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Campus Mobile History Application

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RCEU 2022 Project Proposal

Project Title

Campus History Mobile Application

Faculty Information

Name: Drew Adan (Mentor) ; Christine Sears (Adjunct Mentor)

Status: Faculty

Department/Program: Library/ Department of Archives and Special Collections

College: Library

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Proposal ID RCEU22-LIB-DA-01 _____

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I. Project Description

The Department of Archives and Special Collections, in conjunction with the History Department propose the development of a publicly available mobile application and self-guided walking tour to present the history of UAH and campus lands. The application will present and contextualize campus history from the antebellum period through the present day using documents, photographs, and oral history interviews from the collections housed with the UAH Department of Archives and Special Collections and other archival repositories.

II. Student Duties, Contributions, and Outcomes

a. *Specific Student Duties*

The student will have an assigned workspace in the UAH Archives and Special Collections for the duration of the project. Archives and Special Collections is open 9 to 4 Monday through Friday, during which time the student will work on historical research, content selection or digitization, and application development. The project may also involve travel to regional archival repositories that house materials related to campus history, as well as campus site visits to take photographs or establish coordinates for geolocate features of the application. Application assets will be stored on the Archives and Special Collections server and the student will work with the Systems Librarian to make sure the application adheres to OIT policies. The student will design the application and user interface for a broad target audience. Upon application completion, the student will work with faculty mentors to advertise the application both on campus and in the community.

b. *Tangible Contributions by the Student to the Project* (10% of Review)

The student will be responsible for creating a clear historical narrative for campus history and locating appropriate primary and secondary sources to tell that story. The narrative should incorporate research from other campus history initiatives such as historical marker projects, genealogical studies, and archeological surveys. The student will bring together disparate scholarship and resources on the topic of campus history into a single intuitive application freely available to faculty, staff, students, and the public.

c. *Specific Outcomes Provided by the Project to the Student* (30% of Review)

The student will be learning and practicing historical research, metadata analysis, digital humanities best practices, and mobile application development. The mentors will help the student find appropriate outlets to share the application with the public in addition to creating the RCEU poster. Students may be co-authors of journal articles based on this project. The student will keep a project development journal, which will provide the basis of their research poster and any future presentations or publications. This journal will also assist in the future maintenance of

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the application. That is, the student will experience project development from the floor up. To do this, the student will learn and apply skills in organization, analysis, research, and app development.

III. Student Selection Criteria

Any academic rank from freshman to senior. History, English, and Computer Science majors are preferred, especially those with public history, technical writing, data science, or web programming concentrations. Related disciplines will be considered based on the skills and qualifications of the student candidate.

IV. Project Mentorship

(30% of Review)

The selected student will work closely with faculty mentors to research campus history, select relevant materials from the UAH Archives, and design an app with an intuitive user interface. At the beginning of the summer, Archivist Drew Adan and Professor Christine Sears will provide guidance and readings to familiarize the student with the discipline of public history. The team will also analyze other successful projects and initiatives to inform application development. The student will have access to one of the faculty mentors daily during the ten week period. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the project, the student will consult with the appropriate faculty mentor for assistance in their respective field. A weekly team meeting will be held to report on progress, provide feedback, and to allow time for open discussion. Mentors will also discuss possible tangible outcomes with the student such as future poster presentations, conference presentations, publications, or outreach to publicize the application.