How Did They Make That?

For Undergraduate Projects

by Tiffany Chan

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This post is based on Miriam Posner's original "How Did They Make That?" and the video. Like its inspiration, this post introduces Digital Humanities newcomers to a range of projects and what tools or technical knowledge they might need to know to make them. This list is not exhaustive.

This post is also intended for undergraduates, using example projects done by undergraduates or involved undergraduate work and/or collaboration.

What's in here?

- A 3D model
- Digital exhibit
- Mapping project
- Timeline
- Digital edition
- Long-form, media-rich narrative
- Computer-aided text analysis
- Data visualization
- Links to more resources

3D Model: What Jane Saw

What it is

A 3D reconstruction of an 1813 portraiture exhibit attended by Jane Austen.

What you'd need

SketchUp to model the space so you can "hang" paintings in their spots (see video on "About" page).

Get started

"Getting Started with Sketchup"

Alternatives

- Modellers also use Maya, Rhino, Blender
- Video game software
 - CRYENGINE for "Off The Map"
 - Minecraft for "Hullcraft"



Janine Barchas (faculty), Michelle Lawrence-Carlin, Megha Vaidya, Nick Kinnaird, Katie Tiller et al. (students)

University of Texas at Austin

Undergrad collaboration through Undergrad Research Apprenticeship and LAITS Student Technology Assistants programs

Digital Exhibit: Goin' North

What it is

Exhibit-archive of oral history interviews, images, newspaper articles and other primary sources about the Great Migration.

What you'd need

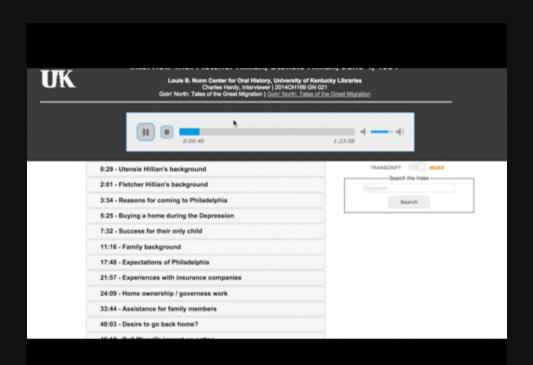
- Omeka.org , but you can also use Omeka.net (full comparison)
- Optional: HTML, CSS coding to customize how the site displays

Get started

- Programming Historian tutorial
- Omeka for Millenials

Alternatives

I've used WordPress.org for a virtual exhibit before but I'd still recommend Omeka.



Jannecken Smucker and Charles Hardy (faculty), Robert Bennett, Kristine Geiger, William Hostmann, et al. (students)

West Chester University

Collaborative effort between two classes of undergraduate and graduate students.

Map: Mapping Mrs. Dalloway

What it is

A project that maps each character's walking route in *Mrs. Dalloway*, along with brief descriptions and analyses of significant events during those walks.

What you'd need

iMap Builder

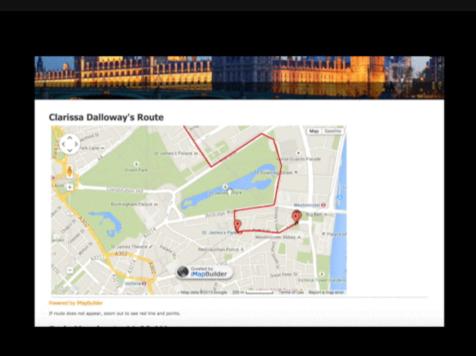
Get started

Google My Maps is free and easy.

- YouTube tutorial
- PDF tutorial by U Waterloo Libraries

Get fancy

- Neatline (used with Omeka)
- ArcGIS (e.g. Michael DeGroot's project)



Adam Erwood, London Lamb, Jasmine Perrett, Anjaly Poruthoor, and Manoj Vangala

Georgia Institute of Technology Collaborative project by students in Dr. Kathryn Crowther's "Literary London" course

Timeline: History of GWG Plant

What it is

A timeline chronicling the history of Edmonton's Great Western Garment Company (later a plant).

What you'd need

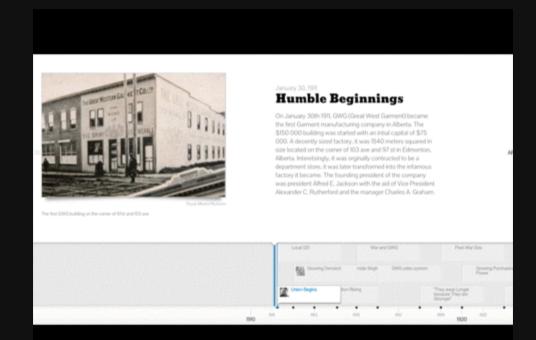
• Timeline.js

Get started

- Written tutorial
- Video tutorial

Get fancy

- Timeglider for more control over how the timeline's points display
- Combine the timeline with a map using Timemap.js



Dylan Blake
University of Alberta
Assignment done for Nicholas Van Orden's 1st Year English course

Digital Edition: Yellow Nineties Online

What it is

A digital archive of *The Yellow Book*, related 19th-century periodicals, and a wealth of contextual material (biographies, reviews, etc.)

