

## **"The *Quilt Index*: Collaborative Planning for Internationalization"**

### ***IMLS National Leadership Grant - Museums***

#### ***Library-Museum Collaboration, Collaborative Planning Level II***

### **Summary**

The *Quilt Index* is a model online research and reference resource featuring more than 50,000 quilt objects and serving a strong U.S. and expanding international audience. The *Quilt Index* brings together images of quilts, journals, ephemera, and detailed documentation data from museum, library, private and nonprofit contributors. Michigan State University Museum (MSUM), with the digital library at MATRIX: Center for Humane Arts, Letters and Social Sciences Online, proposes to work with two U.S. partners, the Alliance for American Quilts (AAQ) and the International Quilt Study Center & Museum (IQSC), to lead a collaborative planning process regarding international institutions with quilt collections. Our goal is to identify and examine in detail the most challenging tasks for building a collaborative virtual museum across dozens of countries and cultures and design a blueprint for moving forward. This process will consist of detailed planning instruments and surveys, virtual workshops, and one-on-one consultation activities, all conducted through online and teleconferencing media. These actions will result in: 1) an extensive, online list of international institutions with quilt collections; 2) a published *Quilt Index* planning and application process specific to international contributors; 3) an overall five-year plan, plus a set of detailed plans and proposals that international institutions holding quilt collections can use to develop projects to contribute their quilt objects to the Index; and 4) a white paper detailing the lessons learned and outlining a planning process that will be useful to any U.S. museum or library seeking partnerships with international collections-holding institutions. We expect that the engagement of institutions and individuals in this process will result in multiple proposals to IMLS for international projects as well as proposals to other U.S. funders and to funding bodies in countries of non-U.S. institutions holding quilt collections, thus leveraging additional funds for resources that will be available worldwide for both U.S. and international user communities.

### **Assessment of Need**

Out of the broad movement to create permanent, digitized exhibits of the world's cultural heritage, two needs stand out. One is to make apparent the bridges between us. In recent years it has become increasingly evident that cultural heritage needs, practices, and issues of one community or nation are inextricably linked to those of other, if not all, communities and nations in the world. The web offers the greatest opportunity to deliver indisputable visions of this truth to the world. In deference to this need, cultural heritage scholars, policy makers, and practitioners from around the world are coalescing at UNESCO and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) summits and through annual meetings of international cultural heritage organizations like the International Council of Museums (ICOM) to create international landmark treaties, conventions, and recommendations regarding issues such as: tangible and intangible heritage, intellectual property rights, repatriation, and illegal trade in cultural materials. These efforts have begun to address key obstacles to successful

international collaborations focused on exhibiting the shared nature of cultural heritage across borders

The second need is the urgency of preservation. In some cases the need to begin preserving and digitizing materials is an imperative. Infrastructure for preserving cultures is uneven around the globe and often missing or badly under supported in some cultures. For example the need to accelerate the preservation of and access to African cultural heritage, for example, is made all the more essential because: 1) the general historical lack of museums and archives and other repositories that meet international standards of collections care; and 2) vast quantities of materials, including cultural treasures, that have been carried from location of origin to other repositories worldwide.

Documenting, safeguarding, preserving, interpreting/reinterpreting, and making accessible the heritage of our world's cultures is important for members of all cultures. Preserving and providing access to multimedia cultural heritage materials digitally will continue to grow in importance. The amount of digitized and freely available content about material culture remains a miniscule proportion of the digital world.

Within this context of the push for digitizing and making accessible data on material culture collections is the move for museums, libraries, and archives to find ways to link collectively their databases and collections to increase the use of their holdings. The sharing of data exponentially increases the value of the collections to investigate issues and answer not only longstanding questions that transcend time frames and political, geographical, and cultural borders but also allow for new questions and answers.

### **The Imperative for International Partnerships**

The Quilt Index is a remarkable collaborative effort across separate institutions to build a unified index and set of exhibits that illustrate American cultural heritage through quilts. With proper planning it can grow to realize the vision for global collections of cultural heritage – extensive, urgent preservation, broad access, and displays of shared human experience. Five dimensions of the QI make this next step possible:

*1. The QI development strategy is ideal for partnerships:* Over the past five years negotiations and careful planning have led to technical, presentation, and data standards embraced by organizations from demographics across the country. This work has built a history of equal partnerships, modest resources, and reverence for inclusive cultural heritage.

