# Researcher Bi-Weekly Reporting Template

The purpose of this document is to help prompt reflection and capture the progress, barriers, and needs you have as you undertake your project. We’ve included some preferred and suggested prompts in each section below. This document is to be completed every two weeks and submitted according to the reporting schedule.

Please append the filename with the date of submission and your initials (ex: CCHC-Biweekly-Reporting-Template-**2021-06-01**-**od**.docx). Once completed, please submit to [**LC-Labs@loc.gov**](mailto:LC-Labs@loc.gov)and CC Jaime Mears ([jame@loc.gov](mailto:jame@loc.gov)).

**Name:**

**Reporting Period: 9: 9/20/2021-10/1/2021**

### No Work Completed

We anticipate that there may be periods in your project during which you make little progress. In this situation, we ask you to check the “Nothing to report” box. After the “Reason” prompt below, please briefly indicate why there was nothing to report. Where possible, we’d still like to learn more about the reasons behind any unexpected events or barriers you encounter. You can share additional details in the “Obstacles/Needs” section before submitting this report.

Nothing to report

Reason:

### Activity and Progress

*We’d like to hear about your progress over the last couple of weeks. Please feel free to expand on the questions below.*

1. **What did you and your team work on over the last two weeks? Why?**

*We’d love to hear about your decision-making, the technologies (ie. cloud services, hardware, and software) you’ve been using, why you’ve adopted them, modifications or hacks you’ve had to create, prototyping and testing, and anything you’d like to share about your current in-progress deliverables.*

We’ve been continuing to aggregate feedback and ideas for the visualizer. We focused on issues concerning the data, which led to interesting conversations in the 1:1 and with Taylor. They included:

* Which page should we use as the url? PPOC or LOC gov?
  + The discussion led to one about the lack of clarity about which database is the *most* authoritative, and if even this was a good question. Did it really matter which one? It was decided to discuss this with Phil at PPOC.
* Is there a policy on embedding LOC digital images? If so, we would use that url to ping the site every time.
  + There doesn’t seem to be one. It seems like the general philosophy is open data! Of course, if this has changed or if this is an incorrect take away, please let me know! Taylor and I discussed how this brings up issues of credit and labor. In this case, the visualizer is explicitly made for LOC. It should be clear that the images come from LOC. However, one can imagine other projects such as Photogrammar where it does take some work to figure out that most of the data comes from LOC. We’ve worked to make that clearer over the years, but I’m not sure it is still enough. Just want to flag this as an issue that we think about. Creating digital collections and data sets take a lot of time, and my time working with LOC has made me much more aware of how much work goes into these digital collections. I had a sense from years of reading about archives and working with colleagues, but just the scale of the work at LOC has provided new insight into the amount of work behind these collections.
* Is there a preferred image to link to? The JSON file has the link to the different images.
  + Based on different discussions, it seems best to navigate this collection by collection.
* We are currently using GitHub to host images for FSA but not really designed for that. Other ideas?
  + We discussed other LOC projects that have had similar challenges in the 1:1. This was incredibly helpful! It was interesting to hear about projects like PhotoRoulette using glitch and the FreeToUse Browser using the Flickr API. We are looking into these options and playing around with ideas. It was helpful to hear that this is a shared challenge for other projects, and there doesn’t seem to be any easy answers.

There was also a very interesting meeting with the WAT team on 09/30. I enjoyed hearing about the process. I found the discussion of copyright and permissions particularly fascinating and helpful to think about. I really found the team’s distinction between notifying and asking, and how they approach different projects from one or the other approach, as a helpful way to think about this. Another idea that the conversation sparked was about their collections and approaches could be exciting for studying the circulation of visual culture. This is a notoriously challenging area to study. I think of Cara Finnegan’s book and how she tracked down FSA images and where they circulated in newspapers, magazines, and journals to track the circulation of images of poverty. Researchers have lamented the fact that internet is so ephemeral in a lot of ways. Yet, LOC is building these amazing collections that might make studying topics such as the circulation of images possible. This is very exciting! I threw out the idea of tracking some of the FSA images across the collections using computer vision. Grace and I have begun throwing some ideas around over email!

1. **What are your plans for the next two weeks? What excites you about those plans?**

For the next two weeks, I’m mostly focusing on getting prepared for the Advisory Meeting as well as continuing to process this week’s discussions. I then anticipate drawing on the Advisory Meeting discussion to determine next steps.

### Obstacles/Needs

1. **What barriers, if any, have you encountered over the past two weeks? Were these barriers expected?**

*Examples: unexpected costs; API limitations; organizational barriers; data issues; technical gaps or challenges; collections knowledge.*

The main challenges that I’ve been working through generated the questions above.

1. **What would resolve these barriers (or would have resolved them, in retrospect)?**

*We’d love to know what you need help with! This is an opportunity for LC staff to learn from you about how to best support this work going forward.*

I appreciated the 1:1 conversations and the LOC team reaching out to folks like Phil to find the best path forward!

1. **What changes, if any, do you anticipate to your proposed timeline? Why?**

*Do you expect any significant blockers to your progress?*

I don’t anticipate many changes. Given time constraints, I might need to push back delivering final visualizer a bit. We shall see how the Advisory Meeting goes!

### Reflection

1. **What happened over the last two weeks that was particularly thought-provoking?**

*Examples: surprises; places where help from Library staff was critical; incorrect assumptions; things you learned; things that, in retrospect, you wish you’d known.*

I noted a lot of this above, since it seemed to fit well in question 1 this round.

1. **Anything else you’d like to add?**

As always, thank you to everyone for all their work!