

Design and Development of Slave Voyages 2.0

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Digital Scholarship

One Emory

our approach

“It takes a village to raise a child ...” or design and deliver a destination resource considered gold standard in the field of scholarship on the slave trade.

We have therefore

-  Aligned with strategic priorities as we allocate resources
-  Implemented work effectively
-  Renewed academic community by gathering to learn, grow, and share together

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Organizations

supporting with grants

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

National Endowment for the Humanities

A Brief History

timeline of slave voyages - in the 90s

a chance meeting

The idea for “the database” came out of a meeting between David Eltis and Stephen D. Behrendt, both of whom were working on separate datasets of British voyages.

1990



1993

a formal support from Harvard

The WEB Dubois Institute at Harvard University provided financial support and a base for the team of scholars to perform the difficult work of reconciling the disparate datasets into a single database.

the birth of a CD room

In 1999, “the CD-ROM” was born, documenting 27,233 voyages and carrying 7.3M captives. British (44%) and French (16%) voyages formed the backbone of the dataset.

1999



A Brief History

timeline of slave voyages - since 2000

presence on the Web

A new interface with 10K new voyages, new data on 60% existing voyages was made available on the Web. The site attracted 30K users one month since its debut.

2008



2013

open-sourced on GitHub

The source code was unwaveringly supported by Emory LITS and made available on GitHub in 2013, in support of better collaboration and open-source software development.

rewrite in Django

The application was re-written in Django platform with an added editorial platform for contributors and scholars to edit data entries using a web interface.

2016



2019

yet another milestone

A completely redesigned and architected Slave Voyages led to the release of version 2.0. It includes a new Intra-American module, refined user interface and user experience, 3D ship model, timelapse animation, data visualization, Portuguese language support, and more.

Slave Voyages 2.0

feature highlights



Completely Redesigned UI/UX

Designed, developed, delivered a 3D model of slave ship based on 18thc French maritime architects drawing



Modern Technology Architecture

Adopted concepts in Single Page Application design to achieve a fluid user experience, with AWS cloud migration planned.



Intra-American Slave Trade

Led by scholars from multiple institutes, a new dataset is introduced to include 11K+ slave trades in the New World within the Americas.



Portuguese Language Support

Introduced Portuguese language support across the site, including the scholarly articles, databases, and the user interface.



Interactive Timelapse

A redesigned interactive timelapse that visualizes the movement of captives on a map, with a timeline analysis.



3D Ship Model

A narrated video featuring “L’Aurore”, a French slave ship rendered in a 3D model to substantiate abstract slave trade vessels.

Slave Voyages 2.0

statistics at a glance

Data

and they continue to grow

36,000

trans-atlantic voyages

11,500

intra-american voyages

91,400

entries of capative information

231

digital images

Code

based on GitHub repository

46,400

lines of code (front-end)

18,000

lines of code (back-end)

300 MB

solr full-document index

2,464

commits on GitHub

Traffic

from Google Analytics, 2019 Q1-2

223,121

pageviews per month

38,251

sessions per month

26,454

new users per month

28,656

users per month

EXPLORE THE DISPERSAL OF ENSLAVED AFRICANS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC WORLD

This digital memorial raises questions about the largest slave trades in history and offers access to the documentation available to answer them. European colonizers turned to Africa for enslaved laborers to build the cities and extract the resources of the Americas. They forced millions of mostly unnamed Africans across the Atlantic to the Americas, and from one part of the Americas to another. Analyze these slave trades and view interactive maps, timelines, and animations to see the dispersal in action.



Henry Louis Gates introduces Slave Voyages 2.0 and some of its people

Special features

Introductory maps

Overview of slave trade in a series of maps

Slave ship in 3D video

View a 3D rendition of a slave ship

Timelines of estimates

Number of captives embarked and disembarked

Timelapse

View the movement of slave ships across the Atlantic



visit legacy site



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scroll down to learn more



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TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE DATABASE

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database now comprises 36,000 individual slaving expeditions between 1514 and 1866. Records of the voyages have been found in archives and libraries throughout the Atlantic world. They provide information about vessels, routes, and the people associated with them, both enslaved and enslavers. Sources are cited for every voyage included. Users may search for information about a specific voyage or group of voyages. The website provides full interactive capability to analyze the data and report results in the form of statistical tables, graphs, maps, a timeline, and an animation.

