

The Grand Tour Project

Web application for exploring database of historical travelers

Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA) - Stanford University
9/2015 – 12/2018



Project Management



Web Design



Web Development

The Grand Tour Project is a scholarly research project by Professor Giovanna Ceserani (Stanford University) to publish and analyze a searchable digital version of a dictionary of entries of British and Irish travelers to Italy during the Enlightenment. Products of the research include a web application, the Grand Tour Explorer, which offers advanced searching and transformation tools for the digitized database, and an online scholarly publication.

I joined the project as a secondary developer on the Grand Tour Explorer web application after initial development had already been completed. I began with small bug fixes and feature additions and later took over as lead developer for the application, designing and implementing larger features and changes including more powerful search tools, D3.js visualizations of entries, rich text support for entry text, references between entries, the ability to create lists of entries, and an editing interface for entry content. My work eventually involved rewriting the majority of the original application code, including engines to import and parse entry content from outside sources, edit, transform and render entry content in the application, and export entry content.

The application is a Node.js/Express server deployed to Heroku with a REST API-driven AngularJS front-end application. Visualizations use D3.js and the application makes extensive use of the Google Sheets API.

I also created a design for the final scholarly publication, which will be published as an online book integrated with the Grand Tour Explorer web application.

Project website: <https://grandtour.stanford.edu>

The screenshot shows the search interface for 'Padua'. On the left, there are several search filters: 'Full name', 'Born', 'Died', 'Employments and Identifiers', 'Occupations & Posts', 'Military careers', and 'Societies & Academies'. The main search results area shows 1077 results for 'travel place Padua'. The results list includes entries for John Farr Abbot, William Adair, James Adam, Robert Adam, Lady Mary Adams, and Joseph Addison, each with a brief description and a checkbox. At the top of the results page, there are buttons for 'select all', 'deselect all', 'add selected entries to list', 'sort by...', 'entries per page', and 'export results'.

Grand Tour Explorer Search Results

Multifaceted search tools support complex queries for traveler entries. *Grand Tour Explorer* design by Giorgio Caviglia <giorgio.caviglia@gmail.com>, except for components specified below.

The screenshot shows a detailed traveler entry for Charles Abbot. The entry index is 0. The entry includes fields for 'Alternate Names' (1st Baron Colchester), 'Born' (1757), 'Died' (1829), 'Parents' (John Abbot of Colchester, Essex, and Sarah, later Mrs Bentham), 'Marriages' (Elizabeth Gibbes (1796)), 'Occupations & Posts' (Statesmen and Political Appointees), and 'Member of Parliament' (1795-1817). To the right of the entry details is a map of Italy with a blue dot representing Naples. Below the map is a table for 'Tour 1' from 1788/1788, showing stops at Dover, Turin, Genoa, and Leghorn. There is also a 'Rearrange' button.

Grand Tour Explorer Entry

Each traveler entry contains many fields of data, many of which link to other entries or collections of entries.

Editing Entry Index: 0

Browsing within results. Back to Results Browse all entries

Charles Abbot

Alternate Names

ABBOT, CHARLES (1757-1829), 2nd s. of John Abbot of Colchester, Essex, and Sarah, later Mrs Bentham; educ. Westminster and Ch. Ch. Oxf. 1775; M. Temple, called 1783; L. Inn 1785; MP 1795-1817; m. 1796 Elizabeth Gibbes; cr. B. Colchester 1817.

Dates

birthDate: 1757 [clear](#)
deathDate: 1829 [clear](#)
flourishedStartDate: (empty) [edit](#) [delete](#)
flourishedEndDate: (empty) [edit](#) [delete](#)

[Add New](#)

Places

[Add New](#)

Parents

order: 2nd [clear](#)
parents: John Abbot of Colchester, Essex, and Sarah, later Mrs Bentham [clear](#)
heir: false [clear](#)
pupil: false [clear](#)
surviving: false [clear](#)
posthumous: false [clear](#)
illegitimate: false [clear](#)

[javascript:void\('italic'\)](#)

