

StoryScapes101: Introduction to the StoryScapes platform

Module 6 - Collaboration & Community Building with StoryScapes

Document Version: 01/01/2019

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 444 Castro Street, Suite 900, Mountain View, California, 94041, USA.

Also, credit to GeoAcademy for inspiring this open course format.

Introduction

In this Module, students will learn to use StoryScapes as a platform to support projects that are larger than what they can implement alone. StoryScapes is designed to be more than just a tool for individuals to manage their *own* data or produce their *own* map visualizations. It aims to be a platform where people can work together to crowdsource and improve data on an ongoing basis.

StoryScapes provides two special profile types to support collaboration among StoryTellers working on a common theme and StoryTellers working within the same organization.

This module includes the following lessons:

- Lesson 1 – Organizing Community Initiatives
- Lesson 2 – Managing Organization Accounts

Lesson 1: Organizing Community Initiatives

Objective

In this lesson, students will learn to start and lead a Community Initiative.

Lecture

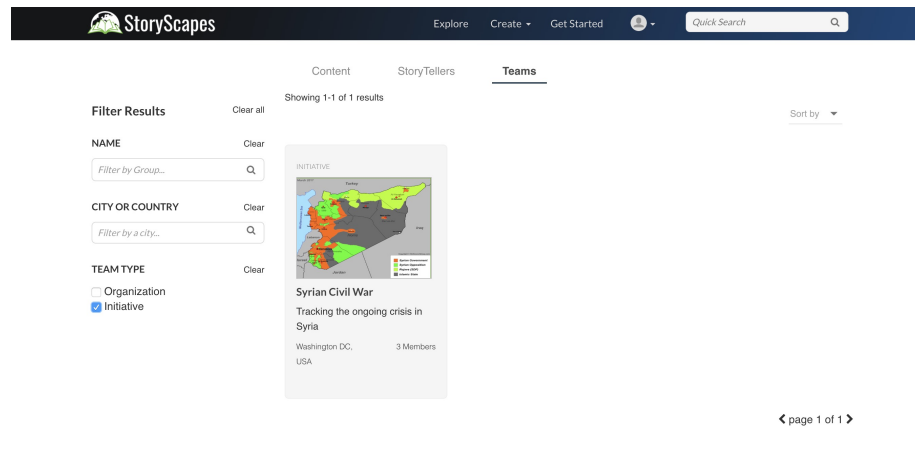
A Community Initiative is an effort by StoryTellers to collect StoryLayer data around a common theme.

For example, when the ISIS movement gained prominence in 2014, a Community Initiative in StoryScapes could have helped analysts across the US Government quickly collect the spatio-temporal data available about ISIS into a single Community Initiative page. As the data accrued, analysts could quickly compose StoryScapes that help explain various phenomena apparent in the StoryLayer data.

A Community Initiative simply empowers crowdsourcing and collaboration around a topic of interest.

The Community Initiative Page

Community Initiatives are publically accessible via a special account page. They can be accessed by going to the StoryScapes **Explore** page and filtering for **Teams**.



On the Community Initiative page you will see the StoryLayers and StoryScapes that are associated with the Community Initiative, as well as the Organizers and Members of the Community Initiative.



Becoming a Community Initiative Organizer

Community Initiative pages are managed by designated Initiative Organizers. Organizers are simply registered StoryTellers that have been given Organizer rights by a StoryScapes administrator.

If you have a Community Initiative you would like to see launched on StoryScapes, or that you would like to organize yourself, you will need to email an administrator. An administrator will then create the Community Initiative and add you as an Organizer. This will give you the ability to manage the Community Initiative page.

Activity

To complete this activity, you will need have been given Organizer status on a Community Initiative.

1. Click **Manage** on the Community Initiative page to customize basic information about your Community Initiative.

Syrian Civil War
Tracking the ongoing crisis in Syria

Washington DC, USA

ABOUT SYRIAN CIVIL WAR
This Community Initiative is a place for experts working across a range of agencies to pool knowledge about the ongoing crisis in Syria. As the conflict has many dimensions - political, economic, military, religious, ecological - it is helpful to have a single space where data and interpretations from a wide variety of experts can interact and deepen collective understandings. If you're working on Syria, please consider joining our Initiative and sharing StoryLayers and StoryScapes!

