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Multimedia Problem Statement
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I'd like my senior capstone project to be creating a website for the permanent collection at Tufts

University. As it stands, there is no mention of the vastness of the permanent collection that is on

display all around campus. I think that it is an important feature to have on the website as well as in

print, as the Tufts community and visitors alike would benefit from being able to see excellent art for

free in most of the places that they go on campus. For instance, there are over 120 pieces of art in the

Tisch library; every student has at least been to the library and students spend countless hours a week

doing work there, unaware that there is art around them. I would like to expand their cultural horizons

and make it easy for anyone who wants to see art to be able to see it. The collection has works from

artists ranging from Salvador Dali to Walker Evans to James Rosenquist; these are internationally

important contemporary artists that are on display in major museums around the world. The collection

also includes statue bits from ancient Greece and Rome; any of these could be on display in a museum

but they are in a display case for all to see, and most people do not know about them. I'd like my project

to make it as easy as possible for the user to navigate and to figure out where on campus art is that they

are interested in seeing.

A section for the permanent collection is also important from a visitor's standpoint. A person

may be more likely to come visit the Tufts University Art Gallery knowing that they could see more art

than whats on display within the walls of the Tisch and Koppelman galleries. Part of my project will

include walking tours of the buildings with the most art; the Aidekman Arts Center, Granoff Music

Center and most importantly, the Tisch Library. I am making it very clear by creating a path for the viewer to follow in order to see some of the best artwork on campus. I am calling them "10 minute tours" where visitors can see the "highlights" on display in each building if they have limited time. If they are not limited, I will also have general sections of "Artwork on display" to clearly point out the majority of the art in the building that the viewers should see.

The walking tours that I create will also be downloadable. This keeps up with the current technology trend where people are consistently finding out information by going online using their phones. This way, they can download the walking tour right to their phones while at Tufts and quickly begin exploring. Similarly, people without smart phones could download the walking tours and print them out. Then, they are free to explore the permanent collection on campus as well. As the world becomes more and more technology-dependent, it is important for Tufts to keep up; by having a website for the permanent collection, Tufts joins an elite group of institutions who have digitalized collections online.

Besides the building walking tours, I am creating a walking tour that leads the user around the entire campus to see the art described in the interactive map. I intend to make a tour that starts and ends at the Aidekman Arts Center and another that starts and ends at Bendetson Hall.

I plan on using Macromedia Flash to create the majority of the content for the website; this makes the site easy to maintain and update. For someone well versed in Flash, changing the location of a piece of art or adding another piece of art would be a straightforward task. I have also created separate .html pages for each of the buildings on campus with art in them. This allows for consistent navigation along the bottom of the page to easily go from one area of the site to another and to have

quick access back to the interactive map. It also allows for changes to occur easily and without changing the rest of the site. If just the Flash movie changes, no links will be severed and at worst, the one movie on the page will not work temporarily. If the entire site were in Flash it would take a very long time to load each time. This way, only one movie has to load at a time, which minimizes the wait time for the user.