[About](#)

[Database](#)

[Estimates](#)

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INTRA-AMERICAN SLAVE TRADE DATABASE

The Intra-American Slave Trade Database contains information on approximately 10,000 slave voyages within the Americas. These voyages operated within colonial empires, across imperial boundaries, and inside the borders of nations such as the United States and Brazil. The database enables users to explore the contours of this enormous New World slave trade, which not only dispersed African survivors of the Atlantic crossing but also displaced enslaved people born in the Americas.

About

Database

Downloads

Contribute

AFRICAN NAMES DATABASE

The African Names Database provides personal details of 91,491 Africans taken from captured slave ships or from African trading sites. It displays the African name, age, gender, origin, country, and places of embarkation and disembarkation of each individual.

[About](#)

[Database](#)

[Downloads](#)

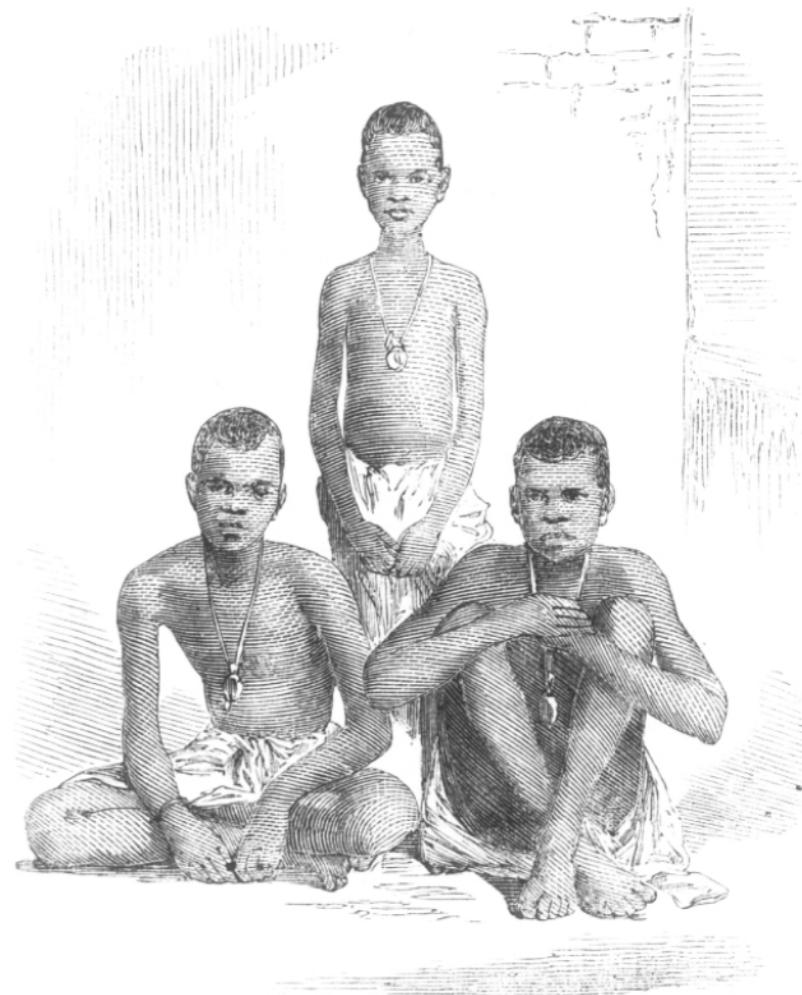
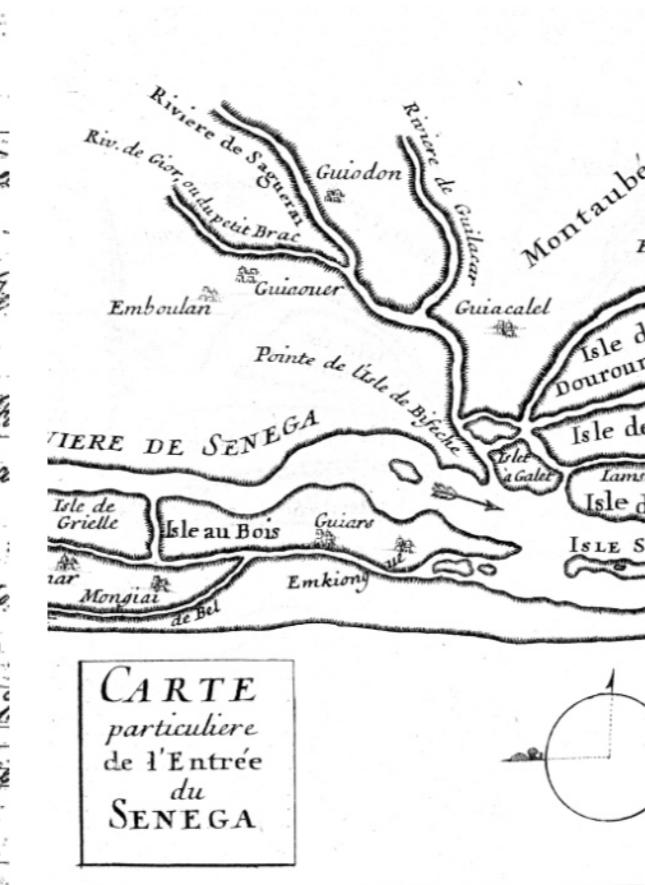


