

Map-a-thons: The "Nimble Tents Toolkit" approach



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Alex Gil is Digital Scholarship Coordinator for the Humanities and History Division and Affiliate Faculty of the English and Comparative Literature Department at Columbia University. He serves as a consultant to faculty, students and the library on the impact of technology on humanities research, pedagogy and scholarly communications .



Yoh Kawano works at the UCLA GIS and Visualization Sandbox as a member of the Research Technology Group for the Institute for Digital Research and Education (IDRE), serving as the Campus GIS Coordinator while holding lecturer positions in Urban Planning, Public Policy, Digital Humanities and the Urban Humanities.



Andy Rutkowski is the Visualization Librarian at the University of Southern California Libraries. He works with faculty and students to find and use data and other resources for making maps and visualizations.

“Suddenly the spaces we have set aside for quiet study have to be multi-purposed. More events, more collaboration, more active use. We have called this whole shift ‘flipping the library.’ Users are creating their own collections. And we want to be a part of that process” - ***Zoe Borovsky***



The Nimble Tents Toolkit



The Relief Mapathon
The Data Rescue
The Flash LibGuide
Nights Against Hate

What is the Nimble Tents Toolkit?

On September 19 and 20, Hurricane Maria wreaked havoc on the eastern Caribbean. On September 19 a major earthquake struck central Mexico. On September 22, a group of colleagues interested in helping out sat down at The Butler Library Studio at Columbia University in New York to plan an event to help emergency teams on the ground to have better maps. In 1 week, 3 other libraries and labs joined the effort. In 1 month, more than 20 libraries and labs had replicated the model. The verified, open source map for all of Puerto Rico is almost complete. Many others joined in the effort to help Mexico. How was this done?

[https://nimbletents.
github.io/](https://nimbletents.github.io/)

“the basic idea behind the Nimble tents toolkit is that we are quite capable with the resources available to us in libraries in the US and other parts of the world to work together either locally, nationally, or internationally to respond to an urgency of some kind.”

Alex Gil

Data Refuge

<http://www.ppehlab.org/datarefuge/>

Night Against Hate

<http://mith.umd.edu/come-join-mith-thursday-1013-night-hate/>

<http://mith.umd.edu/block-list-hate/>

“Angry Syllabus”

<http://www.blacklivesmattersyllabus.com/fall2016/>

<http://www.publicbooks.org/trump-syllabus-2-0/>

The Relief Mapathon

Contents

- What is a Mapathon?
- A Note for Top Administrators
- Laying the foundation
- After the Disaster, Before the Mapathon
- During the event
- After the event
- A Note on Skills and Timing
- Resources



<https://nimbletents.github.io/mapathon/>



A Mapathon to Pinpoint Areas Hardest Hit in Puerto Rico

Volunteers using satellite imagery and open-source mapping software in a mapathon at Columbia University on Friday to help with the humanitarian effort in Puerto Rico.

Caitlin Ochs for The New York Times

By Alice Yin
Oct. 2, 2017

DAILY TROJAN

News Sports Lifestyle Opinion Classifieds Blogs

USC competes against UCLA in mapathon competition

By VALERIE BURGESS
November 16, 2017 in News













Organizers said they reached out to people from different disciplines to form the USC team that faced UCLA in a mapathon on Wednesday at the Polymathic Lab in Leavely Library. Photo courtesy of Andy Rutkowski.



The first mapathon competition between USC and UCLA took place on Wednesday at the Polymathic Innovation Lab in Leavely Library. Its goal was to assist the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap team by examining satellite images and identifying geographic features and infrastructure, building data that other humanitarian groups can use to do their work on the ground.











UCLA community provides long-distance assist for Puerto Rico recovery

Dozens of volunteers helped build better maps to assist the storm-ravaged island

Rebecca Kendall | October 09, 2017

	RSVPs	Oct 31, 2017
	Photos	Nov 20, 2017
	Meetings	Jan 8, 2018
	Flyers	Oct 31, 2017
	who to contact - email, twitter, facebook, buildings, etc 	Nov 10, 2017
	Schedule! 	Nov 14, 2017
	sample text for emails, etc. 	Nov 8, 2017
	Outreach brainstorming 	Nov 2, 2017

	sample text for emails, etc_.docx
	who to contact - email, twitter, facebook, buildings, etc_.xlsx

	button template.pptx
	Flyer Printout front and back.pptx
	leaveylibrarymap.jpg
	Map-a-Thon Poster Final.pdf
	Mapathon Flyer.jpg
	Puerto Rico Map-a-thon.pptx
	Sample Google Slide for a Map-a-thon.pptx
	SCMappers_Color.png
	tearoffs.pptx
	UCLA GIS 2017 Day Flier Draft_v3.pdf

The **UCLA Library** User Engagement Division invites you to join us in the Charles E. Young Research Library for

Mapathon for Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief

October 5, 2017 | noon-4PM | YRL Research Commons (first floor)



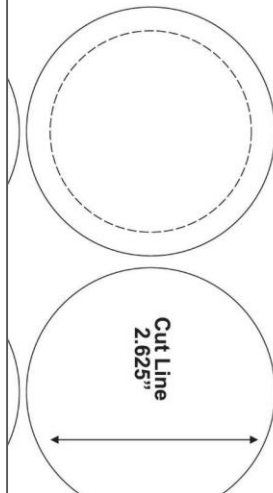
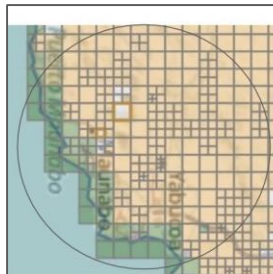
USC's VKC Library invites you to:

Mapathon for Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief

October 5, 2017 | noon-4PM | VKC Library Multimedia Room



Contribute your time and join relief efforts on the ground in Puerto Rico by participating in open-source mapping.



