



For Immediate Release

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From Denver to Dhaka; Restoring Our Data Legacy

(Data Recovery Laboratory to be created for the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics by Long Island's "Raiders of the Lost Archives")

MANHASSET, NY —May 2008 – The National Science Foundation and the University of Minnesota have selected Muller Media Conversions (MMC) to create a Data Recovery Laboratory for the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) in Dhaka.

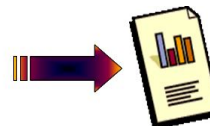
The initial goal is to extract census microdata from about 300 reels of nine-track tape created in the 1970's and 80's. Tapes of that age will often require special cleaning procedures as well as the ability to adapt to a wide variety of file formats. This information will be added to the public-use microdata maintained by IPUMS (see www.ipums.org) - called by the Journal of American History "one of the great archival projects of the past two decades". After the microdata tapes have been processed, the BBS staff, trained by MMC, will continue to use the facility to process several thousand other tapes of interest to Bangladesh government and academic experts.

A similar operation was set up recently by MMC for the U.S. Dept. of the Interior at the Denver Federal Center in order to process about 9,000 IBM cartridges. This was the result of a court order based on a Native American tribes' lawsuit demanding an accounting of revenues due for mineral rights and other matters over many decades. In that case, MMC provided all project operations as well as software, equipment and supplies.

Much of the software used by MMC in Denver, Dhaka and many other places is based on packages originally written by them for the U.S. National Archives. Using and enhancing the software in their Long Island service bureau helps the company to see things from a user's perspective.

The Alexandria Connection: At a workshop for official statisticians from 34 countries, one of the presenters was Chris Muller, president of MMC. In a nutshell, his talk likened the world's older digital assets to the great Library of Alexandria. While over the centuries, people with various axes to grind have blamed it's disappearance on Romans, Christians or Muslims, most historians believe that it basically withered away due to lack of attention.

"Humans have always had the problem of translating languages, but we had two things going for us: (a) much of it was written on lasting material, and (b) we could see what needed to be read. With digital data, we have lost both of those former advantages. If only our magnetic media would last as long as these hieroglyphs... If only we could read the information on them without special equipment and software... But then, I'd be out of a job!"



Data recovery and conversion can be driven by the need for compliance, migration, litigation, research and so forth. Whatever the need, The "Raiders of the Lost Archives" would be happy to help. The company website is www.mullermedia.com.