IMAGE GALLERIES

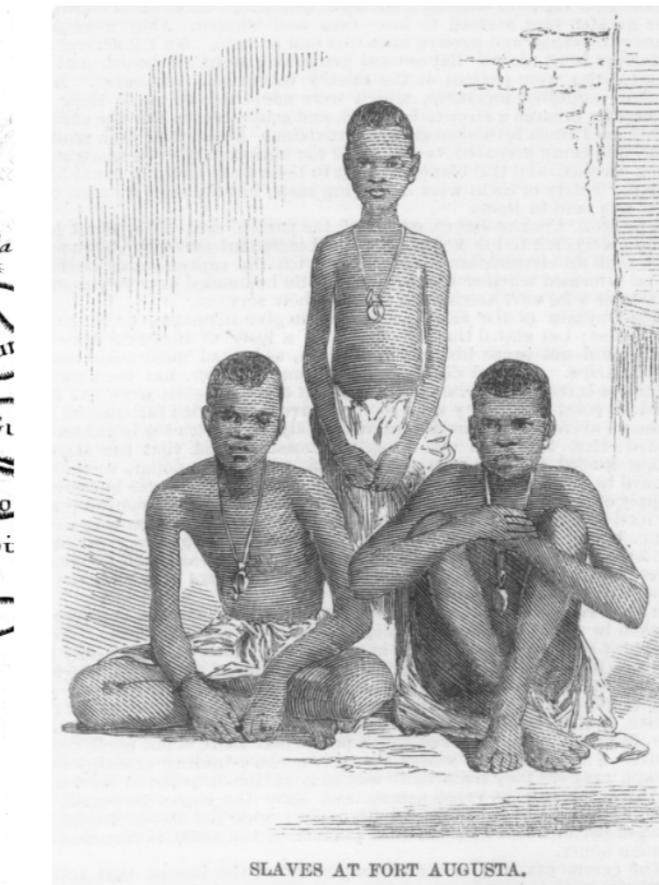
Explore several hundred images of the people, places, vessels and manuscripts of the Trans-Atlantic and Intra-American slave trades. Where available, each image contains a link to a corresponding slave voyage in the databases and a reference to the original source.

27	5	4	do	do
20	5	5	No marks	
14	5	4	bouts and Tattored on Face	
26	5	5	bouts on the Temples	
24	5	7	bouts on forehead and Fe	
27	5	4	bouts on the Temples	
32	5	3	bouts and Tattored on Fr	
26	5	6	bouts on the Forehead a	
24	5	4	bouts on the Temples	
29	5	5	bouts on Face and Tatta	
32	5	6	bouts on Forehead and	
26	5	9	bouts and Tattored on F	
28	5	5	bouts on Face and other	
27	5	5	do	do

