The MIM program is an interdisciplinary degree program, within an interdisciplinary school (the iSchool), within a major research university (UMD). To support the MIM community we have created MIM Central, a Wordpress based information hub that provides information about both the program and information management in general. One of the biggest challenges we have is making connections between the interests of the people within the MIM community (potential students, current students, alumni, and other interested stakeholders), externally generated content about information management, and the wealth of activities and opportunities that exist within the MIM program, the iSchool, and the University in general.

The overall goal of this project is identify, develop, and implement capabilities in the MIM Central infrastructure that would help identify, record, and communicate connections between general information management resources and courses, activities, and people within the MIM program and community.

One way of achieving this goal is to facilitate the creation of "MIM Connections" Boxes which can be added to a MIM Central post (See [http://mim.umd.edu/2013/04/social-it-operations-management/](http://mim.umd.edu/2013/04/social-it-operations-management/) for an example). Using this model the specific deliverables for the project would be the development and testing of a Wordpress plug-in that supports easier creation of MIM Connections.

At a minimum this would be a MIM Connections Box editor plug-in that worked with the wordpress post editor that facilitated formatting of user entered content in a MIM Connections Box. However, this would require that the users have substantial knowledge of both the MIM community/program/courses and information management.

A more sophisticated (and more interesting) plug-in would do more than facilitate formatting -- it would use basic data mining/recommendation techniques to suggest connections between user provided context (i.e. text of a post) and people, course, or projects within the MIM program and the iSchool.

With this in mind the proposed project deliverables is:

- A prototype wordpress plug-in (and supporting infrastructure) that use a defined text content to identify possible connections (i.e. MIM Connections Box) between a post and either (a) an iSchool faculty or (b) an iSchool class. The content used for the link identification should include (but is not necessarily limited to course descriptions, course syllabi, and papers authored by faculty members.

The basic use case for the plugin is:

1. The user creates a new post on MIM Central using the wordpress editor (i.e. they a post name, post content, tags, and categories)
2. The system (perhaps after the user selects a button, or real time) identifies a list of iSchool faculty and/or courses that are related to the post title/content/etc.
3. The user selects one of the item
4. The system creates a MIM Connections Box that is appended to the end of the post based on the selected item