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LIS 258

## Interactive Technology Assignment

### **Exhibit**

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website currently hosts a plethora of information regarding both the physical museum and the objects hosted within the museum. In addition to objects and information related to the Holocaust, the museum also hosts the Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide. The museum website has a page entitled “Confront Genocide”. This page, in addition to promoting the Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide, has information on modern acts of genocide and how these acts should be acknowledged. I find this online tool interesting because it applies the content of the museum to the modern world. This online tool is available here: <https://www.ushmm.org/confront-genocide/defining-genocide>.

### **Interactive Features**

The most directly interactive feature of this exhibit is found under the “Take Action” tab. The “Take Action” page provides users with links to various multimedia resources on the topic of genocide. The page also has a link to information on what individuals can do to prevent genocide. The article “Digital Humanities Technologies” states that “[e]merging digital humanities technologies are helping museums more effectively preserve and mine their collections as well as surfacing collaborative opportunities” (Freeman, Adams Becker, Cummins, McKelroy, Giesinger, and Yuhnke, 2016). Though this statement is specifically about collaborations between different institutions, I believe it can apply to collaborations between an institution and the community. This seems to be the intent of the “Take Action” page on the

website. The site designer probably chose this feature as a means of empowering site visitors with an accessible means of understanding and fighting genocide globally. This page also reinforces the fact that genocide still exists.

### **Applying this Interactive Feature to My Exhibit**

Though my topic, being Civil War medicine, is very different from the Holocaust Memorial Museum I think that this kind of feature may be worthwhile to consider adding to my exhibit. The main draw of the feature I have evaluated is that it contextualizes the topic being discussed. It gives online visitors a deeper understanding of genocide by applying it to today's world. I think doing something that applies civil war medicine to the modern world may be beneficial in my exhibit. For example, I may research modern medical leave practices in the U.S. Army and compare them to the medical leave practices of the Civil War. Additionally, I may consider providing links to information on current and recent civil wars that have occurred globally, as the Holocaust Memorial Museum does.

### **Audience**

The audiences for my exhibit are older teenagers between the ages of 16 – 19 and adults between the ages of 20 – 50. The demographic for this exhibit is very large due to the exhibit's content. My object is relatively self-explanatory and easy to understand. Additionally, an interactive tool comparing Civil War medicine to modern U.S. military medicine would only make the exhibit even more accessible. This interactive tool will make the exhibit stimulating for both site visitors interested in U.S. history and those interested in current events.

## References

Freeman, A., Adams Becker, S., Cummins, M., McKelroy, E., Giesinger, C., Yuhnke, B. (2016).

NMC Horizon Report: 2016 Museum Edition. Austin, Texas: The New Media

Consortium.