Proposal Paper • Art History Tourist Site
By Jen Johnson

Through this project, my purpose is to inform people in the community about the historical significance of pieces of architecture and art they are looking at while on vacation and/or touring a specific area. I feel that many people will appreciate the visual beauty of a piece, but not understand the historical impact. It's important for people to know this to see the history of an area through a different lens, and I think people will appreciate that. The biggest hurdle will be figuring out a way to organize the mass amount of information without confusing the viewer. I feel it is extremely important to make a website as user centered/friendly as possible.

I have a passion for art history, specifically Roman, and I feel that if people are informed about it, they are at least slightly interested. Unfortunately there is really no tourist site specifically dedicated to historical significance of art pieces, so the only resources people have are the signs in front of the pieces themselves. Also within the site I would like to incorporate a way for people to plan the route in which they would visit the sites within their time frame, as this is something that is also not offered on the World Wide Web. Eventually, I think it would be great to have a mobile application for people to access while actually at the pieces so they can get more information then and there.

Sources to make this project successful would consist of art history textbooks, travel guides, and websites of similar sorts. Some of these might be: Rick Steve's (books and online,) trip advisor to find out real responses from real people, Fodor's travel books, text books by Gardner, and more.

The audience for this site would be fairly non-specific, but there could possibly be a few pinpointed demographics. The age group would most likely be 30-50, with families, as these are the most common travelers, usually with moderate income to be able to afford the travels. Race and gender are completely non-specific. This will affect design in that, anyone can be using it, and so it should be usable by anyone. I anticipate a clean, simple design, as it is simpler, but also aesthetically pleasing.

I'm excited about this project and can't wait to see what comes of it. Currently, my ambitions are far beyond my abilities, but I hope by the end of construction, it will somewhat resemble my original ideas.