Travels

Dover: from 1788/8/26 to 1788/8/26 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Turin: from 1788/9/10 to 1788/9/10 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Genoa: from 1788/9/13 to 1788/9/13 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Leghorn: from 1788/9 to 1788/9 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Pisa: from 1788/9 to 1788/9 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Florence: from 1788/9/15 to 1788/9/18 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Perugia: from 1788/9/20 to 1788/9/20 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Narni: from 1788/9 to 1788/9 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Rome: from 1788/9/21 to 1788/9/28 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Naples: from 1788/9/30 to 1788/10/6 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Rome: from 1788/10/7 to 1788/10/10 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Siena: from 1788/10/11 to 1788/10/11 [edit](#) [delete](#)

Grand Tour Explorer Entry Edit

An editing interface lets administrators easily modify database content. *Editor design by Cody Leff.*

Editing Entry Index: 0

Browsing within results. Back to Results Browse all entries

Charles Abbot

Alternate Names

ABBOT, CHARLES (1757-1829), 2nd s. of John Abbot of Colchester, Essex, and Sarah, later Mrs Bentham; educ. Westminster and Ch. Ch. Oxf. 1775; M. Temple, called 1783; L. Inn 1785; MP 1795-1817; m. 1796 Elizabeth Gibbes; cr. B. Colchester 1817.

Dates

birthDate: 1757 [clear](#)
deathDate: 1829 [clear](#)
flourishedStartDate: (empty) [edit](#) [delete](#)
flourishedEndDate: (empty) [edit](#) [delete](#)

[Add New](#)

Places

[Add New](#)

Parents

order: 2nd [clear](#)
parents: John Abbot of Colchester, Essex, and Sarah, later Mrs Bentham [clear](#)
heir: false [clear](#)
pupil: false [clear](#)
surviving: false [clear](#)
posthumous: false [clear](#)
illegitimate: false [clear](#)

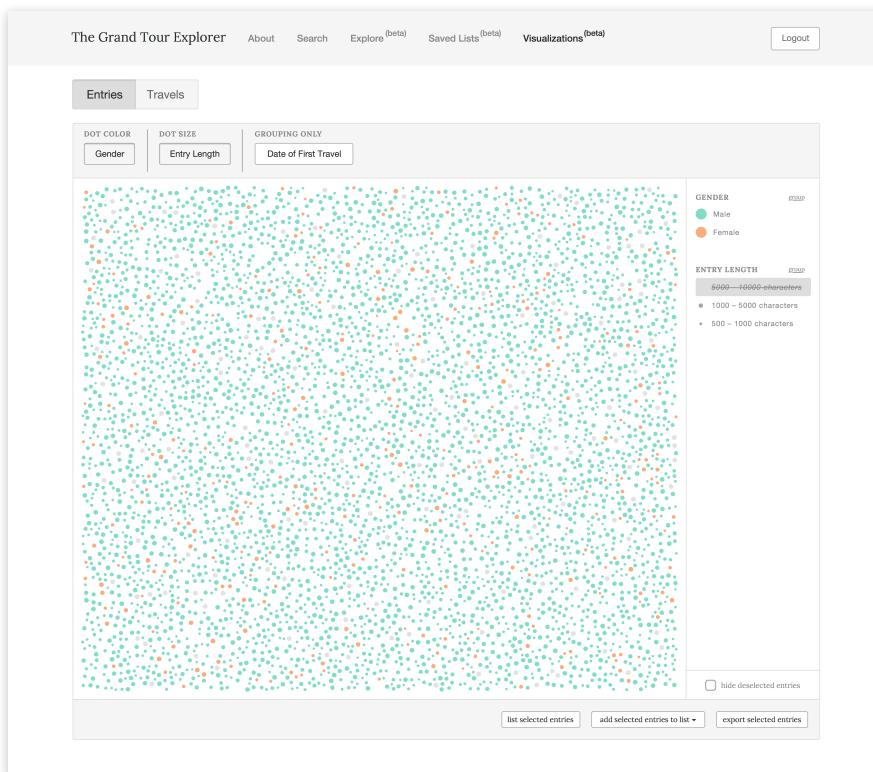
[javascript:void\('italic'\)](#)

