

Group 2, LIS 538 Digital Libraries with Prof. Ali Shiri

Assignment 6, Omeka Digital Library Project Plan March 15, 2018

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Our group is focusing our Omeka digital library on the national parks of Western Canada which are also designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. In particular we will be focusing on the governmental and diplomatic processes that led to the world heritage designation, as well as the unique features of the parks that UNESCO was particularly interested in highlighting through the world heritage designation.

Within Western Canada, there are nine national parks that fall into six world heritage sites. These parks are in British Columbia, Alberta, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The parks are Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, and Yoho National Parks (together as Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site), Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve (SGaang Gwaii World Heritage Site), Waterton Lakes National Park (Waterton Glacier International Peace Park World Heritage Site), Nahanni National Park, Wood Buffalo National Park, and Kluane National Park. These sites offer a wide variety of important natural features and unique ecosystems or species, such as the Burgess Shale in the Rocky Mountain Parks, and the only nesting site for the critically endangered migratory whooping crane (in Wood Buffalo National Park).

We expect to collect a variety of digital items such as maps, images, videos, and government documents. Most of these items will be already digitized and found online. We will also pursue personal connections with Parks Canada workers to find some unique items which may require some digitization. Both Parks Canada and UNESCO have extensive websites featuring rich and detailed information as well as excellent cartographical and image resources. These may or may not be available to use, but are a good starting point nonetheless. We will also search Canadian Parliamentary records, provincial legislative records, UNESCO documentation for information about the creation of the World Heritage Sites, and Canadian media outlets for announcements about the sites and coverage of any community problems or issues. We are aiming for a variety of documentation about each World Heritage Site with overall perspective on the process of creating a new heritage site, some challenges overcome, and possibly including some objections to the process. As well, we want to showcase the unique features of these parks which are part of the criteria for why UNESCO chose them as World Heritage Sites. We will need to take care in regards to rights and copyright of selected items, making sure that they are available for inclusion in a project such as this.

Timeline and division of tasks:

We have begun the collection of objects to ensure that our idea was feasible and to facilitate writing of this plan. Our group of four has divided up the parks into four sections and added additional tasks for each person. Each person will be responsible for gathering the items for their parks, checking rights and access, as well as uploading the items to Omeka and assigning metadata. Other tasks are as listed.

Nicole: Banff, Jasper, Yoho & Kootenay Parks, organization of project and topic research

Saird: Gwaii Haanas Park Reserve, Omeka interface customization

Caitlin: Waterton Lakes Park, Wood Buffalo Park, writing for assignment 6, metadata overview for consistency

Anna: Nahanni Park, Kluane Park, collection oversight

All tasks have been assigned and work has begun on collecting digital objects. The Omeka site will be set up by March 23 to enable everyone to have time to upload their objects. We will aim to have all objects chosen and uploaded by April 2, to allow some work on collection oversight (making sure we have a varied and cohesive collection) and metadata (making sure all metadata is consistent and complete) well before the due date of April 13.