



WHITE PAPER

# Early Modern Digital Itineraries:

Workshops for  
Data-Driven Approaches  
to Premodern Travel



EMDigIt

2023-2024

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## A Note on Project Evaluation and Impact:

The workshop participants, research assistants, and advisory board members were the first audience for EMDigIT. When it comes to project evaluation and impact, we thought it made the most sense to let them speak for themselves. You will find lightly edited quotes from the project participants , RAs, and advisory board members in the teal and orange callouts throughout the following report.



*The cover image is Erhard Etzlaub, Das ist der Rom-Weg (c.1500) München, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Rar. 287#Beibd.4. Reproduced by permission of the Bavarian State Library, Germany – CC BY-NC-SA.*

*[https://www.europeana.eu/item/362/item\\_LLQ4OGYX4RN2VMBFA2MW5UPIBFGHD6HS](https://www.europeana.eu/item/362/item_LLQ4OGYX4RN2VMBFA2MW5UPIBFGHD6HS).*

*Individual itineraries are referenced by the project notation which consists of the author's initials followed by the date of the edition.*

# Project Summary

Listed routes structured navigation of space from antiquity through the eighteenth century. Early Modern Digital Itineraries (EMDigit) transforms 86 itineraries printed between 1545–1761 in English, Italian, French, German, Spanish and Polish languages into structured data for the first time.

We proposed a Level 1 grant to support three virtual workshops over winter and spring of 2024, as well as an in-person conference that summer. Our goal was to establish a professional network of researchers on premodern, digital, spatial history and explore how geographic information found in primary sources such as letters and journals could be extracted and mapped to trace the movement of people and goods. Participants would explore new and shared research questions using the EMDigit data over the course of the year, at the same time as student research assistants helped to extract and refine data from the corpus of early modern itineraries.

The final meeting in summer 2024 brought together the expert advisory council and participants for the final, day-long workshop, held the day before DH2024, the annual conference of the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations at George Mason University in Arlington, Virginia. A selection of participants also presented their findings in the hybrid panel “Grounding Truth” at the larger conference that week.

Related materials can be found on the project website at <https://emdigit.org>.

# Project Origin

The historical experience of travel fascinates a wide audience. Scholars, authors of historical fiction, tabletop game designers, and curious readers pose similar questions, such as how far could I go? How much would it cost me? How would I know where to journey next? At the heart of these questions sits a foundational inquiry for the humanities: what does it mean to navigate space without scientific cartography, never mind GPS? Answers remain elusive even to advanced scholars, who are further stymied by the lack of analysis-ready spatial data for the premodern world.

The EMDigit project began during investigator Rachel Midura's time as a senior graduate research fellow at the Stanford Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA). Midura assembled a bibliography of itineraries and a database of route headers that could be found across itinerary books printed in many different languages and countries (Midura 2021).

Since arriving at Virginia Tech, Midura has worked with students from both the History M.A. and undergraduate Computational Modeling and Data Analytics programs to semi-automatically extract and tidy data from PDF versions of itinerary books published in the early modern period. EMDigit received a Virginia Tech Digital Humanities Library Collaboration Grant in 2023 to refine the project workflow and mock up the eventual web-based platform.

# Project Goals

We applied for the Level 1 DHAG with the goal of bringing the target audience of EMDigit — scholars of different disciplines, affiliations, and career stages — into dialogue with the data during the extraction and structuring process. Digital humanities projects are often only presented to their audiences as polished, finished outputs. We aimed instead to bring stakeholders to the project earlier and ask them to road-test the initial outputs, as well as provide feedback to iteratively improve the project workflow. This would help us to tailor the data to the most pressing areas of scholarly interest, thereby laying the foundations for a maximally useful platform.

To this end, we circulated the call for workshop participants widely and noted our interest in assembling a cohort that represented the variety of challenges and approaches in digital, premodern spatial history. We were also committed to building EMDigit as interoperable data from the outset. This meant troubleshooting links across existing resources such as [the World Historical Gazetteer](#) as well as the many other DH projects exploring premodern travel and space (see bibliography). In addition to bringing several project investigators on board as advisory council members, we also sent targeted invitations to projects based upon the guidance of the advisory council, such as [Viabundus](#) and the [Pelagios Network](#) listserv.

# Project Goals Cont.

As a Level I proposal, the overall aim was to complete an initial phase of development for the Early Modern Digital Itineraries project. From the outset, this was conceived as the following goals:

1

**Establish a network among researchers, data specialists, and digital humanists at various career stages and institutions researching premodern digital, spatial history.**

3

**Troubleshoot linking digital, spatial data across existing resources such as the World Historical Gazetteer as well as the many other DH projects with which participants and advisory board members are affiliated.**

2

**Familiarize participants with the EMDigit database and use participant feedback to iteratively improve the project workflow, data, and eventual web platform development.**

4

**Pursue early test cases of how EMDigit data and a future web platform could best support exploration, visualization, and analysis in original research.**

# Project Activities

## Application and Review

We published the call for applications for workshop participation online by August 31st, 2023, and circulated it among interested communities such as digital humanities centers, field associations, and listservs. We asked interested applicants to provide a CV and a brief description of relevant research interests and prior experience in digital and/or spatial history. The advisory council reviewed 46 applications and evaluated the experience, commitment, desirability, and suitability of each application. While a few participants needed to withdraw along the way, the result was a core group of 11 participants who would take part in virtual meetings culminating in the final in-person conference.