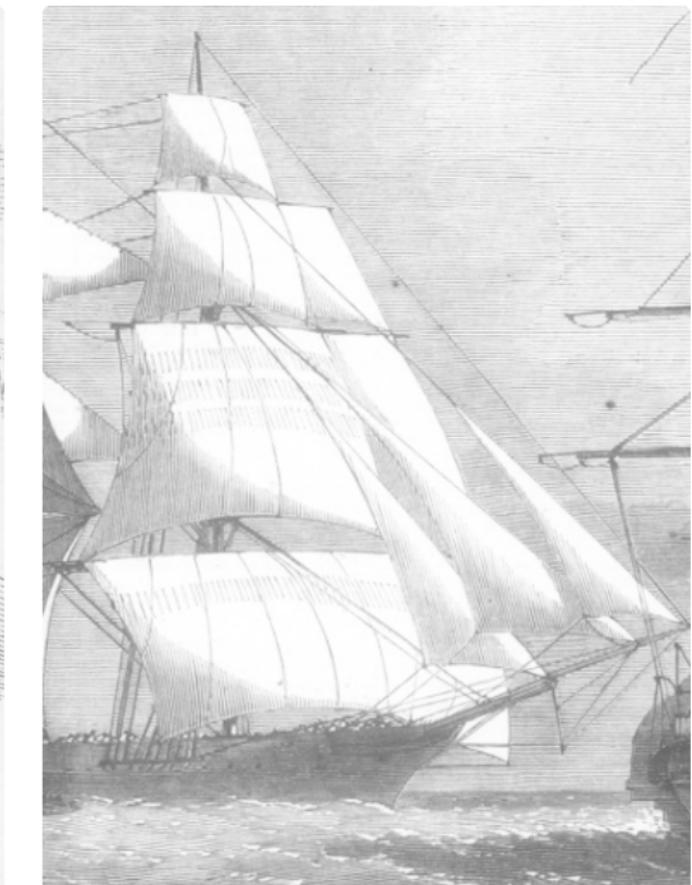
manuscripts



places



slaves



vessels

Slave Voyages

[Trans-Atlantic](#) ▾ [Intra-American](#) ▾ [African Names](#) ▾ [Resources](#) ▾ [About](#) [EN](#) ▾

Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade - Database

[Year range](#) ▾ [Ship, nation, owner](#) ▾ [Itinerary](#) ▾ [Enslaved people](#) ▾ [Dates](#) ▾ [Captain and crew](#) ▾ [Outcome](#) ▾ [Source](#) ▾

[Results](#) [Summary statistics](#) [Tables](#) [Data visualization](#) [Timeline](#) [Maps](#) [Timelapse](#)

Showing 1 to 15 of 36,002 entries

[Configure columns](#) ▾ [Show 15 rows](#) ▾ [Download](#) ▾

Voyage ID	Vessel name	Place where voyage began <small>IMP</small>	Principal place of purchase <small>IMP</small>	Principal place of slave landing <small>IMP</small>	Year arrived with slaves <small>IMP</small>	Slaves arrived 1st port	Captain's name
1	Pastora de Lima	Rio de Janeiro	Mozambique	Bahia, port unspecified	1817	290	Dias, Manoel José
2	Tibério	Bahia, port unspecified	Mozambique	Bahia, port unspecified	1817	223	Mata, José Maria da
3	Paquete Real	Bahia, port unspecified	Cabinda	Bahia, port unspecified	1817	350	Ferreira, José dos Santos
4	Bom Caminho	Bahia, port unspecified	Quilimane	Bahia, port unspecified	1817	342	Dias, Domingos Francisco
5	Benigretta	Bahia, port unspecified	Cabinda	Bahia, port unspecified	1817	516	
6	Voador	Bahia, port unspecified	Mozambique	Bahia, port unspecified	1817	515	
7	Formiga	Bahia, port unspecified	Malembo	Bahia, port unspecified	1817	204	Viana, Isidoro Antônio
8	Vigilante Africano	Pernambuco, port unspecified	Luanda	Bahia, port unspecified	1817	374	Amorim, José Gomes de
9	Constante	Bahia, port unspecified	Cabinda	Bahia, port unspecified	1817	345	Narciso, Antônio
10	Comerciante	Bahia, port unspecified	Cabinda	Bahia, port unspecified	1817	478	Braga, Isidoro Martins
11	Diligente	Bahia, port unspecified	Cabinda	Bahia, port unspecified	1817	180	
12	Bonfim	Bahia, port unspecified	Cabinda	Bahia, port unspecified	1817	542	Coelho, João Batista
13	Triunfo	Bahia, port unspecified	Luanda	Bahia, port unspecified	1817	503	
14	S Lourenço	Bahia, port unspecified	Cabinda	Bahia, port unspecified	1817	471	Vilasboas, João da Silveira
15	Paquete da Bahia	Bahia, port unspecified	Cabinda	Bahia, port unspecified	1817	478	Almeida, Manoel Joaquim de

