits @ 31.03%	\$ 8,640
Equipment	\$ 3,414

TOTAL	\$39,900

Programs

- Provide technical support for use of Ransom Center classrooms
2006-07 objective: acquire an additional notebook, data projector, and TV/DVD to support simultaneous use of equipment in three classrooms
- Provide access for UT students and scholars to currently-inaccessible unique or fragile research materials, particularly those needed to support classroom instruction, through digitization.
2006-07 objective: create digital surrogates of a selection of currently-inaccessible books, manuscripts and work of art

Infrastructure

Equipment for classroom IT support:

Notebook/ data projector:	
Dell Latitude D610	\$1,595
Epson PowerLite 76c	\$1,110
TV/DVD: Sony 32"	\$ 600

Samsung DVD/VCR	\$ 109

Equipment TOTAL	\$3,414

One-time projects

- Provide a curricular component for teaching UT students the works of Samuel Beckett by creating a bi-lingual (English and French) online exhibition based on the Center's Beckett book and manuscript holdings that will present a multimedia history of Beckett's life, work, reputation and influence. A planned interactive feature will allow viewers to contribute their own reactions to Beckett's writings.
- Enhance research value to UT scholars for archival finding aids currently on the Center's web site through the addition of digital images of the author, a handwriting sample, and a copy of the author's autograph.

Sample:

Isaac Bashevis Singer

<http://www.hrs.utexas.edu/research/fa/singer.hp.html>

Enhance research and instructional value of selected finding aids with a selection of digital images of collection materials in the archive.

Sample:

Ferdinand Forzinetti, 1839-1909

Collection of Alfred Dreyfus and the Dreyfus Affair, 1894-1947

<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/research/fa/forzinetti.html>

Attachments

- Use of Ransom Center Classrooms by UT Austin Classes
- Use of Ransom Center Theater for academic and educational programs

**Harry Ransom Center
Use of Classrooms
By
University of Texas at Austin Classes**

Classes held entirely in Ransom Center classrooms, 2005:

Steven Hoelscher and Robert Abzug	American Photographic History (American Studies)
Samuel Baker	Romantics: Godwins to Shelleys (English Dept.)
Janine Barchas	Graphic Design and the Literary Text (English Dept.)
Robert Dawson	Books and Readership in 18 th Century (Dept. of French and Italian)
Steven Isenberg and Larry Carver	Watergate: Press/Presidency (Liberal Arts Honors)
Michael Charlesworth	Photography: Landscape and Portrait (Art History)
J.B. Colson	Seminar in Photographic Criticism (Journalism Dept.)

Classes in which one or more sessions are held in Ransom Center classrooms:

Sample month: November 2005

Nassos Pappalexandrou	Survey of Art from Caves to Cathedrals (Art History)
Peggy Kruger	Freshman Seminar, "The Media and You" (Journalism)
Phil Ford	Reference and Research Materials in Music

	(School of Music)
Karen Pavelka	Freshman Seminar (School of Information)
Cherise Smith	Racial Performance in American Art and Culture (Art History)
	Issues in 20 th Century History of Photography (Art History)
C. Smith/Till Richter	Survey of Renaissance through Modern Art (Art History)
Jennifer Wilks	Black Atlantic Modernisms (Dept. of English)
Robert Dawson	Libertine Literature (Dept. of French and Italian)
Mary Kay Hemenway	Astronomy and the Humanities (Dept. of Astronomy)
Christopher Chung	Banned Books and Novel Ideas (Dept. of English)
Lily Litvak	Seminar (Spanish and Portuguese)
Carol MacKay	British Women Writers (Dept. of English)
Judith Kroll	Intermediate Poetry, and Introduction to Poetry (Dept. of English)
Michael Charlesworth	Issues in Visual Culture (Art History)
Chela Metzger	History of the Book, Freshman Seminar (School of Information)
Alice Batt	Advanced Expository Writing (Division of Rhetoric and Writing)

Don Davis

Books/Libraries/Civilization to 1500
(School of Information)

**Harry Ransom Center
Use of Theater
For
Academic and Educational Programs
January 2005-December 2005**

January

01/27 Reading by Christopher Middleton

February

02/05 Steve Isenberg class, Dick Reeves speaking
02-14-15 Beowulf Master Class

March

03/01 O. Henry Prize Readings
03/02 Poetry on the Plaza
03/02 Lecture: Modern Caricature Miguel Covarrubias
03/06 Lecture: An Evening with Evelyn
03/08 Jewish Studies Program

April

04/01 Tour of the gallery for Dedman Scholar Finalists
04/01 Lecture: Map Collections
04/04 Watergate Class session
04/05 Lecture: John Dean
04/11 Lecture: Maps and Travel Literature
04/12 Dean of Students Academic Enrichment Program
04/15 Dickens Tapes: Lost and Found Sound before Recording by
Jay Clayton
04/20 Lecture: Christopher Ricks on Beckett and Shakespeare
04/24 Robert Mugerauer, Dean and Professor in the Departments
of Architecture, Urban Design & Planning, and Landscape
Architecture at the University of Washington, presents
"Community and the Loss of Place."

May

05/02 Chekov symposium
05/04 Jewish Studies Program, lecturer: Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg
05/08 Creative Writing Graduation Reading: Readings by English
graduate students receiving their degrees in creative writing
05/15 Phi Beta Kappa Event

June

06/03 Lecture: Denis Cosgrove
06/16 Lecture: Jim Lehrer

July

07/14 Lecture: Healing Traumatized Communities: Media and Art.
07/26-27 AP Teachers group - English

August

08/22 English Grad Students Orientation

September

09/16 Queneau Poetry and Performance
09/17 A staged reading of Queneau's novel 'Flight of Icarus'
09/21 Longhorn for a Day Recruitment program
09/22 School of Architecture Career Lecture
09/23 Ansel Adams: One With Beauty: Mary Alinder on Ansel Adams
09/28 Poetry on the Plaza: Peter Harding of Actors from the London Stage
09/29 New Orleans poet Brenda Marie Osbey reads from her work
09/30 Poetry on the Plaza: Dr. Johnson's Time Traveler

October

10/05 Lecture: John Elder speaks on Luminist Tradition and Adams
10/06 Private event: Rick Bass addresses Michener Center
10/06 Landscapes in the American West Symposium: Writers/environmentalists Rick Bass, John Elder, and Robin Doughty respond to Ansel Adams's art and activism
10/07 Comparative Literature Conference keynote: Dr. Avital Ronell
10/13 Sublime vs. Intimate Visions: Ansel Adams and the Traditions of Landscape Photography
10/20 An Evening with Eugene O'Neill: Arthur and Barbara Gelb speak with filmmaker Ric Burns
10/27 Simon Winchester reading and book-signing with Texas Book Festival
10/29 Texas Book Festival Author's Tour
10/30 Classics Department: David Armstrong Retirement Symposium and Reception

November

- 11/04 Father Justin of Mt. Sinai for Institute for the Study of
Antiquity and Christian Origins
- 11/10 2005 Amon Carter Lecture: Frank Gohlke, Landscape
Photographer
- 11/16 2005 Amon Carter Lecture: Frank Gohlke, Landscape
Photographers
- 11/30 Lecture: Les Klinger Speaks on Sherlock Holmes

December

- 12/11 Phi Beta Kappa Reception