*2. Quilts are universal:* As retired director of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, Alan Jabbour, says in his letter of support for this effort (attached):

".. the roots of quilting are older than the United States, and the radiating influences of America's cultivation of the art have extended far beyond the United States itself. In short, the story of quilting is an international story. The Index, as the largest and most important repository in the world for research into quilting as an art form, should in the longer run be a research repository that fully represents the international history and geographical range of the art form. Now is the time to make the Quilt Index international in its scope and focus."

3. *The QI is ripe to build bridges across cultures.* QI usage data suggests there is a rich international audience with a wealth of interest, knowledge, and collections to contribute. Global partnerships offer the tremendous opportunity and potential resources for the *Index* to offer visitors ways to examine world cultures side by side in the same virtual museum. This potential is understood by the museum community but not realized on a global scale. For example, collections of international quilts on display in museums are educating Americans about life, death and displacement in the Middle East.<sup>12</sup> Yet their presence is missing in the *Index*, limiting the lessons learned and richness of perspectives from the millions that visit the QI. As of 12/16/09, visits from citizens outside the United originated most often from the following ten countries (in descending order): Australia, Canada, Japan, Netherlands, Germany, Brazil, Switzerland, France, and the United Kingdom. Additionally, thousands of citizens visited the *Index* from more than a dozen additional nations also using the *QI*.<sup>3</sup>

4. *The QI is ripe to accommodate collections and contributions immediately.* The QI is a well-documented digital library effort with a formal application process for American contributors and supported by state and national associations. The QI can accommodate individuals contributing a single quilt, organizations with a quilt collection, individuals and organizations with research projects, and documentations collections of quilts from entire states and countries. The range of collections and contributions to date has required a flexible infrastructure, data management scheme, and presentation format. Consequently, the need to identify, digitize and preserve quilts can be addressed expediently via the QI. One year ago, the QI management team began constructing the QI Wiki. In response to a lack of current, accessible information on locations of quilt collections, this Wiki included sections set up to easily accommodate information on collections by geographic location. The QI team has initially populated the wiki with some information on quilt collections by country; and already contributors around the globe have added to and updated this section. Yet this listing of collections has only scratched the surface.

5. *The QI is already seen as the portal to access quilt collections, including internationally.* In April 2009, the International Quilt Study Center & Museum hosted the symposium, "The Global Quilt: Cultural Contexts" which focused on quilting traditions throughout the world. As an appendix to the symposium, IQSC hosted a day-long facilitated planning meeting of 25 individuals representing important quilt collections in the U.S. and abroad. One of the most-iterated outcomes identified by each of the issue-focused working groups that day was that all museums needed to contribute their collections to the *Index* and doing so would exponentially expand research and education opportunities and would also directly benefit individual museums and their constituents.

However, simply opening up the *QI* to international partners, even with its history of success and inclusion, is a challenging a step to take. Compared to cultures of the world, the *QI* has been developed in the American environment for the past five years; accommodating the international community successfully requires a new level of planning. An international *QI* would need to accommodate a range of cultures – each with different perspectives on how to integrate and display their quilts, ephemera, biographies and history. The effort needs to reach international quilt organizations as well as Diasporic and individual quilters, thus new strategies are required for

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.jweekly.com/article/full/13522/palestinian-jewish-quilt-offers-pattern-for-peace-social-change/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/17/AR2008051702471.html>

<sup>3</sup> Final report to IMLS on the Quilt Index, January, 2009

outreach and inclusion. The look and feel of the *QI* – the searches, tools, community -- will need to be global, inviting and inclusive, and with a design that accommodates unique partnerships.

This next step in the *QI* requires development of planning processes and forms that will allow for a profound level of flexibility. It is a familiar challenge. The Quilt Index is constantly assessing needs and developing strategies to increase usership and content. In this year alone, *QI* advances included developing fields to include multiple object types and developing social networking, including the implementation of a public wiki (an ideal form for presenting information held by many people in dispersed locations), and Facebook and Twitter communities. Advances also included planning and implementing a pilot project in individual public submissions that resulted in 68 Signature Quilts (quilts on which names appear as text) with detailed documentation. This is the kind of sensitive addition that will come with international partners, one of many that need to be carefully understood.

## **National Impact and Intended Results**

This process will result in a set of detailed plans and proposals for international organizations contributing quilt objects to the *Index*, and a white paper that details the lessons learned and outlines a process for international planning for online partnerships that should be broadly useful to any U.S. museum or library seeking partnerships with international collections-holding institutions. Thus, the planning process will create, implement and document a workable model for planning with partners across time, space, and national borders that will be adaptable to museums and libraries attempting such collaboration.