"I wanted to get out of my comfort zone and learn new approaches to things I did not know. More importantly, I was curious to see if the same problems and approaches were shared across the broader field of premodern studies, and I think I got the answer I was hoping for."

## Student Research Assistants

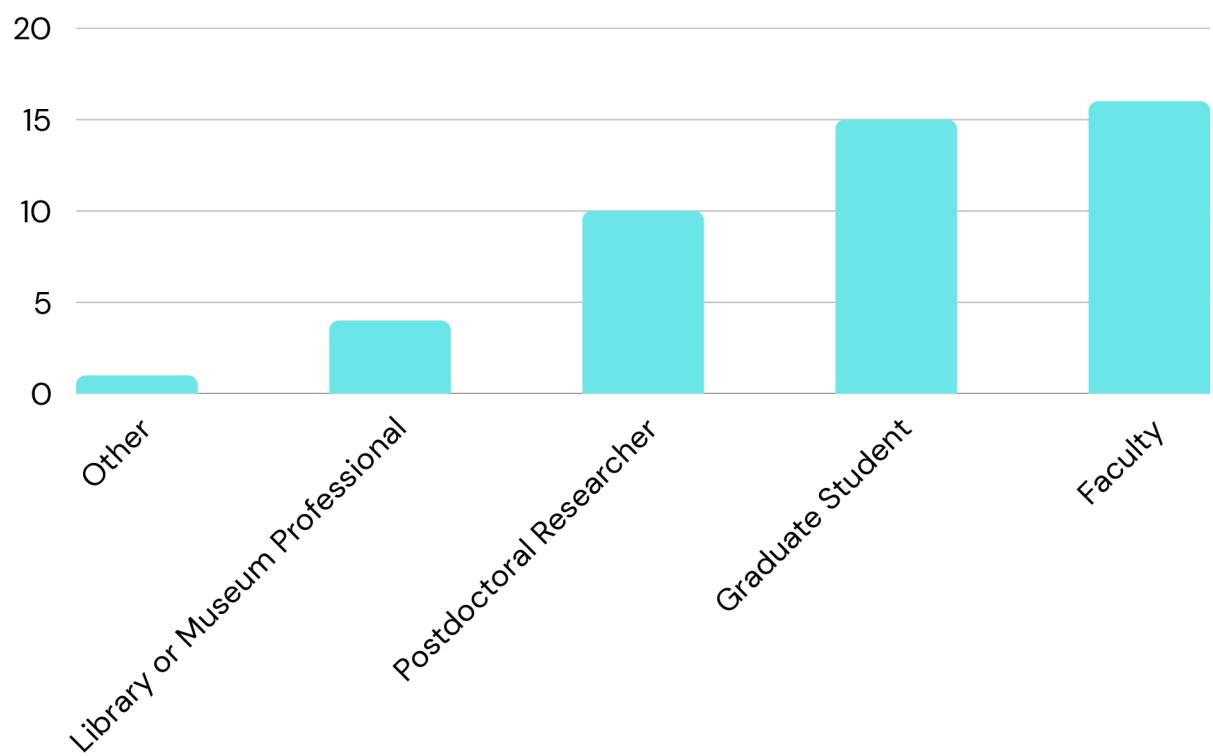
We onboarded 10 undergraduate and graduate research assistants in the course of the project.

First, Virginia Tech M.A. students Hannah Schetselaar and Kaylen Griles worked on the itinerary transcription process during spring 2024. Kaylen Griles continued work as an internship over the summer, helping to organize and run the August workshop.

Second, four undergraduate students from the Virginia Tech Computational Modeling and Data Analytics program Capstone course took on the challenge of testing old and developing new code to flag incorrect georeconciliation in the EMDigit data. The "All Roads Lead to Road" team included Dana Smith, Claire McGuinness, Harris Edenbaum, and Nadini Bhelke working in Python notebooks.

Finally, three undergraduate student research assistants were recruited from a general call to continue work refining the EMDigit data in Autumn 2024. Sai Chaitanya Davuluri reviewed and refined existing code for the construction and georeconciliation of EMDigit data. Ryan Hepler piloted path analysis in ArcGIS, and Emily Burr developed visualizations for the white paper. PI Rachel Midura oversaw all research assistants by way of a Slack channel, Trello board, and regular Zoom check-ins.

