

Digital Library Program
ILS Z652 Project Proposal Form

Submit the complete project proposal through Canvas

Your Name: Siobhain Rivera

Project Name: *Jumeoni* : A Digital Library of Expat Life in Seoul

1. Your final project will be a: digital collection.
2. Please describe your project.

My project will be a digital library documenting the experiences of expats living in Seoul, South Korea. It will be built with Drupal and will contain a variety of media documenting life as a foreigner in the city. The first materials in the collection will be contributed by myself and people I know, but I hope to set up the site to allow people to submit their materials as well.

3. Describe the significance of this project to scholarly community and the wider public. Will this complement or enhance other digital resources (provide titles and links for related resources)?

This project would be useful for scholars studying South Korea, particularly those who are interested in perceptions of the culture by outsiders. In addition, it would be a learning resource for people who are interested in what life is like in Seoul. Both people who have lived in Korea and people who have not would be able to find interesting snippets of life that would amuse them or teach them about Korean culture.

People who move abroad frequently keep blogs, and some of them become quite popular. Also popular are forums where people can share their stories (and rants). However, there isn't a portal or library devoted to expat life, and that is what I would like to create.

Some popular sites devoted to Korean expat life:

<http://kimchibytes.com/> : A site devoted to news, stories and art about expat life.

<http://zenkimchi.com/> : An internationally-famous Korean food blog that has been around since 2004.

<http://kikinitinkorea.tumblr.com/> : A submission based-blog about life in Korea full of gifs with funny captions.

<http://www.eatyourkimchi.com/> : A site with a variety of 'life in Korea' sections, mostly famous for their YouTube videos.

<http://www.myseoulsearching.com/> : One of the best expat blogs with a wide variety of information including travel and pop culture.

4. Describe current and potential users and audiences and two or more use-case scenarios.

Use case 1: Expatriates tend to occupy a middle ground (living in a culture that they are not technically a part of) that would be intriguing to scholars, particularly anthropologists. Scholars would find *Jumeoni* to be a resource documenting life in Seoul, as well as information about the city in general. Photographs, video, and sound clips would offer glimpses of the city and its inhabitants, while stories and interviews with contributors would show a more personal perspective of how foreigners live in Seoul, and how they view the Korean culture around them.

Use case 2: People are frequently interested in how others live, particularly in other parts of the world that they themselves have never been to. *Jumeoni* would serve an educational purpose, as well as be an entertaining and intriguing account of life in Seoul. In addition, it would be a resource for helping people who are considering traveling or moving to Korea to learn about life there before they arrive.

5. Describe types of materials to be digitized and number of each (i.e.: 12 letters with a total of 29 pages, 50 black and white photographs). Include format, condition, and any special handling requirements.

All materials for this project will be born digital, but will need to be standardized for web viewing. Since materials will be user-contributed, there will be a variety of formats and quality levels. Once initial materials have been collected and analyzed, a list of standards will be developed for project materials. Since the materials will only be made available for access, there is no need for them to be extremely high quality; the standards will be focused on mid-range level quality (i.e, images may not be professionally taken, sound recordings may have background noise, etc.).

Initial materials for the project will include (more may be added if time permits):

- 5-10 audio recordings
- ~25 images
- 5-10 text files
- 5-10 video recordings

Since much of the focus will be on building the prototype of the library structure, the initial materials are limited.

6. Do you have any existing descriptive information that could be used for searching these materials? In what form does this descriptive information exist (on paper, in a Word document, in an Excel file, etc.)

Current descriptive information for these files is limited to timestamps on the files, and contributors' knowledge of the materials. However, this information will need to

be consolidated and expanded when metadata files for the project are created. The metadata files will use the Dublin Core schema.

7. How do you envision people accessing your materials (e.g., generic web site, Omeka collection)? Provide titles and links for similar projects that you might use as models for your own.

People will access the materials from a website powered by Drupal, which I will build.

Related / Inspirational Links:

- Love and Devotion: From Persia and Beyond, an exhibit of the Bodleian Library. <http://exhibitions.slv.vic.gov.au/love-and-devotion>
- National Library of Australia Treasure Explorer. <http://treasure-explorer.nla.gov.au/explore/treasures>
- MD.Foto (<http://demo.megadrupal.com/md-foto?theme=md-foto>) and Andromeda (<https://www.drupal.org/project/andromeda>) have given me layout ideas for the project.
- Dordrechts Museum shows the kinds of interactivity/responsiveness that I would like this project to have: <http://www.dordrechtmuseum.nl/#>

8. Describe the contribution you intend to make by building this digital collection. Do you have any special knowledge, experience, or interest in these materials that will aid you in developing the digital collection.

I spent my formative adult years living in Seoul; it was the first place I lived on my own after college, and I was there for four years. I hope that this project will provide a platform to not only share my experiences as an expat, but also encourage others to contribute their memories, as a way of documenting life in a particular time and place among a particular subset of people. I've been collecting materials that would be appropriate for this project for years, and I feel that this project will be a chance to both use and stretch my librarianship skills by curating both my own and others' collections.

9. Discuss any potential problems, limitations, or other concerns you may have about successfully completing this project.

There are several potential limitations about this project that I am concerned about:

- While I have built with Drupal before, I am still very much a novice when it comes to the platform. This project will build my skills further (which is why I chose to use Drupal), but I am concerned that I will have trouble executing the project as I see in it my head with my limited skills, which would be disappointing.
- I have a sufficient amount of materials for the initial collection, but I would really like to see this project grow into something that others contribute to. Sustainability is a major issue with many digital projects,

and this one in particular, since it would be user-contributed. This may make it complex to manage, so I may need to reconsider how long-term this project will be, and adjust my expectations for it accordingly; I would not want to ask people to spend time and energy contributing to a project that falls into oblivion and obscurity. Currently, my plan is to build a prototype of the project, and then consider whether I am able to continue maintaining it before inviting others to contribute to the project.

- Because these materials are not being pulled from an already-assembled scholarly collection, it's difficult to know if anyone will actually be interested in accessing or using them. There is such a vast amount of information available that I wonder how I can make my project stand out. I think it's an interesting idea for a collection, but I've been mistaken before.

10. Copyright Status

Please refer to the Copyright Management Center at <http://www.copyright.iupui.edu/quickguide.htm> for information to help you determine the copyright status of your materials. Below, please explain your understanding of the copyright status of the material.

Public domain

Owned and controlled by you

Owned by someone else, but permission secured

Situation unknown or unclear

Copyright explanation:

For this initial stage of the project, all materials will be from my own collections, and therefore owned and controlled by me. There may be some items that are contributed by close friends of mine, but I will make sure to obtain permission for the materials before they are included in the final project. I'm currently considering releasing the project under a Creative Commons license, but I will need to do more research to see if that would be the best option.

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