

The Challenge: Propose a redesign of the Council for the Preservation of Anthropological Records (CoPAR) website

Diana Marsh, the Assistant Professor of Archives and Digital Curation at the University of Maryland's College of Information, came to us with both a simple and complicated problem – to transform CoPAR's website into one that is engaging, organized, up-to-date, and brings in a larger audience. The presenters admitted that the current website is antiquated, and even mentioned “you only know about it if you know about it.” A web design may seem simple these days, with user-friendly processors like Wix and Wordpress. However, it takes time and effort to plan a new vision for content, figure out how to reach a certain demographic of users, and learn what to do with a plethora of information (most of which are typically backlogged, as evidenced by many archival holdings).

My intention for CoPAR's design solution is not only to suggest and display a new design, but prioritize tasks, identify primary issues from a user-standpoint, plan a path for the future of the site, and implement new ideas that will help keep CoPAR's content relevant to students, researchers, members of the Indigenous community, and the curious general public. I plan to have a number of deliverables for the CoPAR team that are achievable in a short amount of time and that do not require extensive training in web design to execute. I hope I can assist this team in realizing that this task doesn't have to be overwhelming if the right steps are taken.

Please note: I was assigned a team of 3, all of whom did not show to Kick-off day, nor were responsive on Discord. This project is being conducted by a team of 1 by me – Hannah Milillo. I intend to give my presentation to the judges in-person on March 4th, but there will be no one with me since my team has not been a part of the Information Challenge. Thanks for understanding!