The prospect of adding international collections to the Quilt Index promises to allow museum and library professionals, curators, and researchers to see quilts online at the Quilt Index, and compare them with quilts from their own, or other countries. This will affect and deepen research by fostering interest, questions, and theories that could be followed up on by visiting and investigating in person, or by collaborating with international researchers online. We expect that in addition to virtual planning for Quilt Index collaboration, the surveys and workshops will reveal an exciting array of potential relationships between institutions involved that could include professional exchanges, exhibitions, and oral history projects, for example. It will allow for explorations of the history of aspects of quilt production that have long been transnational. For example it will allow for the interrogation of such things as the spread of quilting via the worldwide spread of Christian missions, the similarities of quilts and quilt traditions in major world powers and in the colonies or territories they governed, the intersections of indigenous materials and traditions with quilts, the interrelationship between quilts and the trade in cloth and equipment, the impact of key designer/authors on quilt styles around the globe, and the burgeoning global interest in using quilts as a vehicle to champion human rights or as job creation for women.

## **Project Design and Evaluation Plan**

This planning process will consist of a set of research, planning and evaluation activities supported by detailed questionnaires and surveys, virtual workshops, and one-on-one consultations, all conducted through online and teleconferencing media. The staff team is already proficient using a variety of online communication applications to manage the project. In Summer 2009 they successfully held a series of virtual trainings with nearly 40 individuals across the country using a teleconferencing suite called ReadyTalk, which uses web browsers plus telephone calls and provides toll-free numbers for many international participants.

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In the first month, August 2010, MSU, IQSC and AAQ staff and project evaluator will review the timeline and benchmarks and establish detailed dates and benchmark timing for surveys, virtual workshops, and consultation period. This staff team work together with the project advisors to identify additional advisory board members and individuals to invite to participate in the surveys and workshops. A literature review of cross cultural, collaborative web based projects will ensue in an effort to identify lessons learned and potential challenges. A survey of international quilt collections will be conducted in August and September 2010. Information about new quilt collections will be published on the public Quilt Index wiki, which is already a rich, publicly available resource. ([http://www.quiltindex.org/~quilti/wiki/index.php/International\\_Quilt\\_Collections](http://www.quiltindex.org/~quilti/wiki/index.php/International_Quilt_Collections))

A series of virtual workshops will be held in October and November 2010. This series of workshops will serve as a forum for presenting the Quilt Index to potential international collaborators and discussing the benefits and costs of working together, including logistical, technical, cultural, and financial challenges to address. We will review differences in metadata and textile descriptions across English-speaking countries and also explore the challenges of multilingual collaboration with textile metadata. We expect these meetings will have multiple benefits for participants -- in addition to the content addressed explicitly, the workshops will likely advance the technical comfort of participants.

In November and December 2010, we will summarize results from the survey and workshops. Virtual forums will be held with project staff and advisory board members to review the survey results and chart potential areas for collaborations as well as future planning. The staff team and advisors will prioritize these future directions and develop a multi-year timeline for such collaborations. During January 2011 at least one National Leadership proposal will be submitted.

We expect this process will foster a critical mass of organizational collaborators (our goal for the project is ten strong prospects for inclusion in the Quilt Index). During February and March, 2011, the application process already designed and established for domestic contributors (downloadable at: <http://www.quiltindex.org/contributors.php>), will be redesigned for collections collaboration from international contributors. From this design we will create a set of application materials specifically for international collaboration.

April and May 2011 will focus on reviewing the results and drafting a five-year plan and a white paper on this international collaboration planning process, to be presented at a national conference in May 2011 and distributed broadly for comment during June 2011. We aim to present at the American Association of Museums, which will be in Houston at the end of May. Finally July 2011 will focus on publishing the white paper, formalizing the five-year plan and completing the final report.

Results of the research and planning activities will include: 1) an extensive, online wiki list of international institutions with quilt collections; 2) a published *Quilt Index* planning and application process specific to international contributors (there is currently an application process for domestic quilt documentation, museum and library collections); 3) an overall five-year plan for international collections, plus a set of detailed plans and proposals that project partners and international institutions holding quilt collections can use to develop projects to contribute their quilt objects to the Index; and 3) a white paper detailing the lessons learned and outlining a planning process that will be useful to any U.S. museum or library seeking partnerships with international collections-holding

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institutions. We expect that the engagement of institutions and individuals in this process will result in multiple proposals to IMLS (and other funding agencies) for projects that involve international collections as well as proposals to funding bodies in countries of non-U.S. institutions, thus leveraging additional funds for resources that will be available worldwide for both U.S. and international user communities.

