Zeega Slideshow: Library Lab Round 5 progress report

A new implementation strategy

In a July phone conversation with Jesse Shapins, Justin Clark and Sebastian Diaz learned that the Zeega team has made changes to their design and strategy which make them unable to partner with Library Lab on the inclusion of Harvard Library content and search functionality within Zeega.

Justin Clark and I met to review the options available to us and enthusiastically decided to pursue the following path to victory:

- At Jesse's invitation, Justin will take the current Zeega codebase, and fork-off a new version that we will modify and re-brand as *Spectacle*.
- We believe that all of the design and functionality goals of the original Spectacle project can be achieved using this approach while realizing additional benefits and functionality that is already baked into the Zeega code.
- Justin will add a 'search for Harvard Library image resources' option to the menu of content providers that come with the Zeega codebase (Soundcloud, Tumblr, Flickr, Gify). The ongoing development of the Page Delivery System (PDS) API, and the Library Technology Service's planned implementation of the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) API will make Justin's work easier and the code he produces easier to maintain.
- Justin will disable the Zeega function that allows users to upload content while preserving the ability to reference Web-based content via URL.
- Justin will explore ways of making the descriptive metadata for images more prominent.
- Justin will explore the possibility of manufacturing tags from CREATOR/AUTHOR, Subject Terms, and publication/creation dates, etc, and for ways of displaying tags as an aid to highlighting and finding existing slideshows that have content of interest.
- Justin will recover the logo and as many design elements as possible from the previous Spectacle project and work to repurpose them.
- Justin will embed user-tracking analytics tools that will allow us to gather data sufficient to measure the following sorts of things:
  - How many users are registered slideshow authors?
    - Harvard authors?
    - Non-Harvard authors?
    - From what locations do authors access their Spectacle accounts?
  - How site visitors and slideshow consumers?
    - View slideshows?
    - View public gallery?
    - From what locations do viewers access Spectacle?
    - How many are return users?
    - What are the most popular slideshows?
    - What slideshows are access from embed links?

Sustainability
- We believe that using the Zeega codebase provides the Harvard Library with an

opportunity to get free ongoing development from the Zeega project: As the Zeega codebase matures and evolves, HL will be able to enrich Spectacle without having to expend much in the way of development resources.

- Zeega/Specatcle will run on a standard Web platform that LTS and HUIT are familiar with: Apache web server, and PHP framework. It is worth noting that the Spectacle/Zeega infrastructure components are the same components that [HUIT has championed](#) and prescribed for the development of tools and interfaces that will underpin Harvard's [Learning Management Ecosystem Initiative](#).

Implementation progress notes & timeline to completion

- Justin has been able to take the Zeega codebase and is working to get it running locally.
- We believe that within the existing budget and 31 October deadline, Justin will be able to get a build a working development version of Spectacle. We intend to ask for additional time and support with the goal of implementing all functionality and working on the interface to a point where we can invite in users to being using the system and providing feedback.

Financial update

$10,000 was allocated to the Berkman Center for software development.

What does success look like?

- Spectacle includes all of the functions and design goals set for in the original Library Lab project.
- Spectacle is launched into production and made available for a minimum one year trial so that HL can measure its value against the cost of its ongoing operation.
- Spectacle meets with positive reviews from Harvard library staff and faculty.
- The Spectacle codebase is well enough documented so that other institutions can implement it, connecting it to their own descriptive metadata and image repositories via their own system APIs.
- Spectacle will be used successfully to drive new users to Harvard's rich online resources.
- The Harvard Library will find that the system provides a powerful communications and marketing tool, one that is particularly useful for reaching donors.