Gathering Data for Mapping: KnightLab StoryMap

Presented by Vaishali Kushwaha
Supported by Claire Tratnyek
Digital Integration Teaching Initiative

Energy Democracy and Climate Resilience
Jennie Stephens
Fall 2021

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
- Review best practices and questions to consider before creating your StoryMap
- Articulate particular choices you will make when telling a story using a map
- Follow a template for gathering data to be used in Knight Lab's StoryMap

Slides, handouts, and data available at

http://bit.ly/diti_fall2021-stephens-storymap

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

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

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

Example

Boston Parks and Playgrounds: Community Scan: Tour of parks and playgrounds around NU campus, analysis of spaces and types of play encountered.

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

Analysis of Examples

StoryMaps are distinctive for their ability to combine narrative slides with each location on the map. Knight Lab encourages you to **devise a strong location narrative** so that the points on your map do not feel disconnected to the reader.

As you examine the examples, think through the following questions:

- What does this project reveal about what one can do with StoryMap?
- How did the projects present the narrative structure and geospatial layout ? Or, how did the authors put space and place at the center of their story?
- How can these techniques be applied to your own project?

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

Additional Examples

- [Wind Energy StoryMap](#): Stories on renewable wind energy development from the Midwest and Great Plains.

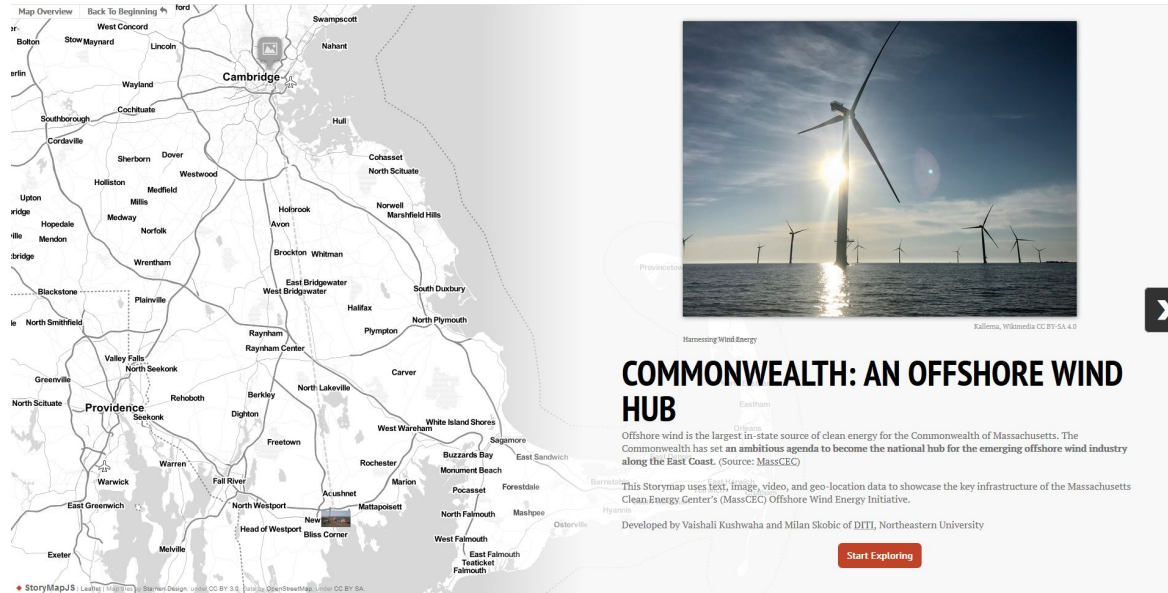KnightLab StoryMap example from Fall 2020 PPUA 5264 students:

- [Green New Deal Proposals](#): Charts 14 GND proposals from across North America. Project: Evaluating GND proposals to assess how they align with national, state, and local level initiatives and proposals and other templates for change being advanced by various governments and organizations.
  Alain Boyle, Graham Leggat, Larissa Morikawa, and Yanni Pappas

View other examples from Fall 2020 students [here](#)

Northeastern University
NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks

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

Example - Demo case

"Commonwealth: A Offshore wind hub" is a demo map created for this class. It uses textual, image, video and geo-locations data to showcase key infrastructure of Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's (MassCEC) Offshore Wind Energy Initiative.

