

## Lab 5 (3/4 hour): Customizing the home page and interface; exporting to CD-ROM

### Part I – Manipulating macro files

*In this part of the lab we use the Windows file manager (double click on **My Computer** to initiate) to move, copy and rename files. We also use **WordPad** to edit text-based configuration files, though other applications such as **NotePad** are equally suitable.*

*Make your own Greenstone home page:*

1. Use the file manager to open the Greenstone *etc* folder:

My Computer → Local Disk (C:) → Program Files → gsdl → etc

2. Locate the file *main.cfg* and **right-click** it. Select **WordPad** as the application to **open it with**.

The Windows operating system normally suppresses the content of the *Program Files* folder. The first time you enter this folder a system alert may ask whether you wish to proceed.

3. In WordPad, locate this part of the *main.cfg* file:

```
macrofiles    tip.dm style.dm base.dm query.dm help.dm pref.dm about.dm \
              document.dm browse.dm status.dm authen.dm users.dm html.dm \
              extlink.dm gsdl.dm \
              english.dm english2.dm \
              french.dm french2.dm \
              spanish.dm spanish2.dm \
              russian.dm russian2.dm \
              home.dm collect.dm docs.dm bsummary.dm \
              translang.dm garish.dm
```

It's about 1/3rd of the way through. (If it helps, use the edit→find feature to search for something like 'macrofiles'.) Change the text **home.dm** to **yourhome.dm**. Save the file (File→Save or Ctrl-S) and quit WordPad.

4. If you have Greenstone or the Librarian Interface running, quit both.
5. Now launch the Greenstone Digital Library afresh and view the newly structured home page for the collection.

*We now change the background image used:*

6. Using the Windows file manager, open:

My Computer → GSDL Fiji → test\_files → gsdl\_extra

then open another window that shows the files in:

My Computer → Local Disk (C:) → Program Files → gsdl → images

Drag *usp\_background.gif* from the *gsdl\_extra* folder and drop it into *images*.

7. Use the file manager to open the folder:

My Computer → Local Disk (C:) → Program Files → gsdl → macros

8. Locate the file *base.dm* and **right-click** on it. Select **WordPad** as the application to **open it with**.

9. In WordPad, locate this part of the *base.dm* file:

```
_httpiconchalk_ {_httpimg_/chalk.gif}  
_widthchalk_ {2000}  
_heightchalk_ {10}.
```

It's about 2/3rds of the way through. (If it helps, use edit→find to search for 'chalk'.) Use copy and paste on these three lines to make this part of the file look like:

```
# Original statements  
#_httpiconchalk_ {_httpimg_/chalk.gif}  
#_widthchalk_ {2000}  
#_heightchalk_ {10}  
  
_httpiconchalk_ {_httpimg_/usp_background.gif}  
_widthchalk_ {1600}  
_heightchalk_ {70}
```

A hash (#) at the start of line signals a comment, and Greenstone ignores the following text. We use this to 'comment out' the original three statements and replace them with modified lines. It is useful to retain the original version in case we need to restore the original file at a later date. These three lines relate to the background image used.

10. Within **WordPad**, save *base.dm*.

11. Quit Greenstone and the Librarian Interface; then re-launch it. Preview the home page. The page background is now the new graphic.

Other features can be altered by editing the macro files—for example, the headers and footers used on each page, and the highlighting style used for search terms (specify a different colour, use bold etc.).

12. Now reverse the changes you have made. Restore the default home page by changing *yourhome.dm* in *etc* → *main.cfg* back to *home.dm*, delete the three lines added in *macros* → *base.dm*, and restore the three lines you commented out.

## Part II – Exporting to CD-ROM

*We now create a CD-ROM for you to take away of one of your collections:*

1. First decide which collection you want to **export** to CD-ROM. A good candidate is the “tourism” collection you developed during the extra work sections. If you don’t have a collection of your own, use something like tudorX as a substitute.
2. Launch the Greenstone Librarian Interface (GLI) if it is not already running.
3. Choose File → Export to CDROM. In the resulting popup window select the collection you wish to export, then click <**export**>.

The necessary files for export are written to:

My Computer → Local Disk (C:) → Program  
Files → gsdl → tmp → exported\_tudorX

[Note: if you want, you can export several collections together.]

## Part III – Extra work

1. Brand your Greenstone Digital Library by designing your own background image that incorporates your institution’s logo. You may need to use an image editor such as PhotoShop to compose the necessary graphic.

[Note: Most browsers can save images locally by right-clicking on any image that appears within a web page.]

2. If you haven’t had time to develop your own collection of tourist information, pass through the extra work sections of labs 1–4 and work on the items described there for “tourism” collections.
3. Enhance your “tourism” collection with bibliographic data such as MARC records exported from the U.S. Library of Congress catalog (<http://catalog.loc.gov>).
4. Put all the separate tourism collections together into one collection. To make it look good you will have to make substantial use of format statements to control how browsing, searching and the documents themselves are presented.