[Previous](#) [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) ... [2401](#) [Next](#)

Slave Voyages

[Trans-Atlantic](#) ▾ [Intra-American](#) ▾ [African Names](#) ▾ [Resources](#) ▾ [About](#) [EN](#) ▾

Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade - Database

[Year range](#) ▾ [Ship, nation, owner](#) ▾ [Itinerary](#) ▾ [Enslaved people](#) ▾ [Dates](#) ▾ [Captain and crew](#) ▾ [Outcome](#) ▾ [Source](#) ▾[Results](#) [Summary statistics](#) [Tables](#) [Data visualization](#) [Timeline](#) [Maps](#) [Timelapse](#)**1714**

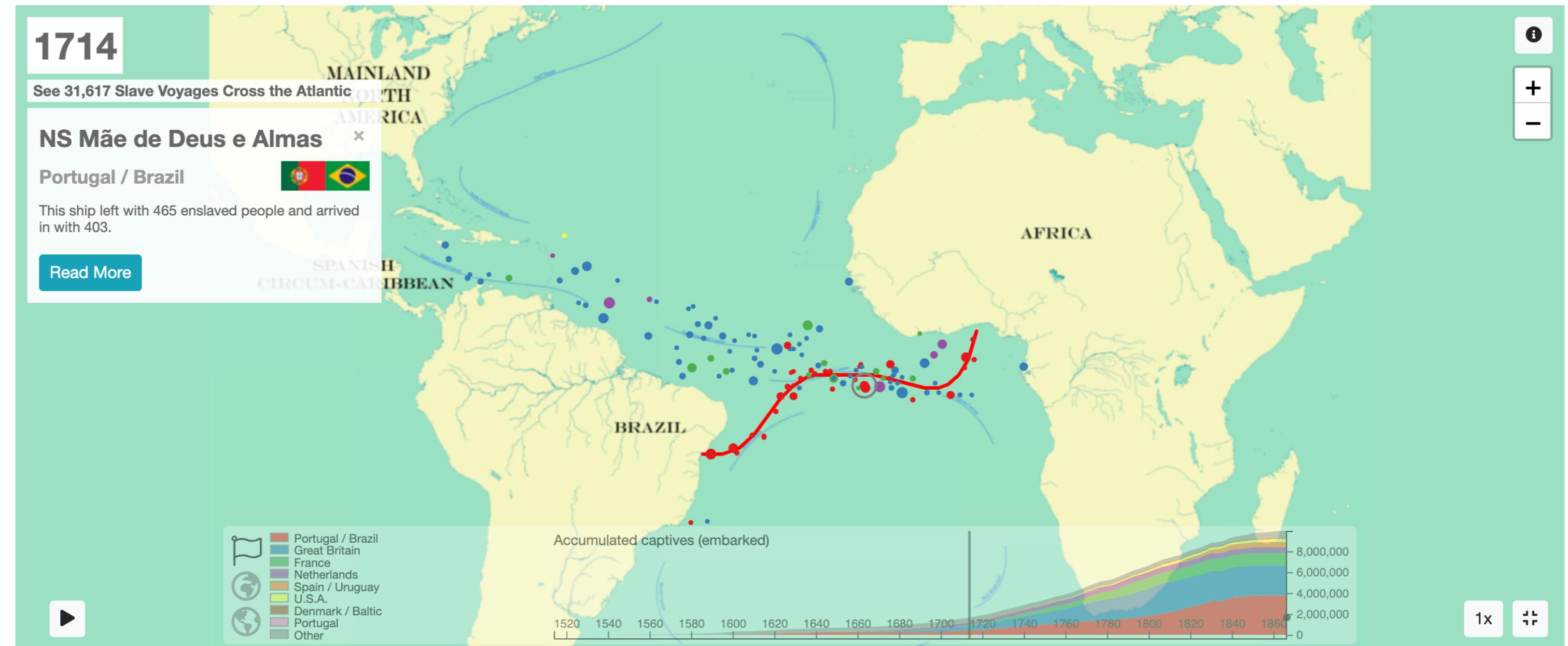
See 31,617 Slave Voyages Cross the Atlantic

NS Mãe de Deus e Almas

Portugal / Brazil



This ship left with 465 enslaved people and arrived in with 403.

