



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

## Request for Proposals

### Project Portal Development / Hosting

### ASERL's Cooperative Digitization Project

Fall 2009

#### Introduction

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) seeks proposals from member libraries and others to develop and host an online portal to serve as the main search interface for ASERL's cooperative digitization project, "The Intellectual Underpinnings of the American Civil War." This project seeks to offer online access to 5,000 or more newly-digitized items held at ASERL libraries by early 2011, the sesquicentennial of the start of the U.S. Civil War.

The digital items will be hosted at the library that owns the object. ASERL has developed metadata standards and scanning specifications for this project. The metadata standards are designed to optimize search rankings with popular commercial search engines, for increased visibility and ease of use by library users.

ASERL also seeks to create a project-focused portal/website ([www.americansouth.org](http://www.americansouth.org)) that will allow users to search the metadata for all items developed as part of this project. This requires harvesting unqualified Dublin Core metadata (oai\_dc) via the Open Archives Initiative Protocol, from participating libraries. This metadata will be combined into a centralized index, over which discovery tools will enable users to search the harvested metadata. Advanced search functions such as faceted browsing are highly desirable.

ASERL seeks a partner to develop the portal and host it for public use for a minimum of two years. The portal will need to harvest metadata and search the harvested metadata only; it is not expected to search the full text of items held on remote servers.

#### Desired Services

The following describes basic expectations for the system and anticipated hardware/software to meet those needs. It is for illustrative purposes only and should not be considered prescriptive nor comprehensive.

**NOTE:** *The specific manufacturers/brands mentioned below are for illustrative purposes only and are not required.*

#### Hardware

One production and one test server, each including VMWare virtual machine with at least 2GB of RAM and a 10GB hard drive, *such as:* Dell PowerEdge R610 with 2 Intel Xeon 2.26Ghz CPUs, 16GB RAM, 2TB of hard disk (4 x 500GB hard drives), no OS, and redundant power supplies.

#### Software

Preferably open source (e.g., Linux OS, Lucene/Solr search engine, VuFind or other custom discovery layer).

### **System Development and Testing**

This includes beta development (system specifications, requirements, and setup); Web search engine design and build; Web (user interface) design; OAI harvest and index import through public release (implementing usability testing and system fixes over several months after launch.)

### **Ongoing Harvesting/Ingest/Maintenance of Data**

This includes performing modifications to the harvesting script as needed to accommodate new material; working with technical contacts at participating institutions; responding to suggestions for improvements to the user interface; preserving the code and documentation for the portal in a robust digital preservation system; and performing routine server maintenance (OS upgrades, discovery layer upgrades, backup, etc.).

## **Responding to this RFP**

Interested parties are asked to provide the following information based on the specifications above:

- Proposed configuration of the portal (hardware & software to be used, protocols for data maintenance & preservation)
- Timeframe for completing various milestones
- Qualifications and relevant experience of the applicant(s), including staffing if known
- Costs/Fees for providing the systems/services described above, including fees for year-1 system development and costs/fees for maintaining the system in successive years.

Proposals should be submitted electronically to John Burger, ASERL's Executive Director, at [jburger@aserl.org](mailto:jburger@aserl.org). Proposals **must be received by January 15, 2010**. **ASERL expects to award the contract on or around February 15, 2010**. Questions about the RFP or the desired outcomes should be addressed to John Burger.