

Draft 1/25/08

For Discussion Purposes Only

Regents Advisory Council on Libraries Discussion Paper

This draft discussion paper represents the thinking to date of the members of the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries on the "New York Digital Library" concept as a 2009 budget and legislative initiative.

The draft articulates some core concepts and is intended to promote discussion and input from the library community. Readers are encouraged to provide examples of what such programs would look like. Readers are also encouraged to share their ideas, to better state core concepts and objectives and in any other way recommend ideas to strengthen this proposal.

Please send all comments and suggestions to Gerald Nichols, Regents Advisory Council member, at Gerald.Nichols@liu.edu

THE NEW YORK DIGITAL LIBRARY

Goal: To create a statewide platform to promote the use of digital technologies to broaden and enhance access to our local, regional and New York State cultural heritage.

Background: At present there are a number of excellent local and regional digitization models in New York State, such as the New York Public Library's Digital Library ([/www.nypl.org/digital/digital_about.htm](http://www.nypl.org/digital/digital_about.htm)), the Hudson River Valley Heritage Service (www.hrvh.org/), Suffolk Historic Newspapers (<http://shn.suffolk.lib.ny.us/>) and University of Buffalo's *UBdigit* (<http://ubdigit.buffalo.edu/>). National models include North Carolina ECHO, *Exploring Cultural Heritage Online* (www.ncecho.org) and the Collaborative Digital Program (www.cdpheritage.org).

Project Scope: There are numerous aspects of such a project that each require thoughtful consideration and elaboration. These include, but are not limited to:

- Access
- Content creation
- Preservation
- Standards and Guidelines
- Training
- Funding
- Marketing

Core Concepts: The foundation of the New York Digital Library is based on a number of collaborative, coordinated approaches to digitization throughout NY State. These concepts and initiatives include:

- Expanding the role of libraries from providing access into creating online content;
- Encouraging partnerships with cultural institutions throughout the state and establishing similar statewide initiatives such as a *New York Digital Archive* or a *New York Digital Museum*;

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- Serving as the platform for State Library, State Archive and State Museum digitization projects and training;
- Providing a funding source to support digitization efforts by local institutions, as well as major research libraries;
- Ensuring compliance with existing and developing national and international standards, such as the Open Archives Initiative (OAI), and other appropriate quality benchmarks;
- Providing direct training and training grants for a full range of continuing education opportunities for participating institutions throughout the state;
- Helping libraries and cooperating institutions create online content; prepare online finding aids; establish partnerships, and incorporate Web cataloging or metadata into digitization projects;
- Serving as a portal and clearinghouse for related training, funding and other digitization opportunities.
- Marketing the project to educational and cultural institutions, funding agencies and the general public.