Link to my UMW Domain: http://emdesignlife.com

Overview and Process Questions - Emma Lord

1. **Which final option (UMW Domain or Digital Media Project) did you choose for your final project and why (i.e., Why did you decide on this medium for presenting your digital work)? Briefly, what content does your project include and why?**

The final option that I chose for the Introduction to Digital Studies course was a UMW Domain because I am a Communication and Digital Studies major. I created my domain last semester, where I posted all assignments I completed during the Digital Storytelling course at UMW. I never customized or organized my domain, which I knew I wanted to do. I wanted to characterize and manage my domain instead of creating a digital media project because I will be using it in future courses throughout college.

What was your process for working on this project?

1. **How did you get started? How did you incorporate ideas from others, such as choosing a model, getting peer feedback, and going to the Digital Knowledge Center?**

The first way I started revising my domain was by figuring out what template I wanted to implement into my domain. I browsed several templates provided by *WordPress*, and the first few were different from the vision I wanted for my website. I continued to explore them and attempt to give them the organizational structure I was hoping for, but it wasn't working out. One of my peers, Layla McGovern, has an excellent example of a domain that she showed me at the beginning of the semester, where she also posts assignments for her digital studies courses. I referenced her domain, and she also helped me understand the customization tools provided by *WordPress*. After browsing templates for a couple of days, I centered on one of them that was my favorite, which was the "Minimalistic Blog."

2. **What tools did you use? Why those tools? What did you learn?** The predominant tool I used during my final was

WordPress, the website software UMW provides to its students. I used WordPress because I already had my domain and assignments posted. Still, I wanted to utilize it to the best of my abilities because it is a great educational resource. I learned how to customize a domain and all the different tools WordPress implements on its website.

3. ***How did work earlier in the semester inform your current work? Be specific and cite at least three readings or videos from class that informed your work:***

The work I completed in the semester has given me insight into my current work for several reasons. Firstly, this course has educated me on the importance of digital technology in our present world. An article that stuck out to me from the beginning of the semester was "Technology That My Kids Will Have to Explain to Me" by Theora Kvitka." It was a series of funny images of an older individual explaining new technologies to younger generations. The article was entertaining because when I think about the future, I am sure my generation will be confused by the advanced technologies that younger individuals will use. After all, we all know that technology is evolving every day. The article made me realize that many resources are accessible to me that were not for others and that a domain is one of those valuable resources.

Digital technology is exciting because it allows individuals to create a variety of their own platforms. With the rise of digital media, copyright is common because people need to be aware of the issue's importance. While completing my work throughout the semester and final project, I ensured to always correctly cite the sources I used to give credit where it is due and avoid honor code violation. An article that better informed me on copyright in the week four content was "Copyright in General" by the U.S. Copyright office.

Lastly, another piece of class content that influenced my final project was the article "Digital Minimalism" by Kris Shaffer. The article discussed how minimalism does not only have to do with architecture or aesthetics but also with the way you use technology. This discussion may benefit some people because it makes them aware of what you want to put on the Internet. Another way is that being minimalistic with your digital platforms makes them more accessible for the audience to navigate, which is an attractive quality. When editing my domain, I knew I wanted it to be minimal and showcase the assignments that I was proud of.

Digital Identity / Literacy / Ethics Questions

1. *How does this project represent your digital literacy?*

The project represents my digital literacy because it showcases my capabilities in creating and customizing my website with clear and precise content. The project shows that I can adapt to evolving technology even when encountering complications and create something influential in the modern digital realm. The home page of my website has an "About" section, where I explain the purpose/goals of my website and how I am going to progress it throughout college.

2. *How does the project reflect your digital identity? How has your digital identity changed? How does this project relate to your digital identity and digital identity goals?*

The project I created, which was a domain, changed my digital identity in many ways. Initially, I planned to make two to three miniature assignments and upload them to my domain. Instead, I solely focused my time on crafting my website into a place where I explore digital methodologies. Since I am a Communication and Digital Studies major, I know I will complete more digital assignments. I wanted the theme of my website to revolve around that, which is why the title page states, "Emma's Digital Exploration." My website impacts my digital identity because it presents me as somebody aiming to be involved in the digital realm, specifically digital marketing, which could be valuable to future explorers. My domain can be beneficial for prospective employers and occupations because it is essentially a digital journal of all of the projects that I have completed, which I can add to my resume or other professional opportunities/goals.

3. *How does your work reflect digital ethics? Reflect digital accessibility?*

My work reflects digital ethics because I safely and responsibly produced my domain. I used *WordPress*, an authentic software provided by the University of Mary Washington. Another way that my work reflects digital ethics is because if there was ever an instance where I incorporated work from another individual, I always gave them credit. Also, *WordPress* is accessible to people with disabilities, including those with visual impairments (WebsiteBuilderInsider).

Reflection / Projection (Future Planning) Questions

What are you most impressed with in terms of your work on the project?

1. *What do you want to remember (or to avoid) in the future if you attempt this kind of project again in the future?*

I have several plans for my UMW domain. I will make an appointment with the Digital Knowledge Center and have them assist me with creating subdomains because I have several questions about it. Also, I will continue to post all my digital assignments on my domain to reflect on my progress and have an accessible portfolio that I could use for future job applications.

2. *What are your future plans for this project? (For example, if you worked on a domain, what are your plans for continuing this website? If you worked on a digital media project, how do you plan to use this work again--as a work sample to discuss in a job interview, something to share via social media, something to share via LinkedIn or Handshake, etc.)*

I have several plans for my UMW domain. I will make an appointment with the Digital Knowledge Center and have them assist me with creating subdomains because I have several questions about it. Also, I will continue to post all my digital assignments on my domain to reflect on my progress and have a portfolio that I could use for future job applications. I would like my website to be a place that reflects adds substance and knowledge to my digital identity.

3. *What else would you like to say about this project/learning experience?*

I immensely enjoyed this project/learning experience because I have wanted to switch up the theme of my website for several months now but have yet to get around to doing it. It was very beneficial to educate myself on WordPress's tools; now, I can help others who want to create their own UMW domain and further progress mine.