



HARRY RANSOM
CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Information Technology Vision Plan 2007-2008

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 \$44,011 for one IT staff position, for equipment to support simultaneous use of equipment in three classrooms, and for equipment to create digital surrogates of audio holdings.

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 130 staff & 246 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:

- Digitization and processing of books, manuscripts, photographs, art, slides, posters, 3D items in the collection
- 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:

186 desktop/laptop, 89 MAC OS and 97 WIN OS
2 storage systems, 1 MAC and 1 WIN

Other:

60 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 permanent 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 2006-07, the Ransom Center received an ITAC allocation in the amount of \$14,910 for 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

Installation of data projector, sound system, and automatic controls in the Charmaine Denius Room

The Ransom Center installed a data projector with a lift, a sound system with speakers, and an automatic control system for the enrichment of the classroom presentation functionality in this room. This \$12,000 installation was funded by the Ransom Center.

USE OF PREVIOUS ACADEMIC YEAR ALLOCATIONS

For AY2006-07 the Ransom Center requested ITAC funding in the amount of \$39,900 to fund one IT staff position and equipment in support of classroom instruction. An allocation in the amount of \$14,910 was awarded.

The full allocation of \$14,910 was utilized in funding part of the salary and benefits for the IT staff position, with the balance covered by Ransom Center funds. Though a full-time position was and is needed, and was included in both our 2005-06 and 2006-07 ITAC requests, 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, which has been critical to our ability to provide classroom IT support and to create digital surrogates of collection materials for classroom use.

The Ransom Center funded the installation of a data projector with a lift, a sound system with speakers, and an automatic control system for the enrichment of the classroom presentation functionality in our largest classroom, the Charmaine Denius Room, as described above. The Ransom Center also funded the purchase of an additional laptop, data projector, television, and dvd/vcr player for classroom needs.

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	\$ 7,525

TOTAL	\$44,011

Programs

- Provide technical support for use of Ransom Center classrooms
2007-08 objective: acquire an additional notebook and TV/DVD player 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.

2007-08 objective: acquire audio reel player to create digital surrogates of audio holdings; create digital surrogates of a selection of currently-inaccessible books, manuscripts, photographs, art, slides, posters, moving images, and 3D items in the collection

Infrastructure

Equipment for classroom IT support:

TV/DVD:	Samsung 23"	\$ 680
	Toshiba DVD/VCR	\$ 180
Notebook:		
	Dell Latitude D620	\$1,665
2-Track Analog Tape Recorder (for audio digitization):		
	Otari MX-5050B	\$5,000

	Equipment TOTAL	\$7,525

One-time projects

- Provide a curricular component for teaching UT students about “the Great American Desert” by creating an online exhibition highlighting the works of Sanora and Dorothy Babb. The writings of Sanora Babb about homesteading in the American west are complemented by Dorothy Babb’s photographs documenting Dust Bowl refugees. This web exhibition, by highlighting the works of the Babb sisters, seeks to give "voice" to the early explorers of "the Great American Desert" who as a practice left little written record of their lives.
- 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>

APPENDICES

- 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, 2006:

Michael Winship	Producing American Literature (English)
Michael Winship	Introduction to Bibliography (English)
Consuela Metzger	History of Printing (School of Information)
Janine Barchas	Graphic Design and the Literary Text (English)
Robert Dawson	The Enlightenment (French and Italian)
Kurt Heinzelman	Poetics of Translation (English)
Susan and Kurt Heinzelman	Telluride Association Summer Program: The Cultures of Writing
J.B. Colson	Seminar in Photographic Criticism (Journalism)

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

Sample month: November 2006

Nassos Pappalexandrou	Survey of Art from Caves to Cathedrals (Art History)
William Tolan St. Edwards University	Digital Darkroom (Photography)

Luisa Nardini	Reference and Research Materials in Music (School of Music)
Karen Pavelka	Freshman Seminar (School of Information)
Cherise Smith	20 th Century Photography (Art History)
Mirka Benes	History and Theory of Landscape Architecture (School of Architecture)
Susan Jackson	Freshman Interest Group (School of Music)
Sam Baker	Earlier Romantic Period (English)
Mary Kay Hemenway	Astronomy and the Humanities (Astronomy)
Elizabeth Richmond-Garza	Oscar Wilde and His Circle (English)
Maia Toteva	Survey from Renaissance to Modern Art (Art History)
Marjorie Woods	Literature of the Middle Ages in Translation (English)
Daniela Bini	Introduction to Italian Literature, 18 th -21 st Centuries (French and Italian)
Michael Charlesworth	Issues in Visual Culture (Art History)
Susanne Hafner	German Literature (Germanic Studies)
Steven Isenberg	Novels of Distinction (Humanities/Liberal Arts)
Ufuk Soyoz	Introduction to Visual Arts

(Art History)

Jerome Bump

Victorian Literature
(English)

**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 Barabara 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