INITIATIVE MEMBERS
HonestAbe
Organizer

Featured StoryLayers & StoryScapes

StoryScapes

UNCATEGORIZED
Death in Syria: A Breakdown
Ihracmer
Created Nov. 12, 2018
0 views

UNCATEGORIZED
Russian Air Involvement in Syria
Ihracmer

- To add StoryLayers and StoryScapes to your Community Initiative page, go to the StoryLayer or StoryScape page. You will see an option to add the content to the Community Initiative that you are an Organizer for.

Changing Areas of ISIS Control

UNCLASSIFIED

Download Layer
Metadata Detail
Edit Layer
Download Metadata

Legend
Single symbol

Create a story using this layer
Click the button below to generate a new story based on this layer.
Compose Story

Use on Organization Page
Syria Research Group

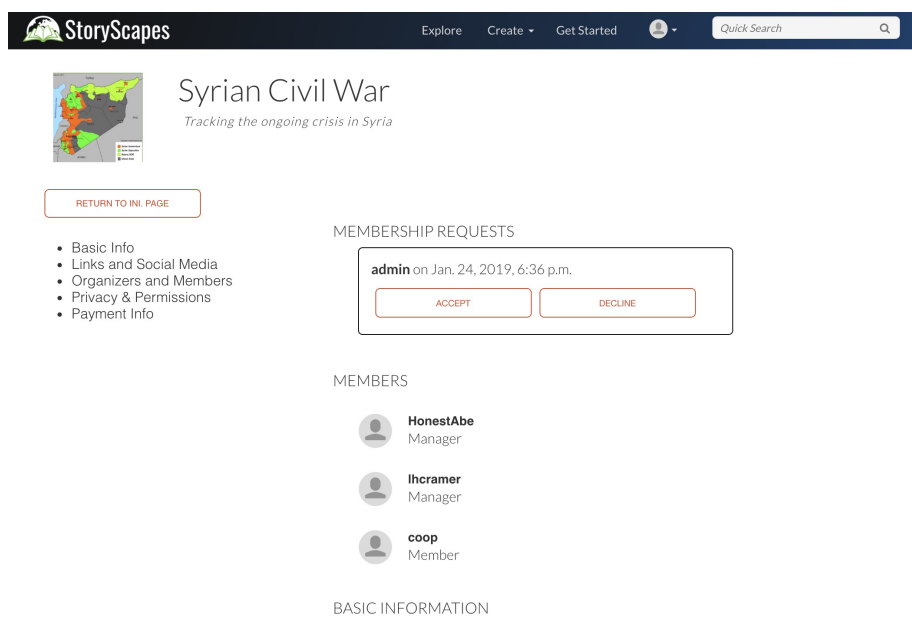
Use on Initiative Page
Syrian Civil War

Info **Attributes** **Share** **Ratings** **Comments** **GeoGig**

Title Changing Areas of ISIS Control
Abstract No abstract provided
Publication Date Oct. 4, 2018, 5:12 p.m.
Type Vector Data

- StoryTellers can also request to become Members of your Community Initiative. This is simply a way for you to indicate people that are supportive of your Community Initiative and are helping with the work in some way. A StoryTeller can request to become a Member by clicking Join This

Initiative on any Community Initiative page. You can accept or reject these requests from the management page for the Community Initiative.



StoryScapes Explore Create Get Started Quick Search

Syrian Civil War

Tracking the ongoing crisis in Syria

[RETURN TO INIT PAGE](#)

- Basic Info
- Links and Social Media
- Organizers and Members
- Privacy & Permissions
- Payment Info

MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS

admin on Jan. 24, 2019, 6:36 p.m.

[ACCEPT](#) [DECLINE](#)

MEMBERS

- HonestAbe**
Manager
- Ihcramer**
Manager
- coop**
Member

BASIC INFORMATION

Lesson 2: Managing Organization Accounts

Objective

In this lesson, students will learn how to access and manage an Organization Account in StoryScapes.

