ABSTRACT

This proposal is submitted by the University of Maryland - Baltimore County (UMBC). Formal partners are:

- University of Baltimore (UB) - with participation by its Library and its Office of Academic Innovation
- Loyola/Notre Dame Library (LNDL), serving Loyola Univ. Maryland and Notre Dame Maryland Univ.
- University System of Maryland Center for Innovation & Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CIELT)
- University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI) Library Consortium
- Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)
- Maryland Humanities Council (MHC)
- Center for History and New Media (CHNM) at George Mason University
- The Internet Archive (providing a consultant for technical testing, analysis and other services)

Multiple other collaborating organizations also are offering the time of librarians and scholars. Details about their efforts can be found within the proposal and supporting attachments. Project activities will engage and benefit scholars, librarians, administrators, and other stakeholders from many more of Maryland’s public and private higher education institutions. The two-year project, “Providing Improved Library Repository Services to Scholars” (PILRS+DS) will combine multiple activities to achieve two primary goals:

**Goal One: Build and sustain a cohesive statewide community of practicing digital scholars**

**Goal Two: Test new strategies for improving library-based repository services to digital scholars**

PILRS+DS will address multiple socio-cultural and technical challenges presented by new and complex forms of digital scholarship, with a focus on the humanities. These works do not fit well into the traditional systems and media of scholarly communication and are often highly vulnerable to breakage or loss. Creators of such works are often disadvantaged by the dominant review and reward systems within research institutions. Our approach assumes that a more complex but coordinated approach will provide better results than separate attempts to fix each piece of the problem. The work plan described in this proposal combines training, a communications campaign, and other activities to galvanize a community of practice, and tests new approaches to improve repository services for those scholars. The project builds upon, but also provides new connections between other relevant efforts supported by IMLS and other funders.

PILRS+DS will focus on benefits within Maryland, but the project closely aligns with IMLS Strategic Goal #3 (stewardship of collections and enhancing discovery of content). The project will test and evaluate multiple innovative activities that will interest a national audience of libraries, repository service providers, and digital scholars. Project deliverables of potential interest to both statewide and national audiences will include:

- Report and recommendations on how to improve repository services with web archiving tools & practices;
- Analysis and recommendations on the need, feasibility and sustainability of a new shared digital press;
- Report on lessons learned and recommendations based on testing a shared multi-institutional repository;
- Findings from statewide discussions on improving academic rewards systems to better support digital scholars;
- A curated and archived (via Internet Archive) collection of 10+ examples of new complex digital works;
- 100+ scholars trained in ways to better create and manage more sustainable digital works;
- Report on the effectiveness of “meetup groups” and other strategies in cultivating communities of practice.

Larger outcomes to which we aspire are the creation and sustaining of more shared digital infrastructure; increased knowledge on how to provide improved repository services; an increased institutional cooperation among public and private institutions within Maryland; the statewide emergence of communities of practicing digital scholars; and greater shared consensus on ways that research institutions can better support digital scholars.

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UMBC “PILRS+DS” Proposal – One Page Project Abstract