[Read More](#)

user interface data visualization

Slave Voyages

Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade - Database

Year range ▾ Ship, nation, owner ▾ Itinerary ▾ Enslaved people ▾ Dates ▾ Captain and crew ▾ Outcome ▾ Source ▾

Results Summary statistics Tables Data visualization Timeline Maps Timelapse

X-Y Scatter Plot Bar Chart Donut Chart

Sectors

Flag IMP

Values

Total number of slaves embarked IMP

Total number of slaves embarked

A donut chart titled "Total number of slaves embarked". The chart is divided into several segments, each representing a different country or group. Lines point from the labels to their corresponding segments. The segments are: Portugal / Brazil (green, largest), Great Britain (dark grey), France (orange), Netherlands (pink), Spain / Uruguay (yellow), U.S.A. (light blue), Denmark / Baltic (very small), and Portugal / Brazil again (green, second largest).

Sector	Value
Portugal / Brazil	3,896,187
Great Britain	3,088,827
France	1,307,806
Netherlands	596,679
Spain / Uruguay	542,408
U.S.A.	377,177
Denmark / Baltic	103,901
Portugal / Brazil	3,896,187

Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade - Understanding the Database**Methodology****Methodology**[Introduction](#)[Coverage of the Slave Trade](#)[Nature of Sources](#)[Cases and Variables](#)[Data Variables](#)[Age Categories](#)[Dates](#)[Names](#)[Imputed Variables](#)[Geographic Data](#)[Imputed Voyage Dates](#)[Classification as a Trans-Atlantic](#)[Slaving Voyage](#)[Voyage Outcomes](#)[Inferring Places of Trade](#)[Imputing Numbers of Slaves](#)[Regions of Embarkation and](#)[Disembarkation](#)[Age and Gender Ratios](#)[National Carriers](#)[Tonnage](#)[Resistance and Price of Slaves](#)[Appendix](#)[Notes](#)[Variable List](#)

Methodology

David Eltis (Emory University), 2018

Introduction

It is difficult to believe in the first decades of the twenty-first century that just over two centuries ago, for those Europeans who thought about the issue, the shipping of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic was morally indistinguishable from shipping textiles, wheat, or even sugar. Our reconstruction of a major part of this migration experience covers an era in which there was massive technological change (steamers were among the last slave ships), as well as very dramatic shifts in perceptions of good and evil. Just as important perhaps were the relations between the Western and non-Western worlds that the trade both reflected and encapsulated. Slaves constituted the most important reason for contact between Europeans and Africans for nearly two centuries. The shipment of slaves from Africa was related to the demographic disaster consequent to the meeting of Europeans and Amerindians, which greatly reduced the numbers of Amerindian laborers and raised the demand for labor drawn from elsewhere, particularly Africa. As Europeans colonized the Americas, a steady stream of European peoples migrated to the Americas between 1492 and the early nineteenth century. But what is often overlooked is that, before 1820, perhaps three times as many enslaved Africans crossed the Atlantic as Europeans. This was the largest transoceanic migration of a people until that day, and it provided the Americas with a crucial labor force for their own economic development. The slave trade is thus a vital part of the history of some millions of Africans and their descendants who helped shape the modern Americas culturally as well as in the material sense.

The genesis and history of Voyages Database is laid out on a separate page. In this essay we wish to alert users to its structure and to its limitations as well as its strengths. The data set contains thousands of names of shipowners and ship captains, but it contains almost no names of the millions of slaves carried to the Americas. On the other hand, this web site does provide the African names of and personal information about 91,491 captives who were found on board slave vessels detained by naval cruisers attempting to suppress the slave trade in the nineteenth century. These records can be searched and analyzed using the names interface. Although of limited utility for persons seeking their own family histories, our data set does provide an extraordinary source for historical

introductory video

user interface

Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Alphonse Fletcher University Professor
Director of the Hutchins Center for
for African & African American Research
Harvard University

video of a 3d ship

user interface



Want to learn more about the UI/UX Process behind Slave Voyages 2.0?

Visit
yl5682.github.io/ecds-examples/slave-voyages

Contact
ecds@emory.edu



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