

Data Storytelling: Knight Lab StoryMap & TimelineJS



HIST1232: History of Boston

Prof. Uta Poiger

Digital Integration Teaching Initiative

Consultants: Dipa Desai, Shannon Peifer, and Mel Williams

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

Workshop Agenda

- ❑ Slides and handouts available at: <https://bit.ly/fa25-poiger-hist1232-multi>
- ❑ Best practices and questions to consider before creating your StoryMap or TimelineJS project
- ❑ Learn about StoryMap and TimelineJS as modes of storytelling
- ❑ Demonstrate steps for using Knight Lab's StoryMap and TimelineJS
- ❑ Start building! (if time)

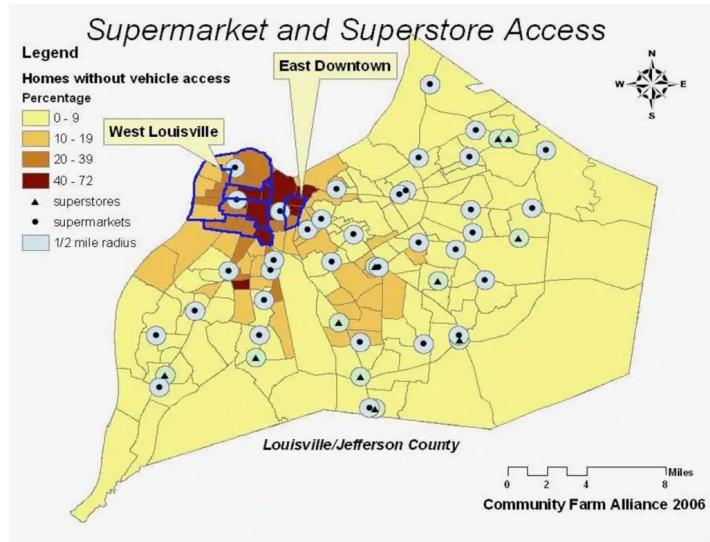
Data Storytelling

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Data storytelling with maps

Maps can convey all sorts of geospatial information that can facilitate different applications:

- ❑ Navigational/orientational maps
- ❑ Geological/topographical maps
- ❑ Political maps
- ❑ Thematic maps
- ❑ Artistic maps
- ❑ Narrative maps



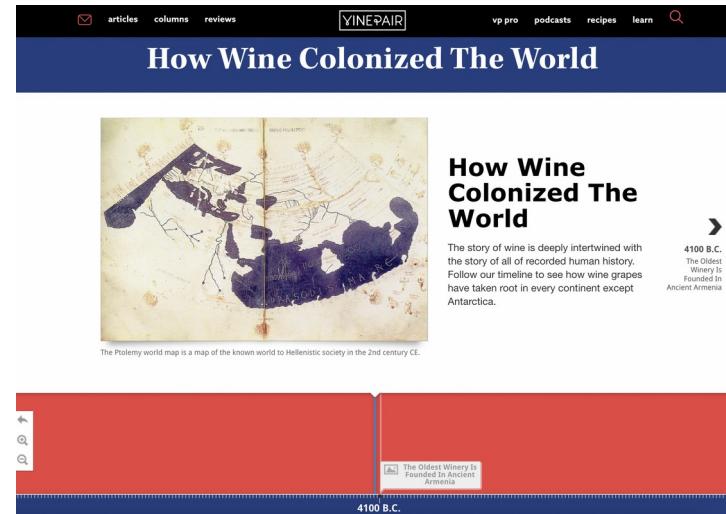
Supermarket and Superstore Access Map from University of Louisville



Data storytelling with timelines

Timelines can be used to tell a variety of stories, supported with chronological data to create a narrative:

- ❑ Life stories
- ❑ Chronology of related events
- ❑ Tracking developments in a topic or singular event
- ❑ Examining trends



["How Wine Colonized the World"](#)
timeline from Vinepair

Why use a map or timeline to tell stories?

- ❑ Maps and timelines are ways to visualize data in a way that is **contextualized in space or time**
- ❑ Writing about events or places **in connection to each other** allows you to craft a narrative
- ❑ **Grouping events or places together** in a timeline or map highlights their relatedness that may otherwise have been lost without a **curated story**

What are the limits?

- ❑ As a form of storytelling, these representations reflect the intention of the creator and are **inherently limited**.
 - Maps and timelines produce **shared interpretations**, and are not expressions of objective spatial relations or histories.
 - For example, Boston is as much a human idea as a physical space, and thus maps both *represent* and *create* reality. See Quincy Langford's "[Maps Are a Tool to Understand the Past and Shape the Future](#)" to explore how maps can create, erase, and reshape.
- ❑ The **simplicity** and **clarity** of maps and timelines is deceiving, but **artificial clarity** is necessary for them to be **useful**.

Example Projects Using Timelines to Tell Stories

- ② [Whitney Houston 1963-2012](#): Tells the life of Whitney Houston through key dates and events
- ② [Revolutionary User Interfaces](#): Tracks the journey of computer technology to show how interfaces have become more intimate
- ② [How Wine Colonized the World](#): Studies the history of wine and how it's intertwined with empire building and colonization
- ② [The Bicycle: A Shifting Symbol](#): Analyzes the rise of the bicycle and trends that led to its popularity (by student at UVM)

Example Projects Using Maps to Tell Stories

- ② “[Food Justice in St. Louis](#)”: uses ArcGIS to illustrate the patterns of food access in St. Louis, and its intersectionality with the built environment, race, income, and access to transportation.
- ② “[Map of Seattle's Amazon Fresh Area](#)”: uses a map to explore issues of food apartheid in Seattle.
- ② “[Contemporary Indigenous Spatiality](#)”: StoryMap created by Agléška Cohen-Rencountre (Lower Brule Sioux Tribe) to interrogate settler-colonial epistemologies about water-ways, as well as trace personal and community connections to Rapid Creek and the Mississippi River.

Making a StoryMap or TimelineJS

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

What is a TimelineJS?

KnightLab's TimelineJS tool allows students, journalists, historians, etc. to create interactive timelines that tell compelling chronological stories with strong visual elements.

