

# UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

**Center for Louisiana Studies: Student Research  
Stations and Scanners for the Roy House**

---

Title

**John Sharp**

---

Name of Submitter  
*(Faculty or Staff Only)*

Approved by Dean of Liberal Arts  
7/17/23



**Center for Louisiana Studies**

---

Organization

Title: Assistant Director for Research Date: 7/17/23  
Name (Contact Person): John Sharp  
Address: 1204 Johnston Street, Lafayette, LA 70503  
Phone Number: 337.482.1320 Email: johnsharp@louisiana.edu  
Department/College/Org: College of Liberal Arts

**ABSTRACT (250 words or less):**

**Research computers and large format scanners for students to use on site at UL's oldest building and South Louisiana's flagship research center: the Center for Louisiana Studies at the historic Roy House.**

The Center for Louisiana Studies seeks STEP grant funds to purchase new dedicated researcher computers and large format scanners for student use. The Center for Louisiana Studies (CLS) Archive is the premier oral history, Francophone language, and recorded music collection in Louisiana. It houses one-of-a-kind materials that document the cultures and folklife of Acadiana through folktales, legends, ballads, dance tunes, oral histories, and popular culture.

The computers that were until recently in use for students and researchers to access the CLS Archive are older, unreliable machines that are being phased out as unsupported by the UL IT team. In addition, the current three computers are shared by workers, student researchers, and visiting researchers- frequently result in there not being available machines for those who need to use them. Six computers are sought to help alleviate this problem and to host the projected surge of interest that the new, more accessible location of our offices in the Roy House.

The large-scale scanners will be new additions to the Center for Louisiana Studies, which will be placed in a public space in the Research area of the Roy House and attached to one of the new research computers. Our current smaller flatbed scanners are not adequate to scan larger photos or posters that are brought in by students and the public to be added to archival collections. Additionally, the size of is ideal for students to scan pages from our large selection of noncirculating reference books for their research.

This upgrade will enhance the student experience, providing them with access to the CLS Archive and allowing them to scan reference books for their use.

## **DESCRIPTION**

### PURPOSE OF GRANT AND IMPACT TO STUDENT BODY AS A WHOLE

The Center for Louisiana Studies was established in 1973 for the promotion of scholarly investigation into Louisiana's rich culture and heritage. Today, the Center for Louisiana Studies is made up of three complementary divisions: the Research Division, Programming and Projects, and the UL Press. The Research Division houses the world's largest collection of materials related to Cajun and Creole folklore, field recordings, oral histories, and other folklife materials. The Center for Louisiana Studies' archival holdings represent the collection and preservation activities of several generations of folklorists, historians, documentary photographers, ethnographers, linguists, and other cultural documentarians. The Programs and Special Projects Division serves as the Center for Louisiana Studies' outreach arm, facilitating research among its Center fellows, hosting community programming, and collaborating on public and research projects to preserve and promote Louisiana's cultures and peoples. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press is the world's largest academic publisher devoted exclusively to Louisiana-related works. These three components of the Center for Louisiana Studies provide a comprehensive structure for researching, publicizing, and promoting Louisiana's culture and history.

The Center for Louisiana Studies Archives is the premier oral history, Francophone audio, and recorded music collection in Louisiana. It houses one-of-a-kind materials that document the cultures and folklife of Acadiana in a variety of ways. Materials in the collection cover folktales, legends, ballads, dance tunes, oral histories, and popular culture. The CLS Archive also houses a large collection of photographs and paper materials. But those materials are in danger of being made inaccessible to students and researchers without up to date computers to access it.

The CLS Archive represents the collecting and preservation efforts of several generations of folklorists, ethnomusicologists, linguists, musicians, and other cultural resource management professionals. The creators of these collections include a veritable "who's who" of luminaries within those fields, including UL professors Barry Ancelet, Carl Brasseaux, Patricia Rickels, UL Lafayette graduates Shane Bernard, Jason Theriot and Erik Charpentier, as well as hundreds of recordings made by UL students as part of class assignments from several disciplines (history, folklore, anthropology, geography and anthropology). Moreover, the CLS Archive offers access to materials housed (but not easily accessible) at the Library of Congress, including the collections of Alan Lomax, Harry Oster, Ralph Rinzler, Andy Wiskes and Susan Crutcher. And finally, we hold collections released to us by musicians, serving as the only public access point for materials collected by Johnnie Allan, Richard "Dickie" Landry, and Tracy Schwartz. The CLS Archive also serves as the official repository of musical performances of Festivals Acadiens et Créoles and the Blackpot Festival and video recordings from the "Rendez-vous des Cajuns" show.

