



---

**ENGL 4710: Capstone: Literature & the Visual Arts**

**Erika Boeckeler**

**Preparing Images for Gigapixel Story Maps**

**Zoomifying the Image**

---

**About**

This handout provides instructions for preparing images for Knight Lab's StoryMap Gigapixel option, used for creating StoryMaps with images rather than maps as their background.

The goal of this process is to create folders of **tiles** into which the image is broken down and which will enable zooming in on the image in the StoryMap.

**Technical criteria for selecting the image**

- Resolved copyright issues related to the public usage of the image
- Image is sufficiently large (at least 3000x2000 px)

**Option 1: Zoomify in Photoshop**

One option to process your image is by using Photoshop.


1. Open Photoshop and open the image by going to **File** tab, then the **Open** button, and navigating to the folder where the image file is located.
2. Check that the resolution of the image is correct in the **Image** tab, then **Image Size Window**
3. Go back to the **File** tab, and under the **Export** option you will find the **Zoomify** option.
4. After selecting **Zoomify**, specify the folder (in the **Output Location** box) in which you want to save the folders of tiles.
  - a. It is likely that there will be more than one folder with tiles, as Zoomify creates a new folder for every 256 tiles.
5. Click **Ok**. It takes the program some time (several seconds) to export the image.

**Option 2: Zoomify in Photoshop using Windows Virtual Desktop service through Northeastern University**

If you don't have photoshop installed, you can access it through the Windows Virtual Desktop (VDI) provided by Northeastern University. If you are unfamiliar with the concept, you can basically think of this as if you control another computer through your web browser.

1. The access link is here: <https://wvd.northeastern.edu/>
  - a. More information on the service is available at [this](#) link
2. Click on the Student\_VDI icon, and then enter your Northeastern username and password when prompted.
3. You can download your image on this VDI, either from the original source or from your drive or cloud.



4. Photoshop is available in the **Start** menu (  icon in the lower left corner of the VDI window), under the Adobe folder.
5. You can follow the same commands in this Photoshop as described in the previous section of this handout. You can save the tiles on VDI.
6. Open the web browser within the VDI, and upload the folders with tiles to your drive or cloud (google drive, i-cloud, etc.), from which you can get them back to your actual computer.

### Option 3: Zoomify using the Zoomify app

An additional option is available in the form of the Zoomify app, which is available for free.

1. Download the program from this link <http://www.zoomify.com/free.htm> and then install it. It is available both for PC and Mac.
2. Select the **output folder**. By default, it is set to the same folder where the original image is stored.
3. Drag the image from that folder to the space in the program designated for that. As soon as it is dragged, the program will process the image.
  - a. Also, you can go to **File**, and then **Open**, and then navigate to your image.

Now you have the folders with the tiles. These folders are usually named "TileGroup"+number (0,1,2,3,4...). After this, you can move onto storing the image using GitHub.