**Proposal for Edith Abbott Project**

Edith Abbott was a pioneer in the field of social work and welfare in the first half of the twentieth century. Her research included the fields of immigration, wage reform, women and children’s rights, and women’s suffrage. Along with her sister Grace, Abbott revolutionized social work through her research and position as the dean of the School of Social Service Administration.

Founded in 1889, Hull House was a settlement house in Chicago dedicated to helping recent Eastern European immigrants. Hull House, headed by Jane Addams, revolutionized social work and community involvement programs across the country. It provided social and educational opportunities for community members, and residents of Hull House gathered revolutionary research on the surrounding neighborhood. Edith and Grace Abbott moved into Hull House by 1908 and later continued a strong friendship with Addams. Letters between Edith Abbott and Addams show a sisterly camaraderie between professional women fighting for social change. Her time at the Hull House heavily influenced Abbott’s work on poverty, immigration, and women’s rights.

1. **Policy/Theory/Audience**

We are planning to transcribe and encode all of the 9 handwritten letters in Edith Abbott's file from Jane Addams. We will use these letters to highlight the importance of their friendship to Edith's lifelong social justice work and also to Addams' work at the Hull House. We have decided to include all 9 letters because they occur within a short period of time (1911-1913), show the friendship between Abbott and Addams, and do not reveal any personal or private information which might be unethical to digitize and make public. We hope to ensure the greatest possible accuracy in transcribing the letters, so we will diligently attempt to show the true bibliographic nature of the letters while making them user-friendly and readable. Our transcriptions will show the exact spelling and grammar used in each letter, and we will encode to indicate any misspellings or inaccuracies. Though the bibliographic nature of the letters is highly significant, we will also include annotations as we believe that including historical and social information about people, places, and concepts mentioned in the letters will help our audience familiarize themselves with the subject and find connections between the Addams/Abbott friendship and Abbott’s social work on their own. Our intended audience is anyone who is interested in the suffragette movement, social reform, immigration, and poverty, as well as individuals interested in past famous Nebraska residents.

1. **Technical Process**

**Scans** - We will request scans of these letters from Special Collections next week.

**Image Processing** - One person will process the images.

**Storage** - We are planning to use Box to store and share files throughout this project.

**Transcription** - Two people will transcribe each letter before we meet as a full group to read through each of the nine letters beside their transcriptions. We will also work together during this time to figure out difficult words. During this stage we will also note anything that might be worth annotating.

**Encoding** - We plan on encoding the first letter together, then splitting up the remaining letters for individual encoding.

**Proofing** - We will be proofing as we complete the encoding of each letter to make sure the files parse and display correctly.

**Checking** - We will check each of the letters for accuracy of both transcription and encoding before we finalize the project.

**User perspective/interface design** - We will organize letters chronologically and attempt to add annotations where additional information might be helpful in building a better picture of the relationship between Edith Abbott and Jane Addams.

**Intro/Research -**Throughout this process we will all spend time researching the biography and lives of both Edith Abbott and Jane Addams so we can collaborate on the introduction of the final digital project and so we can each be prepared to answer any questions on our project.

**Navigation -**We are currently planning to organize the letters chronologically, but this may change if we find a more interesting way of presenting them.

**Annotations -**As we transcribe and encode letters, we will mark items that we think could use an annotation. Then we will divide those between the group so that everyone will be involved in the annotation process

**Other features** - Possibly a timeline? Photos?