International Workshop on Digital Information/Communication
Implementing a Maghreb Digital Library
for Education, Science & Culture

Rabat, Morocco – January 25-28, 2007 (Thursday-Sunday)

Hosted by:

Moroccan Ministry of Higher Education; R&D Maroc; and

The Fulbright Academy of Science & Technology

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Thomson Scientific, American Institute for Maghreb Studies,
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Etudes Maghrebiennes a Tunis, J. Paul Getty Trust, Moroccan Institut d'Histoire,
Moroccan National Library, University of Pittsburgh, US Department of State,
US Institute of Museum and Library Services, US National Endowment for the
Humanities; US Library of Congress, and others

Access to digital information in developing countries is a critical issue of international concern. Nearly 20,000 from 174 countries attended the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunisia last fall, including 50 Heads of state/government and vice-presidents and 197 ministers, and thousands of high-level representatives from global organizations, private sector, and civil society. Needless to say, this meeting enhanced the interest of many Northern Africa entities with respect to the digital world.

The January Workshop will focus on the creation of a networked digital library for the Maghreb region. A digital library of local cultural heritage of the Maghreb region would facilitate education and scholarship by providing local and international access to cultural heritage resources held by institutions around the world. A digital library would have broader applications as well, in terms of education & training, access to information, building an informed citizenry, etc. Therefore, the discussion will also examine how enhanced digital access would support the work of scientists, health professionals, researchers, individuals and institutions in North Africa.

Our workshop will focus on the specific steps needed to implement a digital library for the Maghreb region. Major issues include content development, management structures, telecommunications infrastructure, and training for digital managers and users. The structure will mirror a meeting funded by NSF and others which was held at the Alexandria Library in Egypt in January 2006. http://www.sis.pitt.edu/~egyptdlw/

The workshop will bring together key constituents in the region and abroad so the vision can be realized. It will include presentations, panel discussions and tours. The meeting findings will be incorporated in a report and plan of action that can inform government agencies, libraries, universities, research institutes, grant-making entities, and the private sector.

The Fulbright Academy of Science & Technology is involved because this workshop promotes the broader discussion of how technology can advance knowledge and to foster international cooperation. Members of the Fulbright Academy work for agencies, universities and corporations around the world on numerous topics directly related to this workshop. Therefore, the workshop will include a delegation of Fulbright scholars.

The workshop is hosted by the Moroccan Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Scientific Research and held in Rabat, the capital of The Kingdom of Morocco. The workshop is limited to approximately 75 attendees, including government, private sector, and academic representatives from Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Tunisia, and the United States.

A planning meeting will be held in Washington, DC on October 19 at the National Science Foundation in Arlington, Virginia.

For information: *Mr. Eric S. Howard, USA:*   *ehoward@FulbrightAcademy.org*
                       Dr. Khalid R. Temsamani, Morocco: *temsamani@enssup.gov.ma*
                       Dr. Latifa el Hadri, Morocco   *rdmaroc@menara.ma*

Participants in the Planning Meeting at the US NSF, October 2006
- Brett Bobley, Chief Information Officer at the National Endowment for the Humanities
- Laura Campbell, Chief Information Officer at the Library of Congress
- Alastair Cook, Target Accounts Sales Manager at Thomson Scientific
- George Coulbourne, OSI Chief of Operations at the Library of Congress
- Latifa El Hadri, Chargée de Mission at R&D Maroc
- Steve Griffin, Program Director in the Division of Information and Intelligent Systems at the National Science Foundation
- Ken Hamma, Executive Director for Digital Policy at the J. Paul Getty Trust
- Eric Howard, Executive Director at the Fulbright Academy
- Ron Larsen, Dean of the School of Information at University of Pittsburgh
- Joyce Ray, Assoc. Deputy Director for Library Services at the Institute of Museum & Library Services
- Robert Senseney, Senior Advisor, Office of Science & Technology Cooperation, US Department of State
- Khalid R. Temsamani, National Coordinator Materials Science; Ministère de l'Education Nationale, de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Formation des Cadres et de la Recherche Scientifique, Rabat, Morocco
- John Van Oudenaren, Chief of the European Division at the Library of Congress

Other US Advisors:
- Heather Boyles, Director of Member & Partner Relations at Internet 2
- Osman Shinaishin, Senior Program Officer in the Office of International Science at the National Science Foundation
- Steve Wheatley, Vice President at the American Council of Learned Societies
- Mary Ellen Lane, Executive Director of the Coalition of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC)

Prospective attendees:
If you are an American citizen, please send a paragraph or two, telling about your background and how you could contribute to the meeting to Mr. Howard. (address above)
If you are a citizen from another country, please send a paragraph or two, telling about your background and how you could contribute to the meeting to Dr. el Hadri.

Sponsors:
The organizers of the workshop are seeking additional sponsors for the workshop.
Sponsors and supporters are providing
       (1) cash contributions to underwrite travel costs for selected participants;
       (2) cash contributions to support for the workshop and follow-up activities
       (3) in-kind contributions of services

If you are interested in being a sponsor of the workshop or an institutional member in the Fulbright Academy, please contact Mr. Howard in the United States: +1.207.799.3098.

For information in French, contact: rdmaroc@menara.ma or temsanami@enssup.gov.ma

Additional information is available on the web at www.FulbrightAcademy.org