Memento for Neighbourwoods

I’ve tried to address the concerns you expressed about inconsistencies when selecting street codes and species codes. While you didn’t specifically mention the latter, I know it’s always a challenge when organizing the data at the end of a field season. I hope what I’ve implemented here goes a long way to dealing with these issues. Unfortunately, the steps that I’ve implemented make the installation of Memento on your device a little more challenging then was previously the case. I’ll do my best to provide some step-by-step instructions that will make this transition as smooth as possible.

First, I think it would be helpful if I provide some background describing how Memento deals with files. You may remember that Memento refers to their databases (the tables containing data) as “libraries”. In the original version of Memento that we used for neighborhoods we had just one library called ” nw trees”. The newer version is called “nw\_inventory”. The name chain is just to be certain that if anyone uses the older version it will be clear that the formatting is slightly different when compared with the newer version. This will become clearer as I explain the newer version. Another idiosyncrasy of memento is that, when transferring data, the structure of the database is contained within the Library file (for example “ nw \_nventory”) But the actual data must be transferred in a separate file. Again, this will become clearer as I work through the step-by-step process.

I’ve tried a number of ways to provide a drop-down list in memento and each had its pros and cons. The one that I’m suggesting here is perhaps more difficult when loading the necessary files on your device but, once that is done, I think it produces a much better outcome than the other techniques.

So, the structure of the database (or library to use the memento term) Is contained in nw\_inventory. I’ve changed the format of two fields in this library to accommodate the drop down lists. These two fields are ”street\_code”, as you requested, and “street\_code”. I’ve created two data files (comma separated values or csv files). The former is simply a single column of full street names from your existing data and the latter is a single column of the full species names. Please note that these are still referred to as “codes” while the actual data are full names. I’ve done this For consistency and to make it easier to adapt nw analytics web application. Once everything is installed you will see that when you click on the ”street\_code” button in nw\_inventory It will be given a complete list of full street names from which you can pick the appropriate entry. It’s important to note that if you click on the magnifying glass icon you can start to type in the street name and you will be shown the possibilities from which you can choose. Roads you don’t have to scroll down the whole list to find Wellington St. The same applies for open “species \_code”.

You had also mentioned that your volunteers found it awkward to enter zeros in all the various columns for plantable spots when these data aren’t actually needed. The issue here stems from the fact that I have set up the inventory database in such a way that all fields must be entered for actual trees to minimize missing data. I spent several hours trying to figure out how I could either fill in the 0s automatically or hide the fields once you enter X as a species code (plantable spot). While Memento is surprisingly sophisticated, I wasn’t able to find any approach that would allow me to do this without considerable effort in javascript programming. I decided to take a completely different approach and set up a separate library where data for plantable spaces can be recorded. The format of this library is basically the same as nw\_inventory but only contains the fields necessary for “plantable spots”. Unfortunately it does mean that it’s necessary to load yet another library on your device. While I took this approach to facilitate data entry as described above I have come to realize that there may be certain advantages to having plantable spots in a separate database when it comes to the data analysis. I’m looking forward to hearing your comments on this.

Now a few words about the actual transfer of the necessary libraries and data files.

If you feel that this revised approach to memento is suitable for your needs then I will have to make some modifications to the nw Analytics Web application. I plan to set things up in a way that the older version of the memento data input format will still work but the changes to the new Input format will be automatically recognized. At least that’s the plan.