

Using Web as a Platform in Developing Seamlessly Integrated World Digital Library for Global Use: The Challenges of Global Memory Net

Dr. Ching-chih Chen

Professor

Graduate School of Library and Information Science

Simmons College

Boston, MA 02115, USA

chen@simmons.edu

With the exciting convergence of content, technology, and global collaboration in this digital era, there are unprecedented potentials as well as challenges for developing digital libraries of all kinds. This talk will discuss how a world digital library and gateway, Global Memory Net (supported by the National Science Foundation's International Digital Library Program) has managed to use the Web as a platform to develop its application using the in-house developed i-M-C-S system (Integrated Multimedia Content Retrieval System) to integrate seamlessly all types of multimedia resources.

In describing the potentials of this digital age, the speaker will elaborate on the concept of a global digital library which she advocated as early as in 1993, and will address the multiple challenges of such a world digital library, such as retrieval, multi-format and multi-type contents development, multilingual, service provision and not publishing, etc...

Although the current focus of Global Memory Net is culture, history and heritage, but its system is subject insensitive, and can be used instantly to develop applications in any other fields. Collaboration with subject specialists is one the keys to the success of such type of development.

Ching-Chih Chen is Professor of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, Boston, and is a consultant and speaker to over 40 countries. She is the author/editor of more than 35 books and over 200 journal articles in areas of new information technologies, such as global digital libraries, multimedia technology, digital imaging, interactive videodisc technology, global information infrastructure, information management, and information resources, etc. She produced the award winning interactive videodisc and multimedia CD entitled *The First Emperor of China*, supported by the US National Endowment for Humanities (NEH). Currently she is leading two major NSF/International Digital Library Projects (IDLP): (1) Global Memory Net, a gateway to the world cultural, historical, and heritage multimedia resources, with collaborators from different part of the world, and (2) International Collaboration to Advance User-oriented Technologies for Managing and Distributing Images in Digital Libraries. She is also co-PI, with Prof. Raj Reddy of Carnegie Mellon University, of the China-US Million Book Digital Library Project.



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A Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, she was appointed by President Clinton in February 1997 to serve as a member of the U.S. President's Information Technology Advisory Committee (PITAC). PITAC was established by a new Presidential Executive Order. Under both Presidents Clinton and Bush during 1997 to December 2002, she co-chaired the PITAC Subcommittee on International Issues, and was a member of the PITAC Subcommittees on Next Generation Internet (NGI) and IT*2 Initiative Review; and Panels on Digital Divide, Digital Library, Learning of the Future, and Individual Security. She also chaired the PITAC's activity on Digital Divide for Smaller Institutions. During 1987 to 2001, Dr. Chen was Chief Organizer of a series of 12 International Conferences on New Information Technology (NIT) in many continents of the world. The outcome of NIT '99 (Taipei) and NIT'2001 (Beijing) are the two-volume books related to the development of Global Digital Libraries – *IT and Global Digital Library Development* (1999) and *Global Digital Library Development in the New Millennium: Fertile Ground for Distributed Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration* (2001). She is a recipient of many major awards, and was also elected in 1985 as Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She served as an Honorary Professor of Tsinghua University in Beijing from August 1999 to 2002 and University of Hainan, China since 2004.

Active in the digital library area she was the co-Chair of the 4th ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL) of 2004 held in Tucson, Arizona in June 2004. She was on the Advisory Board of DELOS (the European Digital Network for Excellence), serving as the US Co-Chair of the NSF/DELOS Working Group in Digital Imagery for Significant Cultural, Historical and Heritage Materials, and served as the co-editor for the *Journal of Digital Library's* Special Issue on Multimedia Contents in Digital Libraries (February 2006). A sought-after international speaker, in the last two years alone, she delivered keynote speeches and made presentations at many international conferences including those in Delhi and Bangalore, India; Dubrovnik and Zadar, Croatia; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Beijing, Shanghai and Hangzhou, China; Kawasaki, Japan; Tainan and Taipei, Taiwan, etc. She is on the advisory board of the major China Digital Library Project of the National Library of China; in October 2005, she was appointed as a consultant to OCLC for its Global Digital Initiative (<http://www.oclc.org/news/releases/200520.htm>). In the end of June 2006, she just received the coveted LITA/OCLC Kilgour Award from the Library Information Technology Association. (<http://www.ala.org/ala/lita/litaresources/litascholarships/kilgour06.htm>, <http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/april2006/2006KilgourAward.htm>, <http://www.oclc.org/research/announcements/20060421.htm>).