Memo

To: Dr. Chris Lam

From: Rebecca Pope

Date: 11/9/15

Subject: Project 4 Proposal

I would like to expand on my XML database for my final project. I didn’t have the time to make my table as useful as it could be. Specifically I would like to add JavaScript and pictures to my table so that I can have a professional looking database that I could highlight in my portfolio when I look for a job.

I have wanted to learn JavaScript to help me build a website or digital portfolio for a while, but never made the time to do so. This final project will force me to learn the basics at least. The table I created for Project 2 really isn’t that useful in its current state, especially if I add to my yarn stash. I want to be able to sort my yarn by the thickness and total length when I find a project I want to knit without scrolling through a huge table. I believe my final table had about thirty-five entries.

I also mentioned in my reflection paper for Project 2 that pictures would be a better idea than listing the colors in a skein of yarn. I know that pictures and computer screens don’t always display color the same, but pictures would help me pull the right skein from my tote when I go looking for it. I can also get a better idea of what “blue green” means from a picture than with text. I can also identify skeins that lost their label with a picture.

While working on Project 2, I remembered that I bought some of my yarn with a specific pattern in mind. I would like to add a column that lists the name of the pattern and where I can find the pattern. I might find a way to link the pattern name to the pattern in my library. I have both printed patterns in books and digital patterns saved on my computer or in my Ravelry.com account. Ravelry.com acts a bit like Facebook for knitters and crocheters in that members can share patterns; provide tips for patterns or knitting methods; buy, sell, or trade yarn and other equipment; and share and review projects. By linking my table to my patterns, I can better keep track of what yarn I plan to use for specific projects.

I know some of the colors I chose for my final table weren’t the best for readability. I want to make the table readable across all screens; I could read the text on my own laptop with the purple highlighted rows, but the purple I used showed up too dark on the Smart Board in front of the classroom.

Thanks to Digital Literacies, I have the knowledge and skills to build a useful personal website. Before this class, I didn’t have the design skills to build a useful website. Now I feel comfortable enough to try designing and building a digital portfolio to use as part of my job search after I graduate. I would like to use my database as part of that portfolio. With my suggested modifications, I would be proud to show it to potential employers as an example of my skills.

/RLP