**Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grants**

**Final Report for Mini-Grants**

# General Information

Date: 12/20/2019

Grant Round: R13

Grant Number: M74

Institution Name(s): New Media Institute, Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Georgia

Team Members (Name, Title, Department, Institutions if different, and email address for each): Mr. John Weatherford, Lecturer, New Media Institute, [johnweatherford@uga.edu](mailto:johnweatherford@uga.edu); Mrs. Jennifer Malson, Instructor, Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Georgia, [Jennifer.malson@uga.edu](mailto:Jennifer.malson@uga.edu)

Project Lead: John Weatherford

Course Name(s) and Course Numbers: New Media Production, NMIX 4110 / NMIX 6110

Final Semester of Project: Fall 2019 / Ongoing

***If applicable to your project:***

Average Number of Students Per Course Section: 20

Number of Course Sections Affected by Implementation of Revised Resources: 10+/academic year

Total Number of Students Affected by Implementation of Revised Resources: 200+/year

# 1. Project Narrative

*Describe the course of your revision or ancillary creation project, including*

* *A summary of your project’s purpose, plan, and timeline.*
* *The original works which were revised or added to, with links.*
  + *For example, if you revised an open textbook, give the title, author, and link.*
* *A narrative description of how the project’s plan was carried out.*
* *Lessons learned, including anything you would do differently next time.*

Our project was a revision to the online OER “New Media Production” by John Weatherford located at <http://newmediaproduction.mynmi.net> for NMIX 4110 / NMIX 6110 New Media Production (NMP), a front-end web development course required for all students earning the New Media Certificate at the New Media Institute at the University of Georgia.

The OER is a WordPress course site with lessons and instructional materials. The course also used a separate OER, FreeCodeCamp (<http://freecodecamp.org>), or FCC, for daily lessons. However, the course site simply linked out to FCC lessons, creating a process that was challenging to navigate and hard to keep track of for students.

The grant originally planned to create a seamless integration between NMP and FCC via an announced-but-unreleased API for FCC. Our plan was to develop a WordPress plugin that would allow FCC lessons to be easily and seamlessly integrated on NMP’s WordPress site, as well as any other WordPress site that might wish to do so.

After receiving the grant, Mr. John Weatherford and Mrs. Jennifer Malson began planning the structure of the integration. In January of 2019, a New Media Capstone student team began work on content development for the site at a separate dev site located at <http://4110dev.mynmi.net>. The student team was to work under the supervision of Mr. Weatherford and Mrs. Malson from January through May of 2019. Mr. Weatherford and Mrs. Malson were to lead technical development of the WordPress plugin and plan content development, and the student team was to assist with technical development and carry out the planned content development.

Content development work continued in February, when the FCC API was due to be released. However, the FCC development team fell behind schedule for the API release. So, the student team continued content development work, while Mr. Weatherford and Mrs. Malson explored technical alternatives.

The FCC team failed to release the API by the end of May, meaning the student team was no longer available to work on the project. Mr. Weatherford stayed in touch with FCC team lead throughout the summer, continually receiving word of delays until finally, in fall 2019, Mr. Weatherford was informed that FCC had deprioritized the API and that development had been suspended indefinitely.

Please see section 4, “Future Plans,” to read more about future development.

The biggest lesson learned is the risk involved in planning development around unshipped work. This kind of risk is inherent in working with outside partners, and is especially prevalent in technology development, and doubly-so with open source web projects. Though a small organization, FreeCodeCamp has proven themselves with strong work delivered reliably over a number of years, so this plan felt like a very safe bet. However, were I to undertake a similar project in the future, I’d do so only with projects that have been publicly released and tested.

# 2. Materials Description

* *Describe all the materials you have created or revised as part of this project. These descriptions may be used in the* [*GALILEO Open Learning Materials*](https://oer.galileo.usg.edu/) *repository in the official description field.*

“New Media Production” by John Weatherford. <http://newmediaproduction.mynmi.net>. OER covering introductory front-end web development. Topics include HTML, CSS, JavaScript, front-end frameworks such as Bootstrap 4, content management systems such as WordPress, and introductory programming in languages such as JavaScript.

An in-progress development version of the site is available at <http://4110dev.mynmi.net>.

# 3. Materials Links

* *If you are hosting your materials in places other than GALILEO Open Learning Materials, please provide these links in this section. Otherwise, leave blank.*

Canonical course site is hosted at http://newmediaproduction.mynmi.net , with development site hosted at 4110dev.mynmi.net.

Course sites can be easily duplicated using plugin All-in-One WP Migration (available at: <https://wordpress.org/plugins/all-in-one-wp-migration/>) along with extension plugin All-in-One WP Migration Import (<https://import.wp-migration.com>).

Main site archive: <http://newmediaproduction.mynmi.net/archive-20191220.wpress>

Development site archive: <http://4110dev.mynmi.net/archive-20191220.wpress>

# 4. Future Plans

* *Describe any planned or actual papers, presentations, publications, or other professional activities that you expect to produce that reflect your work on this project.*
* *Describe any plans to revise or add to these materials in the future.*

We have extensive plans to revise and add to the materials on an ongoing basis. Mr. Weatherford will stay in touch with the team at FCC going forward to monitor any progress on API development. If and when the API is released, Mr. Weatherford plans to renew work on developing a WordPress plugin.

Separately, Mr. Weatherford is extremely excited that the OER “New Media Production” will incorporate content and technologies developed by the student team throughout the spring of 2020 as he teaches several sections of the course. Additionally, Mr. Weatherford has created a team with two new faculty members in the New Media Institute to continue content updates for the OER.

Because best front-end web development practices continually evolve, the OER “New Media Production should see continuous updates for as long as the course is taught.