

Dee Family Technology Awards
Proposal for Funding
Due April 1, 2006

Project Title: “Translating New China’s Cinema for English-Speaking Audiences”

Project Director: Greg Lewis (History)

Departments: History and Asian Studies

College: Social and Behavioral Sciences

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Instructions:

0. Please complete each section in the space provided. The justification section should not exceed two single-spaced typed pages. (An addendum may be attached describing details of specific hardware and/or software that are requested with this proposal).
 1. You are required to obtain the signature of an ARCC representative for your college, indicating that she/he is familiar with the proposal, and can speak to it during funding deliberations.
 2. Your department chair’s signature is also required, indicating that she/he supports the proposal, and that the proposal is in keeping with departmental goals related to information technology and its application to the academic mission of the institution. Your Chair’s signature also indicates her/his commitment to help support the project financially if so indicated on the budget page.
4. [The form below must be emailed \(without signatures and in PDF format\) and a hardcopy mailed to the ARCC chair, David Ferro, \[dferro@weber.edu\]\(mailto:dferro@weber.edu\) and MC2401 by April 1, 2006.](#)

Abstract (project summary):

The project, "Translating New China's Cinema for English-speaking Audiences," is a multi-phase academic undertaking directed by Assistant Professor of History Greg Lewis at Weber State University. The first phase of translating and subtitling forty-one feature films produced in China between 1949 and 1966 began in June 2001 and will continue until May 2010. To date, 22 (twenty-two) films have been translated and subtitled and distributed to scholars and Centers for Asian Studies at more than thirty universities.

A second phase of the project, started in June 2002, involves the assembly of eight introductory video prologues for the subtitled films. These prologues offer important explanatory context and insights to the subtitled films. To date, three prologues have been completed.

Dissemination outcomes for the project include: (a) screening each film on campus in the Wildcat Theater; (b) screening selected films at off-campus venues like the Weber County Library, the University of Utah, and Brigham Young University; (c) using film clips in the classroom for courses in World and Asian history, and film studies; (d) distributing the films to scholars and libraries throughout the U.S.; (e) screening the films at regional and national Association for Asian Studies conferences; (f) making the films available to Weber State students, faculty, staff, and the general community by placing them in the Stewart Library Asian Studies film collection (currently at about 700 total titles).

Both phases of the project will benefit from the proposed purchase of the terrabyte hard drive (1,000 gigabytes), which has the capacity to protect and save each of the subtitled films.

Objectives and goals of this project:

The immediate goals of this project are to protect and save our newly-subtitled films in a non-compressed form (meaning on the hard drive, and not on disc, which is a less-safe way of preserving the films). Since each film requires between 60 and 100 hours to translate and subtitle, they are well-worth preserving in this fashion.

Identify specific courses and/or programs that will directly benefit from this project:

Our subtitling project will offer several substantial benefits:

(1) Specific courses benefitting include, (a) "Far Eastern History" (SS 4530), taught by Greg Lewis each fall (using video clips in class and assigning films for written assignment outside class); (b) an on-line "Far Eastern History" (SS 4530) class which will be developed in the 2006-2007 academic year; and (c) a new course entitled "Viewing Chinese History and Society: Cinematic Perspectives from the People's Republic of China, 1949-1999," taught in spring 2004;

(2) Students, other faculty, staff, and the general public in Ogden, Utah and elsewhere will share in the benefits via, (a) Weber State's *50 Great Chinese Films: Voices and Visual Images from the Centenary Celebration*, with approximately ten films exhibited each semester and 20 to 30 attendees per film; (b) showings of our subtitled films at regional and national Association for Asian Studies conferences in 2001 (Montana), 2002 (Provo, Utah), and 2003 (Phoenix); (c) showings at public venues in Utah as part of the Utah Humanities Council Speakers Bureau; (d) the subtitled films have been placed in Weber State's Stewart Library and are available to students, faculty, staff, and other U.S. universities via interlibrary loan; and (e) the subtitled films have been distributed to approximately twenty universities thus far, with very positive feedback from the recipients.

If applicable, describe how this project will help to increase faculty productivity or enhance competency in some area of information technology:

Although this equipment is geared toward the preservation rather than any enhancement or increased productivity, I have had the unhappy experience of losing a subtitled film due to technological malfunctions beyond my control. This loss resulted in an additional 35 hours being devoted to subtitling the film again.

Describe how the success of this project will be evaluated:

We have already subtitled twenty-two films and the response from our students, other viewers, and faculty at Weber State and elsewhere has been distinctly positive. Because of the historic value and significance of the films we will subtitle and the video prologues we create, we believe this project will make a substantial contribution to Asian studies, film studies, and historical study throughout the United States in the years to come. Not incidentally, ours is the only project of its kind in the United States to receive the explicit endorsement of the China Film Artists Association.

Timeline:

This project began in May 2001 and will continue until May 2010. We have subtitled on the average nearly five films in each of the five years and currently have funds to subtitle an additional eleven films and to create seven additional video prologues.

Budget

<u>Hardware:</u>	ARCC Hemingway (Requested)	Other	
LaCie F800 hard drive array	\$1,124		
Funding for subtitled films		\$13,784	
In-kind contributions/subtitling (GSL/22 films/3 prologues)			\$8,800
TOTALS:	\$1,124	\$13,784	\$8,800