Transcription Tool for Teaching and Research
Progress Report, June 1, 2013

Project Summary

The goal of this project is to identify a transcription tool for use at Harvard from the many candidates already available. After a first phase spent assessing user needs, existing tools will be reviewed and evaluated with the object of meeting user needs and ensuring that the tool can successfully integrate with Harvard's Library and academic computing systems.

Project Activities

In mid-April, after a hiatus of six months due to a shortage of resources developer resources from the Berkman Center, the Transcription Tool project team learned that work on the implementation of transcription tools could go forward. The project has regained some momentum with the recent implementation of the Omeka transcription tool. The implementation of another tool, Transcribr, is in a very early stage.

As of May 8, 2013 the Scripto/Omeka transcription tool was installed. The project team conducted very preliminary testing in gaining access to the system and uploading single images for quick, partial transcriptions. A bulk loader for adding multiple images and metadata to the test sites was installed, but is not yet operational. More complete and wide spread testing of the new implementation will begin when the system functionality is stabilized.

The team is planning a meeting with Sebastian Diaz for the first week in June to address questions about the implementations and discuss future development and the scope of the project.

Additional Activities:
Two members of the team attended the Transcription Annotations @ Harvard Workshop held on March 28, 2013. Numerous annotation tools and techniques were presented.
Amy Benson gave a 5-minute lightning round presentation about the Transcription Tool Library Lab project at the Workshop.

Budget

Time spent on implementation of the above tools should be covered by the budget, but team members have not received information concerning the number of hours spent, nor the cost per hour.

Project Team Members
Amy Benson, Schlesinger Library
Robin McElheny, Harvard University Archives
Susan Pyzynski, Houghton Library