

# **Crafting Digital History**

## **DIGH38140:HIST38140**

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### **Annotation:**

“In a public world that values quantification so highly, visualizations may lend an air of legitimacy to a piece of research which it may or may not deserve.”

### **Annotation Response:**

It's funny because I would argue the opposite. For some reason, my mind equates “academic” with pages and pages of text, while I would consider visualizations almost as almost training wheels for when you get to the really difficult stuff. It is easier for the public to understand when visualizations are used. It is almost like a barrier between the reader and ALL of the information used by the author. - Maggie Sherwin

### **My Response:**

I wouldn't say that visualizations are almost training wheels for complex work, but rather that they are evolutionary change in how we absorb information. Large amounts of information are difficult to interpret when hours and hours are spent on it making it difficult for the reader

to sometimes conclude the information they have read. I think it is not just about the information we are absorbing but what we want to absorb from it and where that will take us. For example, the packaging of food. When you buy a pack of chips. All the ingredients are listed on the back in tiny font which you can take a look at. For someone with a nut allergy, having a small graphic visualization on the front mentioning that the chips are nut free saves the consumer far more time than hunting for the “may include nuts” written in a small font on the back. If the consumer were to read all the ingredients in the bag they would literally progress no where. No one needs to really know that there is maltodextrin in their food as they probably will never know what it is nor what to do with that information. We live in a world today where everything we touch have large amounts of information that brought that product to where it is now. That information in no way is needed to help us grow or move forward with the product. I don’t need to understand the fundamentals and ever detail of how the cpu chips in my mouse work to use it to help me build my business. The legitimacy of information lies in how well it can be projected/interpreted in its truest form.

## **Reflection:**

This week I had a bit of a rough time with module 4’s exercise but I was able to complete the two needed and the annotations.

I have been reading a book called Sapiens. It contains tons of historic information comprising of mulitple theories an concepts of how we as a species have evolved to come to where we are today. The reason I

mention this is because the exercises I completed (1 & 6) demonstrated how important it is to be able to view information at a macroscopic level. What caught my eye was the mapping of locations and dates of the agricultural revolution. I have attached an image. This synthesis of information through this specific visualization allow us to trace back to where and when the revolution first took place. The agricultural revolution is one of the most controversial topics in anthropology but this simple visualization allows scholars, historians, researchers, authors to interpret the information their own way and come up with a theory of their own.

This module has made me realize the importance of visualization of information.

Agricultural Revolution:

