

Nebraska State
Records Board
State Capitol, Suite 2300
Lincoln, NE 68509

John Gale
Chairman
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<http://www.nol.org>



**APPLICATION FOR STATE RECORDS BOARD GRANT
TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION
(Local Government Grant Application)**

Cities and Counties desiring grants from the Nebraska State Records Board for projects to create or improve electronic access to government information or services should complete this application and follow any procedures outlined in this application and any accompanying materials.

I. Grant Summary

1. Name of entity applying for grant Douglas-Sarpy Map Scanning Cooperative

2. Title of project Historic Aerial Photo and Map Preservation

3. Brief Description of Project

Historical aerial photography and map preservation for a collaborative group of Omaha-area organizations, including the scanning of hard-copy documents into digital format. The scanned images will be made available for public access via the Internet and other mediums.

3. Grant request amount \$25,000.00 (\$25,000 limit for collaborative grants,
\$10,000 limit for single jurisdiction grants)

4. Will there be a fee for accessing records associated with this project? No

5. If yes, provide any statutory reference or authorization for the fee N/A

II. Grant Detail

1. Please describe the project in detail (you may attach this description)

Numerous sets of historic aerial photos, land use maps, and facility maps from different decades will be scanned into a digital format and archived into a relational database. Quick-access indexes will be built for each document set, making the images easily accessible. Many of the scanned documents will subsequently be made available for viewing and/or downloading via the Internet by the public and various public agencies. It is important that we archive these records before they are further damaged by continued use and the elements. It is equally important for the participating agencies to offer on-demand access to these documents for a broad variety of applications.

The second phase of the project includes 'geo-referencing' of most of the scanned maps and aerial photos. This technical process will enable these maps and photos to be used as GIS overlays, providing a valuable historical reference. This will also allow our partner organizations to not only Web-enable these documents, but also make them available in a more useful context through the use of existing GIS mapping websites.

The City of Omaha, Douglas County, Metro Area Planning Agency, and the Sarpy County GIS Coalition (includes Papillion, LaVista, Bellevue, Gretna, Springfield, & Papio-MO River NRD), are working together to coordinate this digital preservation process and to provide seamless, cross-jurisdictional access to these documents.

2. Please describe whom the beneficiary or recipient of this service will be and projected activity for access or use of the proposed service

Government agencies, private businesses, researchers, utilities, and the public will benefit from access to historic aerial photography and maps via the Internet. The maps and aerial photos will assist in a number of research activities, including environmental analysis, urban planning, land use studies, and conservation projects.

3. Timeline for implementation (specific completion date must be provided, grant funds lapse if not expended prior to completion date)

The project kickoff is scheduled for February 1st, 2008, with the completion date scheduled for May 31st, 2008.

4. Subdivision contribution to project (labor, equipment etc.)

The participating agencies will contribute funds for the scanning and archiving of the aerial photos and maps. Douglas-Omaha GIS and Sarpy County GIS staff will provide the networking and storage infrastructure for the storage and hosting of the digital data. Application development for the Internet-based public access tools will be the responsibility of the collaborative group. Existing GIS websites will be utilized as part of this process.

5. Is other funding available for this project (explain)?

The balance of funds needed to complete the project will be shared amongst the collaborative group - each member will contribute funds appropriate to their involvement in the project.

6. Why is the grant money needed for the project, and, if applicable, how will the service be sustained once the grant money is expended?

Grant funds are needed to assist with the up-front (one-time) cost of the scanning and archiving of the hard-copy documents. The digital documents will be archived, once scanned, and made available via the Internet.

This project will enable our collaborative group to establish a mechanism for scanning and georeferencing future hard copy documents. Future acquisition of similar digital datasets will be made accessible using the same services used to provide access to the digital products from this project.

7. Please describe how this project will enhance the delivery of government services or access to those services (you may attach a separate sheet if needed)

By providing these historical records as digital files via the Internet, other government agencies, private industry, and members of the public will be able to easily access these public records without physically searching through countless documents located at various storage facilities. The records will be available 24 hours per day via the Internet, providing efficient access to information and dramatically reducing the time and man-hours previously involved in accessing these records.