The Evaluation will proceed hand in hand with the planning activities. The principle goal of the evaluation will be to stretch the planning activities and require participants to examine as wide a range of considerations as possible. Consequently, when the international QI is in progress and released, the likelihood of facing unexpected profound challenges will be significantly reduced.

The early research (literature review and initial surveys) will provide a basis for creating agendas to support constructive conversations with potential partners. However, using established brainstorming techniques (Synectics and Jamming), the QI staff will review agendas prior to meetings and expand potential issues by as much as 50%. This should help both the QI team and partners examine a range of potential problematic issues that often go undetected.

In addition to creating rich agendas that promote exhaustive planning, results of the agreements with partners will be used to build simulated test cases. The cases will involve issues of cultural incompatibilities, security, inclusion, technology, communication and design. Partners will have to work through cases as both an instructional exercise, with the caveat that issues may emerge that require a visit to the drawing board. Partnerships that effectively work through test cases will be identified as sound and will form the basis for the first wave of international collaborations. Results from the brainstorming and test cases will be included in project publications and dissemination activities.

## **Project resources: Budget, Personnel, and Management**

The *Quilt Index* is a joint project of Michigan State University Museum, MATRIX, and AAQ. QI staff and management team includes an experienced team of collaborators and a growing base of institutional contributors and online users of the resources. Communication and management for the project includes weekly telephone conference calls of principal project staff, email and telephone training and assistance with contributors and consultants, in-person planning and training meetings scheduled around major field and organizational meetings, and internal listserv communication for the Task Force and Editorial Board and for the staff at contributing institutions. Project staff at MSU and AAQ work collaboratively on decision-making for the project, basing decisions on broad feedback from our advisors and community of stake-holders.

### ***Principal Investigators***

Marsha MacDowell is Project Director and MSU PI for this collaborative planning grant, along with Co-PIs Kurt Dewhurst and Wayne Dyksen. MacDowell is Curator of Folk Arts at the MSU Museum and Professor of Art and Art History. MacDowell has published extensively on American material culture (with an emphasis on Michigan, Native American, and African-American quilting traditions); curated numerous regional, national, and international exhibitions; and served as principal investigator on over 200 grant projects. MacDowell's international directs the activities of the Great Lakes Quilt Center at MSU Museum, is a founding board member of The Alliance for American Quilts, is co-editor of H-Quilts, an online quilt scholarship discussion list, and is former president of

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American Quilt Study Group. She has written on Hmong-American and South African quilting and currently she holds a fellowship from the International Quilt Study Center to further study South Africa's quilting heritage.

Kurt Dewhurst, after 27 years of leading the MSU Museum, became the Director of Arts and Cultural Initiatives for MSU's Office of University Outreach and Engagement with responsibilities to expand the role of the university in global cultural heritage research and education. He also continues his curatorial portfolio, which includes long-time international working relations in many countries, including South Africa and an important working relationship with the Nelson Mandela Museum. Dewhurst is the President of the American Folklore Society and is the U.S. Congressional appointee to (and elected president of) the American Folklife Center/Library of Congress national board of trustees. The society and AFC/LOC recently launched the Mellon-funded Ethnographic Thesaurus, fast becoming the world authority for nomenclature for cultural heritage materials.

Wayne Dyksen, Associate Director of MATRIX, will serve as the lead advisor on the technical and computing questions that arise during the international planning process. Dyksen is Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at Michigan State University. His research interests include computational humanities, human-computer interface (HCI), and graphical user interface (GUI) design. Dyksen has written a suite of highly interactive, tablet PC-based applications for MSU Men's Basketball, which are used for real-time data collection and analysis during a game on the team bench. He was recently awarded the Phi Kappa Phi Excellence Award in Interdisciplinary Scholarship, which recognizes scholarly teams working across disciplinary boundaries. Dr. Dyksen has done training and consulting in GUI-based software development for a variety of companies in locations including London, Melbourne, Sydney, Wiesbaden, and Zurich. He is a member of the Board of Advisors for the College of Information Technology of the United Emirates University. Under Dyksen's leadership, MATRIX will lead the analysis of technical challenges of working with international partnerships, including logistical and technical aspects of communication, networking, data integration and technical aspects of intellectual property issues.