UCLA GIS DAY 2017

Humanitarian Map-a-thon vs USC

Ucla vs USC

Nov. 15 2017

Join us at the Charles E. Young Research Library for a whole day of mapping!

Grab a friend or two and head over to hear words of mapping wisdom from Andy Rutkowski. Vote in the first ever

BATTLE OF THE MAPS UCLA vs Ucla Do you want to do more to immediately help people affected by our recent natural disasters? Does the word 'brun' instantly run your day? Interested in free food? If you answered yes to any of those questions, stop by Leavay Library for Battle of the Maps, a humanitarian map-a-thon event! LEARN MORE: bit.ly/uscmaphan UCLA Libraries USC Libraries	BATTLE OF THE MAPS UCLA vs Ucla Do you want to do more to immediately help people affected by our recent natural disasters? Does the word 'brun' instantly run your day? Interested in free food? If you answered yes to any of those questions, stop by Leavay Library for Battle of the Maps, a humanitarian map-a-thon event! LEARN MORE: bit.ly/uscmaphan UCLA Libraries USC Libraries
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Repurpose, reuse, and create!

Mapathon for Puerto Rico: A Quick Guide

1. Create an account with OpenStreetMap

- Start by going to www.openstreetmap.org and creating an account. Enter your email, user name, and password, and then click “Sign Up”.
- You will be asked to confirm this account via email. Log into the email you provided in step one, and open the email from OpenStreetMap. Click the link inside the email to confirm your account.

2. Navigate to the Red Cross’s map of Puerto Rico

- Go to tasks.hotosm.org to access the map of Puerto Rico. Once you reach this page, you may need to log-in using the credentials you created in step one.
- Once you’re logged in, click on the map of Puerto Rico (this should be the first option on the top left-hand side of the screen)

☐ Your projects

[#3631 Hurricane Maria | 2017 - Puerto Rico - Buildings 1](#) 22 94%

Top Priority - Suitable for Beginners

- Author: **HOT**
- Requesting Org: **American Red Cross**

Only buildings should be mapped!

Realign roads to avoid crossing buildings

Created by [russeffner](#) - Updated 2 minutes ago - Priority: urgent



3. Navigate to the mapping tutorial

- To begin, click the big green “Instructions” button in the left panel.
- The panel on the left will load with a list of instructions. After reviewing them, click “Start Contributing” at the bottom of the left panel (you may need to scroll down to do so).

➔ Instructions

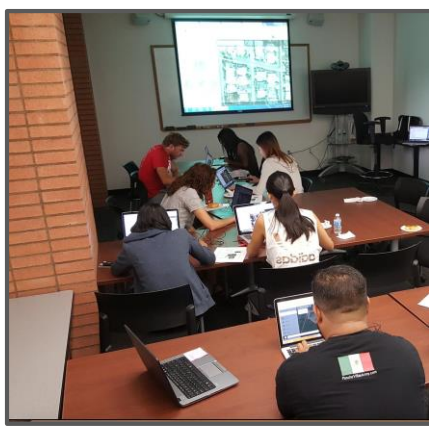
➔ Start contributing

“I’ve been in the mapping business for 20 years, and it’s really exciting that we can crowdsource data — meaning anyone in the world can go online and help out. It didn’t use to be that way. You used to have to be part of the industry, part of the business to digitize. Now anybody can come in and contribute.”

Yoh Kawano

<http://newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/ucla-community-provides-long-distance-assist-for-puerto-rico-recovery>





"I currently live in San Juan, PR and recently stopped by the Red Cross operations center here in San Juan to see for myself how they are employing OSM. This data is quite valuable for the relief missions these and other organizations are currently conducting, especially in rural areas where not much data on the structures exist. A very big thank you to all of those participating in this effort."

Jose Oliver

<https://dailytrojan.com/2017/10/03/usc-hosts-mapathon-aid-puerto-rico/>

“I was contacted last week and told that no one from my town died, so I was really relieved, and my family is OK. But I’ve just been feeling like my hands are tied,” said McSorley, adding that there has been no further communication with her family because of the severe damage to the island. “I can’t really do anything. I can’t send them money. I can’t go there. I can’t send packages because there’s no infrastructure, so there’s really nothing I feel I can do . . . Knowing that I can map out where people may be so they can appropriately allocate the supplies that are there makes me feel amazing. I don’t know how to explain it.”

Anna-Michelle McSorley (UCLA student participant)

<http://newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/ucla-community-provides-long-distance-assist-for-puerto-rico-recovery>



THANK YOU!

(The inaugural prize for the winning mapathon team.
Proudly on display at Andy Rutkowski's office at USC)