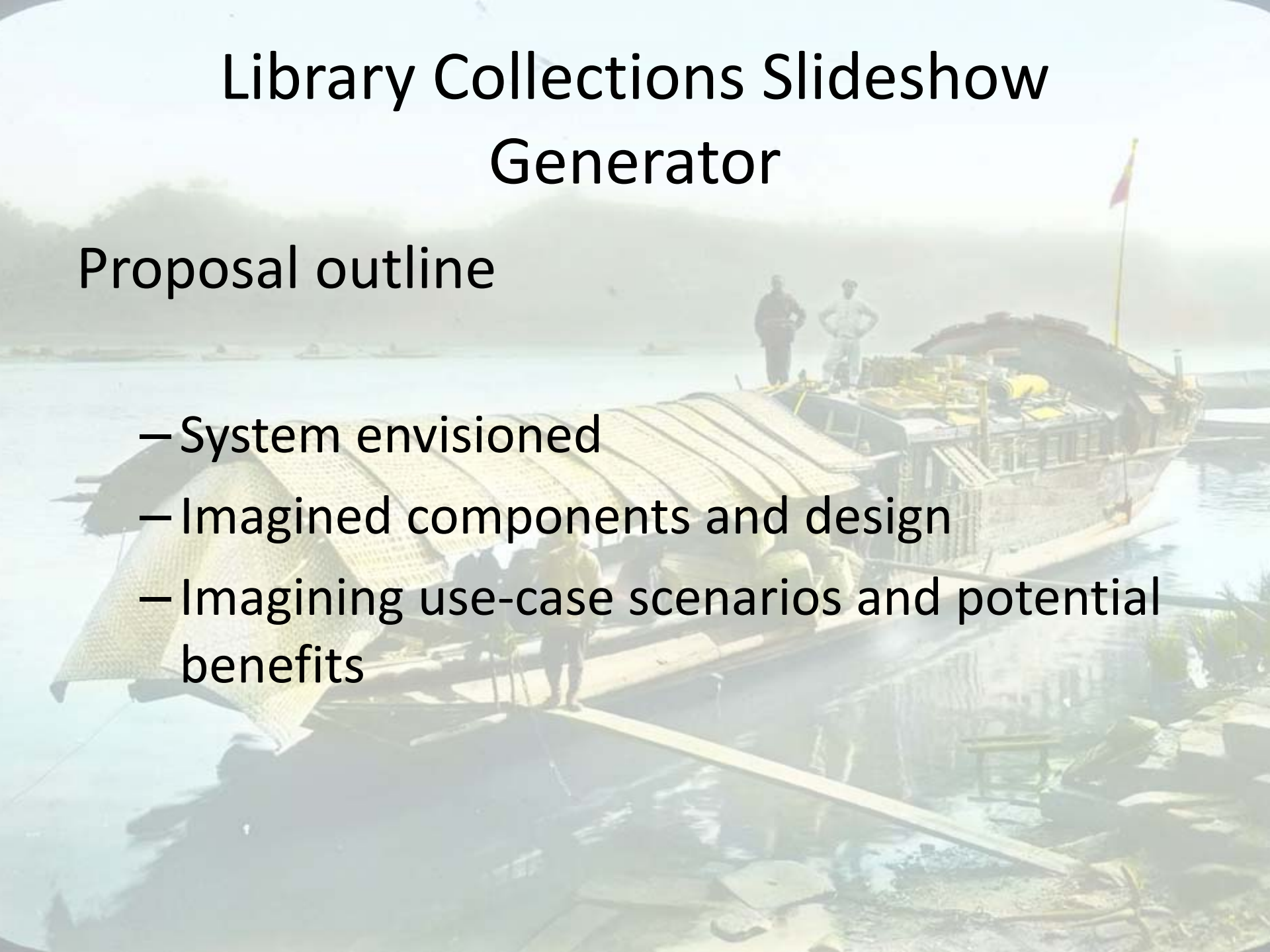


# Library Collections Slideshow Generator

## Proposal outline

- System envisioned
- Imagined components and design
- Imagining use-case scenarios and potential benefits



# Library Collections Slideshow Generator

By filling out a simple web-form, users can create a slideshow from Harvard-owned library resources for which a version is stored within DRS and a description exists within a Harvard Library catalog.



Kiangsi [Title from label in photograph album]

# Library Collections Slideshow Generator

## Core features

- Images are automatically imported or referenced from DRS
- Captions are automatically derived from catalog records
- Captions are linked to catalog records
- Slideshow Generator is available to everyone

# Library Collections Slideshow Generator

## Quick Response (QR) code integration

- An independent QR code generator may be invoked as a configuration option.
- The QR code would encode the link to the displayed image's corresponding record.
- Depending upon whether the encoded link was requested via a mobile or standard browser, an appropriately formatted version of the catalog record would be returned.



