Assignment 5 – Due October 23, 2018

Please post comments and project results by Tuesday, October 23, 11:00 AM.

1. **Reading: Edward Tufte: Envisioning Information** (one of three chapters - text on Stellar)

   The Financial Times (July 26, 2013)[1] calls Edward Tufte "the guru of graphics, the high priest of presentation". One of the preeminent scholars in visual design, his approach is to "visualize data with simplicity, clarity, and elegance" while at the same time rejecting the often observed "chartjunk". Read one of the following chapters and comment on the key arguments in this chapter? Post your comments on our Github site under "Commentary".

   Chapters:
   - Layering and Separation, pp. 53-66
   - Color and Information, pp. 81-96
   - Narratives of Space and Time, pp. 97-120

2. **Reading: Stephen Few: The Chartjunk Debate**, 11 pages (Text on Stellar)

   Summarize the major arguments of this debate and add your own comments to this article and post your text on our Github site under "Commentary".

3. **Mini-Project: Mapping Space, Time, and Narrative**

   Expanding on this week's presentation by Wyn Kelley, your assignment is to use **ONE** of the following three data sets:
   • Melville's travels in London
   • Ibn Jubayr's travel logs of the Middle East
   • Locations mentioned in Melville's *Moby-Dick*
   You can find the data (as Excel spreadsheets) on our Stellar site under "Data & Resources". The *Moby-Dick* data set contains detailed instructions for how to use Google Fusion tables in conjunction with Google maps.

   Ideally working in small groups, use either one of the tools that we have already explored in class, e.g. TimeMapper (http://timemapper.okfnlabs.org), the more sophisticated mapping tools such as Mapbox (https://www.mapbox.com), CartoDB (https://carto.com, https://github.com/CartoDB), or the more advanced tools in the GIS lab (ArcGIS or QGIS) to explore the interlinked display of time, space, and

[1] https://www.ft.com/content/dda1cb5c-f4c0-11e2-a62e-00144feabdc0#axzz2d20fjdGk

narrative. You could also experiment with Hoftra's Itinerary and NYPL's Map Warper tools to work with historical maps. Links to these tools and instructions can be found on our Stellar site under "Tools".
The MapBox and Carto mapping tools require some programming and modifying the spread sheets, so it's best - as always - to work in teams. You will certainly run into limitations to display the data appropriately. Our goal is examine these tools critically, much in the same way as Bodenhamer did in his article.
Develop either programmatic solutions and/or visual sketches that aim to overcome these limitations and offer better insights into the data.
Post the results of your work on our Github site along with a description of the limitations of the tools and the reasoning behind your programmatic and/or design solutions.
Note: Since this task is a bit more complex and you will also have to work on your project pitches, you only need to present a draft of your work next Tuesday in class. You will have time until October 30th to finish it.

4. **Final Project Work**

Work with your group on the first final project pitch to the class on October 23. Post the ideas from your group under Project Updates on our Github site. Please see the separate Final Project Guidelines and Schedule document for further details about the structure and content of your pitch presentation.