HIST 3814 Week 5

Goals

* Learn something about how typography, design, and colour combine to make a compelling poster or website
* Data sonification or audio work

Listen

* How to get a story across
* The material can never speak for itself
* Sonification: turning something into music
  + Could be a powerful tool for us to get across patterns that we hear in historical material

Songs of the Ottawa

* Way of telling the story of the river from 1880-1980
* The stories of the river’s flows, of commerce and industry extending up and downstream, and of recreation on the water and shores
* Website includes the code used to generate the songs
  + Replicable
* “Sonification is the “visualization” of historical data auditorially, to achieve a particular sensory effect”
* “This project asks readers and listeners to hear uncanny, affective pasts and consider the ways in which storytellers can “de-form” and “re-form” data and sources

The Ottawa River’s History Re-told in Musical Notes

* Moving away from having to rely so heavily on the visual
* Listeners do need some context so that the sounds make sense
* “Traditional history can be too narrow and restrictive”
* Other ways of communicating history can be used to give people different ways of knowing about the places they interact on and have an appreciation for the past
* “People only want to read so much”

Digital Panopticon

* Pie graph of the different tattoos that London convicts had in Britain and Australia from 1780 to 1925
* Two pie graphs showing male and female convicts and the subject of the tattoos that they had
* Did male and female convicts get different types of tattoos?
* Can change the variables of the visualization, but not all of the variables suit the pie graph model
* “view as hitlist” option
  + Shows the individual’s conviction record, subject of tattoo(s), placement of tattoo(s)

Digital Humanities Awards—Best DH Data Visualization

Witches—Mapping the Scottish Survey of Witchcraft Database

* Map showing the places of residence for accused witches (total: 3141)
* Can zoom out and zoom in
* Clicking on a point on the map gives information on the name, investigation date, gender, occupation, social class about the individual
* Can see where many accused witches lived and can learn more about them as individuals
* Can see where places have a heavy presence of accused witches