Alternative Infrastructures for Digital Projects

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Dawn Childress & Andy Rutkowski,   UCLA Digital Library Program

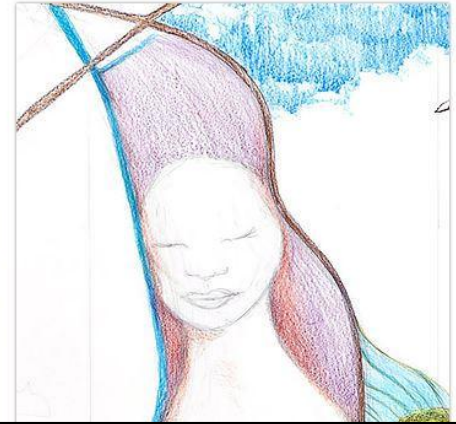DH Infrastructure Symposium, February 2016, Los Angeles

"City in Mind: a Lyrical Map of the Concept of Los Angeles"

- an illustrated literary map of L.A.

An Illustrated Literary Map of Los Angeles, Re-Imagined and Drawn to Scale
(1 foot on the map = 1 mile of Los Angeles).
Created by J Michael Walker, 2011, with special support and sage counsel from
David Kipen and Colleen Jaurretche. Color pencil on polypropylene paper, 50" high
x 256" wide.
Acquired by the Special Collections of the UCLA Library.

"There is everything in Los Angeles,...
like Venice in the 17th century—
where East and West would meet

Griffith Observatory

Ballin was commissioned to paint numer
in Los Angeles, including the ceiling and
murals at the Griffith Observatory. The E
mural celebrates classical celestial myth
images of Atlas, the four winds, the plan
and the twelve constellations of the zodi
rectangular Ballin wall murals depict the
'Advancement of Science' with panels on
aeronautics, navigation, civil engineering
and electricity, time, geology and biology
mathematics and physics. Ballin's lunnete (1930) at
the First National Bank in La Jolla, depicted here, has
since since been demolished.

Los Angeles: The City and the Library

Colleen Jaurretche, Editor

The City and the Library is a freshman composition class that
trains students in research and writing, all the while asking
them to engage the city around them through direct
encounter and library research. The capstone of the class
requires students to work directly with the Library's archives,
touching and pondering evidence of the city past. This website
houses images of those archival artifacts as well as the
students' annotations of the material, cross-referenced by
subject and geography. It represents a collaboration between
UCLA Writing Programs and the UCLA Library. The class began
in Fall 2013, the digital project in Fall 2015; both are ongoing.

From Lyrical Map
to
Digital Project(s)

- Relationship between archival object (or place, research object, etc.) and how to share it on the web.
  - selection
  - documentation
  - description
  - citation

- working collaboratively (even when working alone)

Building our own project in GitHub

- "Mapping Maupassant's *Bel-Ami*"

- We wanted:

    - Out of the CMS (Wordpress)

    - Collaborative, open, flexible

    - Exposure to DH / tech skills

- Continued development: Markdown support, digital edition feature, narrative order

- Developed "Boulevardier"

- How else might we use these open, lightweight technologies?

How Humanists are Using GitHub

Publishing scholarship or personal web pages
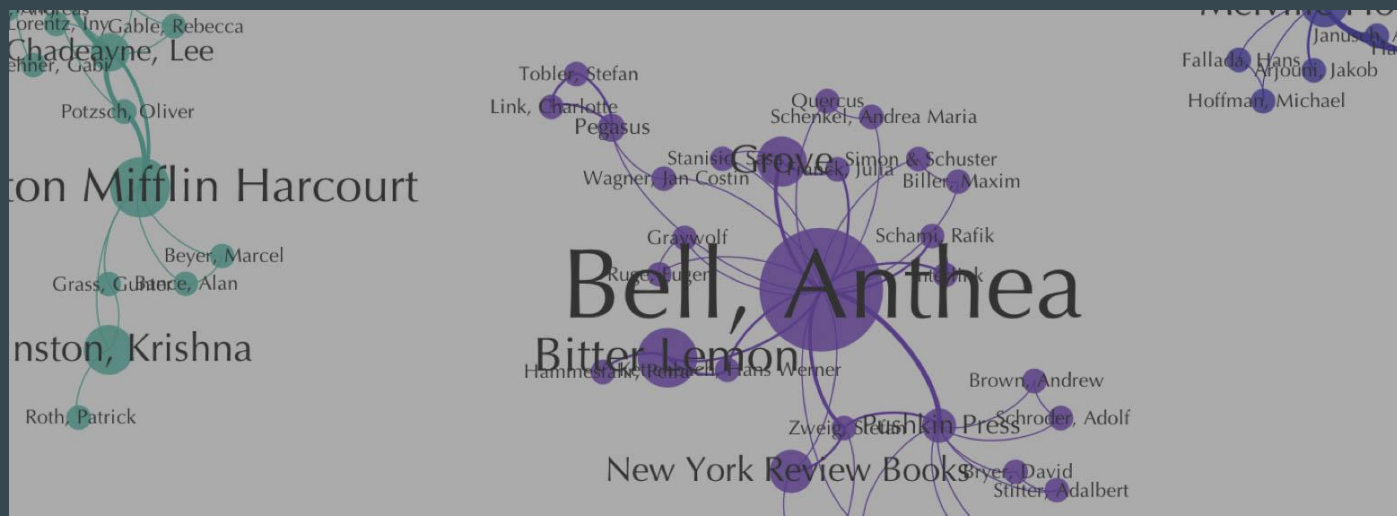
About the Project