The screenshot displays a timeline interface from TimelineJS. At the top right, there is a navigation bar with arrows for 'THE GOOD ROADS MOVEMENT' and 'Safe Roads'. The timeline itself shows markers for the years 1873, 1876, 1879, and 1880. Two main entries are visible:

- VELOCIPED** (1860s): An illustration of a man riding a large-wheeled bicycle (velocipede) on a path. Below the image is the caption: "The first bicycle appeared in the United States and was known as the 'velocipede' - a human powered vehicle that would allow for travel on land and included more than one wheel (Vivcano, 2013, p. 28). The term 'bicycle' was born out of the trend of velocipede riding inspired by traveling gymnast groups visiting the United States from Europe." There are also small thumbnail images for 'Velocipede' and 'The Good Roads Movement'.
- THE ANTIKYTHERA** (1600): A video thumbnail from the Nature Video Channel titled "Antikythera Mechanism Part 1: by Nat...". The video shows a complex mechanical device with many gears and plates. The caption below the video reads: "In the year 1900, sponge divers discovered the Antikythera Mechanism, a remarkable mechanical computer used to track the cycles of the solar system dated to as early as 89 B.C. There was no input however. All computations were carried out by the intricate system of clockwork like plates and wheels.."

At the bottom of the timeline, there is a red banner with the text: "Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!"

What is a StoryMap?

KnightLab's StoryMap tool allows users to tell narrative stories connected with specific geographic locations.

Welcome to the Fenway

Welcome to this Community Walk! The purpose of this walk is to introduce people to the history and context of one of the neighborhoods that surround Northeastern. Most importantly, this walk is designed using an Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) perspective. ABCD is a philosophy that recognizes communities' abilities to achieve positive change using their own knowledge, skills, and lived experiences as well as existing resources and infrastructure.

Another way to think about it is to consider a community's strengths rather than deficits, or problems.

For example: instead of saying, "This community has a high crime rate and it can't be fixed," we say, "This community has an organization that serves the previously incarcerated and is collaborating within the community to work towards

Fenway Community Walk

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Overall Best Practices

- ❑ Think carefully about the **audience** you are trying to reach with your project. This will impact your language, the order of your points, and the media that you choose.
- ❑ Think also about the **tone** of the map or timeline: adjust the formatting to match the content you are sharing.
- ❑ **Test your end product** after you have created it, to make sure that all the narrative points flow and that the language is clear and concise.

Recommended: Spreadsheet Template

Make a copy of either template below and use it to fill in the different data and content you want to include.

- ② [StoryMap Spreadsheet Template](#) (based on template created by Molly Brown, Reference and Outreach Archivist, Northeastern University Library)
- ② [TimelineJS Template](#) (make a copy on your drive)

For more information about collecting and organizing data, please see:
<https://bit.ly/handout-storymap-spreadsheet> and [TimelineJS Handout](#).

Data Collection Demo

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during the presentation!*

Data Collection: TimelineJS

The TimelineJS template operates in much the same way with “text” as your opportunity to add context through narrative.

Official TimelineJS3 Template										USE TEMPLATE							
Year	Month	Day	Time	End Year	End Month	End Day	End Time	Display Date	Headline	Text	Media	Media Credit	Media Caption	Media Thumbnail	Type	Group	Background
									Google Spreadsheet Example	This is a test of using google spreadsheets as a source for the timeline tool. This is a title slide, so it doesn't need a date. It automatically occurs first, and doesn't appear in the timeline below.	http://www.flickr.com/photos/zachwise/6115056146/in/photostream	Zach Wise/verite.co zach.wise	href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/zachwise/6115056146/" title="Chicago by zach.wise, on Flickr>Chicago by Zach Wise/verite.co zach.wise"				
2011	11	1		2011	12	15			Another Flickr Example	It's Easy to Make Your Own Timeline	http://www.flickr.com/photos/zachwise/6894476777/in/photostream	Zach Wise/verite.co Chicago to NYC					
2011	11	16	05:58:44	2011	11	16	07:30:00		Vimeo Example	Illustrate your Timeline with photos, videos, tweets and more.	https://vimeo.com/143407878	Knight Lab	A video about how to make timelines!				#333333 http://knightlab.northwestern.edu/uploads/2015/03/front-page-image.jpg

Date required; end date and display date (optional)

Text and headline for the slide

Entering media and related info

Additional options w/ slides

Data collection: StoryMap Site

	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		Walking the Emerald Necklace				
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	This is an introduction to the project that will continue on. 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											

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.

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

Data collection: StoryMap Image

	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	Walking the Emerald Necklace					
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	This is an introduction to the project that will continue on. 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											

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.

Data collection: StoryMap Narrative

	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. 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.			
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				
4											
5											
6											

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.

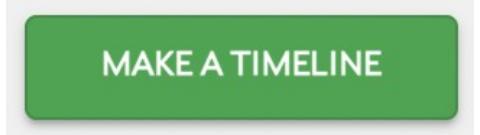
Don't forget to cite your sources! Also, you may want to include additional media related to your site (e.g. newspaper clippings, additional photos, etc.).

TimelineJS Demo

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

Create a Timeline

- ? Go to <https://timeline.knightlab.com/>
- ? Click “Make a Timeline”
- ? You don’t need an account to create a timeline
- ? Click "Get the spreadsheet template" and follow the instructions to copy it to your Google Drive
- ? The main place where you build your timeline is Google Sheets, so when you make a copy, the file will be saved in your Google Drive

A screenshot of the Timeline creation interface. It shows a light gray header with the text "CREATE A TIMELINE". Below this is a green button with the white text "MAKE A TIMELINE".

MAKE A TIMELINE

Create your spreadsheet

- ② The first step to making a Timeline will always be building a new Google Spreadsheet by making a copy of the template provided by TimelineJS
- ② Copy the template to your own Google Drive by clicking “Make a Copy”
- ② Add in your dates, text, media links
- ② Note: Don’t make any changes to the column headers, remove any columns, or leave any blank rows

The end result we're aiming for



Bob Burchette/The Washington Post

Former IRS Commissioner Randolph Thrower

1971

Commissioner Thrower leads defiance

Nixon fires one of the commissioners, Randolph Thrower. As the story goes, he returns a few years later for a visit to the agency. Employees hear that he's in the building and they stream into the hallways to greet him with applause.

