

# ORACUL

ORGANIZATION FOR THE RESEARCH OF ANCIENT CULTURES

**ORACUL** (Organization for the Research of Ancient Cultures) is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to the scientific study of civilization's origins. Through research advocacy, publishing, and educational outreach, ORACUL strives to advance humanity's knowledge about its distant past, and to communicate that knowledge to the public.

## Background

The scientific debate surrounding the origins of human civilization is far from settled. Historically, the study of mankind's remote past has been dominated by researchers and personalities associated primarily with the social sciences – e.g., archaeologists, anthropologists, Egyptologists, and historians. Beginning in the latter part of the 20th century, independent research by scholars and professionals in the hard sciences (geologists, engineers, acousticians, astronomers, etc.) had begun to challenge the accepted narrative of civilization's beginnings. Today, these researchers have accumulated a large body of evidence, from a myriad of fields, which argues convincingly for a revision of that narrative – pushing back the timeline for advanced culture by thousands of years.

Because of opposition from various orthodox scholars among the social sciences (many of them well funded by academic institutions and reluctant to consider evidence that challenges the status quo) serious scientists and professionals who attempt to bring this contrary evidence to the attention of both the scholarly community and the general public are often handicapped by a lack of funding, publicity, and professional networking.

The result? Important, breakthrough research related to ancient cultures is ignored and languishes in relative obscurity. ORACUL works to bring this existing research to the attention of both the academic community and the public, as well as to conduct new investigations into ancient cultures. This pioneering research is interdisciplinary in nature, bringing to bear the underutilized expertise of academics and professionals in the hard sciences. The organization will accomplish this goal by focusing on three primary areas of activity: Research Advocacy, Publishing, and Educational Outreach.

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C/O ROBERT M. SCHOCH, PH.D. & CATHERINE ULISSEY  
516 GREEN STREET #4D, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139  
EMAILS: RMSCHOCH@AOL.COM & CULISSEY@GMAIL.COM  
WWW.ORACULONLINE.ORG

# **Primary Activities of ORACUL**

(Organization for the Research of Ancient Cultures)

## **Research Advocacy**

### **1. ORACUL Network**

ORACUL will use modern computer and mobile technology to foster communication, collaboration, and cooperation between scientists and professionals whose fields are relevant to the study of ancient cultures.

Using ORACUL resources and volunteer staff, we are creating an online social community (analogous to social media such as Facebook) that will facilitate the networking of scientists and professionals, not only with each other, but with the public as well. We call this the ORACUL Network. The network will be accessible via the ORACUL website, and will allow members to:

- 1) Provide instant public updates about new research in their field that is relevant to the study of ancient cultures.
- 2) Network, share ideas, and instigate group discussions with other academics and professionals in their specific fields.
- 3) Access contact information, credentials, and other relevant information voluntarily provided by professional and academic members of the Network. This will encourage and streamline the process of interdisciplinary collaboration advocated by ORACUL.
- 4) Share photos and videos of research, stimulating public interest in ancient cultures.
- 5) Create a dialogue and forum between academics and professionals, and the interested public.

Each field (geology, seismology, climatology, astronomy, chemistry, biology, geography, archaeology, anthropology, hydrology, photography, linguistics, etc.) will have its own section of the network, making it easy for both professional members and the public to obtain relevant information about the study of ancient cultures from those fields.

In addition, the ORACUL Network will maintain a section specifically for graduate students in fields pertinent to the study of ancient cultures. Graduate students and their academic advisors are often looking for opportunities to engage in “for credit” field research, and the ORACUL Network can provide a nexus enabling graduate

students on the one hand, and researchers with projects that need personnel on the other hand, to find each other.

By providing a free networking and informational resource for academics, professionals, and members of the public interested in the study of ancient cultures, ORACUL is educating the public on subjects beneficial to individuals and useful to the community.

## **2. Field Research**

The ORACUL Network of scientists, professionals, and volunteers will be called upon to provide support, consulting services, and technical knowledge for ORACUL's Field Research projects. These projects will be developed by the ORACUL Board of Directors and their execution overseen by a qualified Field Research Director to be appointed by the Board.