Analyzing literary translation networks to better
understand translation communities and learn about

Workshop / classroom materials
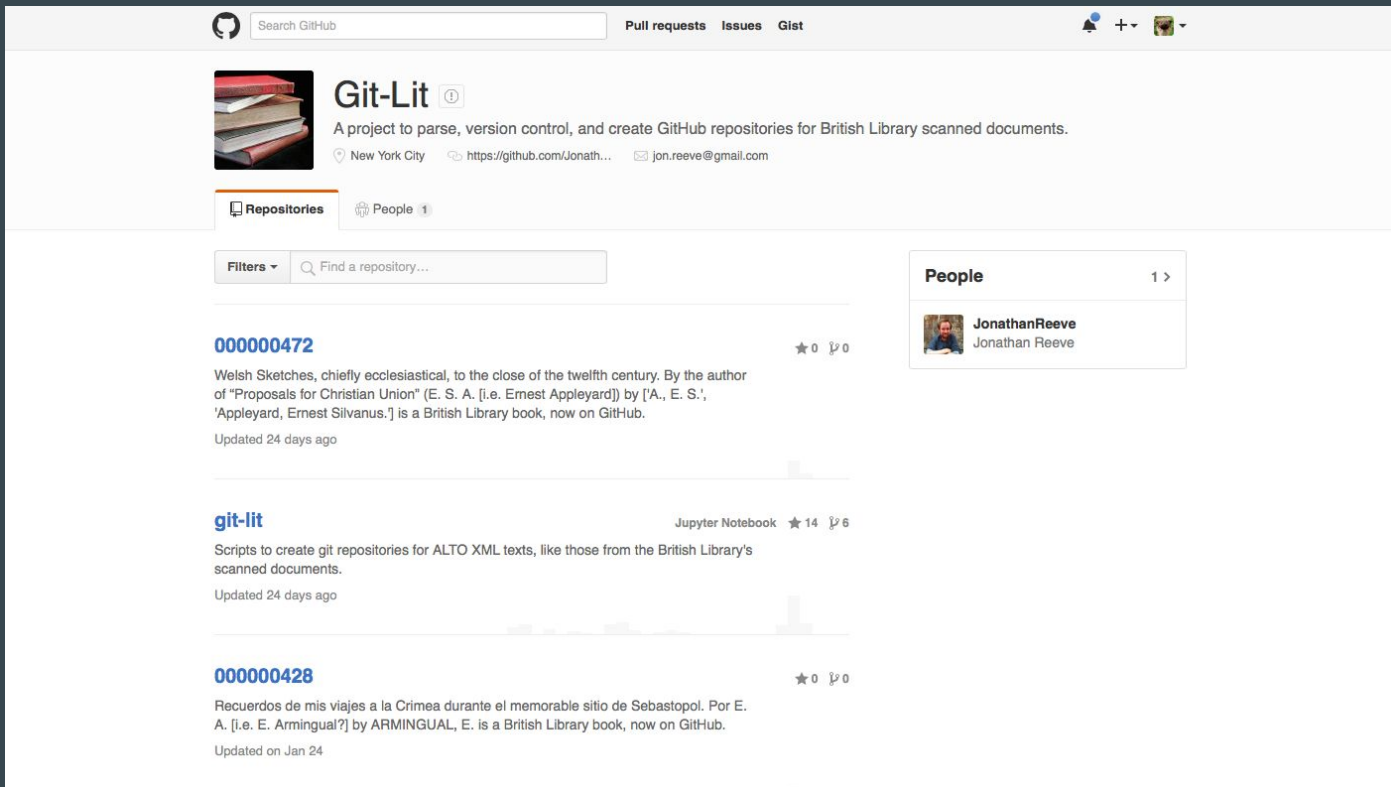
Collaborative, community, or crowdsourced projects