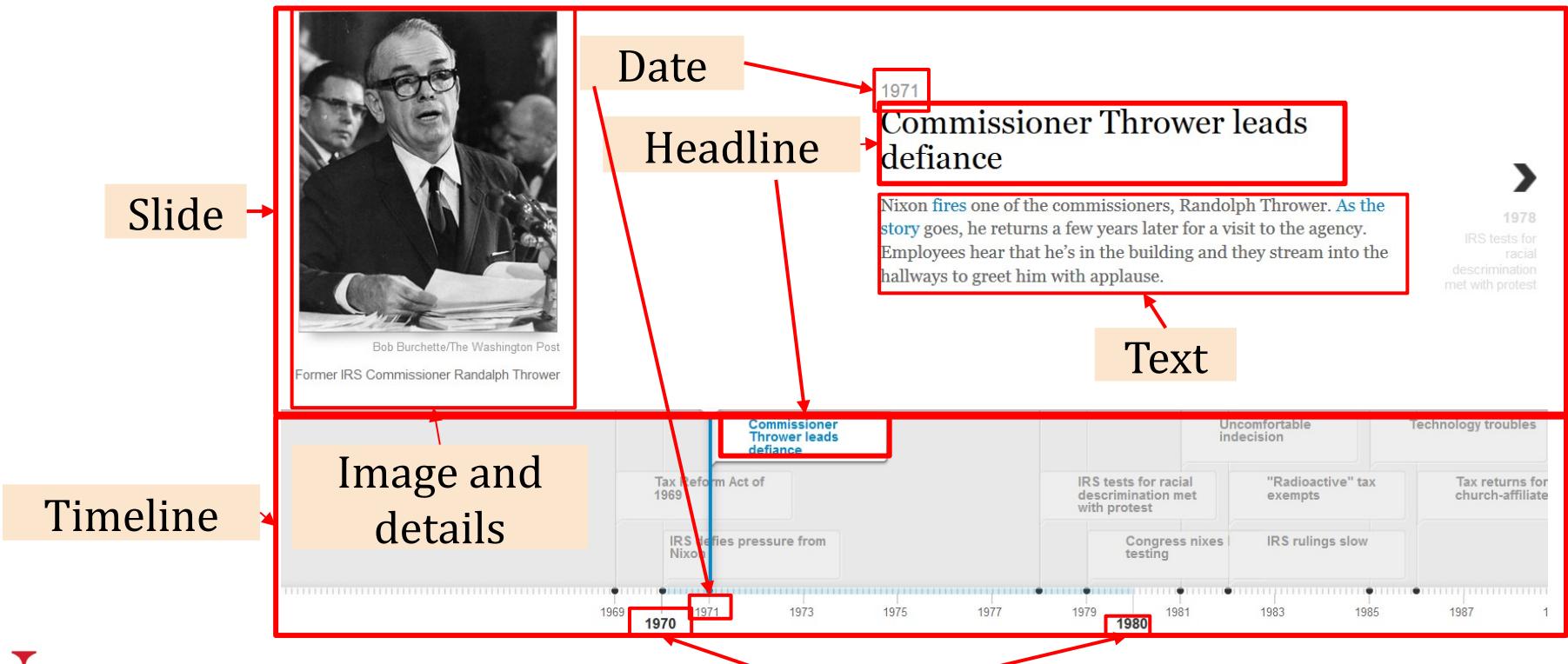


1978

IRS tests for racial discrimination met with protest



The end result components



Slides

Each row in the spreadsheet is one slide in the Timeline. Every slide represents a different point or period in time. Each slide contains:

- ❑ **Headline** and **text**. The text box reads basic HTML.
- ❑ **A background image/color**
- ❑ **Media**: images, videos, and sound files.
 - Only **one** media file can be uploaded per slide
 - Special columns in the spreadsheet are dedicated to incorporating the media onto the slide

Dates

- ?] Slides in the final timeline follow the **order of the dates**, *not the rows*
 - ?] You can choose how specific you want to make your dates, but you must enter at least the **year**
 - ?] Entering the end date is optional
 - ?] The “display date” is useful when the exact date is

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Headlines and text

Headline	Text
Google Spreadsheet Example	This is a test of using google spreadsheets as a source for the timeline tool. This is a 'title' slide, so it doesn't need a date. It automatically occurs first, and doesn't appear in the timeline below.
Another Flickr Example	It's Easy to Make Your Own Timeline
Vimeo Example	Illustrate your Timeline with photos, videos, tweets and more.

Date

Headline



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Adding media (1/2)

- ❑ Timeline supports various online media platforms (but you **can't** upload from your computer directly)
- ❑ Go to the “[Supported Media Types](#)” list on the KnightLab TimelineJS site to find more information on file types and embedding

Media	Media Credit	Media Caption	Media Thumbnail
http://www.flickr.com/ http://www.flickr.com/ https://vimeo.com/14210000	Zach Wise/verite.co Zach Wise/verite.co Knight Lab	Chicago by zach.wise Chicago to NYC A video about how to make timelines!	
<code>id="inlineFrameExample"</code> <code>src="https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f8/Mosaic_of_Theodora_-_Basilica_San_Vitale_%28Ravenna%2C_Italy%29.jpg"</code>			<p>Using urls</p> <p>Using <iframe></p>

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Adding media (2/2)

- ?] Markup language (used for writing the content of web pages) can be used to import the media not supported by TimelineJS
- ?] This is done by adding **<iframe>** instead of the URL in the column L: you can find the model for entry [here](#)
- ?] You can also use **<blockquote>** markup in the

Media	Media Credit	Media Caption	Media Thumbnail
http://www.flickr.com/ http://www.flickr.com/ https://vimeo.com/14210000 <iframe id="inlineFrameExample" src="https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f8/Mosaic_of_Theodora_Basilica_San_Vitale_%28Ravenna%2C_Italy%29.jpg">></iframe></iframe>	Zach Wise/verite.co Zach Wise/verite.co Knight Lab	A video about how to make timelines!	

Using urls

Using <iframe>

Ex: markup language used to turn the media caption into hyperlink

Timeline Types: *Title* vs. *Era*

The **Type** column (P) can be used to activate a few more specialized features.

?] If you use the word **title** in this column, then Timeline will use the row as a "title slide," which is shown before all others and does not require a date.

?] If you use the word **era** in this column, then Timeline will use the row to label a span of time in the "axis" area of the timeline navigation component. Eras should have start and end dates (at least the year for each) and a

M	N	O	P	Q
Media Credit	Media Caption	Media Thumbnail	Type	Group
Zach Wise/verite.co	Chicago by zach.wise			
Zach Wise/verite.co	Chicago to NYC A video about how to make timelines!			
Knight Lab			title	
			era	

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Groups

- ② **Group:** text entered in this column acts as a subheading for moments that you want grouped together
- ② Moments in the same group will appear in their corresponding row at the bottom of the timeline

Type	Group	Background
title	contemporary contemporary historical	#333333 https://upload.wikim...
title	historical	
era		

historical

Timeline

Easy-to-make, beautiful timelines.

Make a Timeline

VIMEO EXAMPLE

Groups

Background

You can customize your background with a color or an image.

You enter a color by its **hex code** (#333333 in the example on the right).

You can Google a color name, or browse [HTML color codes..](#)

Type	Group	Background
title	contemporary	#333333
title	contemporary	https://upload.wikimedia.org
era	historical	
	historical	

Using CSS color names for background

Using image URL for background



Uploading the spreadsheet

- ❑ In the spreadsheet, select the "Publish to the web" option under "File" → "Share".
- ❑ In the settings box that pops up...
 - check "Automatically republish when changes are made"
 - select "od1" under *Entire document* drop down box
 - then click "Publish"

Publish to the web

This document is published to the web.