# Applications



# January 2024

## Session 1.1

The January meetings began with a few recommended readings and an introduction to the Early Modern Digital Itineraries project. After a brief Q&A, the advisory board members each introduced themselves, and opened the floor to a large-group discussion with some initial remarks in response to the following questions:

- What are the current greatest challenges to studying historical travel and space? How have they changed in recent years?
- What does or does not differentiate historical data from other spatial data? What technologies do or do not seem to facilitate work with premodern data?
- What are important best practices for digital, spatial humanities? How should these impact research questions and project design from the outset?

Many of the points raised in this initial discussion related to the difficulty of reconciling fluidity of pre-modern spatial experience with the most commonly available tools, such as GIS. Discussants wished for the ability to more easily move between macro and micro scales of experience, to incorporate time as a dimension, and to represent power and violence without replicating its harmful omissions. We floated some early solutions such as focusing on sketching rather than rendering. A “drawing” method could allow for greater fluidity and spatial warp representative of subjective experience.

“Most of the tools that do spatial analysis are very much focused on space as the main axis of variable analysis. And that is quite often to the detriment of time.”

# January 2024

## Session 1.2

The second session followed a similar format, this time beginning with a presentation focused on the workflow and construction of the EMDigit data. This included several suggestions for where participants might find points of entry to exploring the data and its potential to support their own research questions.

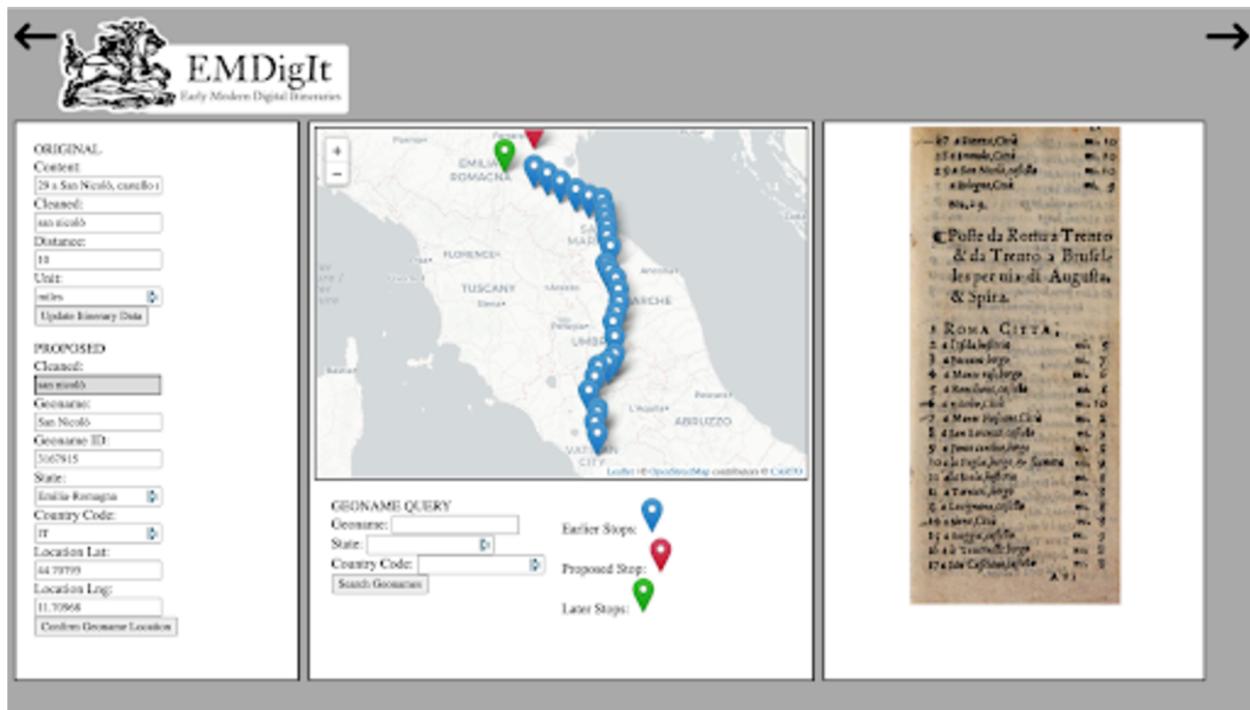
Three major themes emerged in the following discussions: the difficulty of balancing accuracy and uncertainty, the desire to represent the experience of travel, and the role of linked data.

Discussion broke into small groups in Zoom breakout rooms based on mutual interest to the questions raised in this and the prior session. These included:

- Reconciling Toponyms, Borders & Other Frictions
- Absences, Inferences, and Filling in Gaps
- Calculating Cost and other “Nitty-Gritty” Details

“All of a sudden, this very fuzzy feeling becomes an irrefutable data point: 1, I was certain; 2, it's maybe, you know, 70% certain; and then 3, 50/50 chance. It can be shocking.”

As the workshops got off the ground, work also was underway on the EMDigIt data. In January, participants had access to georeconciled data for two itinerary books, OC1623 and an anonymous, undated itinerary, SASD. Between January and March, two more itineraries were processed: GH1563 and GM1684. These were made available alongside significantly corrected versions of the other two itineraries.



