Biodiversity Heritage Library

Allocation Issues

March 9, 2010 DRAFT

Because of earlier staff change and other reasons, the Missouri Botanical Garden (MOBOT) has approximately $100,000 unexpended from the first two years of the MacArthur-Funded project. Additionally, in January 2010 MOBOT received funding from the Moore Foundation that will cover Chris Freeland’s salary for two years. In the submission to the MacArthur Foundation for the EOL Scanning and Digitization Component, we had allocated funds for Chris Freeland’s salary for three years. Since two of these years will now be covered by the Moore grant, we have freed up some money. This will free up approximately $200,000 available for reallocation within the BHL. This means there is approximately $300,000 to reallocate.

Since this is MacArthur funding, any reallocation of this size must be approved by the EOL Steering Committee at their April meeting. However, it would be good for us to present a consensus recommendation to them. I mention this to emphasize that while the BHL IC recommendation will carry significant “weight,” it is not final.

Below are some options for reallocation discussed by the BHL Executive Committee on a conference call on March 9. These are not the only options. The decision on reallocation should reflect the BHL Institutional Council’s wishes. I am sending this out well before the BHL Institutional Council meeting so that you may consider these and other options and raise questions and concerns.

1. Hire/contract for a new software developer to accelerate the much-needed BHL services and infrastructure for two years. BHL requires a third software developer to successfully complete program objectives. The two existing software developers for BHL continue to be extremely productive and efficient resources, but the number of BHL collaborations has grown beyond the support level they can provide. Approximate cost $300,000.
2. Hire a data technician to focus on loading article sets from contributing journals and journal aggregators into CiteBank but not on developing the functionality and services of CiteBank. - ~$150,000 for two years and spend the remaining ~$150,000 on scanning more texts from BHL libraries’ collections.
3. Apply all the $300,000 towards scanning.