Make your content visible to anyone by publishing it to the web. You can link to or embed your document. [Learn more](#)

Link	Embed
Entire Document	Web page ▾
od1	/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vS1du5blUWL6CMq2C

Or share this link using:

Note: Viewers may be able to access the underlying data for published charts. [Learn more](#)

Published 

"Publish" button

Published content & settings

Entire Document ▾

Stop publishing

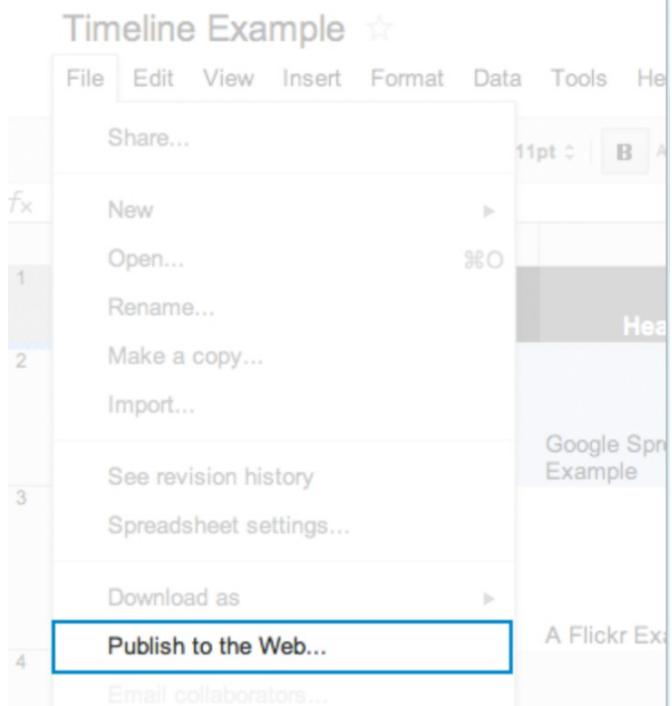
Restrict access to the following
Northeastern University ▾

Automatically republish when changes are made

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Publish to the web (1/2)

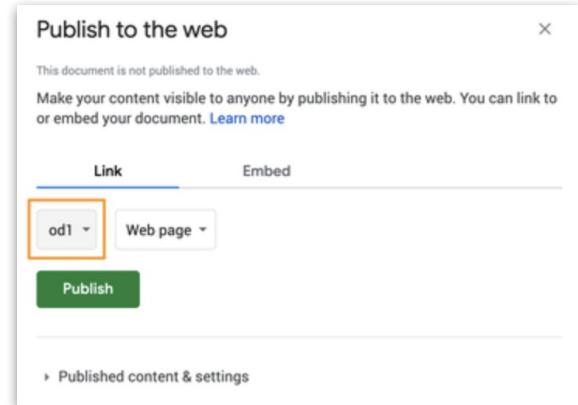
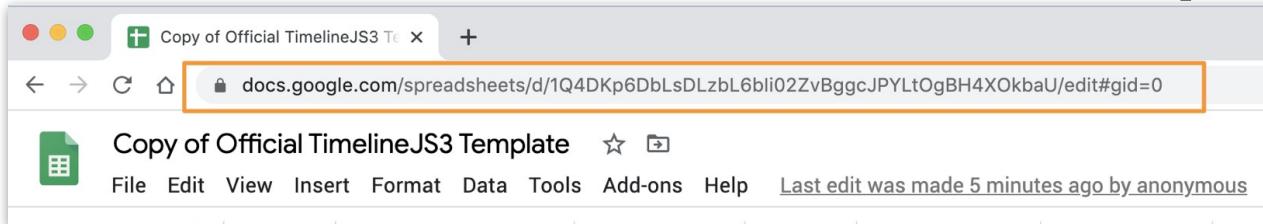
- ② Under the File menu, select “Publish to the Web”
- ② Note: Don’t set your Timeline Google spreadsheet to “anyone with the link can edit.” It isn’t necessary, and could lead to someone changing your Timeline without your consent.



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Publish to the web (2/2)

- ❑ In the next window, change the menu that reads “entire document” to “od1.” Then click the blue “publish” button. When asked, “Are you sure...” click OK. Ignore the URL that appears in the center of the window. Just close the window using the X in the top right corner.
- ❑ After you close the window, copy the URL in your browser address bar. You’ll use it in the next step.



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Converting Spreadsheet to Timeline

Copy the **Page URL** (**not** the Publish URL) into the [Timeline website](#)

The screenshot shows a light blue rectangular interface. On the left, a large blue '3' is followed by the text 'Generate your timeline'. In the center, there's a text input field with a red border containing the URL 'https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1QNau-siikcLInQKWeiTCz'. Below this input field are two smaller input fields: 'Width' set to '100%' and 'Height' set to '650'. At the bottom, there's a callout box with a grey border containing the text 'Optional settings (show)' and 'Set language, fonts, starting slide and more.'

Copy/paste spreadsheet URL into the box below to generate your timeline.
(Make sure you've published the spreadsheet.)

Google Spreadsheet URL

Width 100% Height 650

Optional settings (show)
Set language, fonts, starting slide and more.

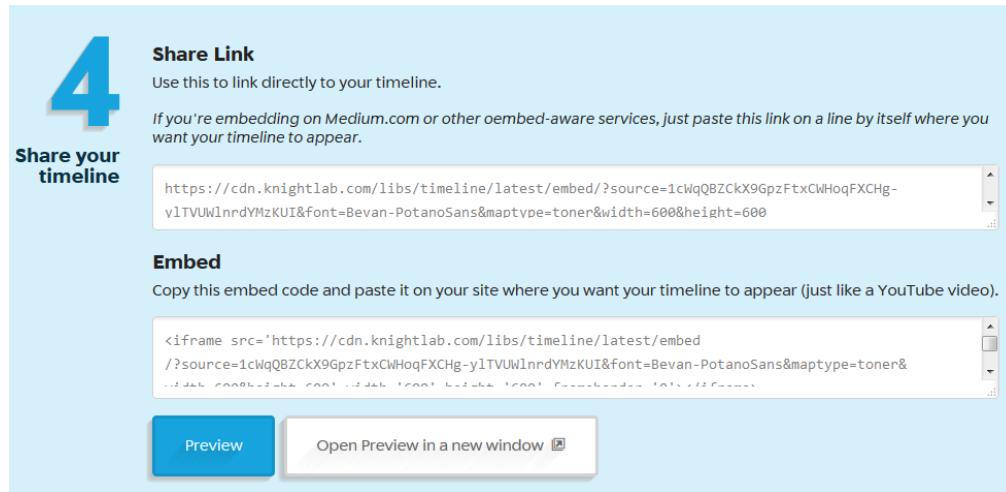
Feel free to ask questions at any point
during the presentation!

