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**HIST 5237: Issues and Methods in Public History**  
**Angel David Nieves**  
**Making Story Maps Using Knight Lab**

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**KnightLab StoryMap Info**

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

KnightLab 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 soundbites. The goal, then, is to tell a story with these markers and guide your audience through a journey.

**Questions to Consider**

- What story am I trying to tell? What is the main point(s) I want to convey?
- 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?
- What is the best StoryMap template I can use to convey my information?
- Who is my audience? What kinds of information does that audience need?

**Story Map Examples**

- Mapping Black Paris:  
<https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymapjs/4b074fa299869d47b2d6fd8c4e18d968/mapping-black-paris/index.html>
- Game of Thrones, Arya's Journey:  
<https://storymap.knightlab.com/examples/aryas-journey/>
- Mapping American Childhoods:  
<https://blog.uvm.edu/mcope-childhoods/american-childhoods-1850-1950/>
- Boston Parks and Playgrounds: Community Scan:  
<https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymapjs/519665db8eee0565cdfe065cd5953daf/science-of-play-community-scan-6-10-19/index.html>

**Using StoryMap:**

1. Create your Map
  - a. Go to <https://storymap.knightlab.com/>
  - b. Click "Make a StoryMap"
  - c. After creating an account or signing in, click "New Map" and name your project
2. Title Page

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Find the slides and more at: <https://bit.ly/diti-fall2021-nieves-storymap>

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**Questions? Contact us:** [nulab@northeastern.edu](mailto:nulab@northeastern.edu)



- a. The title slide will display all the map markers
  - b. The Text box on the bottom-right is where you put the project description
  - c. Add Media for the page in the “Media” box (Image, caption, credit)
3. Add Slides (Map Markers)
  - a. Click the “Add Slide” button in the left-hand column
  - b. Add a Location
    - i. StoryMap uses Google Maps to locate addresses
    - ii. Type the address or coordinates into the search bar in center of page
    - iii. If you can’t find the location, you can drag and drop map marker to specific location
  - c. Add description and media (same as the Title Page)
4. Add Media and Images in Text
  - a. To add additional media to a slide, you can use basic HTML
  - b. Click the `</>` button (turn on HTML)
  - c. 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!
  - d. Use the HTML `` tag to insert the image.
    - i. You can copy and paste directly from this .txt file:  
<https://github.com/NULabNortheastern/digitalassignmentshowcase/blob/master/mapping/nieves-storymap-publichistory-fall2021/HTML%20Template.txt>
  - e. Check the “Preview” to see the image
5. Customize
  - a. The “Options” button in the top left allows you to change the design of your map
  - b. “Background Options” in the bottom right of the text box allows you to customize the color of the background
  - c. “Marker Options” directly to the left of “Background Options” allows you to customize the map marker by uploading your own image

### 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 `<span>` tag in HTML.
  - b. Click the HTML button (`</>`) in the editor. Then add the tag; for example: `<span style="color:red"> YOUR TEXT HERE </span>`  
Note: you must open and close the tags appropriately for the code to work.
  - c. Be sure to wrap the `<span>` tag around **the entire text** you wish to be in a different color.
  - d. Experiment with different colors! Try it on your own by changing the color 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 `<img src = "IMAGE LINK" alt = "IMAGE DESCRIPTION" >` tag to make the image accessible for screenreaders.
    - i. Note: typically, the `<img>` tag is associated with a specific image. However, the software for StoryMap separates the slide image from the caption. Be 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 approach considering software limitations.