GitBook

GitBook

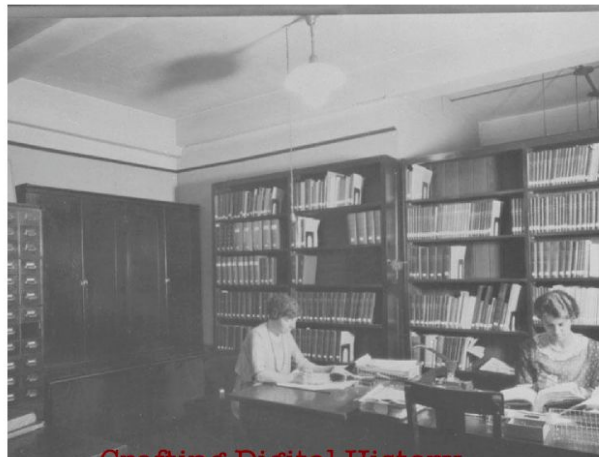MY BOOKS   HELP   EXPLORE   + NEW

Crafting Digital History

Course Workbook for HIST3907o @Carleton_U Winter 2016 Version by Shawn Graham — shawngraham

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Last edit was 2 months ago

Other infrastructures / environments

- Heroku - cloud-based platform for building and running Ruby, Python, JS, etc. web apps

