The Digital Reading Portal:

Advancing Multilingualization

through the Search Engine

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Introduction

The Digital Reading Portal directly addresses the WSIS Tunis Agenda paragraph 53. The Tunis Agenda may not recognize that **industrialized** countries have serious 'language' needs which could be addressed by better use of ICT. Industrialized countries are battling with image-based information, and the withdrawal by children and adults from the traditions of reading in their own language.

And, now, ICT is entering **developing** nations. Research estimates hundreds of languages have been lost. Others may dominate, but without adding linguistic value.

Together, the issue is: How can we give language a larger presence in this **creative digital world**? How can we give literature and books a larger presence in this world?

Why Search Engines

- UBIQUITOUS technology.

- RECOGNIZED GLOBALLY by E-GOVERNMENT officials, banks, civil society.

- BEYOND THE BIASES OF ONE STATE'S EDUCATION POLICY.

- LEISURE TIME, which exceeds classroom time 3:1. Millions of searches a day.

- COMMERCIAL MOTIVATION for multiple languages.

- LOCAL MOTIVATION is weakest, where one dominant language succeeds.

- *Question: How to connect SE's with the urgency of multilingualization? See below.*

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The Digital Reading Portal

The user types in a search term. Entries appear, and on the side of the page with the commercial ads appears a QUOAT, four lines of literature in the language chosen by the user. With another *click*, the user is through the Digital Reading Portal and more Literature and more languages pop. And this could happen millions of times a day.

Quoats

- Since the technology is proprietorial, the full capabilities are not yet known, however the technology exists. Perhaps the 'quoat' is matched to the search; as in, "Oxford University" = 'Twinkle, twinkle, little bat, How I wonder where you're at?' The nonsense poem written by Oxford professor of mathematics, Charles Dodgeson ; a.k.a., Lewis Carroll.

- Just two examples give some sense of the potential: A person in Albania, writing in French, types in 'Morocco'. The `quoat' could be from a Moroccan writer who writes in French and Moroccan Arabic (and perhaps other dialects), and clicking on the 'quoat', the user can see the 'quoat' completed in French, also in Arabic, and also in Albanian. This 'click on' or second step is very important, because the Digital Reading Portal does want to lose the user.

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Commissioning Search Engine Literature

Technology is not creative, however it is a tool for creativity. To bring all of the languages to the Internet demands enlisting the poets, writers, and artists of all ilks in a commissioning process.

Designed especially for the Digital Reading Portal, we will strive to find the soul in every language and present it on the Internet.

Next Step

- The Digital Reading Portal is taking the challenge of a multilingual Internet as an Immediate, Practical Process, using existing technology.

- In partnership with leaders in digital technology, Le CIEL Foundation has been developing a project for integrating literature with on-line habits over the last year. Now, the Digital Reading Portal welcomes interest from corporate and public sector partnerships.

- During the Ottawa Linux Conference, approximately twenty of the world's best Linux developers (including: Red Hat, EMC, HP, OSDL, IBM) signed on, expressing an interest in advancing and expanding the goals of the Digital Reading Portal's creation.

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Commercial Benefits

- The benefit of the Digital Reading Portal to its partners in technology and media is tremendous. Criticism of the digital/media industries over privacy, education, and public access is growing. Many countries are pressing for stronger privacy laws and regulations of the distribution of pornography. And, many companies have done a poor job of explaining the public benefits of digital technology.

- Digital Reading Portal helps industry highlight responsible uses of its technologies. Not only to a handful of insiders, but to a massive audience—its own audience—daily. The Digital Reading Portal recognizes and acknowledges the miracle of new technologies, and provides the missing connection between technology and literacy.

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- For additional information on Le CIEL Foundation and its programs, please go to: www.HansenPartnership.com.

- An NGO, CIEL stands for 'connect in every life' around the world.

- Christine Hansen is an international expert and leader on e-governance policies and cutting edge technologies, especially Linux and open source. She has spoken at WSIS, IFISI, and the Ottawa Linux Symposium; and contributed to many international policy papers.

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Etc.

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- Acknowledgements

    - Mark Bauerlein, Ph.D. Professor, Emory University

    - James Bottomley, Ph.D (Cantab.) Hansen Partnership

    - The Office of the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert

    - Ottawa Linux Symposium 2005 and Andrew J. Hutton

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