This document contains research on existing projects.

It will critique them so that we can locate a gap in tenant support, from which we can approach our project critically.

This is Blythe’s task; however, edits have been made following group discussion.

**Key:**

* **Related to our topics of landlords and/or gentrification**
* **Unrelated to our topics, but have useful approaches we should consider**
* Key positives
* Key negatives

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| Existing project | About their project and an evaluation |
| **Anti-Eviction Mapping Project**: <https://antievictionmap.com/> | * The ‘Worst Evictors’ tab offers an open, exposing critique of landlords which relates to HtN’s aims for our campaign * We like how radical this is, however, we feel it is not very contributory approach/ does not allow for nor foster community collaboration which is arguably a crucial element to any campaign * Equally, merely ‘calling out’ landlords does not get to the roots and complexity of the issues at hand. Thereby, if we merely adopted this approach, we would fail to facilitate critical engagement with the client’s stipulated campaign problems * However, the ‘Tenants Rise Up!’ film does focus on housing injustice experiences within particular location-based communities. This captures the community spirit of tenants suffering from similar experiences and the rhetoric of the film pivots around the idea of ‘winning housing for all’. This could work productively in terms of a campaign approach * So, maybe we pursue a blend of both these ideas in our campaign- focussing on both critiques of the renting system and impacts on the community * The ‘Ellis Act Evictions’ page stipulates a specific right of a landlord and critiques it through displaying the vast amount of evictions over time displayed on an interactive map. This works well as a data advocacy approach * However, we need to consider if we want to narrow our focus as much as this, or whether we could create a lot of different pages like this project does (which covers more bases) * A lot of the information they present on their site is effectively backed up by interactive data visualisations- important tools in conveying social problems |
| International student housing services like **UKCISA** (UK Council for International Student Affairs) <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Housing> | * Defines otherwise complicated housing terminology in simple terms eg. Explanations of types of commonly used housing terms like studio, homeshare, hostels etc * Provides information to guide individuals in understanding university and other private renting options * Consists of tab-based drop-down menus revealing explanations to what they stipulated as essential questions that would need answering for immigrants * However, these contain \*very\* heavy readable content and the website is not very interactive * There are lists of elements tenants should consider and then check against the property before agreeing to rent eg. mix of people, en suite bathroom (very focussed on international students/ migrants) * Stipulates legal requirements of UK institutions and makes migrants aware of their own rights in UK law * Overall, useful for making tenants aware of their rights and clearly defines terminology for those who may not understand the renting system in the UK. However, just adopting a ‘providing information’ approach would be insufficient for our campaign, although it could be useful for us to incorporate on some level |
| (Online platforms/ apps):   * **PadMapper** (US)- <https://www.padmapper.com/apartments/atlanta-ga> * **Roomi** (US)- <https://www.roomies.com/> * **Housing Anywhere** (Global renting platform)- <https://housinganywhere.com/s/Newcastle-upon-Tyne--United-Kingdom?categories=private-rooms%2Cstudent-housing&suitableFor=students&currency=EUR> | * Designed to help students and migrants find affordable housing options, connect with roommates, and access resources/ support services related to renting * Useful, easy to follow support system for students * However, again, does not pose much of a solution to the problem or adopt an advocacy approach which we would need for our campaign |
| (Legal aid and Tenant Advocacy Organisations):   * **Tenants Advice**- <https://tenantsadvice.co.uk/get-our-help/> * **Citizens Advice**- <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/renting-a-home/renting-from-a-private-landlord/> * **Shelter**- <https://blog.shelter.org.uk/2022/08/top-tips-student-renting/> | * Tenants Advice: predominantly incorporates the idea of not suffering in silence and finding out your rights. Explains to tenants how they can make a claim about property issues such as damp and mould, pest problems, gas/ water leaks, structural issues, heating/ electrical problems, windows/ doors, and they respond with advice * Citizens Advice: informs of what rights individuals have in relation to property maintenance/ rent payments and agreements. Includes a system where tenants can identify the type of tenant they are and what impacts this has on their rights etc- eg. Assured shorthold tenant or assured/ protected tenant. Explains clearly the intricate complexities of a tenancy agreement that tenants may not be very aware of if it is their first time renting/ are inexperienced tenants * Shelter: informs student renters of their rights in regards to issues they might have/ moves they want to make in regards to their tenancy. Also offers written advice on private renting, deposits, problems with landlords for immigrants. Can search for housing advice by area and get the contact details of Shelter's local offices which offer free advice and help with all types of housing problems- <https://england.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice>. There is also a National Union of Students and they have a Student Renters Hub- <https://blog.shelter.org.uk/2022/08/top-tips-student-renting/>: . This adopts a similar format to the other sites, however there is an additional complaints section where you can select your university accommodation and it tailors to you specific advice based on your personal circumstances and informs tenants of who to contact at their university to get help (eg. I tried Newcastle university and it linked to the university’s website page for that issue) |
| **Patterns in Practice**: <https://lifeofdata.org/site/patterns-in-practice/> | * Keen focus on how “beliefs, values and feelings” shape how individuals engage with data and ML. This is achieved through podcasts and an event to develop a critical AI culture * This focus on beliefs/ feelings could be combined with the more data/ information centred approaches of other projects |
| **EvictorBook**: <https://evictorbook.com/parcel/OAK_006%20001303800> | * This project allows users to search a US address and learn the history of evictions at that specific property * Use of an interactive map highlighting where the properties are in relation to the evictions * The map feature is very productive as it allows the user to self-explore data narratives * Critiquing evictions ties in well with our aim to expose poor landlords, but not so much gentrification * Also has a ‘Tenant Resources’ section which provides users with useful links to resources. The ‘Tenant Power Toolkit’: <https://tenantpowertoolkit.org/> (also made by the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project). We really like this idea as it means tenants can outline their specific/ unique renting problem and can feel supported and are guided to specific tools to fight their claim |
| **The Design Justice Network**: <https://designjustice.org/> | * Website that creates a network of people embodying the same principles * Includes ‘About Us’ sections with photos of handwritten notes of what Design Justice means to this community * The idea of using a digital tool to facilitate an empowered ‘community’ online is appealing to us |

We have also considered other projects; however, these were the ones that stuck out to us most for the purposes of our project.