Viewing the timeline

After you have entered the link from the spreadsheet URL, you will get a **shareable link**.

Copy and paste the '**share link**' in your browser to open your timeline or to share it with others.
USE THIS OPTION!

(ONLY use the '**embed**' code if you are going to embed your timeline on a website.)



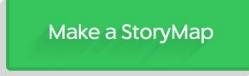
The screenshot shows a user interface for sharing a timeline. At the top left is a large blue '4' icon with the text 'Share your timeline' below it. To the right, under the heading 'Share Link', there is a text input field containing a URL: `https://cdn.knightlab.com/libs/timeline/latest/embed/?source=1cWqQBZCkX9GpzFtxCwHoqFXChg-y1TVUWlnrdYMzKUI&font=Bevan-PotanoSans&mapttype=toner&width=600&height=600`. Below this is a section titled 'Embed' with a text input field containing an `<iframe` tag. At the bottom are two buttons: 'Preview' (blue) and 'Open Preview in a new window'.

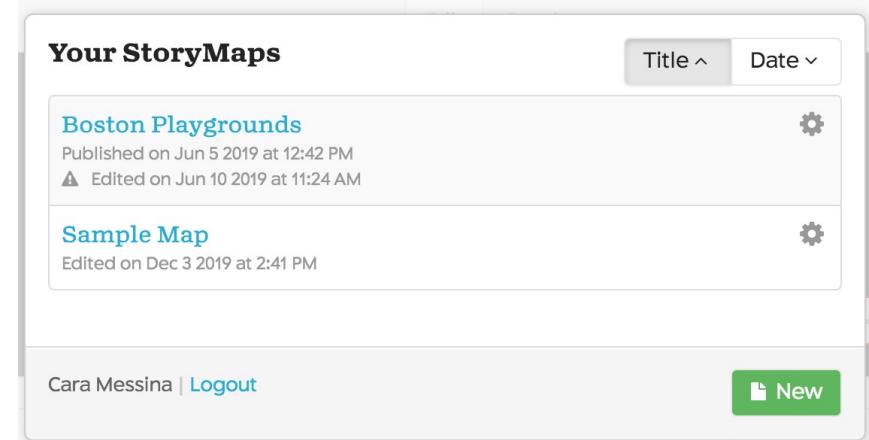
Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!

StoryMap Demo

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during the presentation!*

Create a StoryMap

- ② Go to <https://storymap.knightlab.com/>
- ② Click “Make a StoryMap.” 
- ② Either create a new account or sign in through Google.
- ② Once you’re signed in,
click “New Map” (once you have
created your map, it will be there
for you to work on).
- ② Name your project.



The screenshot shows the 'Your StoryMaps' dashboard. At the top right are 'Title ^' and 'Date ^' dropdowns. Below is a list of maps:

- Boston Playgrounds**
Published on Jun 5 2019 at 12:42 PM
▲ Edited on Jun 10 2019 at 11:24 AM
- Sample Map**
Edited on Dec 3 2019 at 2:41 PM

At the bottom left is the user name 'Cara Messina | Logout'. On the bottom right is a green 'New' button with a document icon.

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Your StoryMap

The screenshot shows the StoryMap.js interface. At the top, there's a toolbar with buttons for 'My Maps' (with a red box), 'Options' (with a red box), 'Save' (with a red box), 'Publish Changes', 'Help', and 'Share'. Below the toolbar is a world map. In the top right corner of the map area, there are 'Edit' and 'Preview' buttons. A large red arrow points from the 'Save' button in the toolbar down to a callout box containing the text 'Overall options (like changing map layout)'. Another red arrow points from the 'Save' button in the toolbar to a callout box on the right containing the text 'SAVE OFTEN!'. At the bottom of the interface, there are sections for 'Media' (with a placeholder 'No Media Selected'), 'HEADLINE' (with rich text editing tools), and 'Marker Options' and 'Background Options' buttons.

**SAVE
OFTEN!**

Your StoryMap: Slides

The screenshot shows the StoryMap JS interface. At the top, there are navigation buttons: 'My Maps', 'Options', 'Save', 'Publish Changes', 'Edit', and 'Preview'. A red box highlights the 'Preview' button. Below these is a title slide featuring a world map with country boundaries. A red box highlights the left sidebar, which contains a red square icon labeled '(untitled)' and a '+ Add Slide' button. At the bottom, there's a 'Media' section with fields for 'URL to your media', 'Upload an Image', 'Credit', and 'Caption'. To the right is a 'HEADLINE' editor with rich text tools (B, I, etc.) and a text area. Red boxes highlight the sidebar, the preview button, and the headline editor.

Check out and add new slides here

Preview your slides

Preview the geographic points in all of your slides

Your StoryMap: Media and Text Boxes

The screenshot shows a StoryMap interface with a world map background. Three callout boxes with red borders point to specific features:

- Uploading photos or other media!** Document what you upload (points to the "Media" section).
- Title and content of your text box** (points to the text input area).
- Color or image for text box background** (points to the background options button).

Media Section:

Media

No Media Selected

URL to your media
or

Credit
Caption

Accepts [HTML](#)

Text Box Section:

