



# STORYMAP.JS

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# INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW



# GOALS

- To create a free-to-use tool to highlight the location of events on a map
- Two versions for different skill levels - Classic (beginner) and Gigapixel (advanced)

# ARGUMENTS

- Can be used to quickly summarize and geographically visualize the events of a story
- Can be used to increase accessibility of the primary as well as secondary materials



# FEATURES

- Headlines, captioned media (from external URL or uploaded to knightlab server), text, map
- Location search functionality
- Numerous map types, including external and custom sources
- Allows embedded Hyperlinks and other HTML coding
- Animated transition between slides/map points
- Background and map pointer options
- Maps can be constructed using web interface or JavaScript API

The image shows two overlapping windows from the StoryMap web interface. The top window is the 'Sharing' configuration panel, which has tabs for 'Display' and 'Sharing'. It contains settings for 'StoryMap Size' (Width: 100%, Height: 800), 'Language' (English), 'Fonts' (Default), 'Treat As' (Cartography), 'Call To Action' (Yes), and 'Map Type' (Stamen Maps: Toner Lite). The bottom window is the 'Slide Background' panel, which allows setting a 'Background Color' (hex #ffffff) and a 'Background Image' (via URL or file upload).

**Sharing**

StoryMap Size Width 100% Height 800

Language English ?

Fonts Default ?

Treat As ☒ Cartography ☐ Image


Call To Action ☒ Yes ☐ No enter text, or use default ?  
Default: "Start Exploring"

Map Type Stamen Maps: Toner Lite ?