A screenshot showing the EMDigIt Disambiguation Tool running in a browser window. On the left, the user is able to see and edit the spreadsheet data. The middle shows a map of the current route, while a window on the right shows the corresponding page of the original itinerary.

The CMDA research assistants refined a set of tests for flagging data for review. Tests utilized the existing logics of itinerary publication, such as flagging data that fell more than 30 km from the last location in a route sequence, or were unique appearances of a given region in a given route. Additionally, Midura worked with project collaborator Patrick Mutchler to design a custom web-based Disambiguation Tool. This was inspired by a similar tool made and employed by Ruth and Sebastian Ahnert when processing the Tudor and Stuart State Papers (Ahnert & Ahnert 2023). The user interface, built in Python and with Bottle, combined a map view with that of the original PDF. The tool facilitated making changes directly to the data or adding a new georeconciliation from the GeoName authority files. Data flagged by the tests could then be more quickly reviewed and rectified in the tool, continuing the “semi-automated” nature of the overall workflow.

# Feedback

After the close of the January meetings, Midura sent a survey via Google Forms intended to gather participant feedback and adapt future sessions to best achieve individual as well as project goals. Overall the feedback was positive: participants appreciate the suggested readings, guiding questions, and peer mentorship. Participants expressed eagerness to dive into the data and learn more from one another about available tools.

The collaborative note document and Slack channel had less resonance with participants by comparison to synchronous discussion in Zoom. In preparation for the coming meetings, the survey also asked participants about their familiarity and desire to learn a selection of common tools for use with spatial data such as ArcGIS, Palladio, OpenRefine, and Python Pandas.



## Wordcloud reflecting participant feedback

# March 2024

## Session 2.1

In the March meetings, EMDigit Participants heard updates from Midura and the research assistants. RA Hannah Schetselaar spoke about her work on EMDigit as well as another NEH-funded project, Dangerous Harbour. Schetselaar reflected on learning to identify individual choice points. Her question, “what would I have done?” led into a group discussion of tips and tricks for dealing with ambiguity in sources. Participants agreed on the value of mapping as they read and extracted data. They agreed that this raised further productive questions, such as: “is this what I expected to see? Are there things I was not expecting to see? If I find one error, is this indicative of many more?”

“I would send it to colleagues and ask, what do you think is going on here?... Sometimes I just have to accept that we will never know, and that can be really hard.”

Overall, two key strategies emerged: first, the use of collaboration to continually test the systematization of decision-making and its clear communication. Second, participants discussed taking an exclusionary rather than inferential approach to absent data. The question “what would I have done?” then became “what are the least likely choices?” or even “what would I have avoided doing?” as a traveler in history.

The first meeting ended with a second presentation from the CMDA student research assistants and a brief discussion of the types of errors and inferences currently present in the EMDigit data.

“In addition to the digital methods themselves, what I also appreciated very much was to see once again just how important it is to have a group of people who look at the same data from different angles in order to arrive at sometimes surprising analyses of that data.”

# March 2024

## Session 2.2

The majority of the second March meeting was spent in small workgroups in Zoom breakout rooms. The tools and groups were chosen on the collaborative Google Document agenda for the day based on survey responses regarding technical fluencies and interests.

Participants volunteered to act as a group leader as they experimented setting up EMDigit data in one of three tools: QGIS, Palladio, and Recogito. The day ended with a “round robin,” in which participants shared if and how their project goals may have shifted from their initial proposals, as well as what they hoped to work towards before the final set of virtual meetings.

“What I appreciated enormously was the insight into the modeling process, and the fact that I could adapt it to my own: having a well-researched schema ready to use saved me an enormous amount of time and created the foundation for meaningful data sharing.”

# June 2024

## Session 3.1 & 3.2

The final two sessions in June consisted of lightning round style presentations of 5-10 minutes each. Participants submitted a short title and description of the paper they intended to give at the final August workshop. This provided an informal opportunity for discussion, feedback, and guidance on initial project design and results. Midura assembled short panels based on common themes among participants. Each paper had time for a single question or two, but most discussion took place after a round of 2-4 presentations, with a goal of highlighting commonalities. As participant projects were at an early stage, much of the discussion centered on deciding which tools could be most appropriate, as well as gathering feedback on other projects that modeled similar approaches.

"Can you visualize conflicting things?

Maybe, but it becomes really hard if you have a thousand voyages and then you have you know, six observation for each of them. It stops being a visualization at a certain point."