8. Please describe how this project will improve the efficiency of government operations (attach additional pages if needed)

Similar to the public benefits, government agencies will be able to access the historical records quickly without having to find the physical hard-copies in storage vaults. Also, by pooling our resources and approaching the project as a cooperative venture, the partner agencies have been able to identify the best-preserved records (where there has been redundant storage). These sets have been identified as the priority candidates for the scanning/archiving.

9. Please describe any collaborative effort among multiple jurisdictions or political subdivisions related to this project (if applicable, attach additional pages if needed)

The City of Omaha, Douglas County, MAPA, and the Sarpy County GIS Coalition are cooperating in the project planning, funding, and implementation of the project. The group has identified the location of the best available records for each set of historic documents, and will work to develop the Internet applications for the public to utilize and consume the digital data. All members of this cooperative group actively participate in the NIROC (Nebraska-Iowa Regional Orthophotography Consortium), which is a larger cooperative group responsible for the acquisition of new digital aerial photography. NIROC imagery will constitute the new datasets introduced into the archived imagery database.

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10. Please provide information on who will complete the project (in house personnel, outside contractor, combination of both, etc.)

Completion of the scanning and database entry will be performed by a selected contractor. All application development, database management, and hosting will be performed by in house personnel from the various partner agencies. A Technical Action Group will be established to insure a coordinated effort in making these records accessible across agencies.

11. Does the project involve the licensing, permitting or regulation of businesses, if yes then explain how the project or service will allow integration with the State of Nebraska's Business Portal and the one-stop online business registration system.

No.

III. Technical Information

1. Describe the hardware, software, and communications needed for this project and explain why these choices were made.

The hardware chosen for this project consists solely of existing or proposed server storage devices within the partner agencies. All of the scanning and georeferencing work, and any hardware associated with that work, will be completed by an outside contractor.

The software utilized in this project will primarily be GIS software from ESRI, Inc. ESRI is the preferred GIS software platform for the vast majority of public and private organizations in the State of Nebraska. This software will be used to provide the document access interfaces through GIS websites and desktop software. Database software from Microsoft will also be used in the background for the relational database functions.

2. Address any technical issues with the proposed technology including:

- **Conformity with generally accepted industry standards. Projects which interface with state systems (such as distance learning systems) should also address NITC technical standards and guidelines.**
- **Compatibility with existing institutional and/or statewide infrastructure.**
- **Reliability, security and scalability (future needs for growth or adaptation).**

The technology proposed for use in this project follows all of the organizational standards of the partner agencies, as well as statewide technology frameworks and industry standards. A priority goal of the Douglas-Sarpy Map Scanning Cooperative is to foster and encourage open access to these digital records, primarily through a GIS mapping interface. Many open standards and industry best practices will be employed within this project.

3. Describe how technical support will be provided.

Technical support will be provided by the individual partner agencies. However, common storage, distribution, and deployment techniques will be used. This will be accomplished by forming a technical action committee consisting of partner agency representatives. Documented storage and support procedures will be made available to all potential support contacts within each partner organization.

4. Describe How the Project will comply with the State's Technology Access Clause
<http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/standards/accessibility/tacfinal.htm>

The Douglas-Sarpy Map Scanning Cooperative will adhere to the provisions of the State Technology Access Clause while developing the tools for accessing the digital documents created as a result of this project. The Cooperative's technical action committee will be tasked with working with staff from the State's Office of the CIO, to insure we meet all of the necessary access requirements.

IV. CONTACT INFORMATION, SIGNATURE

Contact person for any questions regarding this application Michael Schonlau

phone # 4,024,443,982 E-mail mschonlau@ci.omaha.ne.us

Signed this 13th day of September, 2007



Signature

GIS Coordinator

Title

Please Return to:

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(revised 11/16/04)