Stanford University

November 10, 2014

King Davis, PhD
Professor Emeritus, The University of Texas at Austin

Dear Dr. Davis,

This letter is to confirm my continued interest in participating in the technical design and development of the Central Lunatic Asylum for Colored Insane digital archives project. Should the project receive grant funding from the Mellon Foundation, I would be happy to provide my expertise in digital library design and development to the project as a technical consultant. As you know, I have considerable past and current experience developing similar digital projects and would welcome the opportunity to work with you and the rest of your team on this project. The three related goals of the project offer an excellent opportunity to produce a user-friendly digital library from these historic materials.

I would be most helpful to the project in design and front-end development. In terms of design, I can help with the user needs discovery and interface design tasks necessary to ensure we design the CSH to be user-friendly and supportive of the needs of the people who will want to use it. I can also help with the adoption of Fedora/Hydra/Blacklight (instead of DSpace) as the digital library software infrastructure, including initial configuration. My suggestion to adopt Hydra and Blacklight will provide a basic digital library infrastructure, but there will be a fair amount of customization of the core features of those products necessary to support the specific CSH use cases. I can help with front-end development (Ruby on Rails development, HTML, CSS) to customize the software as documented in our designs. We use Hydra/Blacklight for the vast majority of our digital library projects at Stanford Libraries so I have extensive experience to draw on for those tasks.

My fees will be $100 per hour with a fixed maximum each year as shown in your proposal.

Sincerely,

Gary Geisler, PhD