What you'd need

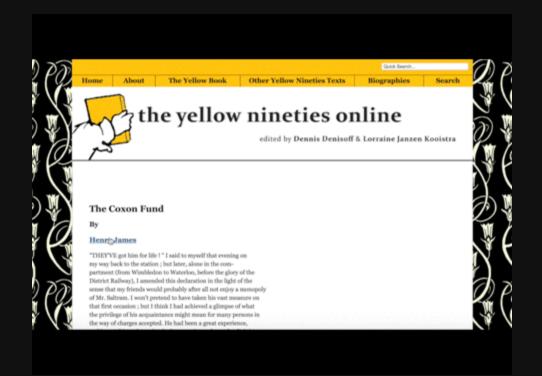
- TEI: markup language for scholarly editing
- XSLT or XML publication system: I like the uber-lightweight TEI Boilerplate

Get started

- Introduction to the practice of markup
- TEI by example
- A TEI editor: oXygen is popular; try others

Alternatives

Not the proper way to do it, but Scalar can do in a pinch depending on what you want.



Dennis Denisoff & Lorraine Janzen Kooistra (principal editors), plus a great deal more collaborators and research assistants

Ryerson University, Toronto

CDH-sponsored undergraduate internship

Long-form, Media-Rich Narrative: "We Are/We Have Always Been"

What it is

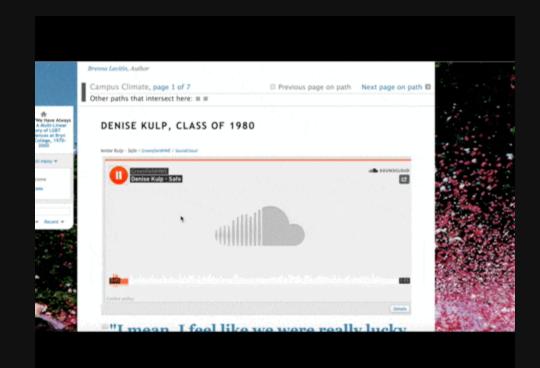
A multi-linear, multimodal history (1970-2000) of LGBT experiences at Bryn Mawr College that includes interviews, photographs, and documents.

What you'd need

- Scalar—multimedia authoring platform
- Optional: web coding (HTML, CSS, JavaScript) for customization

Get started

- HASTAC Scholars webinar
- "So You Want to Publish Your Academic Work"
- More Scalar webinars



Brenna Levitin

Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania

Internship with Tri-Co Digital Humanities at the Albert M. Greenfield Digital Center for the History of Women's Education

Computer-Aided Text Analysis: He Do the Police in Different Voices

What it is

An analysis of different voices in *The Waste Land* using a custom algorithm, among other techniques.

What you'd need

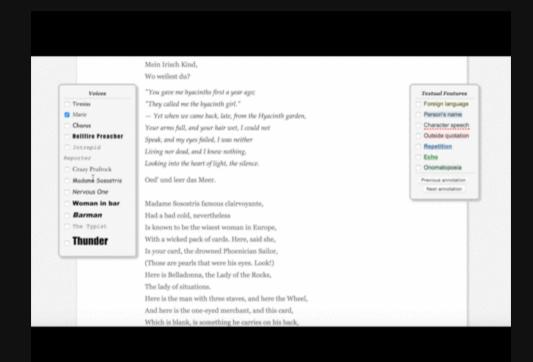
A custom algorithm adapted from existing plagiarism detection and text segmentation techniques.

Get started

There are many kinds of textual analysis. It's easy to start with Voyant Tools (no coding required): see documentation and tutorials.

Get fancy

- MALLET or other tools in DiRT or TAPOR
- Code something in Python or R



Brook, Hammond, Hirst, and the class of ENG287 "The Digital Text" University of Toronto

Undergraduate class collaboration with instructors

Data Visualization: Searching for Residential Schools

What it is

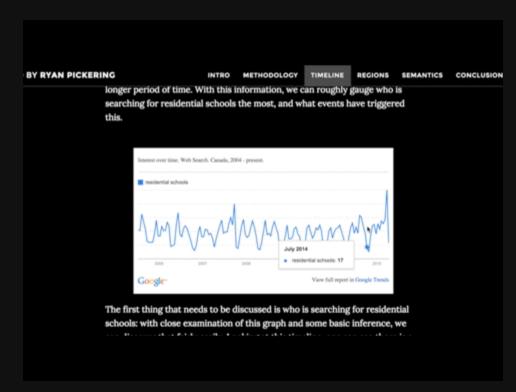
An analysis of (Canadian) Google search trends for "residential schools"—who is searching and why?

What you'd need

- Google Trends
- To publish: Github Pages, Start Bootstrap

Get started

- Intro to Visualization from UCLA's DH101
- Tools to try:
 - Tableau Public
 - Google Fusion Tables
 - Palladio
- Network analysis using Gephi:
 - Demystifying networks
 - Gephi tutorial (PDF)



Ryan Pickering

Carleton University, Ottawa

Assignment for "Crafting Digital History" (#hist3907b), taught by Shawn Graham

More Resources

- The original "How Did They Make That?" plus video
- DH Tools for Beginners
- DH101: Intro to Digital Humanities
- Introducing Digital Humanities Work to Undergraduates:
 An Overview
- UVic DHum on Twitter