Kiangsi [Title from label in photograph album]



# Library Collections Slideshow Generator

## Systems and data

- Slideshow generator (new system)
  - Based on information collected from web-form an XML file (“gallery.xml”) is created that contains, 1) selected slideshow configuration options, and 2) references to DRS-stored images and corresponding catalog records.
- Slideshow viewer (off-the-shelf system)
  - Web-based system that dynamically delivers a slideshow based on encoded configuration and content data (“gallery.xml”) stored on any web-accessible file-system.

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# Library Collections Slideshow Generator

## Systems and data

- PRESTO RESTful Web API (existing system)
  - Image URLs, descriptive captions, and links to catalog record URLs are requested (by Slideshow generator) via the Library's existing web service; returned data is parsed and incorporated into the data file ("gallery.xml") that configures and controls the dynamically generated slideshow.

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# Library Collections Slideshow Generator

## Systems and data

- QR code generator (new system)
  - QR codes are generated based on catalog record URNs returned from PRESTO RESTful Web API.
- QR code resolver (new system)
  - Web service that resolves links encoded by “QR code generator”.
    - Does the incoming request originate from a mobile browser?
      - If YES, request XML-encoded version of record from PRESTO, pass data through stylesheet to produce and return to browser a mobile-friendly formatted version of the catalog record.
      - If NO, redirect browser to HOLLIS AB or equivalent.

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# Library Collections Slideshow Generator

## Not from scratch!

(commercial and opensource code to consider)

- Slideshow generator
  - [SimpleViewer-Pro](#)
- Catalog record and image-URL data provider
  - [PRESTO Bibliographic Data Lookup](#)
- QR code generator (new system)
  - [PHP QR Code](#)

# Library Collections Slideshow Generator

## (1) Complimenting physical exhibits

- An exhibit slideshow could compliment a physical exhibition (libraries and museums).
- An exhibit slideshow could persist long after a physical exhibit closes.
- Online exhibitions are often assembled by library communications staff whose time is limited and expensive; the proposed slideshow tool could eliminate or substantially reduce the work of communications staff.

# Library Collections Slideshow Generator

## (2) Online exhibitions

- The Library struggles to raise awareness of the riches of our collections. We need to meet students, faculty, senior university administrators, and donors in their native environments -- physical and virtual.
  - The Library could exhibit collections remotely. Library-owned displays could be setup in a small number of strategic locations around campus:
    - Science Center
    - Queen's Head Pub
    - Dormitories
  - Slideshows could be displayed intermittently on existing displays, owned by non-Library groups
    - Mass Hall
    - Harvard University Visitors Center
    - Harvard Alumni clubs around the world
- Exhibits could be inexpensively developed for specific constituencies or launched (sometimes very briefly) for particular occasions.
  - AIDS-era public health posters for World AIDS Day
  - Hand-colored lantern slides of Japan for the Harvard Club, Tokyo.

# Library Collections Slideshow Generator

## (3) Within the Library

- Slideshows could run within public spaces in our libraries
  - Lamont Café
  - Widener's Sage Café
  - On all public terminals

# Library Collections Slideshow Generator

## (4) Teaching and public presentations

Slideshows could be developed and run behind a lecturer, or could be used for other public presentations.



# Library Collections Slideshow Generator

## (5) Beyond Harvard

- “Tom” lives in Idaho and has a passionate interest in *The Ballets Russes*. He develops his own slideshow of images from the Harvard Theatre Collection, both for his own pleasure and to share on his blog with an online community of other *Ballet Russes* aficionados.
- “Julia” has identified many images in Harvard’s online collections that depict people with pets or animal companions. Julia is an artist and finds many of these images compelling. She uses the slideshow tool to put together a virtual collection of images that she uses as the basis for a physical exhibit (“Animal Companions”) of prints from a subset of the images.

In addition to creating the web-based slideshow, Julia uses the QR code generator separately, to produce a set of printed QR codes that she incorporates into the gallery labels that accompany each physical print in the exhibit. People visiting the exhibit are encouraged to collect, using their cellphones, descriptive-record links for any images they find especially interesting. They can follow these links later, at their convenience, to read more fulsome image descriptions, or to begin their own search for similar items not included in the physical exhibit.

# Library Collections Slideshow Generator

## Support needed from Library Lab

- Skilled developer to collaborate with, to test various iterations, to model options, and to navigate design trade-offs.
- Input from design professionals: Only very good looking slideshows will serve the Library and promote use of the service.
- Support for 1 to 3 new Harvard-hosted services:
  - Slideshow generator
  - QR code generator
  - QR code resolver
- An enthusiastic champion