Close

**Slide Background**

**Background Color**

 #ffffff

**Background Image**

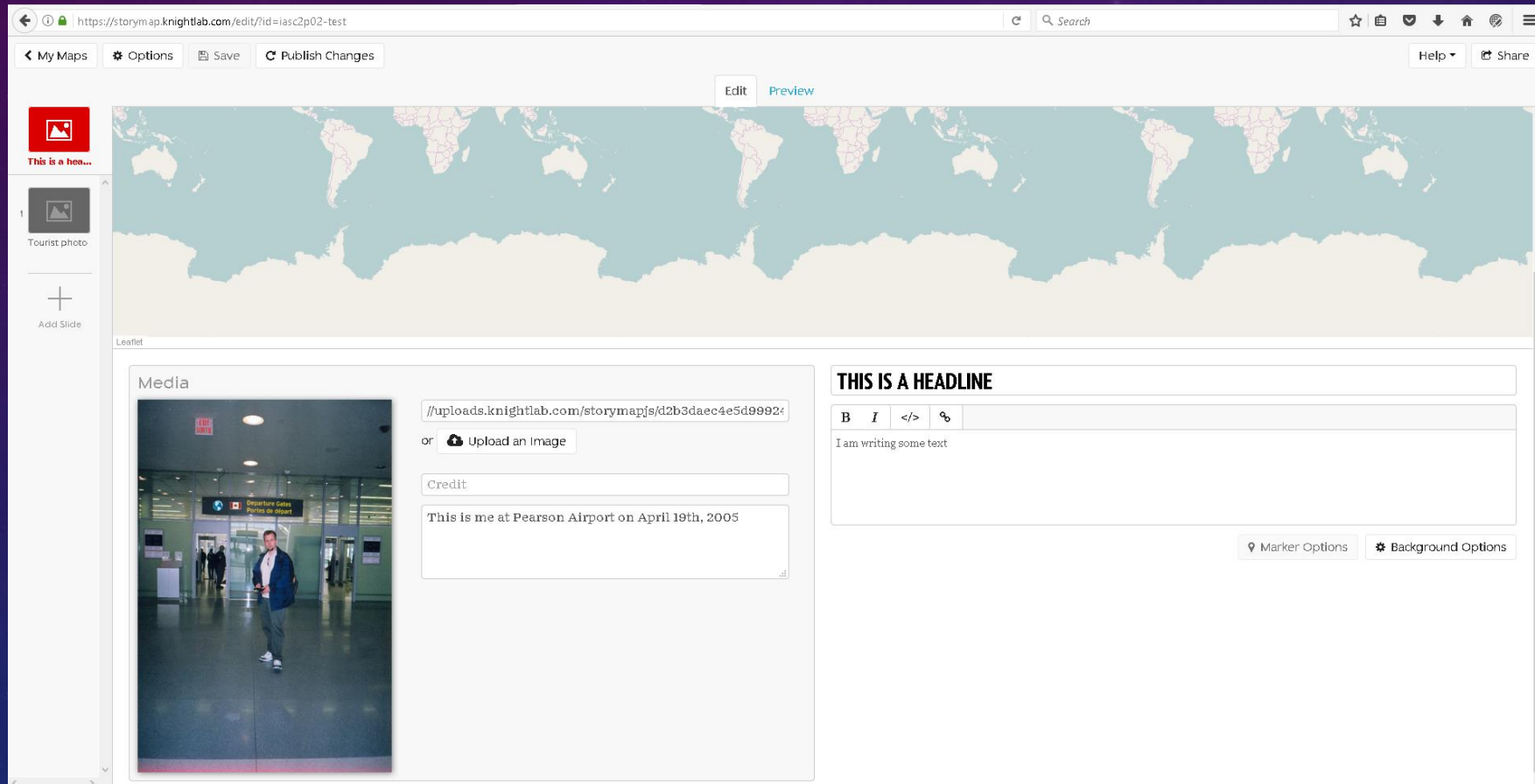
<< select an image, or enter an URL

or upload an image to your StoryMap folder.

Choose File... Upload

Close

# FEATURES



# WHO WORKS ON STORYMAP.JS

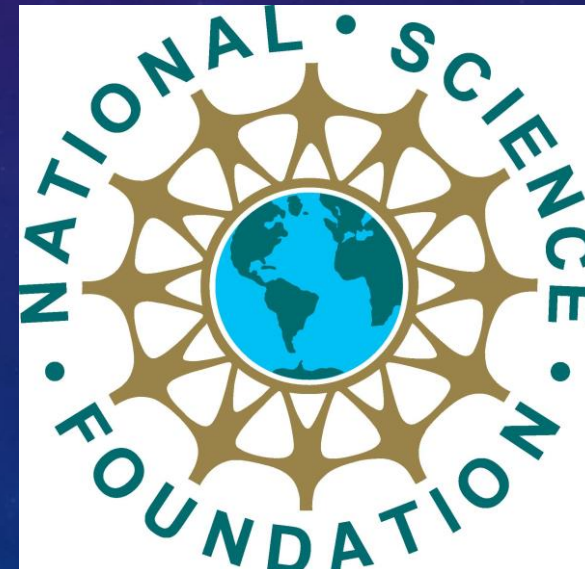
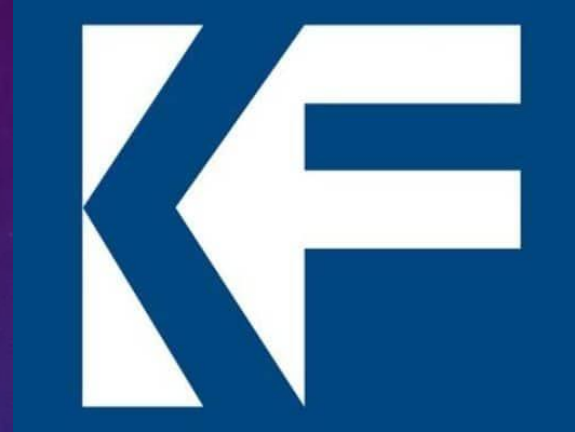
- Northwestern University Knight Lab
  - Students and staff of Northwestern University
    - McCormick Engineering School
    - Medill Journalism Media School



NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY  
**knight lab**

# FUNDING

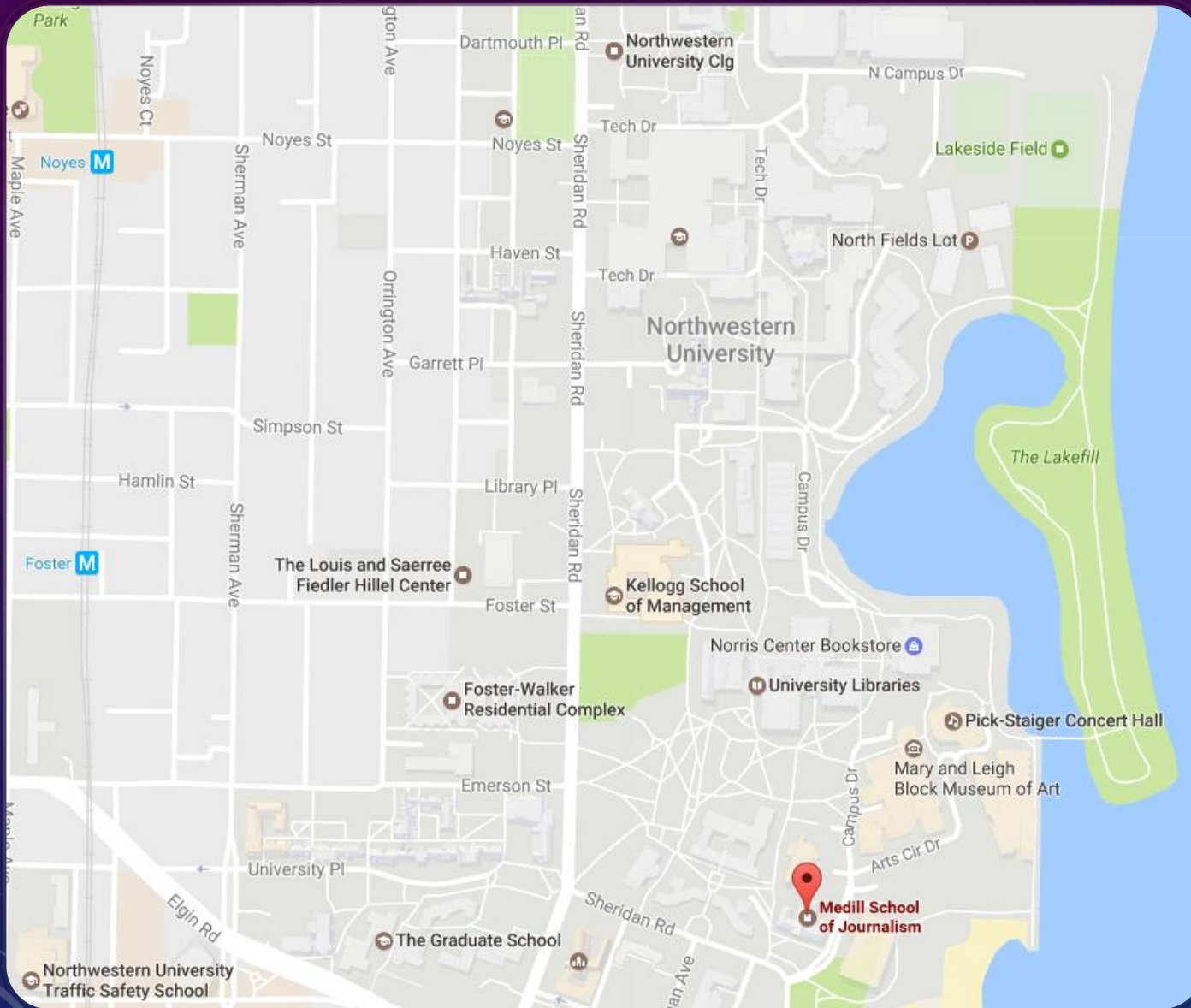
- Knight Foundation
- Robert R. McCormick Foundation
- National Science Foundation





# LOCATION

- Northwestern University Knight Lab, Northwestern University Medill campus (Evanston, Illinois)



# FIELD SITUATED

- Mapping Environment

# INITIAL RESEARCH

## FINDINGS



# DEMO

- <https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymapjs/d2b3daec4e5d99924036da6e3be830fa/undergroundtocanada/>



# MULTIMODALITY

- Uses text, static images, video/audio and animation
- Represents story's progression in space (through map points) and time (through sequence of events)
- If events were linked to specific dates, StoryMap.js would benefit from calendar functionality

# USABILITY

- Mostly straightforward interface, particularly for anyone who has used PowerPoint and Google Maps (or similar software)
- Some confusion about title screen (perhaps interface not sufficiently different)
- Interface sometimes gets stuck during editing and forces you to reload it
- Use of "custom" map type is unclear (image tile rather than "rubber-sheeting" to coordinate system and don't zoom)

# THEORETICAL DISCUSSION

The background is a gradient of deep blue and purple, speckled with white dots resembling a starry sky. Overlaid on this are several faint, light-colored geometric patterns. In the top right, there is a large circular scale with degree markings from 0 to 210 and concentric circles with arrows indicating rotation. In the bottom right, there are concentric circles with dashed lines and arrows. In the bottom left, there are partial concentric circles with arrows. In the top left, there is a small circular arc with an arrow.

# RELATION TO DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

- Johanna Drucker's "Humanities Approaches to Graphical Display"
- StoryMap.js is a filtered representation of data – events, locations and quotations chosen for a particular purpose from the text, excluding others
- Not really a research tool, but useful for the presentation of research (manually pulling and placing content is still required)





THANK YOU

ANY QUESTIONS?