Travels

Dover: from 1788/8/26 to 1788/8/26 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Turin: from 1788/9/10 to 1788/9/10 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Genoa: from 1788/9/13 to 1788/9/13 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Leghorn: from 1788/9 to 1788/9 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Pisa: from 1788/9 to 1788/9 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Florence: from 1788/9/15 to 1788/9/18 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Perugia: from 1788/9/20 to 1788/9/20 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Narni: from 1788/9 to 1788/9 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Rome: from 1788/9/21 to 1788/9/28 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Naples: from 1788/9/30 to 1788/10/6 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Rome: from 1788/10/7 to 1788/10/10 [edit](#) [delete](#)
Siena: from 1788/10/11 to 1788/10/11 [edit](#) [delete](#)

Grand Tour Explorer Entry Edit Modal

Compound fields are edited with modals.



Visualization

A prototype for a visualization represents entries as dots, with size and color determined by different facets of entry data. *Visualization design by Cody Leff.*

A World Made by Travels: Digitizing the Grand Tour
Giovanna Ceserani

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- Preface and Acknowledgments
- I. Introduction: from archives and Dictionary in print to an interactive digital database
- II. Presenting the Data
- III. The Grand Tour Explorer**
 - 1. Explanation of the Tool
 - 2. Search, Explore, View and List
- IV. British Travelers in Italy in the Eighteenth Century
- Epilogues

BOOKMARKS

EXPLORER

Intermediate Title

Donec ac odio non sem elementum tincidunt. [Open this in the Explorer →](#). Nunc ullamcorper, mauris vel tempus imperdiet, est tellus laoreet ipsum, vitae lobortis nibh ligula in est. Proin ultricies tristique mi, non dapibus purus.

fullName: ac odio non sem elementum tincidunt.

Donec elementum risus nec diam tincidunt placerat. Duis sed fermentum nibh. Vestibulum tempor urna ac lacus fringilla malesuada. Aenean sagittis tellus in magna tristique, ac accumsan ex finibus. Suspendisse sit amet justo metus. Nunc ullamcorper fringilla molestie.

IV. British Travelers in Italy in the Eighteenth Century

a. A GTE big picture of the Grand Tour: who travelled where

Book

The design for the online book scholarly publication of the Grand Tour Project provides a distraction-free reading experience with easy navigation and useful tools. *Book design by Cody Leff.*

The Grand Tour Book Title, which Continues for Several Lines
Giovanna Ceserani

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BOOKMARKS

EXPLORER

https://grand-tour-explorer-url.com/entries/5120

Open in Full Explorer

The Grand Tour Explorer About Search Explore (beta) Saved Lists (beta) Reader Logout

Clear all

fullName abbot

5 results

Charles Abbot

ABBOT, CHARLES (1757-1829), 2nd s. of John Abbot of Colchester, Essex, and Sarah, later Mrs Bentham; educ. Westminster and Ch.Ch. Oxf. 1775; M.Temple, called 1783; L.Inn 1785; MP 1795-1817; m. 1796 El ...

John Farr Abbot

ABBOT, JOHN FARR (c.1756-94), e. s. of John Abbot of Colchester, Essex; m. 1786 Mary Pearce (c.1762-92); clerk of the rules King's Bench 1790-4; see Sarah Bentham. ...

Employments and identifiers

Book with Explorer

Readers can easily access the Grand Tour Explorer from the book.

A World Made by Travels: Digitizing the Grand Tour
Giovanna Ceserani

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BOOKMARKS

A bookmark This is a long bookmark...

NEW BOOKMARK

EXPLORER

New Bookmark
Section 3, Subsection 3

name: New bookmark: S3, SS3

CANCEL CREATE →

Donec elementum risus nec diam. In nec diam fermentum nibh. Vestibulum tempor urna ac lacus fringilla malesuada. Aenean sagittis tellus in magna tristique, ac accumsan ex finibus. Suspendisse sit amet justo metus. Nunc ullamcorper fringilla molestie.

4. Fourth Section Title

a. First Subsection Title

Aenean vel erat vitae ex vulputate dictum. Duis et neque vitae justo ultrices ultrices. In aliquam leo eu diam tristique, id bibendum mauris pellentesque. Aliquam ut diam id tellus vestibulum ornare. Donec ac odio non sem elementum tincidunt. Nunc ullamcorper mauris vel tempus imperdiet, est tellus laoreet ipsum, vitae lobortis nibh.

