



Collecting and Organizing Data for StoryMaps: Basics
Fall 2021
Carolyn Fuchs

Knight Lab StoryMap Info

- Knight Lab StoryMap site: <https://storymap.knightlab.com/>
- Knight Lab Support Forum: <https://knightlab.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/sections/202556646-StoryMapJS>
- DITI's Intro to StoryMap Video: <https://youtu.be/X33ud7RYZFg>

Knight Lab StoryMap is a user-friendly, web-browser mapping tool that allows users to choose a map (this can be a map of the Earth or an image, such as in "Arya's Journey" below) and place markers across the map. Each marker can present images, texts, videos, and audio clips. The goal, then, is to tell a story with these markers and guide your audience through a journey.

A Note on Save States:

StoryMaps does not keep older versions of your project, so once you make and save changes, you cannot retrieve a previous version. You can also write over new content if you have your StoryMap open in multiple browser tabs or windows at once. It is a good idea to plan out your StoryMap in a separate document so you have your content saved somewhere.

This handout is meant to help you consider best practices to prepare and store your content in a separate off StoryMaps, using the [StoryMap spreadsheet template](#).*

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

Using The StoryMap Template for Content Curation

Curating your content is one of the first steps in building your StoryMap.

To get started, make a copy of the [StoryMap spreadsheet template](#) 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!! (In the top menu Click File > Make a copy)

Link to online materials: <https://bit.ly/diti-fall2021-storymap-fuchs>

Developed by Tieanna Graphenreed, DITI Fellow

Adapted from handout by Colleen Nugent

Questions? Contact us! nulab.info@gmail.com



Get to Know It: The Landscape of the StoryMap Template Spreadsheet.

1. The **slide number** (column A) can serve as the order in which your sites appear on your map and the **site name** (column B) can be used to label sites on your map.
2. The **site location** (column C) is used to identify a point on your map where the site is physically located (address or coordinates).
3. The **image URL/File location** (column D) is useful in keeping track of images of sites. Always **credit** (column E) your images to indicate their origin. Also include a **caption** (column F) describing your image.
4. The **headline** (column G) can serve as the official title or label of your site. Including a **narrative** (column H) provides more context as to why your site is important.
5. Citation is important! Do not forget to cite your sources. (Column I)
6. You may want to include additional media related to your site (e.g. newspaper clippings, additional photos, etc.). Use Columns J and K for this, and expand as needed.

Spreadsheet data collection

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
The Slide	info	info	http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20158126	Frederick 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. Two open land community gardens 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 riparian area within Boston's larger Emerald Necklace park system.			
Site 1	Back Bay Fens Community Gardens	42.344888, -71.093221	http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20157723	Frederick House Records, Courtesy of Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections	Community gardens in Back Bay Fens.	Back Bay Community Gardens				

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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.)

Northeastern University

NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks

Questions to Consider While Curating Your Content

- What story am I trying to tell? What is the main point(s) I want to convey?
- What locations are most necessary to tell this story accurately and expediently?
- What images/media will best represent this location? How will the image enhance the story I want to tell?
- How can I best tell this story/give a tour of a location? How can I integrate a balance of text, images, and other media forms?
- Who is my audience? What kinds of information does that audience need?

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Best Practices for StoryMaps

- Search for media that is open-source or usable under fair-use guidelines. DITI recommends Wikimedia Commons and DPLA ([Digital Public Library of America](#)).
- Ensure proper credit/attribution is given for images and other media content.
 - Questions to consider: Who created this image/media? Have I attributed credit properly to the creator? Did I input the **correct image link**?
- Consider whether the design of your StoryMap matches the tone you want to convey to your audience, and vice versa.

If a group project:

- NULab DITI recommends that students set up a StoryMap account with an email address all group members can access.
- Designate **one** person to input information into the StoryMap. All group members should contribute to the StoryMap Spreadsheet template and divide labor accordingly.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. *How do I change my text color in KnightLab StoryMaps?*
 - a. To change the text color in KnightLab StoryMaps you'll need to use the `` tag in HTML.
 - b. Click the HTML button (`</>`) in the editor. Then add the tag; for example: ` YOUR TEXT HERE `

Note: you must open and close the tags appropriately for the code to work.

- c. Be sure to wrap the `` tag around **the entire text** you wish to be in a different color. See the following example:

```
<br>
```

Here is an example:

```
<br>
```

- d. Experiment with different colors! Try it on your own by changing the color e.g., from "red" to "purple".
2. *How do I add "alt" (alternative) text to my images for accessibility purposes (i.e., screen readers and other assisted technologies)?*
 - a. You can add alt text with HTML code, using the `` tag to make the image accessible for screenreaders.
 - i. Note: typically, the `img src` tag is associated with a specific image. However, the software for StoryMap separates the slide image from the caption. Be

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aware of this as you make accessibility-related improvements to your StoryMap.

- b. Alternatively, **you can do longer-form, more detailed image descriptions within the caption section** of the image slide. This may be the best way considering software limitations.

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