# Business requirEments Template

The purpose of this document is to provide UCL staff with a way to submit service requests within UCL Information Service Division (ISD). The contents of this template will provide a high-level overview of what the customers’ business requirements are. This information is then used by senior ISD managers to make an informed decision on progressing the service request on behalf of the customer.

Please update headers and footers and remove instructions (*in italics*) when completed.

Once completed, please email to [crm@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:crm@ucl.ac.uk)

# Contact Information

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Author:** | Eleanor Robson | **Date:** | 02/12/13 |
| **Group (e.g. Faculty):** | Social & Historical Sciences | **Confidential:** | Yes:  No: |
| **Department:** | History | **ISD Ref:** | CSR071 |

# Executive Summary

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| **Description:** | |
| I have recently been appointed to UCL, bringing with me (a share of) Oracc, the Open Richly Annotated Cuneiform Corpus (http://oracc.org). This corpus-building cooperative provides open-access, standards-based publication platforms, research tools and teaching resources for Assyriology and ancient Near Eastern History, hosting some 40 academic research projects worldwide. It originated in an AHRC-funded research project I ran at the University of Cambridge a few years ago and now the aim is to embed it institutionally at UCL (and at UPenn, where my closest collaborator Professor Steve Tinney is employed).  This application is for a programmer to create a Java client for Oracc that will enable content creators to edit, check and upload text content to Github and the Oracc build server, hosted at the University of Pennsylvania. Currently project teams use Emacs for this work, which while very effective in many ways, has a steep learning curve for our less technically minded collaborators (who are mostly ancient historians and linguists). The aim would be to replicate and enhance the Oracc functionality that our Emacs mode currently provides while providing a much more user-friendly and intuitive interface. This will, we hope, significantly lower the access barriers to use of Oracc, enabling more projects to adopt it and reducing the time that Tinney and I currently spend on training and retraining users. | |
| **Sponsor(s):**  *(Multiple Sponsors are needed when Requests are cross-faculty/department)* | Cathy Brown (Faculty Manger, SHS) |
| **Champion:** | Mary Fulbrook (Dean SHS) |

# Business Justification

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| **Scope:** | | | |
| We need a programmer who can build a Java client for Oracc (http://oracc.org), which will enable content creators to edit, check and upload textual content to the Oracc build server, currently hosted at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia). It will replace the Emacs-based routines currently used by Oracc project teams (documented at build.oracc.org/doc2/esp/). The more detailed desiderata are as follows:  Oracc projects typically have two major components:   * a *corpus* of ancient cuneiform texts, in alphabetic transliteration, often with English translation and an Oracc-generated glossary of words in the corpus * a descriptive or educational *portal* about the corpus   **Target Users**   1. individuals working on personal projects 2. individuals working on managed projects 3. Oracc project managers   **Background**   * Users may maximally maintain the following on their local machine   + ATF files (alphabetic transliterations and translations of ancient texts)   + Glossaries of the project’s corpus, compiled by Oracc   + Configuration files   + Web content     - XHTML ‘portal’ pages containing descriptive and educational content     - Images and downloads * Editing of these files done locally and sources stored in github * Building and publishing to web done remotely * Remote calls done with XML-RPC   + Reference implementation available as standalone C program   + For app XML-RPC should be built in * Client should be github-aware   + Save to repo   **Phases of work needed (more details available on request)**  Phase 1: Editing with ATF checking  Phase 2a: Lemmatisation (generation of glossary data) in the editing environment  Phase 2b: Glossary editing and management  Phase 3: Corpus management | | | |
| **Business Benefits:** | | | |
| This will be a key enhancement to Oracc which will make the system as a whole better suited to task at present. Oracc has already been a core part of two major AHRC projects involving current UCL academic staff and it is our intention to develop further applications for funded research in which it will likely be instrumental. Oracc has become established as one of the core online resources in the world of ancient Near Eastern studies and with my appointment at UCL and my commitment to Oracc this resource will become increasingly associated with UCL and thus enhance its reputation in various historical fields. | | | |
| **Constraints:** | | | |
| Authentication model for cross institutional access: University of Pennsylvania and University College London. | | | |
| **Dependencies:** | | | |
| None to my knowledge | | | |
| **Risk Analysis** | | | |
| Risks if not completed: to the quality and quantity of my research, and to the usability and therefore reputation of Oracc; ultimately a reputational risk to UCL as one of Oracc’s two institutional hosts.  No risks if completed. | | | |
| **Funding Sources:** | | | |
| Full funding has been guaranteed by the Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences. | | | |
| **Scale:** | | | |
| At the moment, the only UCL staff that will use the service are me and my History Department colleague Professor Karen Radner, who runs a large research project on Oracc. But both of have plans for research projects that will use the service, employing further staff, while many more academic research projects worldwide (whether currently active or currently in planning) will also use it. In the medium term it would not be unreasonable to anticipate up to a hundred users of the Java client for Oracc. | | | |
| **Stakeholders:** | | | |
| Professor Steve Tinney (UPenn) | | | |
| **Intended Start Date:** | 01/01/14 | **Intended Finish Date:** | 30/09/14 |

REVISION HISTORY

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Revision Date** | **Summary of Changes** | **Who** |
| 0.3 | 26/04/2013 | First Draft | Aaron Crompton |
| 0.4 | 15/05/2013 | Updates from CRM Team | Aaron Crompton |
| 0.5 | 27/06/2013 | Minor Edits to clarify Risk Analysis and add ISD Ref | Ben Smith |

APPROVALS

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Date Approved** | **Version** |
| Name | DD/MM/YYYY | 0.0 |

DISTRIBUTION

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| **Name** | **Date Issue** | **Version** |
| CRM Team (Sharepoint) | 27/06/2013 | 0.5 |

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