

## **Second PROGRESS REPORT March 8th 2007**

### **Regional Level Community Engagement – A collaborative e-democracy through the use of technology driven Visualisation and Advanced Computational Tools**

#### **Introduction**

This report is the second progress report for this pilot project.

#### **Progress update**

1. Further research into e-democracy areas in society, media, and government is ongoing. For example convergence in Media and online voting patterns, the relationship between community newspapers and social capital, and organisational moves of news into electronic media (Fairfax). The research project proposal document is attached.
2. After further negotiations with Quest Newspapers and News Limited in Sydney the approval for data was obtained. Acquisition of the large datasets was delayed until early February. As a result extra communication channels with Quest's parent companies, Queensland Newspapers and News Limited have now been established in support of the project.
3. Analysis has now begun using programs, SAS TextMiner, Leximancer, LexiQuest and TextAnalyst.
4. Initial themes of Sport, Community including Education Engagement, Water and Power, Crime and Justice are appearing regularly.
5. Beginning to layer socio-economic demographic data with the distribution and readership data as a comparative analysis across the various publication catchments.
6. Underpinning mapping data and images to allow visualisation stages.
7. Conceptualised the site for interactive development of a thematic interface using existing Quest Feedback mechanisms.
8. The Project team is working well and has had several meetings between all members and external stakeholders.
9. Student internship being negotiated and administered by QUT HPC.

## Timeline

Timeline as detailed below has been delayed and is 3 months behind schedule. Due to an unavoidable delay in obtaining the large datasets from News Limited in Sydney, as a result an extension is being sought for an extra 3 months to cover this period.

### Stage 1 (Months 1 - 6)

Model development and testing with historical documents as a test base for thematic analysis and visualisations.

### Stage 2 (Months 3 – 6)

Pilot the use of software tools for the purposes of facilitating participation and expansion of data collection using Quest Newspapers as the forum.

### Stage 3 (Months 6 –11)

Review and analyse the results of Stages 1 & 2 in the context of the overall project and beta-test the model through a limited trial through a series of single paper distributions through the Northside Quest papers.

### Stage 4 (Months 11 -12)

Compile project report. Explore possibility to extend the overall project concepts data and text mining tools and techniques for theme extraction informing multiple discipline level journal articles. Investigate potential conference representations and further funding sources such as NCRIS or ARC Linkage Applications.

## Budget

Research accounts are operational

Research monies distribution

ACU – technology and research assistance	\$20,000
QUT – HPC Internship, Data Prep extraction technology and research assistance	\$10,000
Administration, Meeting costs, workshops, stakeholder training	\$6,363.63
Sub Total of QCIF grant excl gst	\$36,363.63
Participant In kind (from project applicants)	\$100,000
Web Programmer	
Systems-Analyst	
BNDF	
Data mining technology support	
Equipment In-kind	\$ 15,000
Office space In-kind	\$ 30,000
Total	\$181,363.63