

Storytelling with Mapping: KnightLab StoryMap

Developed by Jonathan Sullivan

Taught by Sarah Connell

HIST 1232: History of Boston

Simon Rabinovitch

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Northeastern University
NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks

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

Workshop Agenda

- Learn about StoryMap as a mode of conveying data and content
- Best practices and questions to consider before creating your StoryMap
- Steps for using Knight Lab's StoryMap
- Start building!

Slides, handouts, and data available at

<https://bit.ly/diti-fall2020-rabinovitch>



Workshop Objectives

- Articulate particular choices you will make when telling a story using a map
- Follow a step-by-step guide for creating, saving, and publishing maps using KnightLab's StoryMap
- Upload data into StoryMap, including location information, images, and text
- Navigate StoryMap's map markers and location-finding system



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



Example Projects Using Maps to Tell Stories

[Angelenos Incarcerated, Eddie's Story](#): uses a map to both linearly and spatially tell someone's story based on an interview (made using Omeka's Neatline)

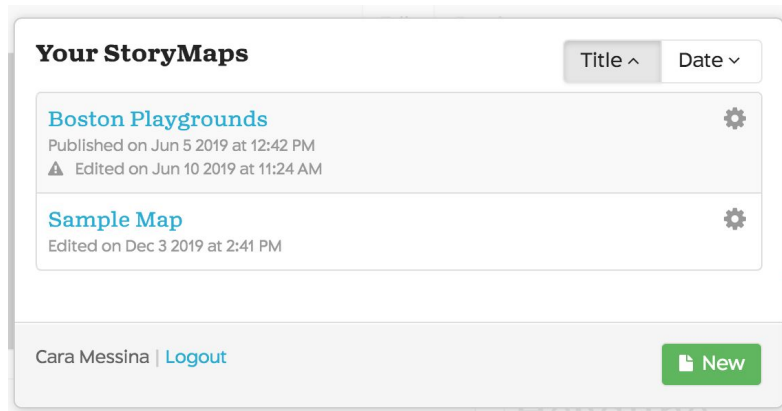
KnightLab StoryMap examples:

- [“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.
- [Arya's Journey in Game of Thrones](#): uses an image of Westeros to trace and tell the story of Arya's journey



Create a StoryMap

- Go to <https://storymap.knightlab.com/>
- Click “Make a StoryMap” 
- Either create a new account or sign in through Google
- Once you’re signed in, click “New Map” (once you have created your map, it will be there for you to work on)
- Name your project



Your StoryMap

Overall options
(like changing map layout)

SAVE A TON!

Preview your slides

Preview the
geographic points in all
of your slides

Title and content of
your text box

Color of the text box
background

Uploading photos
or other media!
Document what
you upload

Check out and add new
slides here



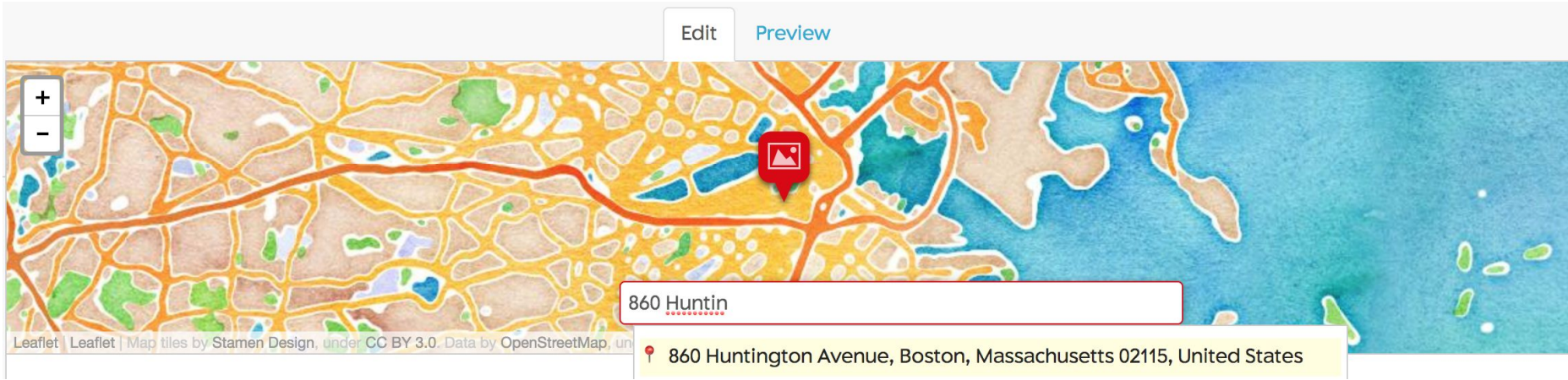
Slides, or map markers

Each slide is a different marker point on your map/image. Each slide contains:

