

Seeking Project Proposals for Web Application *Project Designer*

1. PROJECT SUMMARY

The University of Mississippi's Information Literacy Committee is seeking Project Proposals to create a Drupal 7 web application with the capability to build decision tree modules (like, or based on the Skill Compass distribution). **In the spirit of open source for educational purposes, the University of Mississippi will allow the application to be made available as a distribution on Drupal.org.**

Project Designer is a new web application that will guide students through the decisions necessary to produce quality multimodal projects, or projects that involve one or more modes of communication. Some examples of common multimodal projects include: podcasts, web sites, videos, posters, photo essays, playlists, pamphlets, slide show presentations, audio recordings, still images, and PDFs.

The system is based on the concept of a decision tree interactively guiding students with several possible entry points. For example, in Use Case scenario A the student enters *Project Designer* with a pre-determined method of delivery. Whether a student enters the system with a pre-determined time constraint, purpose, audience or method of delivery, he or she would ultimately be guided through the same elements of the decision trees. The system should allow a student to enter the system with the ability to explore the possibilities of multimodal media, audience, purpose, and project management.

Assessment of student learning outcomes will be integrated into *Project Designer* and students will be able to save their progress on their projects. Potential learning outcomes include:

- Develop effective multimodal projects that enhance written and oral communication;
- Select a medium and format that supports the purposes of the project and engage the intended audience;
- Identify a range of technology applications appropriate for creating the project;
- Recognize design elements that support the purposes of the project and engage the intended audience.

2. BUDGET & COST ESTIMATES

- The total budget for this project is \$25,000.
- We are also interested in negotiating ongoing maintenance including updates and patches.

3. ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

The University of Mississippi (UM) is a public, research extensive, comprehensive doctoral degree granting institution with its main campus at Oxford, MS and 3 branch campuses. UM has ten academic divisions; the College of Liberal Arts; the Schools of Law, Engineering, Education, Pharmacy, Business Administration, Journalism and New Media, Accountancy, Applied Sciences; and the Graduate School. The UM enrollment has shown steady growth over the past decade

and is approximately 16,000 students. The University employs 779 full-time and 142 part-time instructional faculty. The Information Literacy Committee seeks to address the needs of all students through this project.

The Information Literacy Committee advises the General Education Committee and the Dean of Libraries in the implementation of the national Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education (ALA, 2000). The Committee:

- Facilitates the implementation of information literacy standards into the curriculum;
- Provides faculty and staff with learning opportunities and materials that will support the incorporation of information literacy into library instruction programs and the university curriculum;
- Makes use of online resources to further faculty, staff, and student learning;
- Provides an assessment of student learning of information literacy skills.

4. AUDIENCE

- The primary defined groups of users are University of Mississippi students, from first-year students through graduate students. See use case studies A-D in attachments.
- The secondary audience is the faculty and staff at the University of Mississippi.

5. DESIGN DELIVERABLES

- Initial design that shows interfaces and workflows.
- Show reporting views:
 - Administrative application access: must have ability to run reports based on user input and output measures and the metadata associated with users.
 - Web analytics.
- UM needs to sign off before development begins.

6. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

Tools and Functionalities

Four process stages and 3 supplementary modules which:

- Collect information based on user input (both static information and guided information).
- Allow a user to enter the system from multiple starting places; dynamically adjusts the decision tree to match the user's starting place.
- Must be able to link to content external to the application.
- Generate a dynamic "Project-at-a-Glance" page, exportable in several formats. The Project-at-a-Glance page will be dynamic and can format My Project into several prebuilt ways, such as a checklist, a project summary, and/or a proposal.
- For the quiz: a repository of question pool and answers; a repository to store answer responses.
- The ability to store user sessions so users can resume where they left off during their last visit.

Other Technical Requirements

- The application needs to be developed to run on existing platforms hosted by UM (Apache, Tomcat, PHP, MySQL).

- *Project Designer* will be hosted on University of Mississippi servers.
- The University of Mississippi must have full access to site code.
- Logins will be required using the existing LDAP at the University of Mississippi; the developer will be responsible for creating a compatible system in order to install the software on UM systems in tandem with UM IT personnel.
- There will be a separate interface for *Project Designer* administrators to gather data, update links, and add content.
- Web site, database and applications must be ADA compliant. Website must meet WCAG 2.0 Level AA Standards.
- A working website that meets the project requirements as defined in this document.
- The Design Deliverables can be modified by written agreement between parties.

STAFF RESOURCES

- Point of contact: Information Literacy Librarian.
- Graduate assistant with the responsibility of editing and inserting content; a third party will likely manage technology maintenance.

7. PROPOSED TIMELINE:

- Proposals due: December 6, 2013
- Proposal award date: 4-6 weeks after due date.

8. SUBMISSION PREPARATION

Proposals will be received on or before December 6, 2013 by 5:00 pm CDT. Faxed responses will not be accepted. You may email files to aegibson.lib@gmail.com or post the proposal in a sealed container to the following address:

The University of Mississippi
 JD Williams Library
 Attn: Amy E. Gibson – Proposal # 1729
 1 Library Loop
 University of Mississippi
 University, MS 38677

Proposal # 1729 must be referenced on all proposals, correspondence, and documentation relating to this proposal.

Any inquiry regarding the actual submittal or delivery of the proposal document should be directed to Dr. Amy Gibson, Head of Instruction, Information Literacy Librarian & Professor by e-mail: aegibson.lib@gmail.com

The individual signing the response must be an authorized agent of the vendor. Vendors are responsible for examining all specifications, terms, conditions, and instructions in the proposal.

A standard letter introducing your company must accompany all proposals. This letter must be on the vendor's letterhead, signed by an authorized officer or partner of the submitting firm. The title of the

individual signing the proposal and the correct firm name must be included with the signature. We will accept a PDF scanned copy in color. The letter must contain the following information:

- Statement of why the company is interested in the project;
- Statement describing the basis upon which the vendor is qualified to address UM's requirements as outlined in this proposal and a timeline;
- Fee structure for consulting services associated with ongoing maintenance including updates and patches;
- The name of a primary contact person and telephone number;
- Preferred: the Drupal.org user profile and URLs of the vendor's developers.

9. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Experience of developer and development team;
- Interview and discussion with the proposing team via Skype;
- Potential to impact the users of the application and a future wider audience;
- Ability to meet minimum functionality expectations;
- Total cost;
- Scalability to accommodate future growth.

10. ATTACHMENTS

- Use Cases A-D.
- Wireframe for guided tool selection.