



Global Memory Net:

Digital Portal for Global Resource Sharing and Closing Digital Divide

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Chinese Memory Net (CMNet) is one of the very first US National Science Foundation/ International Digital Library Projects since 2000. *CMNet* has established a model for international collaboration both for content development as well as for cross-disciplinary research. Once it is possible for developing a multimedia digital library in one subject disciplinary or for one geographical area, it is upward scalable to include more subject areas and bigger geographical areas. This was the case with the expansion of the scope of *CMNet* to *GMNet*. The organization of the current *GMNet* (see following Figure) show clearly that the image and video contents of *GMNet* are currently organized and presented in the following hierarchy including the arrangement by:

- **Geography**

- *Continent* - Asia, Europe, N. America, S. America, etc...
- *Country* - Under each Continent, countries are listed alphabetically, such as China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, etc... under Asia.
- *Institutions or Projects* - Under each country, multimedia digital collection can be arranged by institution, project, or combinations of both. This permits the quick retrieval of multimedia resources by a well-known collection, such as those from a given national museum.



- **Projects** - Special multimedia collections can be arranged alphabetically by project, such as *Chinese Memory Net*, *PROJECT EMPEROR-I*, *Project Restore*, etc. In addition to the hyperlink to the retrieval of each project's image collection, the extensive project archive and product(s) if any are also provided.

- **Archives** - This section provides all the archival materials related to each project.
- **Collaborative Activities** - This highlights all the major collaborative research related to *GMNet*.

GMNet is a perfect example of a major research and development efforts in creating global portal of significant cultural, heritage and historical materials, with cutting edge technology. For example, *GMNet* enables one to search invaluable photographic archives using both traditional methods by metadata, or the cutting-edge semantic-sensitive content-based image retrieval.

Because of the enormity of this project, it is necessary to be shown in poster format so that interested IFLA participant can have time to appreciate and understand why *GMNet* can enable global content development and resource sharing. By doing so using the global information network, it helps to close the gaps of digital divide between the rich and poor countries.

This project has been featured in many keynote speeches, including the latest International Conference in Digital Library in New Delhi, Feb. 26, 2004, and many others.

Dr. Ching-chih Chen is Professor and former Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, Boston, USA. Currently she directs a major US National Science Foundation/International Digital Library Project, Chinese Memory Net. Using that as a model for archiving, content building in specifically image and video areas, organization and retrieval, and international collaboration, the project has expanded to "Global Memory Net" ready to include valuable cultural and historical resources of the world.

Served on the US President's Information Technology Advisory Committee from 1998-2002 with Prof. Raj Reddy of CMU, she is also the Co-PI of the China-US Million Book Digital Library Project with Prof. Raj Reddy. Active in the Digital Library area, she is the co-Chair of the 4th ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JC DL) of 2004 in Tucson, Arizona. She is on the Advisory Board of DELOS (the European Digital Network of Excellence), US Co-Chair of the NSF/DELOS Working Group in Digital Imagery for Significant Cultural, Historical and Heritage Materials, and the Co-editor for the Journal of Digital Library's Special issue on Multimedia Contents in Digital Libraries.

An author of 35 books and hundreds of scholarly articles, she has delivered many keynote and invited speeches throughout the years.