Grand Valley State University
Title: Statewide Stepping Stones to the National Digital Platform
Type: National Leadership Planning Grant – National Digital Platform (1 year/$49,988)

Statement of National Need
Grand Valley State University Libraries requests $49,988 for a one-year NLG Planning Grant to lay the foundation for the implementation of a collaborative and scalable network that will provide geographically distributed digital preservation services for libraries, archives, and museums in the State of Michigan. The project will actively aim to advance similar networks across the country as stepping stones to the maturing National Digital Platform. Specifically, GVSU Libraries will work and communicate closely with institutional representatives from several Michigan collecting institutions, professional associations, and consortia.[1] Building upon existing efforts, the project will collaborate with the Michigan Service Hub, which works with cultural institutions throughout the state to help them share their publicly accessible collections through the Digital Public Library of America (over 200,000 records to date). Most importantly, the project will bring together leaders from several well-established, state-based digital preservation networks[2] from across the nation to help GVSU Libraries and its partners research and document frameworks that Michigan-based institutions can implement and that other states will be able to immediately extend and build upon. Through facilitated knowledge exchanges, field research, and expert consultations[3], this project will study the best practices as well as the barriers to inter-organizational collaboration and develop practical resources to help institutions begin working together on their digital preservation in programmatic and sustainable ways. The goal is to replicate, test, and update advancements that have already been achieved in other successful networks, promulgate lessons-learned, and provide new resources that can be adopted and adapted by other states and regions.

Project Design
Project goals and outcomes will include:

- Statewide survey on digital preservation readiness
- National environmental scan of state-based digital preservation networks
- Two-day symposium on building successful state-based digital preservation networks
- Symposium white paper – to be distributed nationally for comment and feedback
- Field interviews and focus groups with state-based networks
- Four-day institute to develop statement of principles, draft agreements and policies, and a collaboration toolkit

As preparation in advance of the potential acceptance of this project, a statewide survey will be conducted targeting Michigan libraries, archives, museums, and other collecting institutions. Building off successful survey instruments used in the recently launched InDiPres Project (http://www.indipres.org/), these institutions will be assessed for their readiness to engage digital

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[1] These will include the Michigan Council of Library Directors (COLD), the Library of Michigan, the University of Michigan Service Hub for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), the Michigan Academic Library Association (Mi-ALA), the Mid-Michigan Digital Practitioners (MMDP), the Michigan Archival Association (MAA), the Michigan Museum Association (MMA), and the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS).

[2] Examples of successful networks that will be consulted are the Indiana Digital Preservation (InDiPres) Network, the Alabama Digital Preservation Network (ADPNet), and the Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) Library Alliance. Other networks will be consulted as the project gets underway and as project time and resources permit.

[3] The project will also enlist expert advice from a consultant at the Educopia institute, a leader and implementer of national and international scale digital preservation networks and collaborative programs.

preservation in collaborative ways. Building also upon datasets provided through the Educopia Institute's ICONC Project (https://educopia.org/research/iconc), a nationwide scan of additional state-based networks will also be conducted. A two-day symposium will then follow within the first three months of the project. The survey data and details from the nationwide scan will be presented at the symposium and experts and program designers from successful networks such as InDiPres,

ADPNet, HBCU Library Alliance, Educopia Institute, and others will engage in dialogue with invited institutional representatives from across Michigan. The goal of the symposium will be to surface and document challenges and viable pathways to building state-based digital preservation networks. A white paper will be distributed through the National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA) and their interest groups for comment and feedback. Within the first three months of the project, the Principal Investigator will also make two or more on-site visits with state-based networks to conduct interviews and focus groups with their stakeholders to more clearly define challenges and to identify sustainability and design strategies for building successful networks. The culminating outcome of the project will then be a four-day institute with structured working meetings to 1) document a statement of principles; 2) draft model agreements and policy templates; and 3) develop a collaboration toolkit for establishing shared functional requirements and implementation roadmaps. The project deliverables will be made freely available and promoted within the state, region, and at the national level by GVSU Libraries and its Michigan partners. Following the conclusion of the grant, work will be immediately undertaken to move towards an implementation within Michigan and foster implementations more broadly.

National Impact
This project and its deliverables will enhance the National Digital Platform (NDP), serving as a timely organizationally-focused complement to successful projects like Digital POWRR (focused on education), Beyond the Repository (focused on technical bridges), and Fostering a New National Library Network (focused on platform development). This project will leverage the unique capacity, cost savings, and coordinating potential of state institutions and their consortial groups in an effort to amplify collaborations toward achieving shared distributed digital preservation services. By focusing on the development of reusable sustainability resources in this project, similar institutions in other states and regions can launch their own collaborative digital preservation networks and lay strong inter-organizational foundations that will strengthen the longer-term success of the overall shared vision of the National Digital Platform (NDP).

Estimated Budget
The proposed project requests $49,988. In addition to Indirect Costs of $11,238 (calculated at GVSU's federally negotiated rate of 29% of modified total direct costs – excluding participant costs and equipment), GVSU Libraries requests $24,586 to cover staff costs for the Principal Investigator (Matt Schultz, Metadata & Digital Curation Librarian), graduate student help with data analysis and reporting, and event staff. $6,400 will be directed towards covering travel and speaker honoraria for expert consultants from the InDiPres Project, ADPNet, the HBCU Library Alliance, and Educopia institute to attend the two-day symposium. An additional $2,184 will provide travel for the Principal Investigator to conduct on-site visits with multiple state-based networks. Finally, $5,580 is being requested to cover project materials and catering/venue/logistic costs for the two-day symposium and the four-day institute.