Ancient sites, both on land and below the water, will be selected based on their relevancy to ORACUL's stated mission. A small ORACUL expedition team will first visit the site for a non-invasive survey. If the site is determined to be of interest after the initial survey, the ORACUL board, in conjunction with relevant professional and/or academic members of the ORACUL Network, will develop a detailed field research plan. On-site research is coordinated and overseen by a Field Research Director, and includes, but is not limited to, ground surveys, analysis of geophysical layout, astronomical alignments, archaeological excavations, sample analyses, and so on.

After research in the field is completed, detailed written reports and analyses of the research will be compiled by the Field Research Director and members of the ORACUL Network involved in the particular project. This research will be made available to the public through publication on both the ORACUL website, and through printed publications such as books, reports, and scientific journals. As appropriate, videos and documentaries (of a quality suitable for television airing) will also be produced and distributed.

## **3. Programs for Volunteers**

At times, per the discretion of the Board of Directors, we will provide volunteer opportunities for on-site involvement during Field Research projects. Activities that volunteers may participate in will include educational opportunities concerning topics such as ancient history, archaeo-astronomy, building techniques, dating methods, geology, and other disciplines relevant to the study of ancient cultures. Volunteers may also be provided the opportunity for supervised involvement in on-site work such as excavation, surveys, field and laboratory analyses, and so on.

Through its Field Research projects aimed at uncovering new facts about ancient cultures, and its field programs for volunteers, ORACUL will engage in scientific research directed toward benefiting the public, as well as engaging in the training of individuals for the purpose of developing and improving their capabilities.

Around 60% of ORACUL's activities are expected to relate to Research Advocacy.

## **Publishing**

E-readers like Kindle, Nook, and other tablet devices are revolutionizing the distribution of cutting-edge research and information. ORACUL will create an electronic publishing house to utilize this technology, publishing written material related to the study of ancient cultures. The focus of our publishing activities will be twofold:

1. Facilitate the translation into English of non-English works by established scholarly researchers into ancient cultures. Many such existing works are only available in the author's native language (Turkish, Japanese, French, Germany, Italian, Arabic, etc.), meaning the information is not readily available to a worldwide audience.

ORACUL will seek to acquire the English-language publishing rights to these works, making them widely available to the public for the first time.

ORACUL's Board of Directors, as well as a diverse Board of Advisors consisting of academics, researchers, and professionals from a myriad of fields, will develop a set of criteria which these published researchers must meet, potentially including, but not limited to, affiliation with a college or university, previous publication in scientific journals, length of time in the field, etc. The Boards will determine if the English language publishing rights to the author's work are available, and will appoint a Director of Publishing to approach the author with an offer of agreement whereby:

ORACUL acquires the English language copyright and distribution rights for the author's work.

ORACUL facilitates the English translation of said works, utilizing both qualified volunteers from the ORACUL Network, and paid translators if necessary.

ORACUL publishes the works in e-book format, making them available for purchase to a wide audience for reasonable, even discounted, prices. Books will be made available for purchase on both the ORACUL website, and through major e-book distributors such as Kindle and Nook.

Authors will receive 50% of net revenue from all sales of e-books, and ORACUL will receive the remaining 50%.

2. ORACUL will publish the work of serious independent researchers who are laboring outside the mainstream academic community, and who would otherwise receive little support for their work. ORACUL's Board of Directors will develop an application process, and a set of criteria, which these researchers must meet (i.e., quality benchmarks for research and scholarship).

The Director of Publishing will oversee applications and author relations, and each approved author will receive the same 50/50 publishing offer as outlined above.

By publishing works related to the study of ancient cultures, and making them widely available to members of the public at a reasonable and discounted pricing scheme, ORACUL is educating the public on subjects beneficial to individuals and useful to the community.

Around 20% of ORACUL's activities are expected to be in the area of publishing.

## **Educational Outreach**

Raising public awareness of past and present research related to ancient cultures is of paramount importance to ORACUL, and will be an ongoing activity. Reaching out to and educating the public will be accomplished in three primary ways:

### **1. ORACUL Website "MOOCs" Page**

The ORACUL website will provide the public with the opportunity to participate in MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses), free of charge. MOOC content will be accessible via the ORACUL website, and may include, but will not be limited to:

Video presentations by scholars and researchers, both live via Skype or similar services, and prerecorded.

Written material, downloadable in PDF and other formats.

Interactive forums, relevant to each presentation.