HEADLINE

B I </> %

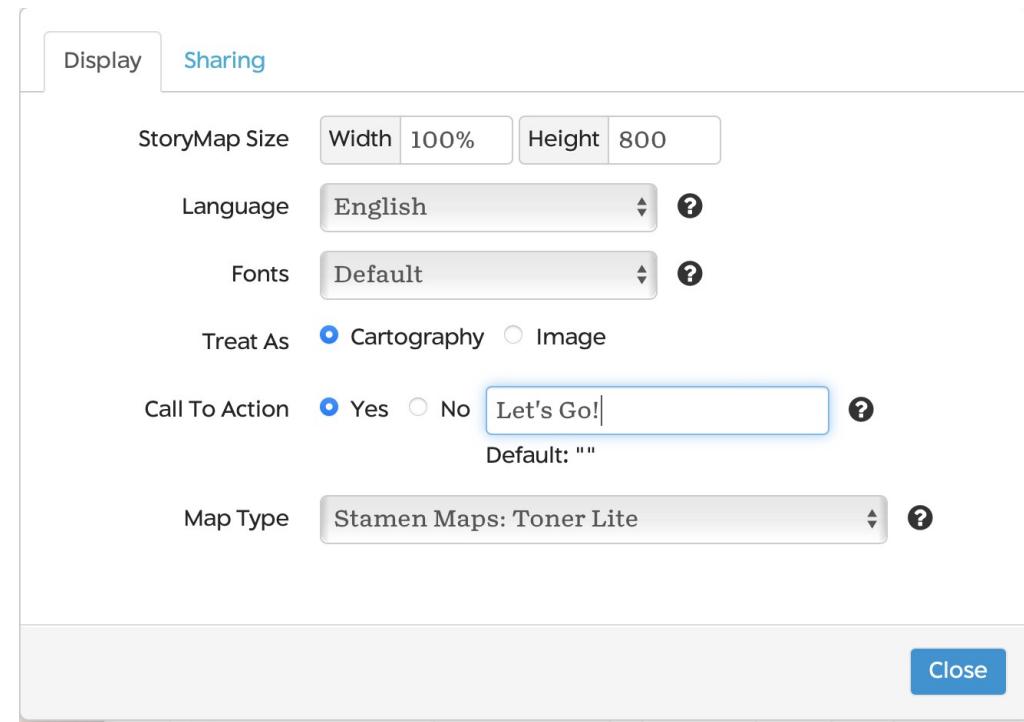
Slides, or map markers

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

- ❑ Title and text. The text box reads basic HTML.
- ❑ A background image or color.
- ❑ A map marker, which can be placed by searching for 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 additional images or other media types.

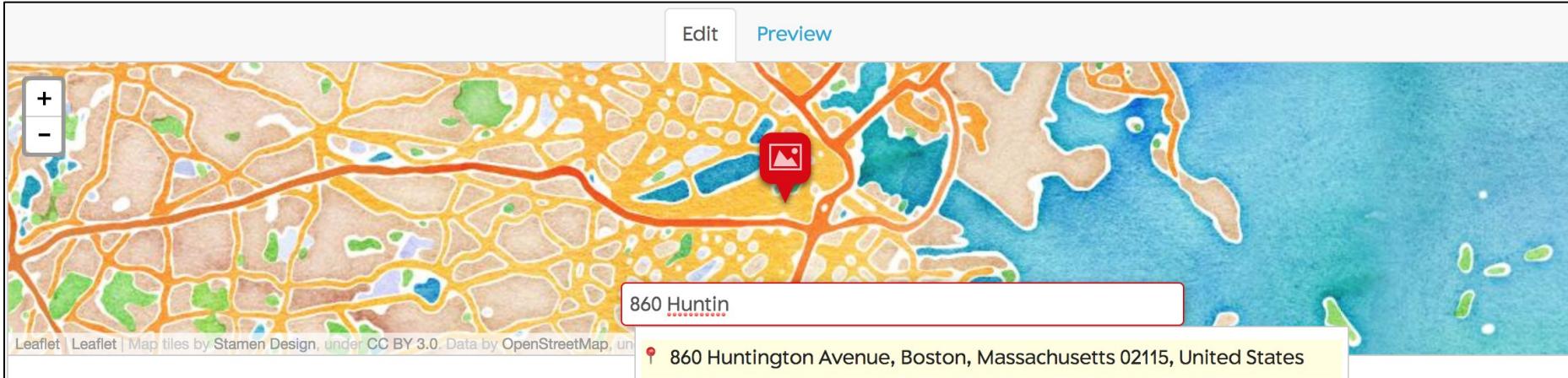
Options for designing your map

- ❑ The “Options” button in the top left allows you to change the design of your map.
- ❑ Customizable options include Language, Fonts, Call to Action, Map Type and more.



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

Add A Location



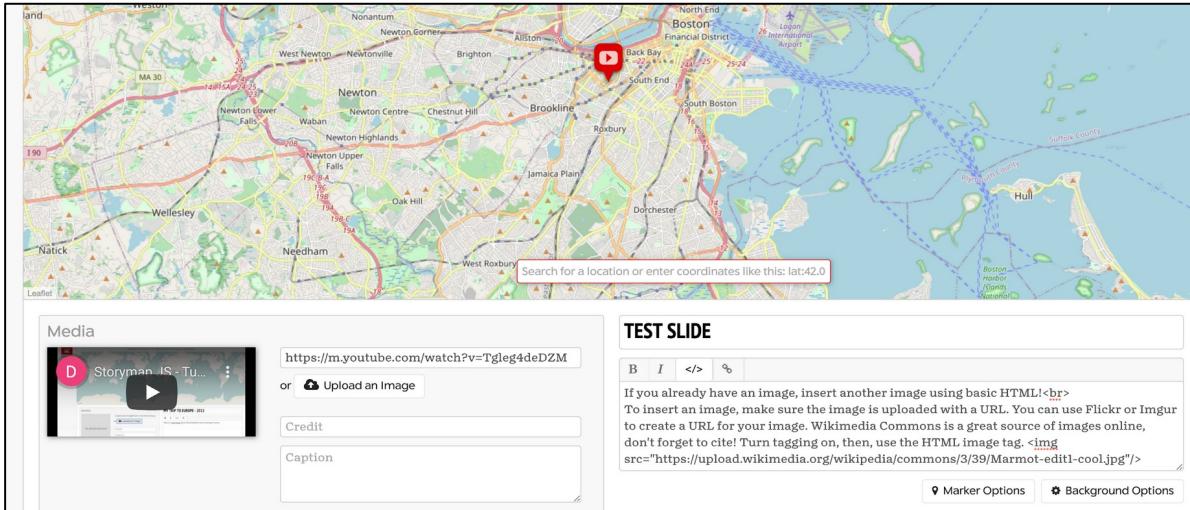
KnightLab StoryMap uses **Mapbox** to locate addresses

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

You can also **drag and drop the map markers** to the specific location

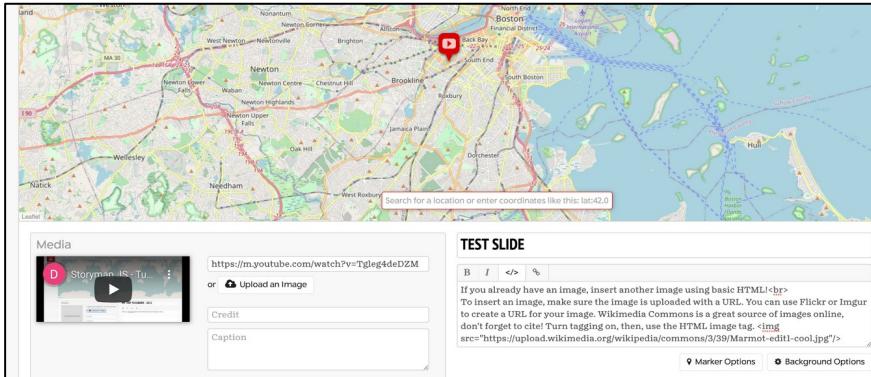
Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!

Add Media and Images to a Slide: Upload or URL



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 or other online publisher and copy that link.