08/  
05

# Final Workshop

## I. The Power of Process I: Workflow, Data Structure and Collaboration

Molly Taylor-Poleskey

Helpmeet or Rival?: German-language Itineraries and Maps of the Holy Roman Empire

Kayla Elizabeth  
Campana

Tour de France: Exploring an Early Modern French Travel Itinerary & Methodological Approaches to Geographical Data

## II. Micro and Macro Experiences of Travel

Eva Chodějovská

Traveling in Early modern Europe between Theory and Practice

Rafael D. Nieto Bello

"The Early Modern Atlantic in a Sacred Pen: Routes and Chorographies in Baltasar Vellerino's *Luz de Navegantes* (1592)

Sandra Toffolo

From the Alps to the lagoon: Northern Italian itineraries from the 15th to the 17th century

2 sorts ▾ HasChorography: Complete ▾ Region: Nuevo Reino de Gr... ▾ + Add filter

**Cartagena**

Nuevo Reino de Granada  
Puerto

Cartagena y Punta de los Iacacos. La Punta de los Iacacos está en 10 grados y medio, noroeste sur sureste, con la isla de Carex. Entre la punta mencionada y la isla está la boca grande que llaman del puerto de Cartagena. La boca chica del dicho puerto es lo que hay desde la punta del sur de la mencionada isla de Carex hasta la tierra firme. Ambas bocas son una salvo que las divide la isla de Carex que está en medio, quedando la boca grande más cerca del pueblo. Por lo tanto, la entrada ordinaria en Cartagena es por la boca grande, gobernando desde la mencionada punta de los Iacacos la vuelta del este del tramo largo de tierra hasta montar la isla del Judio. Desde la cual se ha de gobernar al norte y surgiir donde quieran, porque es un puerto muy capaz.

Cartagena está en la misma altura de 10 y medio. Es un

**Punta de la Canoa**

Nuevo Reino de Granada  
Puerta

La Galera de Cartagena una está sobre el mismo puerto, como he dicho, echada en nordeste sudoeste y parece como una galera zozobrada con la popa al sudoeste. Hace muestra en medio de un árbol que parece que está más alto que todos los demás. Debajo de esta galera en la mar está una punta que se llama Punta de la Canoa, que es baja y sale a la vuelta del noroeste. Tiene a una legua en la mar una piedra del tamaño de un bate [bote pequeño] de navío a la cual se le debe dar resguardo porque no se ve sino estando junto a ella. Más al este de esta punta está el buñio del gato que está dicho y la tierra de Zamba cómo se verá en esta demostración y figura.

YES  
YES

**Santa Martha**

Nuevo Reino de Granada  
Puerto

El puerto y pueblo de Santa Martha está a la altura de 11°. Se puede entrar y surgiir en él sin recelo de cosas que puedan dañar, dando resguardo a lo que se vea por vista de ojos hasta llegar a surgir de la banda del este de las casas con el ancla. De fuera en 14 o 15 brazas y de la brisa en tierra, está a 38 leguas del puerto y pueblo de La Ramada a la vuelta del oeste. En este pueblo suele haber hasta 80 vecinos, algunos de los cuales tienen repartimientos de indios y contratación con los del Nuevo Reino de Granada. También tienen sus labranzas y crías, y tiene su obispo y gobernador.

Folio 180 verso: este es el sexto del que se trató a folio 131.

YES  
YES

Image by Rafael D. Nieto Bello from a chorographical gallery created in [Notion](#) and using AI for translations and summaries (Light of Navigators, <https://lightofnavigators.notion.site>)



The journey of Hermann Jacob Czernin, a 17th-century Grand tourist (red) overlaid with Ottavio Codogno's 1623 itinerary from the EMDigit dataset. While Czernin's journey stage from Madrid to Paris is scarcely documented, its correspondence with the itinerary data means this is the highly probable route that Czernin took in 1682. Eva Chodějovská, Josef Münzberger, Marek Hoffmann (Beyond the Horizon Project, [beyondthehorizon.mzk.cz](http://beyondthehorizon.mzk.cz))

