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■ Project Identification

Name: Jeffrey Gould
Title: Director CLACS, Indiana University
Work Address:
1125 E. Atwater Avenue
Bloomington, Indiana 47401
United States of America
Phone: 812.855-9097
Fax: 812.855-5345
Email: gouldj@indiana.edu
Web Address:
Home Institution: Indiana University-Bloomington
IEPS Contact: Susanna Easton (susanna.easton@ed.gov)

Languages: English
Spanish

Countries: El Salvador
Mexico
Nicaragua
United States of America

Disciplines: Anthropology
Education
History

Subject Areas: Instructional Materials
K-12 Opportunities
K-12 Teacher Education
Library
Research
Technology
Underrepresented Groups

■ Abstract

The mission of Project CAMVA is:

- To create an audio-video digital archive from ethnographic and documentary recordings stored at physical archives in El Salvador, México, and Nicaragua with other countries incorporated in subsequent phases.
- To make this archive fully searchable and available to networked libraries for research and instruction.
- To contribute to methodological development in digitizing, coding, and accessing audio-visual data, including the provision of searchable and retrievable interface, available over the web using bandwidth capability of Internet2.

The collaborating partners in the U.S. include:

- The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies: Rudy Professor of History and Director, Jeff Gould.
- Digital Library Program at Indiana University: Director, Kris Brancolini and Jon Dunn.
- The Center for the Study of History and Memory at Indiana University: Chancellor's Professor John Bodnar and Mendel Professor Daniel James.

The collaborating partners in Latin America include:

- MUPI: Museo de la Palabra e Imagen in El Salvador: Director, Carlos Henríquez Consalvi.
- CIESAS: Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social in México: Director Académico, Ernesto Isunza Vera.
- IHNCA: Instituto de Historia de Nicaragua y Centroamérica in Nicaragua: Directora General, Margarita Vannini.

The world areas targeted by this project are located in Latin America, including three countries: El Salvador, México, and Nicaragua. The State of Indiana in the United States, through Indiana University, is coordinating and managing the TICFIA grant. The languages targeted by the grant are English and Spanish; Project CAMVA may include endangered indigenous languages as recorded in some of the materials to be digitized.

■ Adjustments

Nicaragua (IHNCA) has experienced delays in identifying materials (U-Matic video tapes) since they don't have the appropriate equipment to view the content of their materials. The IHNCA has access to U-Matic tape players; however, they have experienced tape erosion while running them in players. Hence, they have practiced viewing of the U-Matic tapes to a minimum to avoid further damage to the original materials. IHNCA has an extensive collection of about 8,000 hours of U-Matic video tapes available for selection in Project CAMVA. It is our understanding that IHNCA will be able to access the content of their collection for purposes of selection of materials in the near future.

Different options have been explored to address this situation; all three partner institutions in Latin America are collaborating to assist IHNCA overcome this challenge. Both, El Salvador (MUPI) and México (CIESAS) have knowledge and registry of the content of their collections, which have assisted them in identifying materials for inclusion in Project CAMVA.

■ Exemplary Activities

Exemplary activities during the past five months include the following:

- Collaboration among IU partner departments -
The degree of collaboration among Indiana University personnel affiliated with Project CAMVA has been exemplary. The difficulty in coordinating schedules and meeting rooms for varied groups of people who work in different parts of campus has proven challenging. However, all participating members have given priority to Project CAMVA and its demands on their schedules and required fields of expertise. The level of professionalism and team-orientation displayed by members of Indiana University has propelled Project CAMVA through its first months of implementation.
- Collaboration between foreign institutions -
Each partner institution affiliated with Project CAMVA is unique in its own right and their needs are different from other institutions. Even so, all participating institutions have publicly pledged to support each other through their partnership in Project CAMVA for the larger good of the funded grant. The shared vision developed so early on by all participating partners is exemplary to the potential success of Project CAMVA.
- Coordination of first annual project workshop with all partner institutions -
The planning of this event has been very successful. All details have been planned for and participants have contributed time and documentation necessary to its success. Indiana University will host this first annual event. The collaboration of staff members in Indiana University to make this event successful has been exemplary.