Add Media and Images to a Slide:HTML

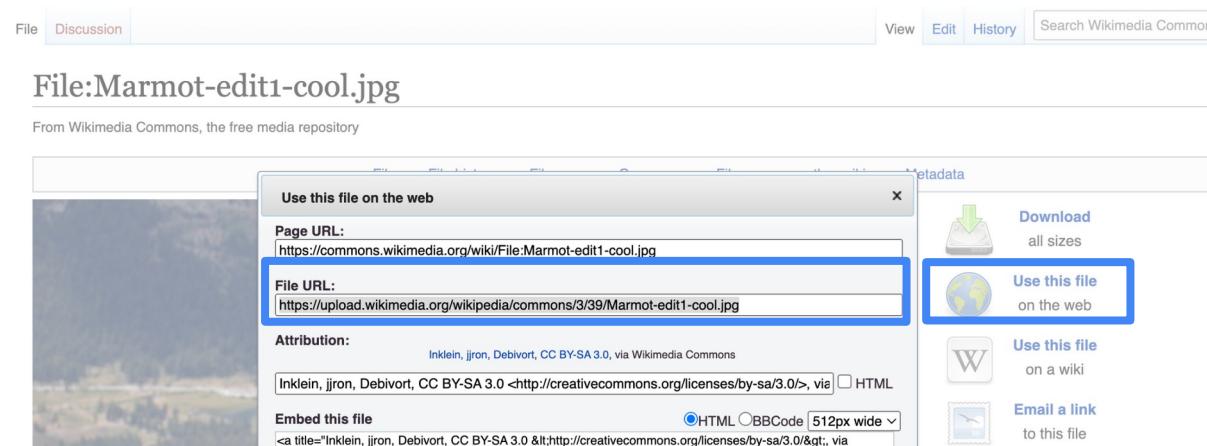


If you have an image or a video in the “media” section, but want to include an image **in the text**, you can! The text box reads basic HTML.

1. Click the </> button (turn on HTML)
2. Get a URL of your image. Use Wikimedia Commons to search images by content, and filter by license type and image size. Make sure to use the embed file code, and don’t forget to cite the source!
3. Use the HTML `` tag to insert the image.
4. Check the “Preview” to see the image. Smaller image sizes may appear as a thumbnail, so stick to larger image sizes and preview your end result!

Embed codes and image files

If you are adding an image via its URL, make sure that you select the link with **the image file itself**, not just a page with the image on it.



For example, to add an image from Wikimedia Commons, follow these steps:

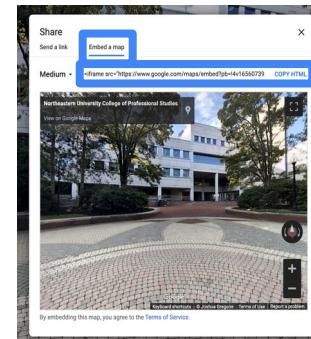
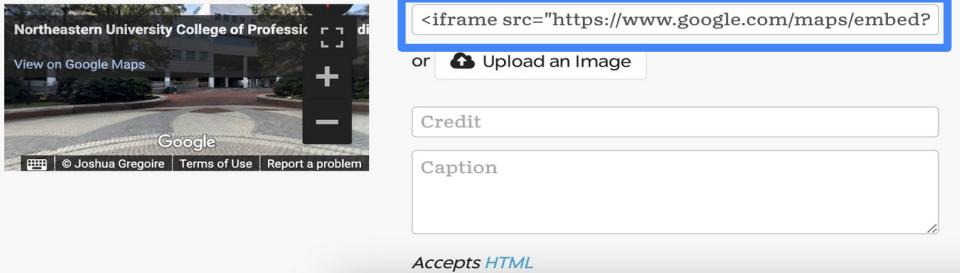
1. Go to "More Details" and choose "Use this file on the web," or just choose "Use this file on the web" if you see that option.
2. Copy the "File URL."

Add Google Street View to a Slide

As with other media, you can insert a Google street view map into a slide by entering its **URL**.

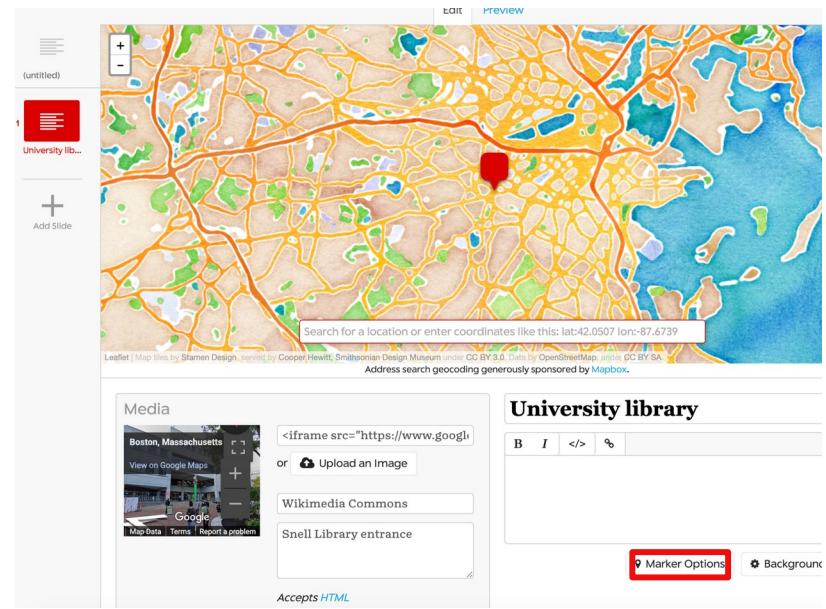
- Click “Share or embed image” from the menu in Google Maps, and copy the **HTML** link from the “Embed a map” tab.
 - Make sure the link has the `<iframe src="URL"></iframe>` code (it should automatically, but the map won’t work without it!).
- Enter the URL into the “URL to your media” box.