## III. The Power of Process II: Tool Design, Modeling, and Visualization

Adam Franklin-Lyons

Visualizing Postal Networks

Brecht Nijman

Modeling and Visualising Intra-Asian Shipping

Flavia Bruni

Early Printed Books on the Move: Mapping and Visualizing Bibliographic Data

## IV. Time and Space in Travel Flows

Chiara Palladino

Tools for Ancient Mobility Beyond Mapping

Wouter Kreuze

Reconnecting News and Mail: Delivery Times in the Sixteenth Century

Bart Holterman

Routes vs. Roads: Thoughts About Filling the Gaps Between Nodes

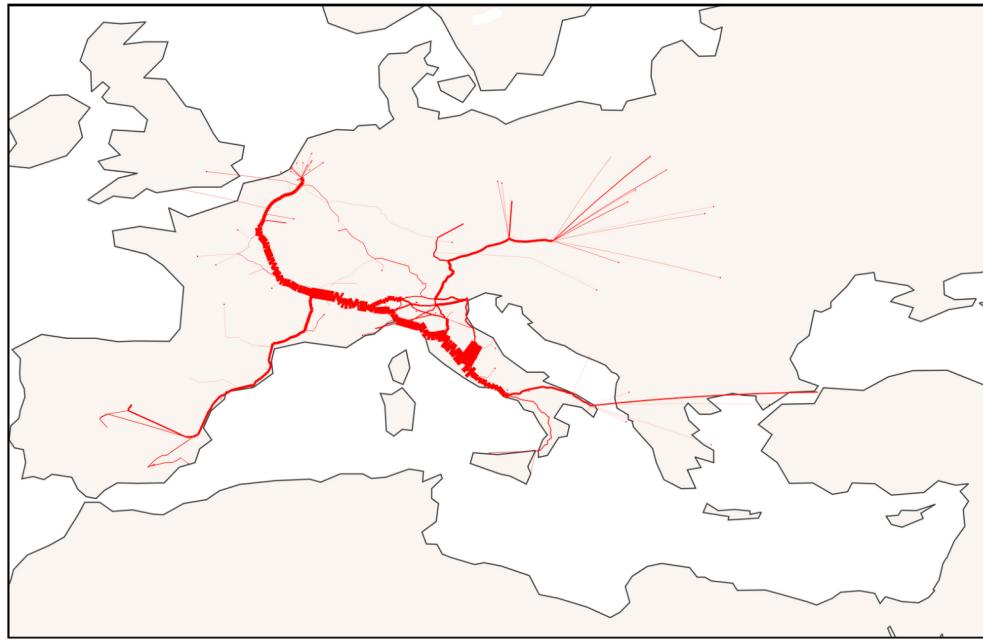


Image by Wouter Kreuze showing itineraries as network of shortest paths activated in sixteenth-century newsletters

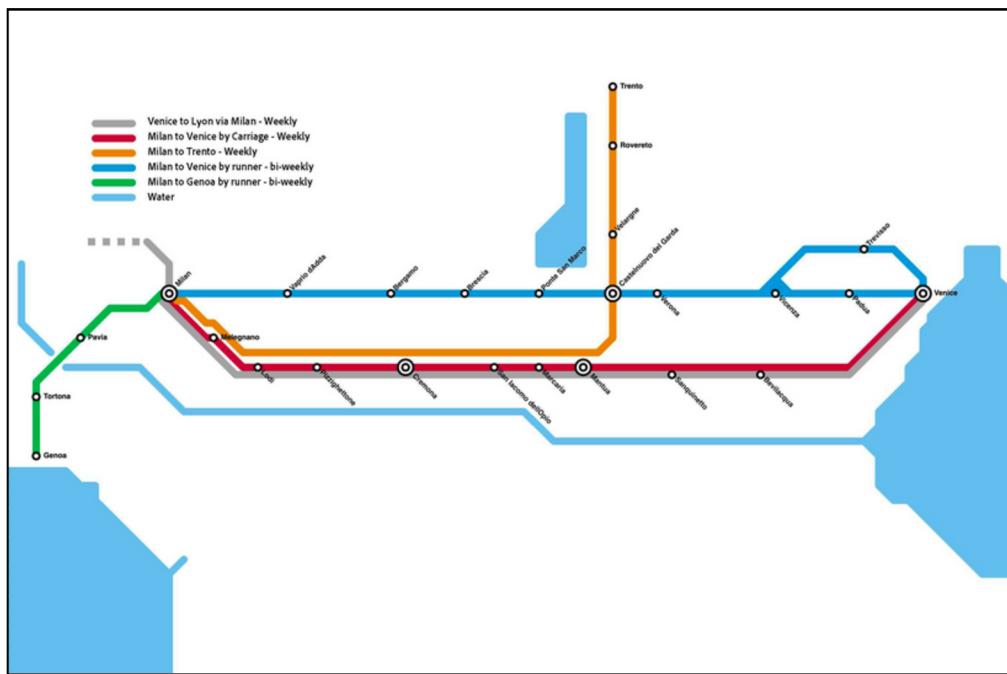


Image by Adam Franklin-Lyons showing postal routes in northern Italy in a schematic map inspired by the Washington D.C Metro

# Final Workshop

The June lightning talks set the stage for the final workshop. Midura reorganized panels to bring out different commonalities among participants interests and approaches. This time, papers were 15–20 minutes each, followed by advisory council members acting as respondents and opening discussion. Travel delays and other factors unfortunately meant that not everyone could be present in person. However, the conference was both live-streamed on Zoom and recorded, which proved valuable as at least one such participant did not have electricity at the time. The day ended with a final, open discussion about where the EMDigit project might go in the future, including additional workshops, a special issue of a journal, or a digital publication.

The goals of the conference were many, but more than any other, it was to build a sustainable community of researchers. With this in mind, the program also incorporated opportunities for social gathering outside of the panels. The day before the workshop included an optional trip to the recently re-opened Folger Shakespeare Library exhibitions, and a pre-workshop dinner. The workshop day similarly ended in a banquet at a local bistro, made possible with the support of the Virginia Tech Center for Humanities and History Department.

The final workshop took place August 5th, as hosted by George Mason University. The date and location were chosen to coincide with the DH2024 conference. While the EMDigit workshop remained closed to the core group, this timing offered other significant benefits.

First, it allowed participants to easily attend DH2024, making the most of the travel provided by the workshop to Arlington, Virginia.

