

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

DR. JAMES H BILLINGTON – LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

### ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

On 30 April, Dr Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, officially transferred the Martin Waldseemüller world map of 1507 from the German government to the American people in a ceremony at the Library of Congress. The Library purchased the map in 2003 from Prince Johannes Waldburg-Wolfegg of Baden-Württemberg, Germany, after the governments of Baden-Württemberg and Germany issued export permits. An invaluable piece of American cultural heritage, the map is the earliest document to use "America" as the name of a separate continent. The Library's Preservation Directorate and the US National Institute of Standards and Technology, with funding from the Alcoa Foundation, are building a permanent case to display and preserve the map.

The Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control is advising the Library on bibliographic description in the 21st century. With representatives from leading libraries, library organisations, OCLC Inc, Google Inc, and Microsoft Inc, the working group is chaired by Dean José-Marie Griffiths of the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The inaugural meeting took place 2-3 November 2006, at LC. The group held invitational regional meetings, on Uses and Users of Bibliographic Data on 8 March at Google headquarters in Mountain View, California; and on Structures and Standards for Bibliographic Data at American Library Association headquarters in Chicago Illinois, on 9 May. A final regional meeting on Economics and Organisation of Bibliographic Data is planned for 9 July near Washington DC. A draft report for public comment is due 1 September and a final report 1 November 2007. More information is available at <<http://www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future>>.

On 31 January 2007, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation donated two million dollars (US) to the Library of Congress to digitise works in the general collections that are in the public domain. Emphasising books with embrittled paper, the "Digitizing American Imprints at the Library of Congress" program will be a demonstration project of best practices for digitizing fragile books. It will utilise the Scribe scanning technology of the Open Content Alliance, which includes more than fifty large American research libraries.

On 10 April, the Library of Congress and the Biblioteca Alexandrina signed an agreement to add Arabic texts to the World Digital Library, which includes UNESCO, IFLA, LC, and major libraries on five continents as partners.

The Library began moving staff who work with motion pictures and sound recordings to its new National Audio-Visual Conservation Center near Culpeper Virginia, in April. Collections processing and preservation activities will accelerate during the summer months. The center was built for the Library by the Packard Humanities Institute.

On 16 October 2006, the Library launched a beta metasearch application to provide users with a single interface to search or access Library databases and digital content collections from the Library's public Web home page. Using Keystone Retriever open source software developed by Index Data, this "New Search (BETA)" feature allows users to search across the Library of Congress Online Catalogue, the LC Website, American Memory, the Prints and Photographs Online Catalogue, and the THOMAS Legislative Information System from one unified interface. While initial search capabilities are rudimentary, the intent is to expand both the number of targets and search functionality if the pilot proves successful.

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