

Descriptive Title:

Zone1 and Zeega>Coming together to create better tools for scholarship

We have re-focused this proposal to reflect the development work on integration of tools that will support scholarly research. The interoperability of tools will allow other collections-driven projects to use these tools. We have changed the title to reflect the refocusing. There are also some changes to the proposal narrative, and we also re-ordered the narrative to make it clearer that this is a technical project to support collections.

Project description:

This project will serve as a concrete use case to catalyze the integration of various Library Lab projects, specifically integrating Zone1 and Zeega. The GSD proposes to build a robust and open API for the Zone1 platform. This API would allow for the programmatic retrieval and storage of files on Zone1. The project would take advantage of the work of another Library Lab project, Zeega, to test the implementation of the API and showcase the possibilities it opens up. Using the new API and Zeega, the GSD would build an online resource focusing on Indian architecture, urban planning and design to support and encourage emerging and growing research on India that is happening at the GSD as well as across Harvard. This resource, the GSD India Collection, will include images, drawing collections, maps and plans, architects' collections of visual documentation, scholarly film, as well as related GSD studio teaching and research content, such as that used in the Mumbai Studio taught by GSD faculty member Rahul Mehrotra (Professor of Urban Design and Planning and Chair of the Department). For GSD India Collection, Zone1 would be the repository where content is hosted and with the creation of a Zone1 API, Zeega's powerful and intuitive user interface can be leveraged for collections-browsing and building (the most current implementation of this can be viewed at <http://beta.jdarchive.org>). The GSD India Collection, as a test collection for the integration of Zone1 and Zeega, will be comprised of several different formats:

Urban India –cities; urban cities atlas; documentation from related GSD studio classes.

Architecture – contemporary 20th century; historic as uniquely relevant.

Kumbh Mela Festival documentation. This is a cultural festival and the documentation supports research on urban issues in India.

Individuals – the work of architects; planners; alumni; donors.

A bibliography that is supported via a link to a static HOLLIS search that will automatically bring up all new sources acquired by the Harvard Library. This will be a dynamic way to support a growing bibliography of print and electronic resources over time.

The variety of materials and formats will allow us to use Zone1 and test it's functionality across formats.

Technical approach:

The main work needed to achieve this project is the creation of a new API for Zone 1. Once the API is built for Zone1, the integration with external applications can begin: Zeega and a local instance of DocumentCloud. Zone 1 would function as the content repository for the GSD India Collection. Through the Zone1 API, Zeega would function as the user interface for collections-browsing and building (the most current implementation of this can be viewed at <http://beta.jdarchive.org>) and DocumentCloud would allow for browsing and elegant, inline display of PDFs (including students' studio projects).

Following the completion of this project, it will be easy for other entities at Harvard to set up their own collections-driven projects using Zone1, Zeega and DocumentCloud.

This work would be carried out by the Zone 1 team with regular consultation from Zeega. In discussions with our Zone 1 colleagues Andrea Goethels and Wendy Gogel, they have expressed strong and enthusiastic support for development of this type for Zone 1 as it will enable further use of the system for others across campus.

Scholarly Material and Content:

Harvard University has the South Asia Institute, <http://southasiainitiative.harvard.edu/>, which the GSD, through Rahul Mehrotra, is involved with, but it does not yet have a resource for the rich and growing area of design in India. With both faculty and students heavily researching this area a resource such as the GSD India Collection will bring together multiple types of documentation into an online portal that will be accessible to researchers at Harvard and outside the University. The focus on the design world will provide resources and materials that can be used in multiple courses both at the GSD and beyond, such as Mehrotra's "Cities by Design", the Mumbai Studio taught by Mehrotra; "Transforming Cities in Emerging Economies" taught by GSD Professor of Urbanism and Development Diane Davis. Other faculty at Harvard will be supported by this resource, such as Diana Eck at Harvard Divinity School.

ArchNet, an international online community (<https://archnet.org/lobby/>) that comes out of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT and Harvard focuses on Muslim cultures and civilizations elsewhere than India. We are not aware of another resource on Indian design that will provide the scholarly community a collection of resources focused specifically on contemporary design issues.

We will begin building this resource by gathering documentation already generated by GSD faculty and student-generated collections through GSD coursework. Rahul Mehrotra has a collection of his own slides that will be shared for this resource. We have ca.800 digital images from a recent graduate of the GSD who has been documenting Indian architecture for several years. GSD faculty member Diane Davis and Divinity School faculty member Diana Eck will be approached for documentation as well. For the last two semesters, Loeb Library has been collecting student generated images and other visual documentation taken during studio trips to Mumbai. We will continue to collect student generated documentation from studio trips to India to include in the archive. We will also work with other faculty across Harvard to gather more content over the first year of the project. This will be done through consultation with other library liaisons in the Harvard Library.

These collections will be offered in an online environment that allows users to add to the collection, to create their own collections from content within the archive, and for the generation of new scholarly documentation. The platform will be comprised of two pieces: Zone 1 will be the repository where content will be initially hosted. Zeega will be the end-user platform.

Measuring success:

Success for this project will be measured in several ways.

- One criterion will be the building of the structure for the archive with initial content that supports those aspects of India being studied at the GSD within the timeframe of a Library Lab grant.
- Another criterion will be a list of scholars who will have agreed to share their content with the archive for the second year.
- Measuring use of the archive, by both contributors and scholars using the content for their research and teaching will be another criterion.

Budget estimation:

\$70,000 for development of the Zone1 API

\$10,000 for Zeega consulting for technical integration

In-kind donation for part time position supported by GSD India Lab

Total funding requested: \$80,000.00

Development time:

Zone1 API – 5-6 months

Project team:

Sebastian Diaz, Berkman Center for Internet & Society – technical director

Alix Reiskind, Loeb Library, Visual Resources Librarian – project manager

Jesse Shapins, Metalab – Zeega technical consultant

Ann Whiteside, Loeb Library, Librarian/Assistant Dean for Information Resources – consultant

Representative from GSD India Lab, subject expert and cataloger