Second, we proposed an additional panel at DH2024 (“Grounding Truth: Critical and Data-Driven Approaches to the History of Travel”). This brought together several of the participants once more to speak to a wider, invested community of digital humanists. It also began the process of publicizing EMDigIT workshop outcomes.

Third, in the final survey, participants who attended DH2024 expressed appreciation that the EMDigit workshops provided a smaller community-within-a-community at the much larger DH conference.

# Project Outcomes

## Participants as Stakeholders

EMDigIt aimed to bring in its desired audiences as stakeholders in the early stages of project design. This was a driving goal for the series of workshops and for the choice of participants and advisory board members who reflected the variety of work underway in the field of premodern spatial history. It is our goal for this white paper to present a model for such community-building in the post-COVID 2020 hybrid environment. We sought to maximize the benefits of a synchronous, virtual meeting format on the one hand – especially for accessibility and flexibility – as well as employing strategies to mitigate its drawbacks, such as staggered sessions, varying formats (including presentation, large-group discussion, and small-group discussion), and circulating recordings. We also sought to correct for the drawbacks of in-person meetings by putting in substantial virtual pre-work. This helped make the most of the time and resource-intensive nature of travel.

"This model of meetings, which included hybrid, in-person, and online meetings, is capable of bridging new connections with scholars of very diverse traditions and backgrounds."

"The sense of community that was built during the online workshops also made the in-person workshop feel like a gathering of people who already knew each other, which created excellent conditions for fruitful discussions and exchanges."

# Project Outcomes Cont.

"It is difficult to take time off to attend virtual events, particularly multiple times during the semester. I could definitely do that for one event, but not for several, especially with this duration...However, I did appreciate the format of these workshops and I thought that meeting with people online multiple times encouraged the creation of a community, which we wouldn't have had otherwise if we had only met once, even if for a week."

Digital platforms offer many ways of cultivating an interactive, responsive format. To support the virtual workshops asynchronously, we established a Slack channel, shared collaborative [Google Docs](#), and asked for feedback via [Google Forms](#). Ultimately, some of these methods "stuck" and others did not, but the aggregate result was a community that continued to collaborate in the months that followed, and will ideally continue to do so in the years to come.

Many participants expressed the desire to remain connected to EMDigIT, as well as to continue the individual projects they undertook in the course of the workshops. Participants played a key role in extending the EMDigIT data model in space and time, from antiquity to the Caribbean and the Pacific Ocean. Participants explored the different scales of prediction that EMDigIT's data might enable, from the timing of individual couriers or news items to much longer patterns of tourism, material exchange, and infrastructure.

# Project Outcomes Cont.

## EMDigit Data and Tools

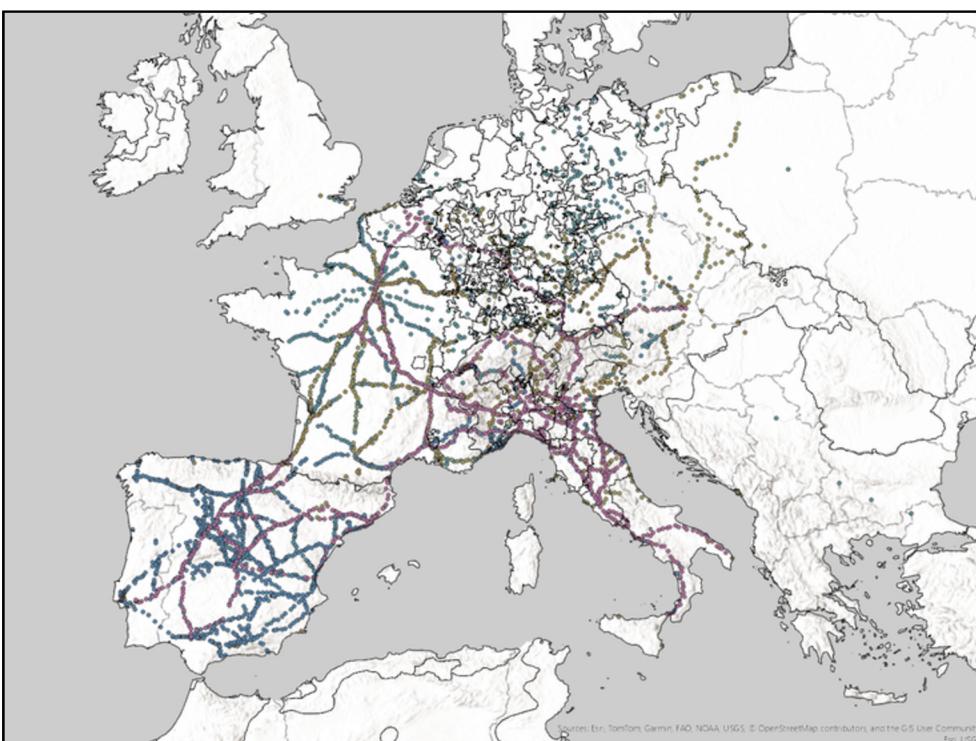
The EMDigit workshops began with two itinerary books that had been processed to the point of basic georeconciliation, and a workflow for repeating this process with other itineraries. Work by Midura and project research assistants significantly improved the accuracy and granularity of the initial data as well as extending the total scope of the dataset to eight Italian-language itinerary books. All of the itineraries are now processed at a higher level of confidence and transparency. This benefitted from several decisions along the way to enrich the data in response to participant interests. One such example is the addition of feature, descriptor, and category as attributes reflecting qualitative tagging, which allows for the querying and visualization of river crossings, author warnings, or tolls, for example. Another change was the addition of inferred locations, approximated on the basis of journey trajectories and the contemporary distance measures as converted to modern kilometers.