Justine Richardson will be the lead staff person for this Collaborative Planning process. A co-director of the *Quilt Index* project, Richardson is a senior faculty specialist at MATRIX, with a background in Art History, American Studies, and Humanities Computing. Richardson, she has written on gender and technology issues, and on the development and coordination of distributed and collaborative online arts and humanities projects. After moving from Michigan five years ago, she has remained a MATRIX staff member working on the *Quilt Index* from her home in Guelph, Ontario for the past five years.

Steve Cohen, Associate Research Professor at Michigan State University and Learning Design and Research Consultant for MATRIX, will support the planning process by participating in the process, conducting the needs assessment and evaluation activities, designing the survey instruments, and analyzing the process alongside Richardson. Cohen will coauthor the white paper with the PIs and project leader. Cohen is trained in outcomes-based evaluation.

*Additional Staff:*

Dean Rehberger directs MATRIX, one of the premier digital humanities research centers in the country. He specializes in developing online research applications and developing educational

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resources for Web, including the impact of the Internet on culture, the uses of Internet technologies for research and in the classroom, the development of digital best practices for cultural heritage preservation and exhibition. He has run numerous faculty technology workshops and given presentations for educators from local, national and international institutions. As MATRIX director, he and his staff will ensure that project plans follow national and international standards. Rehberger's oversight as MATRIX director is not included in the project budget.

Mary Worrall, MSUM project manager for the *Quilt Index*, is an Assistant Curator of Folk Arts at the MSU Museum and has a background in art history and public history. She specializes in textile history, serves on the Board of the American Quilt Study Group and Alliance for American Quilts, and also is a quilt maker.

#### Advisory Board

The *Quilt Index* aims to be inclusive of formal quilt collections and quilt world interests. Through this planning effort, we aim to conduct a broad process that draws on the expertise of *Quilt Index* supporting board and of relevant board members from the partner organizations. The *Quilt Index Editorial Board*, comprised of Dr. Elizabeth Richards, Jan Tauer Wass, Dr. Bobbie Malone, Dr. Judy Elsley, and Linda Eaton, assists *QI* staff with vetting applications and reviews the quality of proposed additions to the *Quilt Index*. In particular, Dr. Richards, a textile expert and retired faculty member from the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, has agreed to participate closely in this planning effort. An Advisory Board of key individuals with knowledge about a variety of international quilt collections will participate in the collaborative planning and workshops. In addition to Dr. Richards, we already have commitments from three other advisors: Natalie Caidenhead, Curator of Antarctic and Canterbury Social History at the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, New Zealand; AnnMarie Schneider, Acting Director of the Canadian Studies Center at MSU and Director of Program Planning at MSU's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR); and Karen Alexander, past-president of the Quilter's Hall of Fame and member of the British Quilt and Textile History List online research network, who has researched at museums with quilt collections in United Kingdom, France, Italy, Spain and Turkey. Based on our user statistics and survey responses, we aim to include representatives knowledgeable about quilt textile collections in Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, and United Kingdom.

#### ***Collaborating Partners:***

The two collaboration partners, University of Nebraska-Lincoln's International Quilt Study Center & Museum and The Alliance for American Quilts, will participate in conducting needs assessment, planning surveys, identifying potential international participants, making international contacts, and holding virtual workshops to develop specific plans for future inclusion of international quilt collections in online documentation projects like the Quilt Index. All collaborators will assist with producing and disseminating the project white paper. In addition, IQSC will also utilize its collection of over 400 international quilts to perform data experiments and develop prototypes and processes for metadata development specific to international quilting traditions and will prompt those discussions during virtual workshops. The Alliance will play a specific role in publicity and communication with a broader constituency, which is an important role it serves as a founding partner of the Quilt Index.



## Alliance for American Quilts

The Alliance for American Quilts (AAQ), established in 1993, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to documenting, preserving, and sharing quilt heritage by collecting the rich stories that historic and contemporary quilts, and their makers, tell about our nation's diverse peoples and their communities. In support of this mission, the Alliance brings together quilt makers and designers, the quilt industry, quilt scholars and teachers, and quilt collectors to further the following goals: to promote the understanding of the quilt as an important American grassroots art form, to make information about quilts available to a broad public, and to educate Americans about the importance of documenting quilts and quiltmakers so that their stories will not be lost.