Book with New Bookmark Modal

Readers can create bookmarks for later access.

A World Made by Travels: Digitizing the Grand Tour
Giovanna Ceserani

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BOOKMARKS

A bookmark This is a long bookma... New bookmark: S3, S... NEW BOOKMARK

aliquet convallis, arcu leo venenatis elit, eu posuere metus neque et mi. Pellentesque euismod posuere mauris, vel faucibus lectus faucibus eu. Fusce at viverra tort. Curabitur gravida erat ut dui vulputate, pulvinar dignissim nibh sodales. Phasellus blandit faucibus ultrices. Sed et nibh id massa semper mollis consequat sed nulla. Nulla lacinia gravida elit, sed pharetra mi egestas quis.

Suspendisse et arcu consectetur, pharetra ante congue, lacinia arcu. Mauris at erat et lacus porttitor eleifend accumsan sit amet metus. Donec hendrerit non mi ac efficitur.

B

Intermediate Title

Donec ac odio non sem elementum tincidunt. [Open this in the Explorer →](#). Nunc ullamcorper, mauris vel tempus imperdier, est tellus laoreet ipsum, vitae lobortis nibh ligula in est. Proin ultricies tristique mi, non dapibus purus.

fullName: ac odio non sem elementum tincidunt.

Donec elementum risus nec diam tincidunt placerat. Duis sed fermentum nibh. Vestibulum tempor urna ac lacus fringilla malesuada. Aenean sagittis tellus in magna tristique, ac accumsan ex finibus. Suspendisse sit amet justo metus. Nunc ullamcorper fringilla molestie.

4. Fourth Section Title

a. First Subsection Title

EXPLORER

Book with Bookmark

Bookmarks = appear inline while reading.

aliquet convallis, arcu leo venenatis elit, eu posuere metus neque et mi. Pellentesque euismod posuere mauris, vel faucibus lectus faucibus eu. Fusce at viverra tort. Curabitur gravida erat ut dui vulputate, pulvinar dignissim nibh sodales. Phasellus blandit faucibus ultrices. Sed et nibh id massa semper mollis consequat sed nulla. Nulla lacinia gravida elit, sed pharetra mi egestas quis.

Suspendisse et arcu consectetur, pharetra ante congue, lacinia arcu. Mauris at erat et lacus porttitor eleifend accumsan sit amet metus. Donec hendrerit non mi ac efficitur.

Intermediate Title

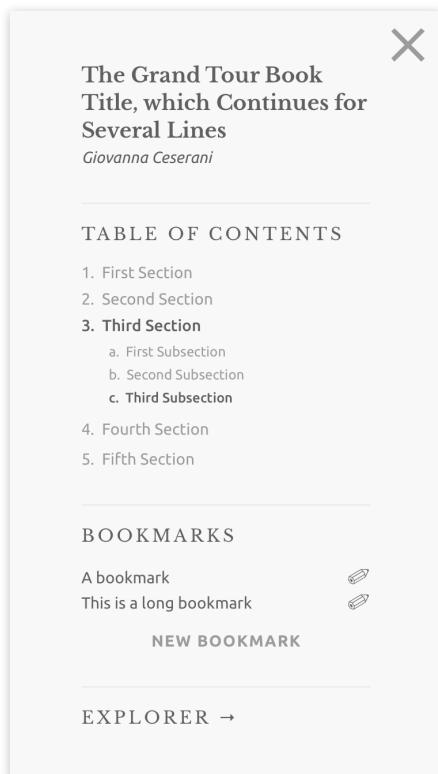
Donec ac odio non sem elementum tincidunt. [Open this in the Explorer →](#). Nunc ullamcorper, mauris vel tempus imperdier, est tellus laoreet ipsum, vitae lobortis nibh ligula in est. Proin ultricies tristique mi, non dapibus purus.

4. Fourth Section Title

a. First Subsection Title

Book, mobile

Readers can easily browse and create bookmarks from small screens.

**Book, mobile nav expanded**

Readers can navigate to different parts of the book and create bookmarks from small screens using a mobile nav menu.