



global
performing
arts
consortium

Spotlights, Cornell University Library

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Since the late 1980s, Cornell University Library (CUL) has been a leader and prolific practitioner across the spectrum of digital projects and initiatives. This overview presents examples digital content, services, repositories, preservation, and scholarly publishing that suggest breadth and depth of Cornell's digital programs and contributions.



Photo: GloPAD project

Digital Content Online

Since 1990, Cornell has conducted advanced research into the use of digital imaging to retrospectively convert library and archival material. Through a series of projects, CUL has

investigated image quality requirements and has developed an approach, called digital benchmarking, as a digital imaging management tool. The Cornell digital imaging tutorial (<http://www.library.cornell.edu/preservation/tutorial/index.html>) is widely used and acclaimed. The examples of digital collections described in this section are representative of the range of Cornell's digital collections.

Global Performing Arts Database (GloPAD)

GloPAD is a development of GloPAC, the Global Performing Arts Consortium, an international group of organizations and individuals committed to providing interactive, multimedia and multilingual tools to enable people everywhere to explore the diversity and depth of the world's performing arts. Performing Arts Databases (PADs) are being developed that include images, sound, and video clips of performing arts with detailed descriptions in standardized formats to enable effective cross-cultural searching. The database continues to grow with the addition of digitized materials from partner libraries and museums. A new interface for the database was created, and a browse function now complements the search mode. Cornell University Library received a three-year grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services in 2002 to further the work in metadata definition for the performing arts. Cornell's partners on this project include the St. Petersburg Museum of Theatre and Music (Russia), the Museum of the City of New York, the San Francisco Performing Arts Library and Museum, the Gertrude Stein Repertory Theatre (New York), and the University of Washington Libraries. Development of the metadata standards and structure to organize, populate, and access GloPAD is supported by a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services.