Media



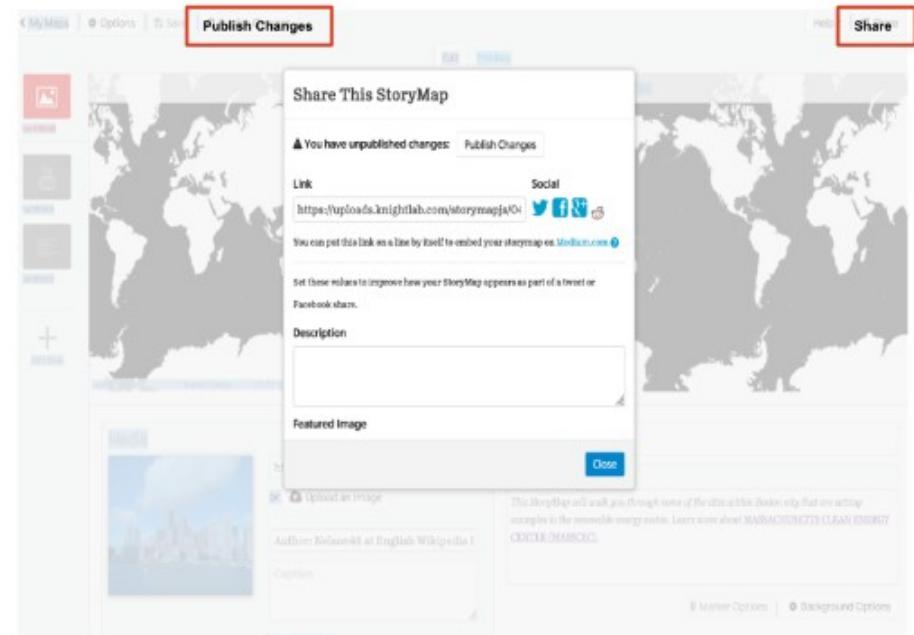
Changing map markers

- Save the icon image you want to use as a map marker on your computer.
- On the slide you want to change the marker for, you can find “Marker Options.”
- Select the “Choose File” option to upload your new icon image.
- When you close the pop-up window, you should have the new icon uploaded onto your map.



Publish and Share Your StoryMap

- ?] Click the “Publish Changes” button on the top left side on the editing page.
- ?] StoryMap’s “Share” button is in the top right corner.
- ?] You can add a description and feature image here before sharing your StoryMap widely.



A Note on Save States

- ❑ StoryMap does not keep older versions of your project. Once save changes, **you cannot retrieve a previous version**. Be careful! If you have your StoryMap open in multiple browser tabs or windows at once, you can write over new changes.
- ❑ This is why it is a good idea to plan out your StoryMap in a separate document, so your content is saved somewhere else.
- ❑ When working on a group project, we suggest **assigning individual users** to certain sections of the StoryMap spreadsheet to prevent any overlap in data entry.

Discussion and Useful Reminders

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

Discussion

What do you think of these tools? Do you find it accessible?

Are there any features you think you will need help with?

What type of information, stories, and narration are especially compatible with each format?

How could you see yourself using these tools outside this class?

Image sharing and permissions

- ❑ It is important to verify that you are allowed to use images before you put them in your StoryMap or Timeline.
- ❑ Search for media that is public domain or shared with permissions that allow re-use.
 - DITI recommends [Wikimedia Commons](#) and DPLA ([Digital Public Library of America](#)).

❑ Ensure proper credit/attribution is given for all media

For more information on copyright and reuse, please see:

<https://bit.ly/fair-use-handout>

Accessibility in StoryMap & TimelineJS (1/3)

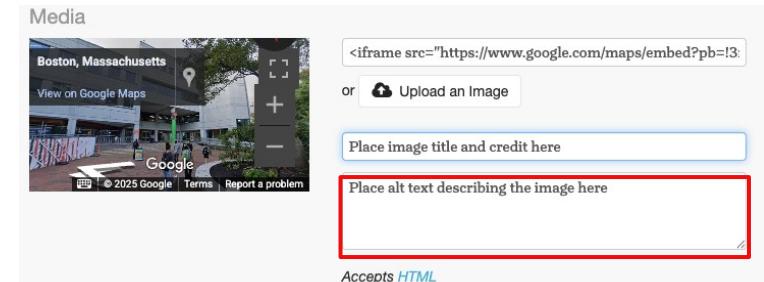
Alt-text is a description of a digital image attached to the image file. When you attach an image or video to your StoryMap or add media in your TimelineJS spreadsheet, add descriptions of any images and videos in the spaces provided for image caption and alt text. People that use screen readers are able to hear content you include in image captions and the text

how

Headline

B I </> %

Place alt text describing the slide and attached visuals here



Accessibility in StoryMap & TimelineJS (2/3)

Color contrast is one way to make StoryMap or TimelineJS accessible. Choosing a higher color contrast palette will make the text more accessible. Avoid using red and green colors for differentiation.

- ❑ StoryMap allows users to customize text color using HTML and the slide background color.
- ❑ TimelineJS allows users to customize background colors in the spreadsheet

Headline

B I </> %

Slide Text: Place alt text describing the slide and attached visuals here

Marker Options

Background Options

Slide Background

Background Color

#ffffff

Background Image

<< select an image, or enter an URL

or upload an image to your StoryMap folder.

Choose File...

Upload

Close

Media



<iframe src="https://www.google.com/maps/embed?pb...>

or

Image Credit

Image Caption: Place alt text describing the image here

Accepts HTML

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

Accessibility in StoryMap & TimelineJS (3/3)

If linking media in the text box of a slide on StoryMap or TimelineJS, be sure to use a descriptive link name. Descriptive link names allows users to know the content and context of the link before they navigate it.

Instead of writing “For more information on accessibility in StoryMap, click [here](#).”

Write “For more information on accessibility in StoryMap, please see: [**H andout: Accessibility in StoryMap.**](#)”

Data Privacy

- ❑ It's important to pay attention to data privacy when using digital resources
- ❑ At its simplest, **data privacy** is a person's ability to control what of their personal information is shared and with whom.
- ❑ To help you make informed decisions about interacting with digital tools in ways that honor your boundaries with your data and/or personal information, The DITI has prepared a handout on **Handout: Data Privacy**.

Data Ethics

- ❑ Data can render certain communities and their qualities hyper-visible or invisible, as well as reinforce biases.
- ❑ It is important to consider what voices are missing from the data or from the archives. Data ethics provide a critical framework for challenging bias in big data, data visualizations, etc.
- ❑ To help you engage with and transform your data ethically, the DITI has prepared an handout on **Handout: Data Ethics**.

Thank you!

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

For Further Exploration

- ? [Handout: StoryMap](#)
- ? [Handout: StoryMap Data Gathering Spreadsheet](#)
- ? [Handout: StoryMap and Accessibility](#)
- ? [Handout: Timeline](#)
- ? [Handout: Copyright and Fair Use](#)
- ? [Handout: HTML Basics](#)

Thank you!

- Taught by DITI Fellows Dipa Desai, Shannon Peifer, Mel Williams
- Developed by Claire Lavarreda, Ana Abraham, Chris McNulty, and Benjamin Grey

- ❑ Course materials: <https://bit.ly/fa25-poiger-hist1232-multi>
- ❑ For more information on DITI, please see: <https://bit.ly/diti-about>
- ❑ Schedule an appointment with us! <https://bit.ly/diti-meeting>
- ❑ To give us feedback: <https://bit.ly/diti-feedback>
- ❑ If you have any questions, contact us at: nulab.info@gmail.com