■ Status/Impact

Project CAMVA has made substantial progress in the first five months of the grant period as described in the following four sections:

I. Coordination and Administration:

- a. Hiring of personnel –
The first weeks of the grant were used to identify the best candidate to manage Project CAMVA. Among a number of qualified candidates, we chose to hire a Project Manager who brings cross-cultural and bilingual skills, and more than one decade of professional experience in administration and education serving Latino populations in México and the United States. This summer our candidate will defend her Ph.D. dissertation in Instructional Systems Technology from Indiana University. She brings the appropriate balance of interpersonal, academic, and professional qualities and skills required to manage this grant project. We had to compete for our chosen candidate, which compelled us to increase our projected annual salary for this position. A graduate assistant was also hired for this project to assist the project manager and Project CAMVA efforts. This student brings several years of affiliation to the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies in IU, as well as advanced training in the field of computer science, and bilingual skills and experience in Central America. Our graduate assistant started working with Project CAMVA as of January 2006, and is completing a Ph.D. program in Latin American History in Indiana University.
- b. Access to Technology –
Project CAMVA has secured direct access to top-of-the-line technological equipment (e.g., laptop computers, videoconferencing equipment, digital cameras and projectors) for the use of its Project Manager, Graduate Assistant, and Programmer. This access has contributed to priority communication with partners within the United

States and in each of the partner institutions in their countries (El Salvador, México, and Nicaragua). This priority access, however, was somewhat limited until February 2006, at which point access to new equipment was available.

- c. Meetings and Research –
Project CAMVA has functioned during the first months of the grant via a core team, composed of the Primary Investigator, Co-Investigator, Project Manager, and Graduate Assistant. This group has consistently met weekly or bi-weekly to plan, design, and project activities and next steps for Project CAMVA. The description in the three sections below (i.e., communication and collaboration, planning and implementation, and process and strategies) is a direct result of these meetings. All members of the team have been actively engaged in research in their distinct fields of expertise as it relates directly to the project. Examples of areas covered by this research include generation of metadata documents in METS (Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard), which include MODS (Metadata Object Description Schema) records for each of the descriptive metadata documents. Also researched in-depth was a video segmentation/annotation tool which allows users to divide a video into a hierarchy of segments (scenes, events, and action items) and then create descriptive metadata for the entire video and for each of the segments. This tool was developed through the EVIA (Ethnomusicological Video for Instruction and Analysis) Digital Archive project hosted by a partnership between Indiana University and University of Michigan.

II. Communication and Collaboration:

- a. Trip in January –
The Principal Investigator and Graduate Assistant had the opportunity to travel to El Salvador and Nicaragua in January 2006 to visit our partner institutions. This trip became a landmark in the progress of Project CAMVA as it refers to communication with partners, communication between partner institutions, and planning for future steps. Indiana University representatives were able to experience first-hand access to the magnificent audio visual collection of historical records hosted by our partner institutions in Latin America. This trips yielded positive results in the relationship with our partner institutions, especially in regard to developing a shared vision for the project that will create a truly coherent, comprehensive, and integrated Central American and Mexican Video Archive.
- b. Videoconferencing –
All partner institutions have been able to secure videoconferencing equipment to communicate with each other. The software selected to communicate via videoconferencing is Macromedia Breeze, supported by Indiana University. This software allows participating parties to interact audio visually while sharing internet links, documents, PowerPoint presentations, and their own desktops. In addition, there are spaces available for participants to interact in chat conversations and where to take notes during the active session. The Breeze environment for videoconferencing has proven a useful tool to enhance at-a-distance communication. This videoconferencing communication effort is being spearheaded by the project manager of Project CAMVA.
- c. Internal Website –
An internal website has been established for use of Project CAMVA participants. All partner institutions and their staff members have direct access to communicating and publishing materials through this on-line environment. The software identified for this purpose is Confluence Wiki, which is a type of social software that makes it easy to communicate on-line by allowing all participants to contribute pages and content. In addition, a record of communication through this on-line environment is kept as evidence of progress. In this on-line environment, a pictorial directory of Project CAMVA staff and contributors is displayed for easy access, together with their contact

information and occupations. This on-line environment is being spearheaded by the project manager of Project CAMVA.