The ORACUL Board of Directors and Board of Advisors will develop a set of criteria (i.e. quality benchmarks for research and scholarship), which all presenters must meet. The Board will then invite qualified researchers, scholars, professionals, or authors to create a MOOC. Presenters will volunteer their services, or may be paid a reasonable fee.

## **2. Live Educational Events and Workshops**

ORACUL will organize live educational events and workshops open to the public, with speakers and presentations relating to the subject of ancient civilizations and cultures. These events may include, but will not be limited to:

- Live Media Interviews
- Webcast Events
- Conferences and Symposia
- Speaking Engagements

The ORACUL Board of Directors will develop these events, and will appoint a Director of Community Outreach to coordinate and execute the events. Members of the public may be charged a reasonable fee to attend these events and workshops, although some events and workshops may be free of charge.

## **3. Multimedia**

It is our goal to foster awareness through every medium possible, and this does not exclude videos, documentaries, and photographs of our activities, projects, programs and field research. By documenting and reporting our efforts we intend to broaden our outreach. By offering educational materials, events, and workshops, ORACUL is educating the public on subjects useful to individuals and beneficial to the community.

Around 20% of ORACUL's activities are expected to be related to Educational Outreach.

# Initial Development Strategy for ORACUL

## Year 1

- Team Building
  - Board
    - 8-person board
    - Interdisciplinary
      - Archaeologist / Historian / Pre-historian
      - Geologist
      - Lawyer
      - Marketing Expert
      - Technologist / Website Developer
      - Engineer / Materials Specialist
      - Publicist
      - Mathematician / Physicist
    - Advisory Board of people in the field and "industry" well-known to the public
  - Executive
    - Executive Director
    - 10 hrs / week - \$12,000 / year salary (\$23/hr.)
    - First two months (80 hrs), research and top-level organizational plan
      - Strategy and Structure
      - Resource acquisition and allocation
      - Modeling after other successful organizations
  - Volunteer
    - Volunteer leader for each distinct department, including website development
    - Leaders report to Executive Director
    - Department leaders recruit volunteers
- Fundraising
  - Publicity
    - Marketing and Advertising (examples below)
      - Facebook ads
      - Promotional banners on relevant websites
      - Google Image ads
    - Video
      - Introductory video for ORACUL website
      - YouTube presence on branded ORACUL channel

- Networking
  - "Inner Circle" of key individual donors
  - Build outward from key donors
- Grants
  - Private
  - Government
  - Utilization of experts in grant writing
- Corporate Sponsors
  - Research and approach contacts within relevant companies
    - Travel / Adventure outfitters
    - Communication device manufacturers
    - Software companies
- Efficient Operations
  - Legal
    - Online Media Legal Network [digital publishing]
    - In-person and online legal assistance (e.g., Rocket Lawyer)
  - Accounting
    - Dedicated online accountant
    - Mobile apps for expense records in the field
  - Internal Communications
    - Skype
    - Smart phones
    - Cloud storage for documents, pictures, video
    - Electronic signature service

## Year 2

- Field Research – Project to be decided, depending on funds, permissions, logistics and so on; possibilities include:
  - Easter Island
  - Hawara (Egypt) Labyrinth
  - Chamber under the Great Sphinx of Egypt
- Publishing
  - Establishment of Digital and Print Publication Outlet
  - Republication (digital and print formats) of materials long out of print and no longer available to academics or the public
  - Acquisition of English-language rights and translations into English of foreign-language works
  - Publication of original scholarly works by serious researchers

- Publication of proceedings of conferences and symposia organized by ORACUL
- Educational Outreach
  - Conference
  - Enhancement and continuing development of ORACUL website
  - Digital Networking of Professionals and Public (The “ORACUL Network”)
  - Educational trips to ancient sites for the general public

## Estimated initial funds needed for Year 1

Part-time salary for Executive Director:	\$12,000
Information Technology Consulting:	\$4,000
Legal and Grant Consulting Fees and Filings:	\$6,000
Advertising:	\$4,000
Computer and Video Hardware and Software:	\$7,000
Internet Fees, Domain Registration, Remote connectivity:	\$2,000
Office Supplies (Stationary, etc.):	\$1,500
Insurance:	\$3,000
Purchase of books and other resources:	\$4,000
Travel Budget:	\$5,000
Cell Phone Plan:	\$1,500
Postage:	\$500
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$50,500</b>
Miscellaneous / 15% Contingency:	\$7,575
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<b>Total estimated funds for Year 1:</b>	<b>\$58,075</b>

## Estimated funds needed for Year 2

Approximately \$50,000 along the same lines as summarized immediately above for Year 1.

