

CTG Online News

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UAlbany President George M. Philip Welcomes International Group of Researchers to CTG

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President George M. Philip welcomed 15 international scholars to a workshop hosted by UAlbany's Center for Technology in Government (CTG) on October 14-15, 2009. The workshop is part of a four-year effort by CTG funded by the US National Science Foundation's Digital Government Research Program. The goal of the grant is to create a framework for a sustainable global community among digital government researchers and research sponsors.

One of the main elements of this grant is a set of International Digital Government Research Working Groups. In 2006, CTG selected three groups of international researchers to receive funding to advance digital government (DG) research on issues that cross national boundaries. The groups were chosen through a peer review of proposed research programs that would benefit from close collaboration of U.S. and international partners. U.S. participation in the groups was supported by nearly \$200,000 in travel funding over a three year period. Approximately 60 researchers from around the world have taken part in the efforts of these working groups.

For the past three years, the working groups have been exploring distinct areas of digital government such as evaluating the policy and other social impacts of online citizen consultation initiatives, developing a comparative and transnational research agenda targeted at questions about intergovernmental digital government initiatives in North America, and developing a prototype geoinformatic hotspot surveillance system.

"These projects are the vanguard of research on digital government questions of worldwide interest," said Sharon Dawes, CTG senior fellow and principal investigator for the grant. "The working groups involve both seasoned researchers and young scholars in long-term efforts to understand and solve information-intensive problems that cross countries and cultures. This workshop will help us identify successful research strategies and practices that can be adopted in similar projects around the world."

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The workshop is designed by CTG to gather key members from all three working groups to share their insights and expertise on conducting international research and cultivating international research partnerships. As a result of their participation in this workshop, CTG will develop a report to support NSF and others going forward in international digital government research.

Researchers from the three working groups attending the workshop are from the following institutions, in addition to UAlbany: Ohio State University, De Montfort University (UK), George Washington University, University of New Jersey at Newark, Universidad de las Americas Puebla (Mexico), Clark University, Fudan University (China), Pennsylvania State University, Moolji Jaitha College (India), CEFRIO (Canada), Kolhapur Municipal Corporation (India), and the New York State Department of Health.

Related links:

- UAlbany's Center for Technology in Government Receives \$1 Million to Create International Digital Government Research Community (Oct 2005)
- UAlbany's Center for Technology in Government Announces Selection of Four International Working Groups on Digital Government Research (Dec 2006)
- CTG co-chairs North American Digital Government Working Group meeting in Chulula, Mexico (Dec 2007)
- International Working Group on "Online Consultation and Public Policy Making" Meets in Boston (Apr 2007)