- d. Agreement to share resources –
Through phone and face-to-face communication with partner institutions, Project CAMVA has become a shared-vision project. All participating members have expressed their desire to collaborate with each other for the larger good of the project. The staff at Indiana University is pleased to see a rapid cohesion of mindsets and efforts toward achieving a common goal across nations, departments, and people. This is a clear example that attests to the communication efforts that have been put in place by the core team of Project CAMVA.

III. Planning and Implementation:

- a. Advisory Board –
An Advisory Board has been constituted and is functioning with the purpose to guide the efforts of Project CAMVA. The members of the advisory board bring many years of academic and professional experience in the fields of Anthropology (e.g., social theory, race, ethnicity, multiculturalism, social movements, indigenous, and human rights, sustainable development, cultural property) and History and Social Studies of Science and Technology (e.g., history of information technologies in Latin America, the role these technologies play in creating new forms of governance and the advancement of state ideological projects, how information technologies affect the recording of history and the preservation of memory).
- b. Workshop –
The first annual Project CAMVA workshop will be held in Indiana University during the first week of May 2006. Key staff members from each partner institution in Latin America will attend this three-day workshop. Planning for this event has secured meeting rooms, hotel rooms, ground transportation, airfare reservations, and meals for all attending guests. Indiana University staff members are currently working as a team to shape the agenda for this annual workshop, requesting feedback from all participating parties prior to its implementation in May. Some items to be explored will include intellectual property and copyright issues and digitalization steps to carry our efforts into year two of the grant. Members of the EVIA (Ethnomusicological Video for Instruction and Analysis) Digital Archive project in Indiana University will offer an extensive demonstration of their progress to date. This software demonstration will be instrumental to the development of next steps for Project CAMVA since we will develop software that simulates the existing version of EVIA for use in our project. We will also devote a work day to discussing the goal of an integrated, coherent archive. One model that we will discuss could develop into a university-level course on Central American and Mexican rural populations. In other words, one dimension of our final product could form the basis for a multi-disciplinary course that emphasizes imagery and ethnographic interviews. All preliminary plans have been successfully achieved.

IV. Process and Strategy:

- a. Budget –
The budget reconciliation has required a significant investment of time during the initial months of the grant. Discrepancies between the budget narrative and the final budget breakout were identified early on. Different staff members in Indiana University were accessed to inquire information about process standards and to draw plausible scenarios that could assist in addressing the challenges discovered during the budget reconciliation. Some of these options will be addressed in the budget section of the report.
- b. Organizational Structure –
The success of Project CAMVA depends on an intricate net of networking between project participants. Developing effective channels of communication and working

environments for production has been challenging. In an effort to assist everyone involved, information about participating parties, their roles, and their evolving responsibilities in Project CAMVA has been crucial. Coordinating this net of networking information has maintained Project CAMVA a float across the distance and time. This has been achieved by efforts from the core team under the leadership of the project manager, who constantly and consistently maintains all parties involved up-to-date with project developments, challenges and strategies to address them, and next steps to be achieved. All parties involved in Project CAMVA have responded positively to this management strategy.

The progress rate expected during the first year of the grant focuses on Phase I of Project CAMVA (according to Management Plan section of original grant proposal narrative:

--* In the first Phase of Project CAMVA, physical archives will be assessed through a collective analysis by researchers at IU, IHNCA, MUPI, and CIESAS. Special attention will be paid to copyright issues. Project CAMVA will select materials from over 2,500 hours of documentary films and videos including raw footage and newsreels of incalculable historical value for the historical reconstruction of contemporary Mesoamerican cultural history*--).