Amy Milne, Executive Director of The Alliance, will participate in project planning. Milne has a background in textile design and fine art and has served as an arts educator and nonprofit administrator for the past 18 years. Amy joined The Alliance in 2006 and works closely with its Board of Directors, Board Committees, members, partners and supporters to carry out the planning and implementation of the organization's projects. Amy travels to national quilt shows and meetings that allow her the opportunity to network and meet with members of The Alliance's virtual community and to share our mission with new audiences.

## International Quilt Study Center & Museum

The International Quilt Study Center & Museum (IQSC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) was formed in 1997 as a result of the generous gift and nearly 950 quilts from the Ardis & Robert James Collection, which covers the entire gamut of worldwide quilting traditions. The Museum holds the world's largest public collection of quilts (more than 3000) dating from the early 1700s to the present. The Center is a leader in quilt studies and its biennial symposium in 2009, "The Global Quilt: Cultural Contexts", focused on quilting traditions throughout the world. The endowed academic center, created under Director Patricia Cox Crews' leadership, offers a unique graduate program in textile history with a quilt studies emphasis.

IQSC Director, Patricia Cox Crews, is Willa Cather Professor of Textiles at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her book *Nebraska Quilts and Quiltmakers*, won the Smithsonian's Frost Prize for Distinguished Scholarship in American Crafts in 1993. Her more recent books include *American Quilts in the Modern Age, 1870-1940* and *Wild by Design: Two Hundred Years of Innovation and Artistry in American Quilts*. *Wild by Design* won the 2004 Textile Society of America's R. L. Shep Award for best book in the field.

Marin F. Hanson is the Curator of Exhibitions at the International Quilt Study Center & Museum (IQSC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). She holds undergraduate degrees from Grinnell College and Northern Illinois University and earned her MA in museum studies and textile history with a quilt studies emphasis from UNL. She has curated and written catalogs for several exhibitions, including "Quilts in Common: Around the Globe and across the Centuries" and "Nancy Crow: Cloth, Culture & Context." She is the co-editor of *American Quilts in the Modern Age, 1870-1940*, the first publication in the IQSC's comprehensive series of collections catalogs (University of Nebraska Press, 2009). Her other publications include articles in the American Quilt Study Group's monograph *Uncoverings* and *Textile: The Journal of Cloth & Culture*. Ms. Hanson's current research interests include quilting and related textile techniques and traditions from China.

## Dissemination

The *Quilt Index* serves a broad American and expanding international userbase ranging from museum curators, library staff, organizational volunteers, professional academics, independent researchers, quilt collectors and appraisers, artists and quilters, as well as a range of teachers from elementary to university level lecturers. All resources produced through the *Quilt Index* are made available online for free on the website. Availability of new resources is shared with relevant communities via the outreach mechanisms of the many museum and library contributors, as well as to online communities via email, Twitter, Facebook, and content-specific listservs in professional arts, cultural and humanities areas. Workshops and presentation sessions at a wide range of professional conferences and symposia will disseminate the results of this project and share the guidelines on international collaborations. Project staff and library and museum contributors already have presented the project at conferences including the annual meetings of the American Historical Association, American Association of Museums, Michigan Museums Association, Museums and the Web, American Studies Association, American Quilt Study Group, American Folklore Society, and the International Quilt Study Center. A presentation on the Quilt Index is being submitted to the first-ever joint colloquium of the South African Visual Arts Historians (SAVAH)/ Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art (CIHA) entitled 'Mobility, Circulation, Transnationalism: Art History and the Global South' planned for January or July 2011 (the final date will be decided by the CIHA board) in Johannesburg.

The results of this Collaborative Planning process will require additional dissemination to the museum community specifically and to international textile-related organizations. Project leaders will attend the American Association of Museums meeting in May 2011 in Houston, Texas and will propose presentations on the work at that meeting. The project will reach out to relevant international listservs, including global-quilt-museum and British Quilt History list. The project has an internal listserv for communication, which includes representatives from each contributing institution (currently numbering 23). Information about the Index will continue to be available through each contributor's networks and publications. Press releases about the Index are distributed to a variety of related publications. The new essays, galleries and lesson plans developed through this project will appeal to users from a variety of fields. We will continue to utilize several topical listservs for dissemination and evaluation of the project, including H-Quilts, a part of H-Net, which reaches over 400 professionals, the American Quilt Study Group member listserv, the British History List, Quilt-Art, and QHL (Quilt History List).