The blueprint for EMDigit moving forward begins with the release of a Italian Language Core set in Spring 2025. We aim to continue to release data in stages, with each “core set” reflecting the most widely republished and utilized itineraries in a given language, as informed by the domain knowledge of project lead and workshop participants. Such core sets will provide a means of continuing to involve a wider audience before the completion of a platform. As the semi-automatic extraction, segmentation, and georeconciliation process will require refitting to each language, this also provides key opportunities to revisit other aspects of the workflow. For example, with the release of the Italian Core Set, EMDigit will be moving from a largely Google Drive-based organization (including [Google Colaboratory](#)) to [GitHub](#) in order to better document and implement version control.

Two of the project participants began work on French and German-language itineraries. Overall, EMDigit will continue to have each of these core sets in a pipeline for release, subject to the ebbs and flows of collaboration. EMDigit will continue to develop in dialogue with more regionally-focused projects such as [Beyond the Horizon](#), [Viae Regiae](#), [Viabundus](#), and [Itiner-e](#), especially as the geographic area of overlap increases.

# The Italian Itinerary Core Set

8 itineraries from 1562–1720 shown colored by source



8

Itinerary books  
published in Italian,  
1562–1720

4.5k

Locations  
disambiguated from  
>15,000 mentions

4k

Lines of directions and  
observations for  
travelers

In sum, EMDigit has navigated its initial data sprint, establishing patterns of communication and collaboration that should sustain its future development. Maintaining adaptability will be key in a rapidly shifting scholarly and technological environment. It is through these channels that EMDigit can continue to remain in alignment with its intended audiences and their goals for the data and tool. To that end, readers of this white paper are also invited to take part in this community by engaging with EMDigit on the following platforms:

- Website: <https://www.emdigit.org>
- GitHub Repository: <https://github.com/rmidura/emdigit>
- Bluesky: [@emdigit.bsky.social](https://bsky.social/@emdigit)

# Project Continuation & Long-Term Impact

The release of the EMDigit Italian core set will represent the first time that a wider audience has access to EMDigit's data contributions. However the interest in EMDigit has already been strong, and Midura has met with other project leads, scholars, students and even authors of historical fiction to think about the ways that EMDigit can support them in their work.

The "Grounding Truth" panel at DH2024 brought a variety of other digital humanities practitioners into discussion. In November 2024 and March 2025, Midura presented EMDigit to the Renaissance Society of America by way of a Digital Humanities Webinar and roundtable of new directions in cartography at the annual conference in Boston.

Participants have expressed interest in further workshops, perhaps to accompany each of the forthcoming core sets. These workshops could take place in different locations and bring new, varied voices with relevant expertise as the chronology and geography of the route corpus changes.

Recent digital publications such as A World Made by Travel (Ceserani 2024) offer valuable models for presenting a digital tool enriched by scholarly context and primed for use in the classroom. Maintaining and representing the collaborative nature of the EMDigit endeavor remains a priority. We have resolved to seek a second level of DHAG funding for continuing to process the EMDigit itineraries and prototyping the platform for future publication.

"For me, EMDigit data has been inspiring in terms of helping me think the categories to deconstruct a primary source and transform it into a digital geographical project, as well as adapting this data to specific software according to the requirements of each."

"This project makes us open the black box of academic research, and consider how failure and ways of organizing data are central to our work as humanists."

"I see this project as expanding the possibilities for digital humanists to "map" beyond HistoricGIS."

"I will work on an integration of my data with the World Historical Gazetteer, add my data to the currently existing digital editions of the itineraries, and move everything onto a relational database. I would like to eventually go back to early modern itineraries to adopt a more comprehensive look and trace a broader evolution of premodern travel practices, from spatial, cultural and linguistic perspectives."

"My sense is that the types of digitized information about premodern travel and digital methods of analyzing them are going to reach a point of overlap that will greatly change what we know about the topic, which has traditionally come from a straight reading of travelers narratives and, in the future, will be able to bring in hidden actors and aspects of premodern travel."

"I think a lot of research questions arise from this dataset. I honestly think it would be great for both undergraduate and graduate-level classroom/course participation. For example, giving subsets of data to students to use to create visualizations."

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