



Mapping tools

Resource: Google My Maps (www.google.co.uk/mymaps)

Difficulty: 1-2 out of 5

Requires: Google Account

Google My Maps is a free to use platform provided by Google. It allows you to create your own custom maps, add layers and points of interest, share them or publish them to your own website.

You are able to add placemarkers, lines/shapes, add layers, import data and alter the appearance of maps.

This type of platform is a good starting point for displaying geographic or geospatial data which might include where certain buildings are, where things are in relation to each other or the distances and directions between places.

Basics

For an overview of how to create a map using Google My Maps visit:

https://support.google.com/mymaps/answer/3024396?hl=en&ref_topic=3188329

Here you can see examples of the kind of maps that can be created using google My Maps:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/?page=explore&hl=en&safe=strict>

Potential Projects

Data Set: libraries_ncc-libraries-current_csv (1).csv

Task 1.

Why not try:

- => Customise icons
- => Group places (by type)
- => Colour by ranges (no of PCs)
- => Share
- => Embed on my site

Help guides:

1. Add places and search results: <https://support.google.com/mymaps/answer/3024925>
2. Style and label map content: <https://support.google.com/mymaps/answer/3024931>
3. Share a map: <https://support.google.com/mymaps/answer/3024935?hl=en>
4. Embed a map: <https://support.google.com/mymaps/answer/4708605?hl=en>

Mapping tools

Task 2.

Why not add images of libraries to placemarkers? You can find images of libraries on Newcastle Libraries' Flickr pages: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/newcastlelibraries/> and to add images to your placemarkers here try here:

<https://support.google.com/mymaps/answer/3433053?hl=en>

Task 3.

Why not try adding another layer to the map using another data set?

Data Sets

1. Public toilets data:

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/open-data-and-access-information/open-data/data-sets/public-toilets-data>

2. Newcastle Libraries visitors, computers, enquiries figures:

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/open-data-and-access-information/open-data/data-sets/libraries-data-sets>

Help guides:

1. Adding a layer: <https://support.google.com/mymaps/answer/3024933>

Task 4.

Why not try adding directions between libraries or from/to other locations of your choice?

Help guides:

1. Adding and saving directions: <https://support.google.com/mymaps/answer/3502610?hl=en>

Resource: Map Warper (<http://mapwarper.net/>)

Difficulty: 2 out of 5

Requires: Create a Map Warper Account

Once you have created an account Map Warper allows you to align (rectify) historic maps of a city with a current (Open Street Maps) map of a city.

Here is an example of an historical map of Newcastle overlaid on the current map of Newcastle: <http://mapwarper.net/layers/579>

Basics

An instructional video on how to use Map Warper is available on New York Public Libraries' map Warper pages: <http://maps.nypl.org/warper/>



Mapping tools

Potential Projects

Newcastle Libraries have made a number of maps, which are in the Public Domain (which means you are free to do whatever you like with them), available on Flickr:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/newcastlelibraries/albums/72157666225808630>.

Try using one of our maps and align it with the current map of Newcastle.

Once you've tried this you could try looking for maps of your home city/town (make sure there are no copyright restrictions, if you are not sure about this ask one of the team) or somewhere you know/like.

Some places you can find images that are in the public domain or are free to use (some of these are for non commercial use only) are:

Scotland

National Library of Scotland Maps (include some that are for non-commercial use):

<http://maps.nls.uk/index.html>

England and Wales

National Library of Scotland Maps (include some that are for non-commercial use):

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/>

USA

Library of Congress Maps: <https://www.loc.gov/maps/collections/>

New York Public Libraries' Digital Collection:

http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/search/index?filters%5BphysicalLocation_mt%5D%5B%5D=Map+Division&keywords=&sort=dateDigitized_dt+desc

Various

British Library: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/britishlibrary/albums>

Mapping tools

Other Data

Feel free to explore using different sets of data from other sources. The following sites have a range of different data that can be used:

Bath Hacked: <https://data.bathhacked.org/>

Data.gov.uk: <https://data.gov.uk/>

Data Mill North: <https://datamillnorth.org/dataset>

Libraries Hacked: <https://www.librarieshacked.org/otherdata>

Other resources

There are a wealth of other mapping tools out there that you might want to use to try different or more complicated tasks.

Some popular ones are:

Carto: <https://carto.com/> (Free version, requires you to create an account)

MapTiler: <https://www.maptiler.com/> (Requires you to download software)

Open Street Map: <https://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=5/51.495/-0.088>
(Requires you to create an account)



This guide was prepared by [Newcastle Libraries](#) and [NE Data](#). It is made available under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#).