**Abstract**

In order to maintain and improve access to vital resources for the study of South Asia, the Center for Research Libraries proposes a three-year collaborative project to deliver digital research materials to users both in the United States and throughout the world via the Internet. It has become increasingly evident that in an era of static or decreasing budgets research libraries will need to develop innovative and collaborative strategies in order to acquire and maintain the resources necessary for research. In no area of study is this necessity more apparent than in the case of South Asia. Given the size and diversity of interest, both inside and outside of academia, it is clear that cooperative acquisition alone can not provide readers with the increasingly vital materials in South Asian regional languages or certain highly sought after resources in an effective or timely fashion. Building upon a successful two-year pilot project, the Digital South Asia Library (DSAL), funded by the Association of Research Libraries’ Global Resources Program and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the CRL proposes that the DSAL will expand to provide over the internet: 1) full-text documents such as select journals, pedagogical resources, statistical data and government documents; 2) electronic images such as maps and photographs; and 3) indexes to select journals in the regional languages of South Asia. Through the DSAL academic researchers, business leaders, public officials and citizens in general will be able to find and receive from overseas by the Internet essential materials concerning South Asia not now accessible in the U.SOverview of the Project In order to maintain and improve access to vital resources for the study of South Asia, the Center for Research Libraries proposes a three-year collaborative project to deliver digital research materials to users both in the United States and throughout the world via the Internet. It has become increasingly evident that in an era of static or decreasing budgets research libraries will need to develop innovative and collaborative strategies in order to acquire and maintain the resources necessary for research. In no area of study is this necessity more apparent than in the case of South Asia. Given the size and diversity of interest, both inside and outside of academia, it is clear that cooperative acquisition alone can not provide readers with the increasingly vital materials in South Asian regional languages or certain highly sought after resources in an effective or timely fashion. Building upon a successful two-year pilot project, the Digital South Asia Library (DSAL), funded by the Association of Research Libraries’ Global Resources Program and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the CRL proposes that the DSAL will expand to provide over the internet: 1) full-text documents such as select journals, pedagogical resources, statistical data and government documents; 2) electronic images such as maps and photographs; and 3) indexes to select journals in the regional languages of South Asia. Through the DSAL academic researchers, business leaders, public officials and citizens in general will be able to find and receive from overseas by the Internet essential materials concerning South Asia not now accessible in the U.S