Digital Technology and Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage

- “From Imagined Communities to Virtual Neighborhoods: The Dilemma of Digital Representation for Southeast Asia,” Caverlee Cary, ECAI Southeast Asia

- Framework Spatial Data Availability for Southeast Asia,” Lawrence Crissman, Griffith University, presented by Andrew Wilson, University of Sydney

- “The Ancient Route from Angkor to Phimai: Application of Remote Sensing and Multimedia GIS in the Study of the Khmer Empire,” Surat Lertlum, Asian Institute of Technology

- “AIRSAR Radar and GIS in the Mapping of Greater Angkor,” Roland Fletcher, University of Sydney

- Additional comments by Royol Chitradon, NECTEC
“From Imagined Communities to Virtual Neighborhoods: The Dilemma of Digital Representation for Southeast Asia”

Caverlee Cary, Editor, ECAI Southeast Asia
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With thanks to:

The Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative (ECAI)
Ian Johnson, University of Sydney
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Catherine Raymond, Northern Illinois University
Adrian Vickers, Wollongong University
Roxanna Brown, University of California, Los Angeles
Leslie Woodhouse, University of California, Berkeley
ECAI: A partnership of scholars and information technology specialists

- Creating a distributed digital library of networked cultural research projects
- Visualizing, on a map-based interface, data from contributors around the world working in a range of disciplines
- Developing an Infrastructure for Interoperability of datasets
Sharing data with existing projects

- *EXAMPLE:* Digital projects which have developed independently of ECAI may also choose to share data through the ECAI infrastructure, as for example the Huntington Archive of Buddhist and Related Art.
■ Fostering development of new digital projects

■ EXAMPLE: Digital access to the collection of the McFarland Family Mission in Bangkok, 1860-1950, held at the South and Southeast Asia Library, UC Berkeley (Leslie Woodhouse, project coordinator)

– Image at right: Child’s Catechism, printed in Thai, 1874, Bangkok
ECAI Affiliated Projects include:

- Metadata
- Spatial information
- Temporal Information
- Maps
- GIS dataset layers
  - Base data (rivers, boundaries, topography)
  - Research data layers
- Web-Accessible Linked Resources
  - Images, text, statistics, sound, and videos
- Documentation
Isan Travels of Etienne Aymonier, 1883-4

- Dr. Leedom Lefferts, Anthropology, Drew University, USA
- Linked textual resources

**Issues:**
- Access to cultural and environmental history of northeast Thailand
  - Colonial perspective: French
  - Colonial perspective: Military-political
- Attribute information: tables documenting travels
  - Linked resources: text
- Source of information on remote regions, village life
  - Digital gazetteers to link places to text
  - Single scholar project
Phralak Phralam at Vat Ou Mong, Laos
(Lao version of the “Ramayana”)

- Alan Potkin and Catherine Raymond, Digital Conservation Facility, Laos
- Mural paintings illustrating “Phralak Phralam” on the walls of Vat Ou Mong
- Painted by: Thit Panh and assistants, 1938
- Photography: Alan Potkin and Catherine Raymond
- Text and translation: by Vo Thu Tinh, and staff of the Lao National Library
- Fonts: Ecole Française d'Extreme-Orient.

- Issues:
  - Preservation of traditional arts
  - Preservation of vulnerable cultural resources
  - Reflection of cultural changes
  - Linked resources: video
- Source of information on society that leaves few written records
- Change in community attitudes to traditional culture and literature
- Individual project and resources
Ayutthaya Art and Culture Project

- Dr. Danai Thaikatoo, Landscape Architecture, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, and many other collaborators
- Scanned historic maps from European travelers accounts (17-18 Centuries)
- GIS of historic sites
- Linked images from the Fine Arts Department
- Linked data on art and artifacts

Issues:

- Access for Thai history
- Preservation of classical Thai culture
- Linked resources: historic maps (sources and artifacts)
- Source of information on capital of Ayutthaya empire
- Wide-ranging collaborative project
Southeast Asian Export Ceramics from Shipwreck Sites

- Roxanna Brown, PhD candidate, Art History, UCLA and Chief Curator, Bangkok University Art Museum; with assistance by Sten Sjostrand and Trinh Cao Toung, Institute of Archaeology, Hanoi
- Map layer of shipwreck sites
- Linked resources: photographs of ceramics, text describing finds, vessels, routes
  - Issues:
    - The seas as sites of historical activity
    - International relations within Asia
      - Changing trade dynamics
    - Linked resources: photographs
    - Art historical and material culture data
    - Immediate access to new discoveries
VOC (Dutch East India) Trade Data, 1670

- Dr. Adrian Vickers, Associate Dean, Wollongong University, Australia
- First step in major collaborative trade routes project
- Digitized VOC trade records of commodity exchange

Issues:
- Archive records
- Colonial perspective: Dutch
- Colonial perspective: Commercial enterprise
- Attribute data: Tabular data on commodities
- Source of information on trade routes throughout Southeast Asia, and extending to India, China, Japan
- Based in Java (insular Southeast Asia)
McFarland Missionary Collection, Bangkok
SSEAL, UC Berkeley

- Leslie Woodhouse, Ph.D. Candidate, History, University of California, Berkeley
- Collection of American Presbyterian missionary family in Bangkok 1860-1950
- Collection includes books, manuscripts, photographs, pamphlets, scrapbooks
- Developing finding aids for collection access
- Digitizing selected resources

- Issues:
  - Preservation of fragile historical documents
    - Access for research community
  - Colonial perspective: American
  - Colonial perspective: Missionary
  - Linked resources: Historical photographs
  - Source of information on Thai capital, historical sites
  - Role of missionaries in development of printing and language
(DEMO OF ECAI SOUTHEAST ASIA ATLAS)
ECAI Southeast Asia is committed to:

- Enhancing access to data for both contributors and users through information technology
- Capacity-building through collaborative project development, training programs, conferences, workshops, and website user support resources
- Preserving vulnerable cultural resources (rubbings, photographs, images of endangered sites and materials)
The Southeast Asia Interactive Cultural Atlas

Sponsor:
National Institute of Informatics

Collaborators:
Kyoto University, Center for Southeast Asia Studies
University of Sydney
University of California, Berkeley
Upcoming ECAI Conferences:

- April 2003: Budapest, Hungary
- September 2003: Bangkok, Thailand

Upcoming ECAI Southeast Asia Workshop:

- January 2003: Siem Reap, Cambodia
ECAI Southeast Asia welcomes participation from interested individuals and institutions that:

- have data to share in a digital environment
- wish to explore the use of the ECAI infrastructure in support of their professional activities
- are willing to share technical expertise
- would like to participate in upcoming conference programs
- would like to host ECAI training programs in Southeast Asia
For further information:

- Visit ecai.org

- For information on ECAI: email ecai@socrates.berkeley.edu

- For information on ECAI Southeast Asia: email cari@uclink.berkeley.edu