

Library Lab

Progress Report

September 1, 2013

Zone 1 > Zeega: Coming together to create better tools for scholarship

Re-focusing project –

Reasons:

Ann Whiteside (Loeb Design Library) and Alix Reiskind (Loeb Design Library) met with Abigail Bordeaux (Library Lab) to discuss re-focusing our Library Lab project. There are multiple factors that contribute to the desire to redirect this project, they include:

- Issues in current use of Zone 1. For this project Loeb Design Library staff have been using Zone 1 to upload content. There is currently no user documentation available, making learning to use the system difficult. In addition, through our attempted use of Zone 1 we have run into multiple bugs making the system difficult to use. Berkman Center staff has also been exploring Zone 1 use for this project and has encountered similar challenges.
- Issues with current instance of Zeega . Zeega has changed its focus over the last few months, no longer actively developing or hosting collections or media library features as well as no longer supporting video uploads, a format we were hoping to use. Jesse Shapins, Zeega CEO, recently contacted us concerning Zeega, stating, “The previous code exists, but it would require substantial technical resources to set it up on Harvard servers, and more than anything, to commit to maintaining it.” Zeega does not seem like a viable output example at the moment.
- Issues with content. While the initial impetus for the project may have been content, it is certainly not the primary focus as we really were focusing on building the Zone 1 API. However, during the course of the last year, the content focus has shifted away from the India Collection to using existing library collections.

New direction:

Ann, Abigail and I had a fruitful discussion on August 27, 2013 about the future of this project, first discussing the above challenges. We came away with the idea of changing the focus to of this project. The new proposed focus is to **scope out what is needed for a Zone 1 API in relation to the current project**. This Zone 1 API scoping would include:

- Length of time/amount of work needed
- What functionality we want for the Zone 1 API

We plan to work with the Berkman Center on designing this scope.

Budgetary impact:

Question: Was the \$25,000 already paid to Media and Place Productions (Zeega)? If so, we have since found out they will not be working with us on this project, see above, and those funds should be recovered.

We would like to re-direct these funds to the Berkman Center for the API development. It may also be possible to use some of these funds to make bug fixes and to create related user documentation.

Outcome:

- Demonstrated commitment to support of Zone 1 by Harvard.

- The API could be used for and in a variety of other systems thereby making Zone 1 an even more useful and versatile resource.
- Explore and support Zone 1 and the DRS functioning together.

At this point, we may want to possibly rename the project as well:

“Zone 1 > reaching out beyond library walls”

Submitted, September 4, 2013; Alix Reiskind.