

Abstract**Stephen Griffin****The US Perspective on Strategies for Creating and Supporting Endeavors to make Cultural Heritage openly accessible on the Internet**

It is now feasible to create extremely accurate digital facsimiles of a wide variety of cultural heritage materials which capture and in many cases increase the scholarly value of the originals, while leaving them intact and unaltered. Artifacts for which this has been successfully done include fragile manuscripts and inscriptions on a variety of media, images, sounds, 3-dimensional objects, ancient buildings and culturally significant sites places. Once in digital form, the extracted information can be easily stored, copied, transferred and shared allowing students and scholars around the world to collaborate on the analysis of invaluable artifacts for which direct access is restricted or prohibited.

This brief talk will discuss the technological advances that have led to development of powerful new tools for cultural heritage informatics and describe several state-of-the-art interdisciplinary research efforts.