In addition to the previously described four sections of project progress achieved (i.e., I. Coordination and Administration; II. Communication and Collaboration; III. Planning and Implementation; IV. Process and Strategy), the following efforts toward achieving Phase I have taken place within the past five months:

- Assessment and analysis:

Phone and videoconferences with El Salvador (MUPI), Mexico (CIESAS), and Nicaragua (IHNCA), and trips to MUPI and IHNCA. These communication strategies have rendered positive results to our analysis of existing materials and assessment of avenues to accomplish goals in Project CAMVA.

- Identification and dialogue about intellectual property and copyright issues:

IU, MUPI, CIESAS and IHNCA have actively participated in this conversation bringing to light issues of government policies in each country and the problems posed by the practice of digital piracy and how they relate to intellectual property concerns. This is an on-going conversation that will be further explored during the first annual Workshop in May 2006.

- Selection of Materials:

This process will be implemented in each partner institution post-Workshop (summer 2006). The importance of waiting to select materials until after we meet as one team during the May Workshop focuses on our ability to identify materials under one shared vision for a comprehensive and coherent audio visual archive, with a common understanding of intellectual property and copyright issues, and with a mutual goal: to successfully accomplish the mission of Project CAMVA.

Because initial efforts have concentrated on Phase I of the Management Plan, you will find that the EELIAS screens referring to "Foreign Resources Collected and/or Transferred to Electronic Form" as well as "Dissemination of Resources to Target Audiences" have been left blank. Project CAMVA was not programmed to achieve most of these activities within the first 36 months of the grant.

■ Use of Technology

Communication across countries has proven challenging for purposes of time and cost efficiency. We have used technology to address this challenge. All partner institutions now count with videoconferencing equipment allowing for consistent face-to-face interaction between all parties involved. This has enhanced communication, dialogue, and trust.

■ Partners/Collaborators

U.S. Partners

Total number of partners/collaborators: 3

Names of associations & organizations:

- Director Jeff Gould, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, IU.
- Chancellor's Professor John Bodnar, Center for the Study of History and Memory, IU.
- Mendel Professor Daniel James, Center for the Study of History and Memory, IU.

Foreign Partners

Total number of partners/collaborators: 3

Names of associations & organizations:

- Ernesto Isunza Vera, Director Académico CIESAS, México
- Margarita Vannini, Directora General IHNCA, Nicaragua
- Carlos Henríquez Consalvi, Director MUPI, El Salvador

Countr(ies) of partners/collaborators: Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador

Other Countries:

Total partners/collaborators: 6

■ **Center Contact Information**

Name of Project Director: Jeffrey Gould

Email Address: gouldj@indiana.edu

US Contact Information:

1125 E. Atwater Ave.

Bloomington, Indiana, 47401

United States of America

Phone: 812.855-9097

Fax: 812.855-5345

Name of Project Co-Director: Kristine Brancolini

Email Address: brancoli@indiana.edu

US Contact Information:

1320 E. 10th St.

Bloomington, Indiana, 47405

United States of America

Phone: 812.855-3710

Fax: 812.855-5345

Name of Project Manager: Sari Pascoe

Email Address: sapascoe@indiana.edu

US Contact Information:

1125 E. Atwater Ave.

Bloomington, Indiana, 47401

United States of America

Phone: 812.855-9771

Fax: 812.855-5345

Other Staff Name 1: Michael Grove

Email Address 1: migrove@indiana.edu

Other Staff Name 2: Jon Dunn

Email Address 2: jwd@indiana.edu

Other Staff Name 3:

Email Address 3:

US Contact Information:

1125 E. Atwater Ave.

Bloomington, Indiana, 47401

United States of America

Phone: 812.855-9771

Fax: 812.855-5345