Northeastern University
NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks

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

Brainstorming/Sharing

What is Your StoryMap Idea?

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

Gathering Data for your StoryMap

When collecting data for a group project, it is important to organize the data in one communal place, such as a Google spreadsheet. This will help you to:

- Keep track of your resources
- Add and edit collaboratively with your team
- Storyboard your map
- Communicate with Knight Lab in case of any issues (they ask for a spreadsheet as well as the webpage of the storymap)

Northeastern University
NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks

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

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.

This is one reason why it is a good idea to plan out your StoryMap in a separate document: if you lose progress, you will have your content saved somewhere else.

Northeastern University
NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks

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

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.

Northeastern University
NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks

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

Try to open the spreadsheet to see it for yourself

Northeastern University
NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks

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

Spreadsheet Data Collection

Slide #	Site Name	Site Address	Site Location	Image URL/File Location	Image Credit	Image Caption	Headline	Description/Narrative	Citation(s)	Additional Media	Additional Media Caption & Credit
Title Slide	n/a		n/a	https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tahkoluodon_tuulivoimapuisto.jpg	Title: Suomi: Tahkoluodon tuulivoimapuisto, Pori, Suomi, toukokuuta 2018 Author: Kallerna Source: Wikimedia License: CC BY-SA 4.0	Harnessing Wind Energy	MassCEC Offshore Wind Hub	Offshore wind is the largest in-state source of clean energy for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Commonwealth has set an ambitious agenda to become the national hub for the emerging offshore wind industry along the East Coast.	MassCEC https://www.masscec.com/offshore-wind		
Site 1	Wind Technology Testing Center Charlestown	80 Terminal Street Boston, MA 02129	42.384126, -7 057558	https://www.masscec.com/wind-technology-testing-center	MassCEC	Blade Testing at the WTTC, Charlestown	Wind Technology Testing Center	The MassCEC Wind Technology Testing Center (WTTC) offers a full suite of certification tests for turbine blade sections up to 90 meters in length. WTTC also offers the latest wind turbine blade testing and prototype development methodologies to help the wind industry deploy the next generation of offshore and land-based wind turbine technologies.	MassCEC https://www.masscec.com/offshore-wind	https://files-cdn.masscec.com/WTTC_Flyer_3.14.19%20%2800 3%29.pdf	WTTC Brochure (PDF)

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 and 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.)

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

Data organization

Organizing your data first 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.

When you are ready to add your data, you can copy and paste from your spreadsheet.

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

StoryMap Best Practices

- Think carefully about the **audience** you are trying to reach with your map. This will impact your language, the order of your points, and the media that you choose.

- Think also about the **tone of the map**: the default for StoryMap can be very upbeat and informal, and that may not match the content you are sharing (think, for example, about renaming the button that says "start exploring")

- **Test your map** after you have created it, to make sure that all the narrative points flow and that the language is clear and concise

Northeastern University
NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks

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

Next Steps

Begin to gather your data about sites, including images, descriptions, and citations. For the next session, you should have collected at least 2 sites + title slide

Organize them into the appropriate columns of the spreadsheet

In the next session, we will cover how to start building your StoryMap using your data.

Northeastern University
NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks

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

Thank you!

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

Developed by Colleen Nugent and Tieanna Graphenreed
Digital Integration Teaching Initiative
DITI Research Fellow

Taught by Vaishali Kushwaha
DITI Fellow
Supported by Claire Tratnyek
DITI Fellow

Slides, handouts, and data available at

http://bit.ly/diti_fall2021-stephens-storymap

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

Northeastern University
NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks

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