

## Project Assignment for Introduction to Digital Cultures

**Assignment:** Write a policy recommendation proposing an intervention designed to increase the accessibility of digital content for some underserved user group. The recommendation should be addressed to a particular information service or provider.

**Steps in the Project** (Note: “Deliverables” are what you turn in.)

- 1. Select a user group and service—Formulate a statement of what you think the access deficiency(ies) might be.**
  - *Deliverable:* A 1-2-Sentence statement of your project topic.
    - Due October 7
  
- 2. Search for relevant research.**
  - *Deliverable:* Annotated Bibliography of 10-20 sources relevant to your project. Each source should be documented using APA citation and should include a 2-3-sentence description of the source and its relevance to your project.
    - Due October 21
  
- 3. Analyze the current state of accessibility provided by your service for your user group using the facets of access diagram.**
  - *Deliverable:* A completed facets of access diagram.
    - Due October 28
  
- 4. Formulate a proposal and justification for improvement of access to digital content.**
  - *Deliverable:* Complete a *logic model* for the proposed intervention.
    - How to produce a logic model will be discussed later.
  - Due November 11
  - *Deliverable:* (Graduate students only): Blog post on project.
  
- 5. Write paper that puts together all of this information in a coherent argument for your proposed intervention.**
  - *Deliverable:* Rough Draft of Paper
    - Due November 25
  - *Deliverable:* Final Paper
    - Due December 11

### Components of The Paper

- **Introduction:** A quick illustration of the problem and your thesis statement, which introduces your proposed intervention.
- Description of the underserved user group and the information service.
- Description of the current access deficiency and its causes. (Drawing on the facets of access analysis.)

- Reflection on the broader implications and or ramifications of this deficiency (e.g., for the group, for society more generally).
- A proposal for how the information service can improve accessibility.
  - Note: You may discuss more than one intervention. You may want to say why some possible interventions would not work or be feasible and why your suggestion is better.
- Consideration of possible negative affects of your proposal and how they can be mitigated.
- **Conclusion:** Sum up case for intervention, note next steps or further research needed.

### **Possible Information Services or Providers**

- Library, e.g., Tucson Public Library, UA Library
- Archive, e.g., Arizona State Archives
- On-line information source, e.g., Wikipedia, Redit
- Search Engine, e.g., Google, Yahoo, Bing
- Social Media company, e.g., Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn
- Blog, e.g., Jezebel, Gawker
- Technology Company, e.g., Apple, Microsoft
- Game Designer
- Government information source, e.g., city or state website, U.S. congress website

### **Possible Underserved User Groups**

- An ethnic or racial group
- Children and youth
- Immigrants
- Native Americans
- LGBTQI
- Persons with Disabilities
- Senior Citizens
- Women
- People in other Countries
- Rural populations
- Poor people
- Homeless
- Intersections (e.g., children w/disabilities)