Lecture

Organization Accounts are very similar in structure to Community Initiative pages, although they have slightly different purposes. Community Initiatives are designed to promote collaboration around a single thematic topic that is pertinent for a period of time. Organization Accounts are designed for work units like agencies, teams, offices, departments and companies that benefit from a single place to represent their collective work on StoryScapes. The work of an Organization might span many different topics. For example, a regional desk inside the State Department may manage an Organization Account to host all of the StoryLayers and StoryScapes it produces over time.

Organization Accounts are hosted on a special account page inside StoryScapes. They can be accessed by going to the StoryScapes **Explore** page and filtering

for Teams.

The screenshot shows the StoryScapes interface with the 'Teams' tab selected. On the left, there are filter results for 'NAME', 'CITY OR COUNTRY', and 'TEAM TYPE'. The 'TEAM TYPE' filter has 'Organization' checked. The main area shows 'Showing 1-1 of 1 results' for the 'Syria Research Group'. The group's description is 'Generating intel about the Syrian Civil War', located in 'Herndon, United States' with '4 Members'. A map of Syria is visible in the background of the team card. At the bottom right, there is a pagination link '< page 1 of 1 >'.

On the Organization Account page you will see the StoryLayers and StoryScapes that are associated with the Organization, as well as the Organizers and Members of the Organization.

The screenshot shows the 'Syria Research Group' organization account page. The header includes the group's name, description 'Generating intel about the Syrian Civil War', and a 'MANAGE' button. Below this, the location 'Herndon, United States' is listed. The 'ABOUT SYRIA RESEARCH GROUP' section describes the group's mission. The 'ORGANIZATION MEMBERS' section lists four organizers: battle, admin, HonestAbe, and Ihcramer. The 'Featured StoryLayers & StoryScapes' section displays two featured items: 'Death in Syria: A Breakdown' by Ihcramer and 'Chemical Weapons and the Brutality of Modern War' by HonestAbe. Each item has an 'Add to Featured' and a 'Remove from Organization' button.

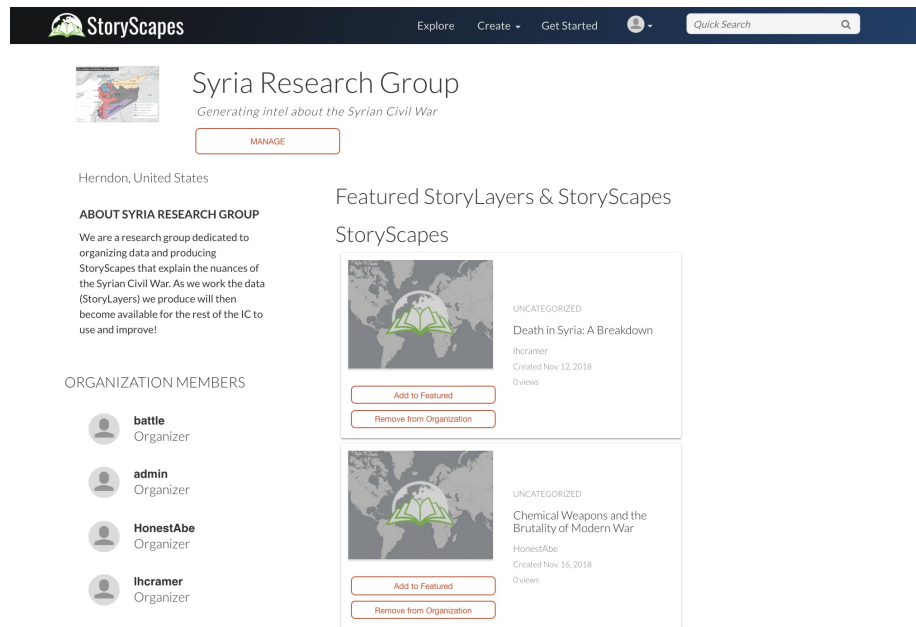
Setting up an Organization Account

When you are ready to set up an Organization Account for your work unit, you will contact a StoryScapes administrator. An administrator will work with you, or the appropriate point of contact, to get the Organization Account created. Once this is done, this will give you, or the appropriate point of contact, the ability to manage the Organization Account.

Activity

To complete this activity, you will need have been given Organizer status on an Organization page.

1. If you have been given Organizer status on an Organization page, you click **Manage** on the public Organization page to customize basic information about your Organization.