- Title and text. The text box reads basic HTML.
- A background image/color.
- A map marker, which can be placed using Google Maps locations or by placing the marker manually.
- Media: images, videos, and sound files can be uploaded. Since only *one* media file can be uploaded per slide, you can use the text box's HTML to integrate an image or another media type.



Add A Location



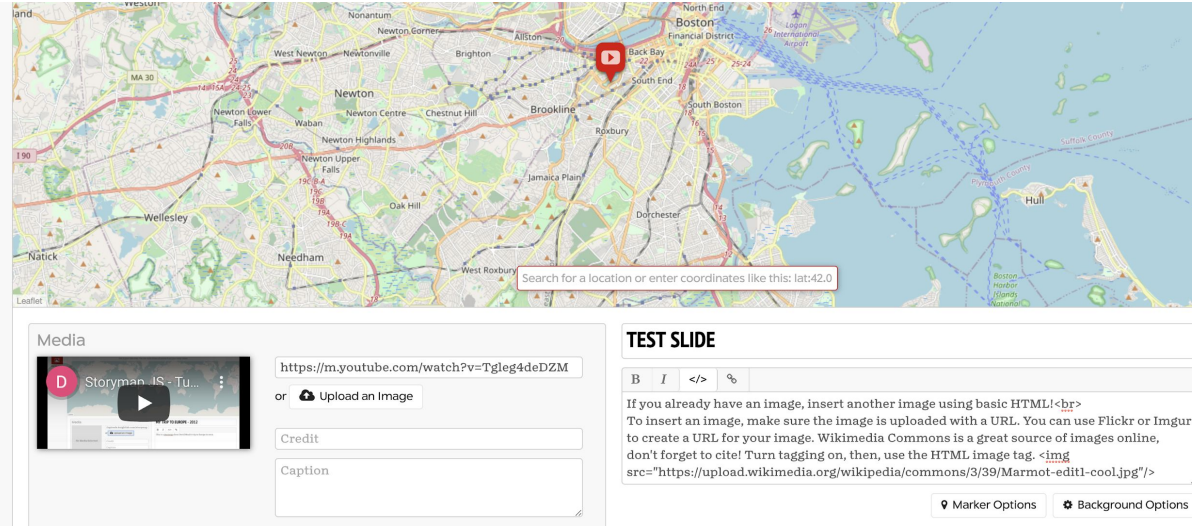
KnightLab StoryMap uses **Google Maps** to locate addresses

StoryMap, however, does **not** always recognize place names; you might need to know the **address** or location of particular structures

If you cannot find the address of a location, you can **drag and drop the map markers** to the specific location



Add Media and Images in Text



Use “media” to upload files. You can upload an image or put a **URL** of an image OR a video (like a YouTube video). If you want to include your own video, you will first have to upload it to YouTube and copy that link.

If you have an image or a video in the “media” section, but want to include an image in the **text**, you can! The text box reads basic HTML.

1. Click the `</>` button (turn on HTML)
2. Get a URL of your image. Wikimedia Commons is a great source of images. Make sure to use the embed file code--don't forget to cite!
3. Use the HTML `` tag to insert the image.
4. Check the “Preview” to see the image



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.



Spreadsheet data collection

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

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	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/d201581723	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.			
4											
5											
6											

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.)



Adding to StoryMap

Once you're happy with the organization and order of the items in your spreadsheet, you can copy from these into StoryMap, following the directions above for adding images, locations, and so on.

This 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.



In-class Activity

Create your own short StoryMap with a walk through your own neighborhood. The goal here is to simply show that you have tried out the StoryMap software and are able to upload videos or images. You don't need to use the spreadsheet for this; just begin experimenting with adding points.

Suggestions:

- Create around 3–4 map markers, not including the “start”
- Include at least one image in your description using the HTML tag (instructions provided on slide 10)
- Include at least one video



Thank you!

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

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DITI Fellow

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NULab Assistant Director

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



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