- Python Anywhere - host, run, and code Python in the cloud

- Virtual Box / Vagrant - system virtualization

- Docker - containers to build and distribute applications

A Few Example Projects

**Beyond
the
infrastructure**

- visualizations
- creating tutorials
- working with texts
- gathering data
- creating metadata
- creating simple maps
- ?
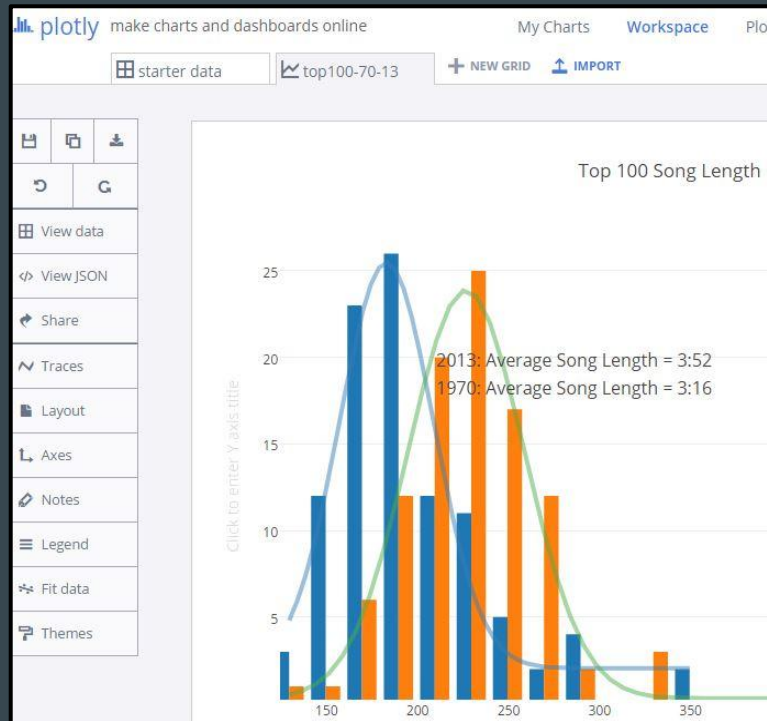
Plotly
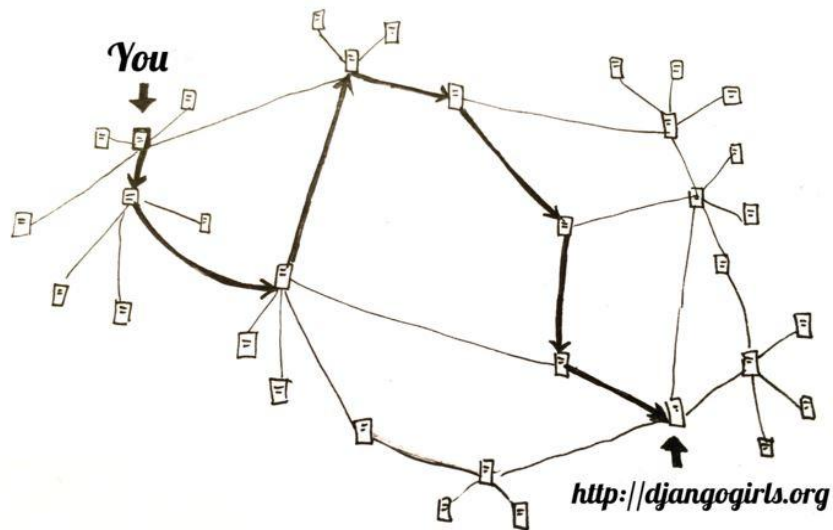
Django Girls Tutorial
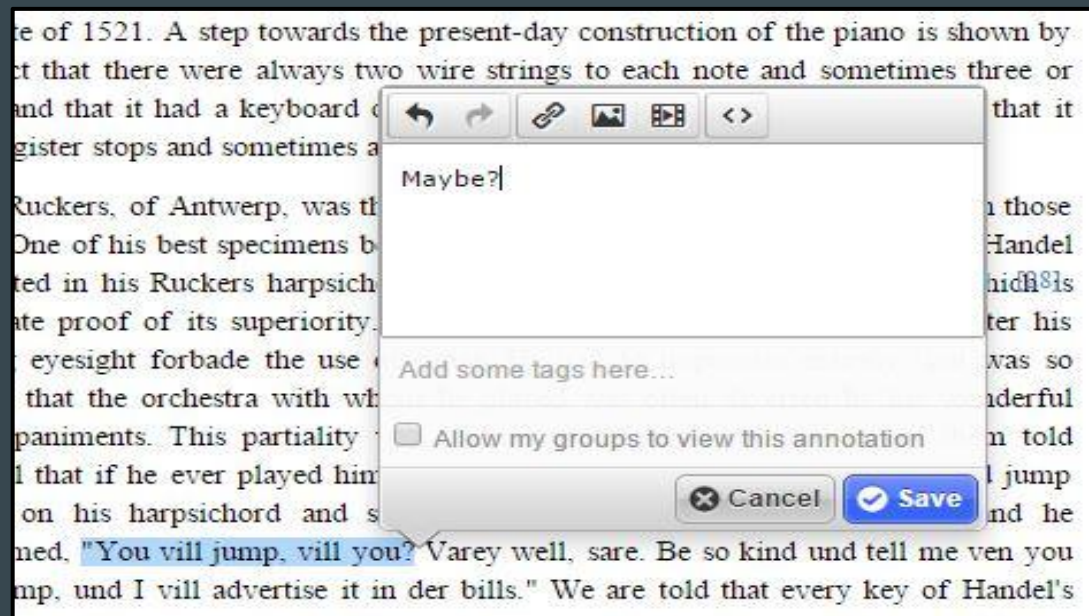
Annotation Studio

Ed.

A Jekyll theme for minimal editions

A Brief Introduction

As we see it, a minimal edition is one that aims to reduce the size and complexity of the back and front end, and the learning curves for the user and the producer. Out of-the-box, this theme can help you build a simple reading edition, or a traditional scholarly edition with footnotes and a bibliography without breaking the bank. In our estimate, these are the two most immediately useful type of editions for editors and readers. An edition produced with Ed is lightweight and durable. Our hope is that our approach can help beginners or veterans deploy

Ed.

