

Proposal for Quality Enhancement of History Department Image Bank
Department of History

The Department of History has been one of the most active leaders in exploring effective ways of using technology in the classroom since the PC revolution. In 1996, the department spearheaded the drive to build the Humanities Lab in order to provide much needed internet access (at the time there were only 7 public terminals connected to the internet on campus) and to create levels of student and faculty expertise in technological applications equal to the cutting edge of the discipline. It was the first department at the university to write a technology plan as one of its strategic planning documents. The department was also one of the first in the university to develop its own webpage and was the first to create individual webpages for its entire faculty. In creating its webpage, the department began construction of a web-based image bank that was the first of its kind in the nation. In its early stage of development, the construction of the image bank was halted as web design responsibility and resources were channeled to institutional advancement and IT.

In the ensuing years, individual members of the faculty have assumed the responsibility of developing their own image libraries and incorporating them in Power Point presentations for their classes. Two faculty members have been especially active in this regard, Fr. Robert Gerlich and Dr. Michael Ross. Gerlich's image bank focuses on images useful to World Civilizations and the European and non-European electives required in our curriculum. Ross's images are exclusively devoted to the U. S. History required courses. Currently, the image banks are not easy to share with other members of the department because they exist in Power Point lectures developed for each instructor's particular courses. Accordingly, we propose that these two professors receive a one-semester course release from all three of their classes to incorporate their images into a set of cd-roms (one for World and one for American history) and to reproduce the cds for distribution among the faculty. Additionally, we ask for funding to compensate Dr. Ross and Fr. Gerlich (\$500 each) to conduct faculty development seminars for the history department faculty.

Budget:

\$12,500 x 2 = \$25,000?? for full-time extraordinary faculty replacements for one-semester.

\$1,000 for cds and cd reproduction.

\$1,000 for faculty development seminar

Total = \$27,000