



## *GMi Discovery System*

A project that unlocks the full value of a digital humanities archive.

### Overview

George Moore Interactive (GMi) is an authoritative WordPress website that chronicles the life, work, and legacy of the Irish writer George Moore (1852–1933).

GMi publishes curated texts of Moore’s books, pamphlets, articles, and letters, along with the standard bibliography and an illustrated iconography.

The texts have been transcribed, edited, annotated and published on pages of GMi, in a format that is geared to searchability, readability, interpretability, and maintainability.

There are already more than 2,300 pages on GMi. The site is growing rapidly with more than 1,000 new pages added each year. GMi is planned to exceed more than 10,000 pages in the next few years.

### Pages

Each page of GMi typically incorporates two distinct layers of textual information:

1. Moore’s authentic writing transcribed from printed or manuscript source material into an embedded Google Doc
2. Editorial and navigational apparatus supporting Moore’s writing in a WordPress layout that surrounds the embedded Doc

The embedded Google Docs are created, “published to the web,” and maintained on Google servers. They are instantly called into WordPress pages as visitors navigate GMi.

This dynamic structure ensures that editable text stored on Google servers remains synchronous and up to date when viewed on GMi.

GMi is fast, responsive, interactive, and free to use. However, it is difficult to explore because its extensive data sets can’t be efficiently searched as they grow.

## The Challenge

At present, there is no way to perform ranked and faceted searches of all GMi pages at the same time — by keyword, physical modality, or historical date. This limitation constrains the site's usefulness.

The proposed, innovative, GMi Discovery System will eliminate this constraint by making all of the information on all of the pages — embedded or not — searchable, navigable, discoverable, and highly intelligible.

It will help transform GMi from a touchstone of digital humanities into a building block for AI-assisted and simulative critical inquiry, and for general cultural enrichment.

## The Need

At present, visitors to GMi can conduct basic keyword search of the editorial and navigational text in WordPress page layouts. George Moore's actual writing, which visitors can view in the embedded Google Docs, is completely off-limits to site-wide search.

As a result, readers and scholars must already know where to look among thousands of GMi pages in order to find relevant material. This is a significant barrier to both critical inquiry and discovery.

The barrier is not unique to GMi. It is baked into WordPress web technology. Moreover, many digital humanities projects, including those not on the ubiquitous WordPress platform, face the same challenge:

*Large collections of texts are published online, but they are not fully searchable as a unified body of material.*

Off-the-shelf search technology does not remove this barrier because it cannot reliably index embedded Google Docs, nor can it organize results in ways that reflect the structure and chronology of the curated materials.

The proposed Discovery System overcomes this barrier by enabling simultaneous search across both WordPress page layouts and the embedded Google Docs they contain, while also introducing structured metadata that support chronological and modal inquiry.

## What the Discovery System Will Do

The proposed Discovery System will create a unified search and navigation layer across all of GMi. In practical terms, it will:

- Index the full text of all components, including WordPress layouts and embedded Google Docs containing George Moore’s writing
- Enable users to search the entire archive from a single search interface
- Display search results with meaningful excerpts (“snippets”), allowing users to quickly evaluate the context of each result
- Allow results to be filtered by major content modality (“pillars”), namely Iconography, Aesthetics, Worlds, Letters, and Bibliography
- Append a structured “Historical Date” to each GMi page, representing the publication or creation date of the historical writing and enabling chronological sorting of search results
- Implement a dynamic Chronology feature that presents views of Moore’s life and work on comprehensive, user-defined timelines

The proposed Discovery System will work seamlessly with existing GMi pages. It will index pages that have already been published. New page development will continue as it does now, with only minimal changes — such as appending the historical date — required going forward.

## Who Will Benefit

The proposed Discovery System will serve the needs of multiple users:

- General readers will be able to explore the life, work, and legacy of George Moore intuitively, thoroughly, and efficiently, without having to understand the archive’s complex underlying structure
- Scholars and students will be able to trace aesthetic and historical developments, themes, people, events, and time spans across the large and diverse body of Moore’s work (a life of more than 80 years, a career of more than 50 years)
- Editors and contributors will be able to curate and publish content more efficiently, supported by tools that help identify connections, sequences, and associations across all of the continuously growing data

Importantly, the proposed Discovery System will make the archive accessible to emerging tools of AI-assisted research, education, and cultural enrichment.

By structuring and indexing the Moore corpus, the Discovery System will enable the development of conversational interfaces and simulated conversational interactions grounded in Moore’s writings and artistic perspective. These capabilities have the potential to engage readers in new ways and extend the educational and cultural impact of GMi.

Across all use cases, the proposed Discovery System will transform GMi from a collection of rich but discrete pages into a more interconnected, interactive, and continuously growing body of primary source material with an amplified cultural voice now and in the future.

## Why This Work Is Distinctive

The proposed Discovery System cannot be implemented using standard website tools, nor can it be generated automatically by emerging AI coding systems.

It requires a custom integration that:

- Extracts and indexes text from embedded documents
- Structures that data for meaningful retrieval
- Aligns search results with the editorial intent of the project

Although the underlying technologies are well understood, there is currently no practical, off-the-shelf solution that enables comprehensive, ranked, and faceted searches of Google Docs embedded in WordPress page layouts.

Moreover, there is no existing solution that supports structured chronology- and modality-aware discovery within a WordPress-based cultural archive. If such a solution existed in an accessible and reliable form, it would already be in use.

The proposed Discovery System addresses this gap directly. It offers a practical and scalable approach to a common but unresolved problem in digital humanities:

*How to make complex and growing document-based archives fully searchable, navigable, and meaningful for user-centered research and exploration, regardless of each user's prior skills and experience.*

In keeping with Resurgam policy, the Discovery System developed in this project will be shared freely with the public, so that other literary and cultural archivists may adopt and adapt GMi innovations in their own projects.

## The Result

With the proposed Discovery System in place, GMi will become far more than a digital repository of primary source materials.

It will function as an interactive research tool that enables users to discover meaning and connections across Moore's life and work — across time, across genres, and across the many intellectual and artistic movements in which he participated.

In short, the project will unlock the full value of an archive that has already been built and continues to grow rapidly, with more than 1,000 new pages added each year, making it accessible not only to specialists but to all readers interested in exploring George Moore's life, work, and legacy.

Support for this project will enable implementation of the GMi Discovery System as a foundational step in making the archive fully accessible now and ready for AI-assisted research, education, and public engagement in the future.

## Budget

Total budget for this project is \$15,000 covering research, design, development, implementation, and testing of the GMi Discovery System.

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