Gathering Data for Mapping: KnightLab StoryMap

Taught by

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Fall 2021

StoryMap Module Part I

Northeastern University
NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks

Workshop Agenda

- Learn about StoryMap as a mode of conveying data and content
- Best practices and questions to consider before creating your StoryMap
- Start collecting data for your map!

Slides, handouts, and data available at **https://bit.ly/diti-fall2021-storymap-fuchs**

Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!

Workshop Objectives

- Articulate particular choices you will make when telling a story using a map
- Learn about the concept and uses of a StoryMap
- Follow a template for gathering data to be used in Knight Lab's StoryMap

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What is a "story map"?

Telling a **story** using **maps**!

 "You combine authoritative maps with narrative text, images, and multimedia content. They make it easy to harness the power of maps and geography to tell your story."

- ESRI Story Maps Website

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Example Projects Using Maps to Tell Stories

KnightLab StoryMap examples:

- "[Boston Parks and Playgrounds: Community Scan](#)": uses a mix of textual, image, and geo-location data to tell a story about playgrounds in Boston's neighborhoods.
- [Example of student work #1](#): students like you utilized StoryMap to trace the the availability of healthy food options in select neighborhoods of Boston.

- [Example of student work # 2](#): another example that combines unique markers, colors and black-and-white map.

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Analysis of Examples

- Look through these examples and think about how they use the narrative structure and geospatial layout of story maps to present information.
- Make some notes about how you interacted with these maps.
- Can these techniques be applied to your own project?
- What worked best? What didn't work for you?

Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!

Gathering Data for your StoryMap

When collecting data for a group project, it is important to organize the data in one communal place, such as a Google spreadsheet. This will help you to:

- Keep track of your resources
- Add and edit collaboratively with your team
- Storyboard your map

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StoryMap Spreadsheet Template

Make a copy of the StoryMap template below and use it to fill in the different sites you want to map, images you want to include, and so on.

Important: make a copy, don't edit the main template!!
(Go to File > Make a copy)

[StoryMap Spreadsheet Template](#)

—Template based on the StoryMap Spreadsheet Template created by Molly Brown, Reference and Outreach Archivist, Northeastern University Library.

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Spreadsheet data collection

fx | http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20158126

	Slide #	Site Name	Site Location	Image URL/File Location	Image Credit	Image Caption	Headline	Historical Profile/First Person Narrative	Citation(s)	Additional Media	Additional Media Caption & Credit
2	Title Slide	n/a	n/a	http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20158126	Freedom House Records, Courtesy of Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections	Back Bay Fens, Boston, Mass.	Walking the Emerald Necklace	This is an introduction to the project that will continue on.			
3	Site 1	Back Bay Fens Community Gardens	42.344888, -71.093221	http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20157723	Freedom House Records, Courtesy of Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections	Community garden in Back Bay Fens.	Back Bay Community Gardens	Two men tend community garden in the Back Bay Fens. A public water building can be seen on the left. The Back Bay Fens (also called The Fens, or Fens) is a freshwater marsh and lagoon area within Boston's larger Emerald Necklace park system.			

1. The slide number can serve as the order in which your sites appear on your map and the site name can be used to label sites on your map

2. The site location is used to identify a point on your map where the site is physically located (address or coordinates)

3. The image URL/File location is useful in keeping track of images of sites. Always credit your images to indicate their origin. Also include a caption describing your image

4. The headline can serve as the official title or label of your site. Including a narrative provides more context as to why your site is important.

5. Don't forget to cite your sources! Also, you may want to include additional media related to your site (e.g. newspaper clippings, additional photos, etc.)

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Data organization

Organizing your data first can help you stay organized and keep track of your resources. It's a quick way to storyboard your project, making sure that your flow between locations makes sense, your writing is consistent, and you have the right amount of research and info at each location.

When you are ready to add your data, you can copy and paste from your spreadsheet.

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Next Steps

Begin to gather your data about sites, including images, descriptions, and citations. For the next session, you should have collected at least 4 sites.

In the next session, we will cover how to start building your StoryMap using your data.

Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!

Thank you!

If you have any questions, contact us at nulab.info@gmail.com

Developed by Yana Mommadova
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DITI Research Fellow

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Schedule an appointment with us! **https://calendly.com/diti-nu**

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