Recordings held by the Center for Louisiana Studies date back as far as 1929 on formats including reel-to-reel tapes, 78 and 33 rpm records, cassettes, VHS tapes, U-matic tapes, DAT tapes, plus many more obsolete formats. All of these require special skills and machines to play. Thus far, the staff of the CLS Research Department has digitized approximately 30,000 hours of analog material. Once digitized, items are made available to students and researchers through a completely searchable database that can be accessed in the CLS offices.

The Center for Louisiana Studies needs new computers to serve as student research stations in our new

location at the J. Arthur Roy House. These new machines will allow students ease of access to the materials in-house on fully functional computers. We currently receive student materials from regularly-offered courses in Modern Languages, Geography, Anthropology and the Traditional Music program. The new computers will allow students to directly digitize and catalog their materials and ensure a streamlined process for accessioning these new materials in an efficient manner, as well as research the CLS Archive. It also enhances the student experience, providing them with hands-on training in proper archival and cataloging practices.

This upgrade will benefit current students in that they will have access to dedicated research stations, rather than the old set-up of computers serving as student work stations and research stations. Their fieldwork material and other research can be deposited into the archive in a secure, stable system which will ensure accessibility for future generations of students. Such accessibility will expand the impact and utility for UL students throughout the disciplines. Business students can utilize the archives to develop culturally appropriate marketing strategies, architecture students can listen to field recordings of vernacular building methods and materials, nursing students can learn about traditional remedies and practices. These are just a few examples of how this rich collection can impact the student experience.

PROJECTED LIFETIME OF ENHANCEMENT

Computers: 3 years  
Scanners: 5-10 years

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR

IMPLEMENTATION

John Sharp will supervise purchase of all new equipment.

INSTALLATION

John Sharp, of CLS, will oversee installation with assistance from Allen LaTour, IT Support for the College of Liberal Arts, and Patrick Landry with Computing Support Services.

MAINTENANCE

John Sharp and Allen Latour will maintain the computers and scanners.

OPERATION

Day to day operations will be handled in-house by John Sharp. Access will be available to university students, staff, faculty, visiting researchers and other individuals.

TRAINING

N/A

STEP Plan Alignment

The proposed equipment will allow students access to scanning equipment and computers to access the Center for Louisiana Studies Archive for research purposes in a building where neither currently exists.

EQUIPMENT PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION

EQUIPMENT

Item/Description	Justification	Qty	Price	Total
<p><b>Dell Latitude E7250</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.3GHz Dual Core 5th Gen Intel Core i5 CPU</li> <li>• 4GB RAM</li> <li>• 128 GB SSD</li> <li>• 3-cell battery</li> <li>• Carrying case</li> <li>• Dual band wireless network interface</li> <li>• Bluetooth</li> <li>• Integrated camera</li> <li>• 3 year warranty</li> <li>• 12.5 inch touch screen (1920x1080 resolution)</li> <li>• Windows 7 Professional</li> <li>• Microsoft Office 2013 Professional</li> <li>• Sophos Security Suite</li> </ul>	<p>These computers are versatile machines for research, audio/video digitization, and longevity.</p>	6	\$1,370	\$14,538
<p>Epson Expression 12000XL Photo Scanner</p> <p>2400 resolution</p> <p>Ideal for 35mm, Medium format, and Prints.</p>	<p><b>Epson 12000XL Photo Scanner</b></p> <p>Equipped with a large 12.2 x 17.2" scanning area, this unit will accept a wide range of document types. Combine this with the included transparency unit to open the door for outstanding scanning for 35mm negatives, 35mm slides, medium format, and 4 x 5" film.</p>	2	\$4,399	\$8,798

TOTAL EQUIPMENT REQUEST

\$23,336

## Budget Proposal

---

1.    **Equipment**            **\$23,336**  
(itemized in description section)

2.    **Software**             **\$**

3.    **Supplies**             **\$**

4.    **Maintenance**        **\$**

5.    **Personnel**            **\$**

6.    **Other**                **\$**

---

**TOTAL:**                    **\$23,336.00**