Easter Island Project, as initial research project undertaken by ORACUL (see separate attachment): Estimated at \$496,110.

## Estimated funds needed for Years 1 and 2

**Total of above (\$58,075, \$50,000, \$496,110): \$604,185 – Rounded to \$604,000**

# ORACUL Field Project

## Easter Island

### *Purpose*

To study anomalies in the current chronological account of the Moai (giant stone sculptures) on Easter Island. The currently accepted dates for their carving and erection are no earlier than 1200 to 1500 years ago. Specific reasons to question these dates include:

- Sedimentation rates around the Moai (up to 6 meters of sediment caused by natural, gradual accumulation) suggest that many of the monuments are much older than currently believed.
- Quarries for the Moai carved from basaltic rock have never been identified, despite the island's small size and remote location in the Pacific.
- Many of these basaltic Moai are found underneath other Moai, suggesting a much older age.
- Basaltic rock is much harder to carve; it has never been satisfactorily explained how this was done with so-called "primitive" tools and techniques.
- Eyewitness accounts of marine biologists diving in the coastal areas have identified what seem to be rectangular, man-made quarries under the water. These accounts tally with local eyewitness accounts. Submerged quarries would indicate extreme age.
- Indigenous traditions recount that the island was inhabited and colonized much, much earlier than the currently accepted dates.

### *Procedures*

Field research on the island will be conducted in three distinct stages:

#### Stage 1 – Land Survey

- Initial team of four to six people will conduct a GPS survey of coastal areas and interior regions of the island that are devoid of roads and difficult to reach. Maps will be created of areas of interest to the study.

- Initial and non-invasive analysis will be undertaken of the erosion, sedimentation, and stratigraphy around the Moai found in these less accessible areas.
- Interviews will be conducted with local residents regarding indigenous legends.

### Stage 2 – Research and Analysis

- Application to local government officials for permission to collect samples and conduct excavations.
- Deployment of surveying equipment and ground penetrating radar in areas of interest identified in Stage 1.
- Excavation around selected Moai and other areas of the island conducted by 12-person team of local laborers, supervised by Field Research Director.
- Soil and rock samples collected from exposed layers.
- Samples sent to university and private labs for analysis of pollen, radiocarbon dating of organic materials, isotopic analysis, etc. This analysis will determine actual dates of soil layers found around the Moai.

### Stage 3 – Underwater Surveying

- Diving will be undertaken around coastal areas to identify and map locations of any anomalous submerged quarries.
- Evidence will be documented through photos and film for analysis.

### ***Approximate Cost***

Governmental applications and paperwork fees - \$4,000

Airfare back and forth to Easter Island during the project - \$54,000

Lodging and meals for initial 4- to 6-member survey team for two weeks - \$16,000

Transportation around the island for initial 4- to 6-member survey team - \$5,000

Daily wage for local workers during Stage 2 excavations - \$25 per hour x 8 hours per day x 21 days x 12 persons = \$50,400

Rental of GPR and surveying equipment (daily rate, including fee for operator) - \$8,000 per day x 10 days = \$80,000

Lab and analysis fees for recovered samples – 30 samples x \$500 per sample = \$15,000

Boat rental for Stage 3 surveying (daily rate, including captain's fee) - 3 small boats x 1000 per day per boat x 10 days = \$30,000

Lodging, meals, and transportation for crew during Stages 2 and 3: \$42,000

Underwater photography and film equipment rental and insurance (daily rate, including divers) - \$6000 per day x 10 days = \$60,000

Videographer and small film crew: 3 people x \$5,000 a week per person x 5 weeks = \$75,000

Total of above: \$431,400

15% contingency: \$64,710

Grand Total: \$496,110

### ***Results of Research***

All results from the research project will be made available to the public. Any artifacts, etc., recovered will be turned over to the Easter Island Museum for their collections and public display. Research will be published in appropriate scientific journals, such as *Geoarchaeology*, *Current Anthropology*, etc., and also possibly as a standalone monograph or book. In addition, results of research will be shared with the news media through press releases and press conferences, as well as published on the ORACUL website. Ultimately, the film footage will be turned into a documentary for television airing and subsequent distribution via DVD, downloads from the Internet, and other avenues.