The East Austin Digital Archive: Planning and Prototyping

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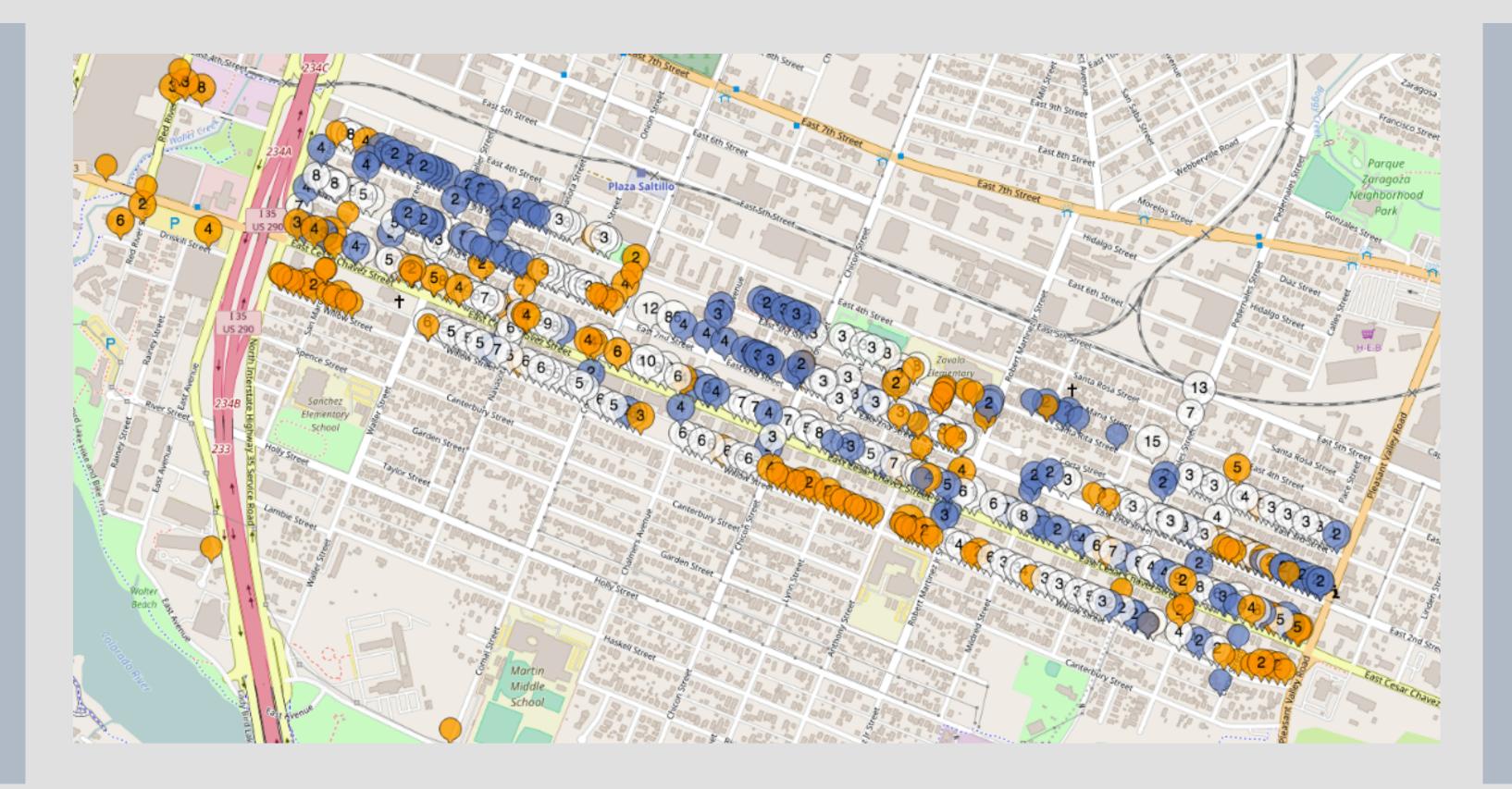








The EADA will be a digital community archive for an East Austin neighborhood. My goals for this project were (1) to define the technical architecture of the digital archive, and (2) to find a way to build a map-centered view of the digital photo archive.



Omeka: an open source web-publishing platform for library, museum, archives, and scholarly collections and exhibitions.

ViewShare: a web application from the Library of Congress for generating and customizing unique, dynamic maps and views of digital collections.

OpenStreetMap: a free, editable map of the whole world that is being built by volunteers.

Staff at St. Edward's University's Munday Library set up an instance of Omeka on an FTP server. I talked to Professor Kim Garza and library staff to learn about the technical infrastructure I would have to work with and the requirements for the archive.

I reviewed a hard drive with over 7,200 photos taken between 2011 and 2016. I found that very few photos had embedded GPS metadata, but many had addresses encoded in the file names. I worked with David Bliss to turn this data into latitude and longitude data.

I investigated options for creating efficient workflows to upload, store, transform, and display thousands of photos and their metadata. In the end, I assembled a solution using Omeka, Omeka plugins, AWS, Python scripts, JSON and CSV files, and the MapQuest API.

I uploaded a complete test batch of 79 photos to Omeka, extracted the collection metadata, processed the metadata and used it create a new ViewShare view, and created an Omeka page to display the ViewShare map. This will be a process that the EADA can use in the future.

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