Monumental Gifts
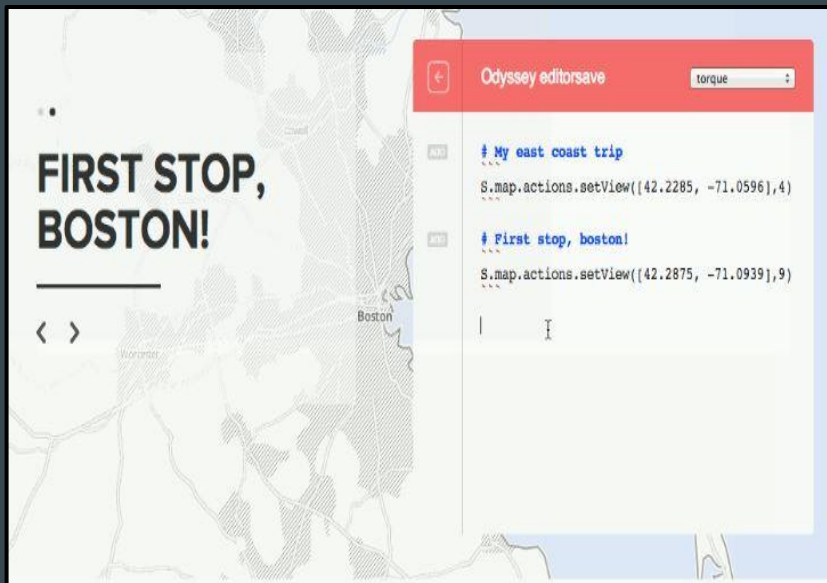
Odyssey.js
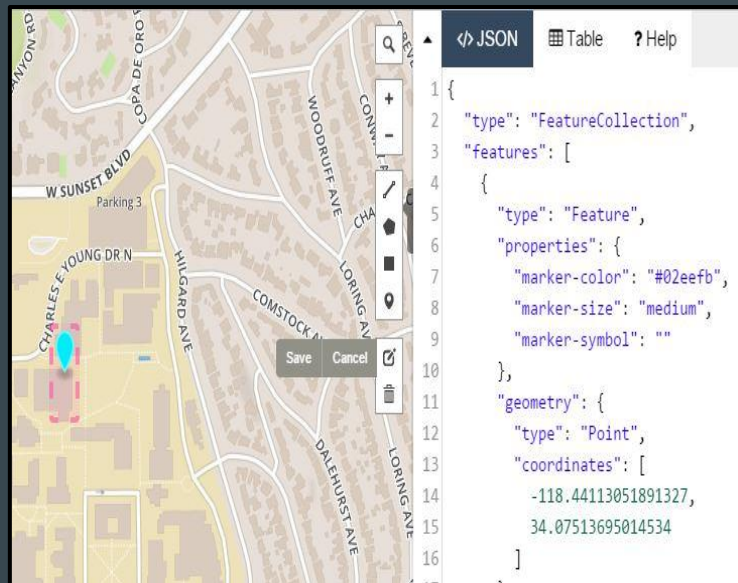
Geojson.io

What are the benefits?

- Rapid development

- Portability

- Easier to maintain over time

- Ease of preservation (comparatively)

- Access/exposure to technology

- Agency and responsibility

- Encourages open source / open access

Thank you!

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Andy Rutkowski   @andy_rutkowski

Sources / resources

Los Angeles: The City and the Library - https://github.com/CityStoriesUCLA/lyricalmap

Barrio Suburbanism - http://barriosuburbanismucla.github.io/barriosuburbanism/

Boulevardier - https://github.com/kirschbombe/boulevardier

dawnchildress.com - http://dawnchildress.com

Building Capacity with Care: Graduate Students and DH Work in the Library - http://dhgradlabor.github.io/dh2016workshop/

Git-Lit - https://github.com/Git-Lit/git-lit

GitBook - https://www.gitbook.com

Crafting Digital History - https://www.gitbook.com/book/shawngraham/dh-workbook/details

Heroku - https://www.heroku.com

Python Anywhere - https://www.pythonanywhere.com

Prism - http://prism.scholarslab.org

Exquisite Haiku - http://exquisite-haiku.herokuapp.com/admin

British Library Machine Learning Experiment - http://blbigdata.herokuapp.com

Aristotle Metadata Registry - http://aristotle.pythonanywhere.com

Sources / resources (cont.)

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wordpress.com/2016/01/29/introducing-monumental-gifts-the-web-based-field-notebook-powered-by-django/

Ed. A Jekyll Theme for Minimal Editions - https://github.com/elotroalex/ed

Jekyll site in GitHub Pages: How (and Why) to Generate a Static Website Using Jekyll - http://chronicle.
com/blogs/profhacker/jekyll1/60913#sthash.sXOVdmcM.dpuf

Django Girls tutorial - http://tutorial.djangogirls.org/en/

Annotation Studio - http://www.annotationstudio.org

Plotly - https://plot.ly

Odyssey.js - http://mapninja.github.io/CartoDB_Odyssey_Tutorial_for_Story_Maps/

geojson..io - http://geojson.io/