The screenshot displays the StoryScapes interface for the 'Syria Research Group'. At the top, the StoryScapes logo and navigation links (Explore, Create, Get Started) are visible. The organization's name, 'Syria Research Group', is prominently displayed, along with its tagline 'Generating intel about the Syrian Civil War' and a 'MANAGE' button. Below this, the location 'Herndon, United States' is listed. The 'ABOUT SYRIA RESEARCH GROUP' section describes the group's mission. The 'ORGANIZATION MEMBERS' section lists four members: battle, admin, HonestAbe, and Ihcramer, all with 'Organizer' status. The 'Featured StoryLayers & StoryScapes' section shows two featured items, each with a thumbnail, title, author, creation date, and view count, and buttons to 'Add to Featured' or 'Remove from Organization'.

2. To add StoryLayers and StoryScapes to your Organization page, you simply go to the StoryLayer or StoryScape page. You will see an option to add the content to the Organization that you are an Organizer for.

[Explore](#)
[Create](#)
[Get Started](#)

Death in Syria: A Breakdown

Incramer

UNCLASSIFIED

1 Civilians vs Combatants

1 Civilians vs Combatants

While we often think of wars and conflicts as between multiple parties (both state and non-state actors), it is the civilians that pay the price. Each Governorate shows the total death toll with a breakout icon for civilians and combatants (non-civilian). Darker colors indicate higher casualties

50 mi

Mon, Feb 28, 2011 6:00 PM

UNCLASSIFIED

★ Not yet rated

👁 0 views

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

❤ Favorite

🚩 Flag

Death in Syria: A Breakdown

Laurence Cramer

0 views

Add to Organization

Syria Research Group

- StoryScapes users can also request to become Members of your Organization. This is simply a way for you to indicate people that are involved in your Organization. A StoryTeller can request to become a Member by clicking [Join This Organization](#) on any Organization page.

UNCLASSIFIED

Explore
Create
Get Started

Quick Search

Syria Research Group

Generating intel about the Syrian Civil War

JOIN THIS ORGANIZATION

Herndon, United States

ABOUT SYRIA RESEARCH GROUP

We are a research group dedicated to organizing data and producing StoryScapes that explain the nuances of the Syrian Civil War. As we work the data (StoryLayers) we produce will then become available for the rest of the IC to use and improve!

ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

- battle**
Organizer
- admin**
Organizer
- lhcramer**
Organizer

Featured StoryLayers & StoryScapes

StoryScapes

UNCATEGORIZED
Death in Syria: A Breakdown
lhcramer
Created Nov. 12, 2018
0 views

StoryLayers

UNCATEGORIZED
Syria-Deconfliction-Zones_c2bd1ecf
lhcramer
Created Nov. 8, 2018
0 views

UNCATEGORIZED
Zones of Control along Iraq and Syria Border
admin
Created Oct. 4, 2018

You can accept or reject these requests from the management page for the Organization.

UNCLASSIFIED

Explore
Create
Get Started

Quick Search

Syria Research Group

Generating intel about the Syrian Civil War

RETURN TO ORG PAGE

- Basic Info
- Links and Social Media
- Organizers and Members
- Privacy & Permissions
- Payment Info

Manage Memberships

MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS

HonestAbe on Jan. 31, 2019, 12:24 a.m.

ACCEPT DECLINE

MEMBERS

- battle**
Organizer
- admin**
Organizer
- lhcramer**
Organizer

Edit Org Page Information

BASIC INFORMATION

Name:

Syria Research Group

Conclusion

In this Module you have learned how you can use StoryScapes to bring people together, whether by connecting people around a common interest in the form of a Community Initiative, or helping colleagues collaboration with an Organization Account.

Discussion Questions

Before moving on to the next Module, reflect independently or in a group on the following questions:

1. Are there topics that you think would make for a good Community Initiative? What are they?
2. What about an idea for an Organization Page?
3. StoryScapes aims to promote collaboration within the US Government. Have you seen examples of collaboration successes across agencies or offices. What causes do you attribute to these successes?
4. What other strategies might StoryScapes take to promote collaboration, in addition to providing Initiative and Organization accounts?
5. What other comments, questions or concerns do you have about this Module?